

Forest Plan Implementation



2004 Accomplishments Boise National Forest September 2004

In September 2003, the Boise National Forest (NF) began implementing its revised Land and Resource Management Plan, which will shape management of the Forest for the next 10 to 15 years. The revised Forest Plan calls for maintaining or restoring watershed conditions, species viability, terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and healthy, functioning ecosystems.

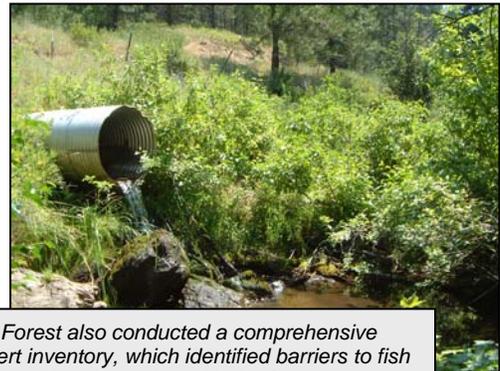
Here are highlights of our revised Forest Plan, and what we have accomplished to date in 2004 under this new direction:

Aquatic Conservation Strategy

The Forest Plan incorporates a long-term Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) that will help conserve and recover fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The ACS will help restore and maintain beneficial uses related to water quality and long-term soil productivity.

Accomplishments As of September, the Forest completed restoration work in 2004 in four "priority subwatersheds" identified under the ACS:

- o *Upper Bear Valley: Restored fish passage to 4 miles of stream by replacing Cub and Casner Creek culverts; planted shrubs/sedges on 2 acres cooperatively with Idaho Department of Fish and Game to improve streambank stability*
- o *Lower Deadwood: Stabilized streambanks and slopes on 3 acres; seeded 1 acre near Pidgeon Flat*
- o *Bear Creek [South Fork Boise subbasin]: Removed old water quality monitoring well previously used as public garbage disposal site*
- o *Third Fork: Improved a total of 13 stream miles and seeded 2 acres of disturbed area via replacement of Rammage Meadows and Wilson culverts, done cooperatively with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee*



The Forest also conducted a comprehensive culvert inventory, which identified barriers to fish passage, in conjunction with the Student Conservation Association and local Resource Conservation and Development councils.

The Forest also entered into a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Idaho Division of Environmental Quality to assess the major sources of sediment within the South Fork Payette River (SFPR) subbasin. Many subwatersheds within the SFPR subbasin are identified as "priority" under the ACS.

**Moving
Vegetation
Towards Desired
Conditions**



The sagebrush project will help us better understand sagebrush habitats on the Forest.

The Forest Plan provides direction for moving forested and non-forested vegetation towards desired conditions, including those needed for terrestrial wildlife habitat.

***Accomplishments** The Forest has continued vegetation inventory and classification work within riparian and sagebrush habitats in partnership with the Idaho Conservation Data Center. The riparian habitat study will contribute to further understanding of wetland and riparian resources on the Forest, while the sagebrush project will increase our knowledge of the location and composition of sagebrush habitats on the Forest, including areas that may support special status species such as sage grouse.*

In addition, the Forest is undertaking a native seed collection project, in partnership with the Idaho Conservation Data Center and Lucky Peak Nursery. Dozens of Idaho Department of Fish and Game volunteers have contributed to this project's success.



Native brush species grown from collected seed help the Forest control invasion of non-native species.

Over 500 pounds of seed have been collected and used to cultivate several acres of new plants. By gathering, growing and replanting local native species, the Forest helps maintain biodiversity and helps control invasion of non-native species.

**Sustainable
Resource
Conditions to
Support
Commodity
Outputs**

***Accomplishments** As of late September, the Forest offered about 17.5 million board feet (MMBF) of sawtimber (14.0 MMBF of green timber and 3.5 MMBF of salvage) from suited timberlands in fiscal year 2004 (October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004). This volume contributes to the Forest's Allowable Sale Quantity, which is reported on a 10-year basis.*



Restoring healthy forest conditions often produces sawtimber and other commodity outputs.

An additional 6.5 MMBF of wood products (e.g., fuelwood, posts, poles, houselogs, etc.) was also offered. This volume, when combined with that offered as part of the ASQ, is considered the Forest's Total Sale Program Quantity (TSPQ).

In addition, the Forest reforested over 1,961 acres and completed timber stand improvement activities (such as precommercial thinning) on more than 5,700 acres of suited timberlands.

Fire-Dependent Landscapes

The revised Forest Plan emphasizes restoration of fire-dependent landscapes by reducing hazardous fuels, especially in wildland-urban interface areas, and in areas where fire regimes have been moderately or significantly altered from their historic ranges.

Accomplishments *The Boise NF fully completed hazardous fuel reduction on about 8,200 acres of National Forest land in fiscal year 2004 (October 1, 2003 – September 30, 2004), using funding specifically allocated for hazardous fuels reduction.*



Treatments were focused on “wildland/urban interface”(WUI) areas, where wildlands and communities meet, and in areas where fire regimes have been moderately or significantly altered from what happened historically.

Over 80 percent of the hazardous fuels funding in fiscal year 2004 was directed to projects in the WUI. The Southwest Idaho Resource Advisory Committee also provided funding for WUI treatments.

Hazardous fuels were reduced around the communities of Idaho City (including surrounding areas such as the Duquette Pines subdivision and the Highway 21 intermix of homes), Garden Valley and surrounding subdivisions, Placerville, Yellow Pine, and Warm Lake.

About 7,200 of the acres treated were burned under controlled conditions. In addition, small trees were thinned using mechanical equipment on about 1,000 acres.

The Forest has also worked with Boise, Elmore, Gem and Valley counties in developing the counties’ Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans. These Plans are the cornerstone of National Fire Plan implementation in Idaho.

Mix of Recreational Opportunities

The revised Forest Plan provides a mix of recreational opportunities to address growing demands, with an emphasis on bringing conflicting user groups together to resolve conflicts and minimize resource impacts.

Accomplishments *After intensive involvement with user groups and the public, the Forest adopted in July a new travel management policy that will eliminate cross-country travel by wheeled motorized vehicles. (Snowmachine use is not affected by the new policy.)*

The new policy will help reduce soil compaction, erosion and other resource impacts, and social conflicts resulting from dramatically increased OHV use on the nearly 525,000 acres of the Forest that had been open to cross-country OHV travel.



The Forest worked extensively with user groups and the public in crafting the new travel policy.