CHAPTER 3

MONITORING

Chapter 3
Monitoring Direction

I. Monitoring Plan

At intervals specified in this chapter, management practices will be evaluated to determine:

- How well objectives are being achieved to help accomplish goals.
- If standards are being attained and what trends are being established for standards.
- If effects of management plan implementation on natural and social resources are occurring as predicted.
- How accurate assumptions and projections are
- How closely management standards have been applied

Appropriate monitoring costs will be identified annually to insure that the monitoring is conducted at the same intensity and with the same methodology Wilderness-wide. Annual summaries will be prepared describing monitoring results. The results of monitoring and evaluation will be used along with other applicable information to analyze the management situation during management plan revision.

The elements in the following table will be monitored for baseline information or changes in baseline. If areas of degradation are detected, appropriate management measures will be taken, commensurate to the potential severity of the impact and needs of the area. Appropriate measures may range from education, to maintenance, to closure. Closures may be invoked but are not necessarily the first choice. As per the authority of the Organic Act of 1897, the Forest Supervisor may invoke special orders at any time for the protection of the resource.

Table 3.1. Monitoring Plan

Monitoring Objective	Activity, Practice or Effect to be Measured	Monitoring Protocol	Frequency
Air Quality - Emissions from outside the wilderness do not affect air quality. Air quality is protected from pollution in excess of required standards.	1. Suspended Particulates- 10 to 20 micrograms per cubic meter	State standards for air quality	Every 5 years
Aviation – Forest Service airstrips provide public and commercial use within acceptable limits	1. Airstrip use and trend: • Number of aircraft landing • Type of aircraft landing (commercial and private) • Number of people per party • Types of use supported by aircraft 2. Landing strip Safety Inspection report ratings	Voluntary registration Inspections	Annually Annually
Cultural Resources- Heritage resources are protected and managed	1. The percent of previously recorded cultural resource sites receiving annual site inventory and evaluation - implementation follows the programmatic agreement with SHPO. Compliance with SHPO programmatic agreement	SHPO programmatic agreement	Every 2 years
Fire - Fire is allowed to serve as a natural ecological process	1. Amount and type of motorized use authorizations for each fire 2. Number and percent of acres of Wildland Fire Use 3. Number and percent of acres of wildfire 4. Number and percent of acres of prescribed fire	Documentation of reasons for wildfire declaration Number and percent of acres of wildland fire use, wildfire and prescribed fire	Annually

Monitoring Objective	Activity, Practice or Effect to be Measured	Monitoring Protocol	Frequency
Wildlife – native populations and key habitat components are not impaired.	1. Percent of forage utilization on selected transects within seasonally important wild ungulate habitats; 2. Ratio of males, females, and young in wild ungulate populations.	IDFC species management plan (varies by species) Paired plot transects within seasonally important wild ungulate habitats.	Every 5 years
Livestock grazing – forage utilization does not exceed standard	1. Utilization rates by domestic livestock, recreation livestock and outfitter/guide livestock 2. Stubble heights	Utilization rates and/or stubble height as set in allotment management plans and annual operating plans	Annually
Minerals – Valid claims are operated in a manner that protects wilderness. Resource impacts from abandoned mining activity do not pose a threat to the wilderness	1. Number of active mining claims operating under appropriate plan of operations 2. Number of inactive mining claims with resource problems such as hazardous materials, erosion and garbage	Survey of all valid mineral claims and abandoned mines following regional standards	Every 5 years
Recreation –For land based campsites, no more than 5% are in Frissell Condition Class V, no more than 20% in Class IV, and no more than 30% in Class III; 25% or more in Frissell Condition Class II and 20% or more in Class I	Condition of campsites 1. Frissell Campsite Ratings 2. Modified – Cole Campsite Condition Surveys	20% of Class I 25 % of Class II 30% of Class III 20 % of Class IV 5 % of Class V Frissell campsite conditions surveys and weed inventory forms Frissell campsite condition standards	Annually monitor 10% of campsites

Monitoring Objective	Activity, Practice or Effect to be Measured	Monitoring Protocol	Frequency
Recreation – River campsites	1. Number of launches by type 2. People per party 3. PAOT levels 4. Encounter levels between different user groups 5. Outfitter and Guide percent of allocation used – launches used 6. Number of Kicker Motors used (Salmon River) 7. Campsite condition surveys using Frissell and Modified – Cole Methods	Frissell campsite conditions surveys and standards	Annually
Recreation - Jetboats	1. Jetboats launched 2. People per party 3. Length of stay per party	Permit Tracking Forms	Annually
Research Natural Areas – Natural conditions and processes are maintained	1. Percent of non-indigenous species in Research Natural Areas	Biological surveys	Every 5 years
Soil and Water – Water of outstanding high quality and ecological significance	Baseline data for existing and potential heavy use areas along the Middle Fork Salmon and Salmon Rivers and high mountain lakes	Salmon-Challis National Forest water quality monitoring procedures	Every 5 years
Trails – Trails provide access to the wilderness for a variety of user groups and experience levels. No more than 20 % of the system trails have identified resource problems	1. Percent of trails inventoried annually 2. Percent of system trails identified by condition survey to have resource problems 3. Trail miles cleared annually	Trail condition survey Miles cleared annually	Complete 10 percent annually

Monitoring Objective	Activity, Practice or Effect to be Measured	Monitoring Protocol	Frequency
Weeds – Native plants are promoted over exotics. Noxious weeds are effectively managed	1. Location and acres of noxious weed/invasive species 2. Observation of areas previously treated to determine effective treatment of target weeds and protection of non-target vegetation and resources. 3. Expansion or reduction in area and density of noxious/invasive weeds.	Follow National Protocol for Weed Inventory	Annually for quantitative values; 1,3, and 5 years for qualitative values

II. Amendments

The Management Plan can be amended if changes occur or if the need arises. The Lead Forest Supervisor for the Frank Church – River of No Return Wilderness may amend the Wilderness Plan if the amendment is not significant. If the change is significant, the Regional Forester is required to sign the amendment. If the change is determined to be non-significant, the Lead Forest Supervisor may implement the amendment. Both forms of amendments require appropriate public notification and satisfactory completion of NEPA/NFMA procedures.

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