

Dakota Prairie Grasslands

USDA Forest Service, Northern Region

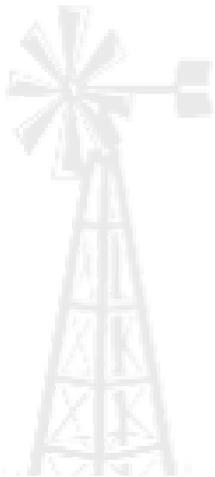
Monitoring and Evaluation Report



Fiscal Year 2004



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Fiscal Year 2004 Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Introduction

This report summarizes Grasslands Plan monitoring and evaluation during fiscal year 2004, which ran from October 1, 2003, to September 30, 2004.

Each National Forest and Grassland unit manages resources under the guidance of a Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), commonly referred to as a Forest Plan or Grasslands Plan. The National Forest Management Act requires National Forests and Grasslands to develop these management plans. It also requires them to monitor and evaluate the plans.



Figure 1: Northeast McKenzie County, McKenzie Ranger District.

Context

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands is comprised of four Ranger Districts.

The McKenzie Ranger District administers the northern half of the Little Missouri National Grassland.

The Medora Ranger District administers the southern half of the Little Missouri National Grassland.

The Sheyenne Ranger District administers the Sheyenne National Grassland.

The Grand River Ranger District administers the Grand River and Cedar River National Grasslands.

The Grand River National Grassland is located in South Dakota; the other National Grasslands that are part of the Dakota Prairie are located in North Dakota.

2004 – Plan Implementation Continues

The Little Missouri, Grand River, Cedar River, and Sheyenne National Grasslands were administered by the Custer National Forest until 1998, at which time they were assigned to the newly formed Dakota Prairie Grasslands. On July 31, 2002, the Regional Forester signed the Record of Decision to approve the Dakota Prairie Grasslands' LRMP, (i.e. the "Grasslands Plan"). Fiscal year 2003 was our first full year under the guidance of the new Grasslands Plan.

The Grasslands Plan consists of four Chapters. Chapters 1-3 provide the goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines that are to be used to manage the Dakota Prairie Grasslands' resources. Chapter 4 outlines the monitoring and evaluation strategy to be used to assess the Plan over time. Specifically, Chapter 4 lists the monitoring questions to be addressed and assigns these questions reporting timeframes. The "Monitoring Handbook" being developed by the Dakota

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Prairie Grasslands details the methodologies that are used to collect and analyze the monitoring data.

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands Land and Resource Management Plan, or Grasslands Plan, will provide management guidance for the next 10 to 15 years.

Delayed Implementation of Grazing Portions of the Grasslands Plan

The Scientific Review Team process (described in the 2003 Dakota Prairie Grasslands Monitoring and Evaluation Report) continued in Fiscal Year 2004. Eleven Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) on the Cedar River that were included in the review were “real”. This association had opted out of the formal SRT process, and so these AMPs had gone through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and were signed by the permittees. Other than these 11 AMPs, no other implementation of the grazing portion of the Grasslands Plan occurred this year.

It will not be possible to evaluate implementation of the grazing portions of the Grasslands Plan until the 64 sample AMPs are complete and the grazing portion of the Grasslands Plan has either been accepted or changed. In the meantime, monitoring questions that pertain to grazing will be answered with the most current information.

Monitoring - Who, When, Why, What

Purposes of Monitoring and Evaluation

Effective land and resource management plan monitoring and evaluation fosters adaptive management and more informed decisions. It helps identify the need to adjust desired conditions, goals, objectives, standards and guidelines as conditions change. Monitoring and evaluation helps the agency and the public determine how a land and resource management plan is being implemented, whether plan implementation is achieving desired outcomes, and whether assumptions made in the planning process are valid.



Figure 2: Burrowing owl researcher with banded & radioed owls.

Monitoring and evaluation are conducted at several scales and for many purposes, each of which has different objectives and requirements. Monitoring requirements and tasks are developed to be responsive to the objectives and scale of the plan, program, or project to be monitored.

Monitoring and evaluation are separate, sequential activities required by National Forest Management Act regulations to determine how well objectives have been met and how closely management standards and guidelines have been applied.

Monitoring generally includes the collection of data and information, either by observation or measurement. Evaluation is the analysis of the

data and information collected during the monitoring phase.

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The evaluation results are used to answer the monitoring questions, determine the need to revise management plans, change how the plans are implemented, and form a basis for adaptively managing the national grasslands. Monitoring and evaluation keep the Grasslands Plan up-to-date and responsive to changing issues by verifying the effectiveness of management plan standards and guidelines, anticipating program and project effects on resources, and providing information for amendments to the management plan.

Monitoring provides the information necessary to determine whether the Grasslands Plan is sufficient to guide management of the national grasslands for subsequent years or whether modification of the plan is needed.

The purposes of Land and Resource Management Plan monitoring and evaluation are to:

- ◆ Determine whether the plan is working as anticipated to accomplish its identified goals and objectives.
- ◆ Determine whether changes need to be made to the plan.
- ◆ Determine whether assumptions made in the planning process are valid.
- ◆ Allow Forest Service managers to make better decisions within the guidance of the plan.

There are three types of monitoring:

1. Implementation Monitoring: evaluates whether the anticipated inputs, anticipated outputs, and actions prescribed in the Grasslands Plan are occurring as planned.
2. Effectiveness Monitoring: evaluates how effective the Grasslands Plan actions are at achieving the desired outcomes.
3. Validation Monitoring: verifies the assumptions and models used in the Grasslands Plan.

Monitoring Handbook

A Monitoring Handbook is being developed by the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Monitoring Team to provide more refined guidance in monitoring and evaluation than the monitoring strategy outlined in the Grasslands Plan. The target audience for this Monitoring Handbook is Dakota Prairie Grassland employees. Its objectives are:

1. To focus our monitoring efforts,
2. To schedule monitoring data collection,
3. To budget monitoring funds, and
4. To specify monitoring protocols.

The Monitoring Handbook is in a draft stage. Despite being in draft form, the Handbook has a great deal of useful information in it as far as monitoring methods, reporting language, and scheduling that was helpful in developing this monitoring report. The Monitoring Handbook is scheduled for completion at the end of calendar year 2005.

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Monitoring Team

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands Monitoring Team is an interdisciplinary group of people that oversees Grasslands Plan monitoring. Functions of the team include developing monitoring protocols, overseeing monitoring data collection and storage, evaluating monitoring results, budgeting, and making recommendations to the Grasslands leadership in regards to monitoring and evaluation. Monitoring team members are listed on page 24.

Questions for Fiscal Year 2004

The Grasslands Plan contains 48 monitoring questions in Chapter 4. These questions need to be answered over the life of the plan, but each question will not be monitored or evaluated every year. Development of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Monitoring Handbook will include creation of a monitoring schedule based on question prioritization, time needed for data collection, and projected budgets. However, even with the best-laid plans, circumstances will change that may affect the monitoring schedule; therefore, the Grasslands leadership will assist in prioritizing what will be monitored in any given year.

Which questions were addressed for fiscal year 2004 was based on several factors including the "frequency of reporting" stated in Chapter 4 of the Grasslands Plan for each question, availability of information to answer the question, and initial attempts by the Monitoring Team to prioritize questions.

Monitoring Questions

Administration

ADM1. Are the action plans identified in the objectives being completed on schedule?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Implementation

This question refers to the many different strategies and plans that the Dakota Prairie Grasslands is to develop over the life of the Plan to help attain goals. Table 1 outlines these plans and identifies our progress.

Table 1: Action plans identified in the Grasslands Plan and completion progress.

#	Action Plan Commitment	Plan Page	Time Given (Years)	Year Due	Progress and Comments
1	Develop conservation and recovery strategies for federally threatened or endangered species with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies.	1-2	As information becomes available	NA	A recovery strategy for the threatened western prairie fringed orchid was completed in 2002, with implementation beginning in FY2003. The black-footed ferret, bald eagle, gray wolf, and whooping crane already have strategies. The piping plover and interior least tern do not occur on the DPG. No other T/E wildlife species is noted as "known or suspected to occur" on the DPG by the Regional Forester.

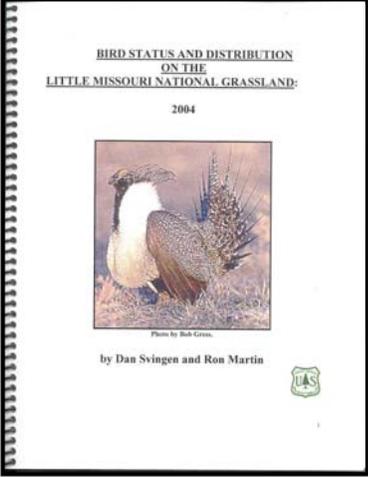
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#	Action Plan Commitment	Plan Page	Time Given (Years)	Year Due	Progress and Comments
2	Develop and implement conservation strategies for Forest Service sensitive species.	1-3	As technical information becomes available	NA	A conservation strategy was developed for the Black-tailed Prairie Dog, a sensitive species, on the Grand River Ranger District in FY 2004
3	Develop management strategies to conserve rare plant and wildlife communities.	1-3	As such communities are identified	NA	An assessment of rare plant communities on the Sheyenne Ranger District is underway and will be completed in FY 06. Work is planned for the black-tailed prairie dog on the Medora Ranger District for 2005.
4	Establish scientifically credible monitoring programs that contribute to our ability to determine viability of threatened and endangered species, species at risk, and MIS.	1-3	Over life of Plan	NA	The DPG monitoring handbook, which will be completed in FY 06, provides a plan for scientifically credible inventory and monitoring methods.
5	Complete conservation strategies for globally rare plant species and other high priority species in cooperation with other conservation organizations and agencies.	1-3	Over life of Plan	NA	A conservation strategy was initiated for the sensitive plant, Dakota buckwheat in FY02. This will be completed in FY06.
6	Assess potential impacts of the construction of impoundments in upper watersheds on hydrologic flows and patterns on downstream habitat on the sturgeon chub and other sensitive native fish species.	1-3	Over life of Plan	NA	The sturgeon chub was evidently extirpated from the Little Missouri River by the drought in the late 1980's. Attempts to reintroduce the species there have been made, but the success of those efforts is unknown. No other sensitive native fish species occurs on the DPG.
7	Develop and maintain cooperative noxious weeds and invasive species management plans in consultation with appropriate partners and agencies.	1-3	5 years	2007	Cooperation is ongoing with grazing associations, county weed boards and the state of North Dakota. Cooperative agreements with partners have been established and over \$300,000 of appropriated money has been given to partners for weed control.
8	Develop and implement a certified noxious weed-free forage program in consultation with appropriate state agencies	1-3	3 years	2005	Implemented in 2001 as a large multi-agency effort of state and federal partners.
9	Implement an integrated prevention and pest control management program for noxious weeds and invasive plant species	1-4	10 years	2012	This is an ongoing process on all ranger districts. Work was started on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Noxious Weed EIS, which includes an integrated approach for noxious weed management.
10	Complete site and recreation plans, including rehabilitation and re-vegetation strategies.	1-4	10 years	2012	Completed December 2002.

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#	Action Plan Commitment	Plan Page	Time Given (Years)	Year Due	Progress and Comments
11	Implement a science and marketing-based interpretive program strategy that uses a variety of communication media	1-4	5 years	2007	Interpretive Plan programmed for 2006.
12	Develop and implement a heritage inventory strategy to survey and evaluate sites, in support of management actions and activities as agreed upon with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO).	1-5	5 years	2007	Student Cooperative Education Program (SCEP) Archaeologist Masters Thesis project was completed in 2004.
13	Assess identified sites eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in conjunction with SHPO and THPO and provide interpretation for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) sites where appropriate and consistent with developed preservation plans.	1-5	5 years	2007	The assessment for Initial Rock was completed in 2004. Work continued on the nominating process for the Custer Military Historic District. This is planned for FY 2005.
14	Identify and protect traditional cultural properties in consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes	1-5	3 years	2005	On going, Major Ethnographic Overview effort completed in 1995.
15	Update prehistoric, ethnographic, and historic overviews	1-5	10 years	2012	Gathering reference material.
16	Develop and implement a management and monitoring plan for each RNA. (The time for accomplishing this starts at designation.)	1-5	5 years		Formal designation of RNAs is planned for FY06. Management plans will be completed after designation.
17	Revise allotment management plans (AMPs) to meet desired condition described in Geographic Area direction.	1-5	As needed	NA	The DPG has a schedule for updating all allotment management plans by 2010. Due to delayed implementation of the grazing portion of the Grasslands Plan, allotment planning continues, but signing decisions has been delayed on the Little Missouri and Sheyenne National Grasslands. Eleven AMPs were completed on the Cedar River National Grassland in FY 04.
18	Develop and implement conservation plans for significant geological and paleontological sites as information becomes available	1-6	15 years	2017	Initiated GPS surveys of known geological and paleontological sites in 2003. The data will be transferred to a GIS layer for inventory purposes. Data will be added as it becomes available.

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#	Action Plan Commitment	Plan Page	Time Given (Years)	Year Due	Progress and Comments
19	Identify, develop, manage, and interpret important watchable wildlife and plant viewing sites	1-6	10 years	2012	<p>In 2004 we published the 95-page book: <u>"Bird Status and Distribution on the Little Missouri National Grassland: 2004"</u> to assist the public in enjoyment of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands' watchable wildlife. We also cooperated with several other entities in the creation of a native wildflower garden in Watford City, and sponsored two Kids Fishing Days. Our numerous interpretation activities included producing 2 brochures, 4 displays, 12 newspaper articles, and 4 professional papers. We also led 18 field trips, and gave 2 radio interviews and 12 speeches regarding the Grasslands' watchable wildlife and plants.</p> 
20	Establish and implement credible inventory and monitor systems, develop survey methods, and initiate baseline and trend surveys to provide scientific information and decision support across all land ownerships.	1-7	Over life of Plan	NA	The DPG monitoring handbook will be completed in FY06. Monitoring of residual vegetation continued this FY.
21	Assess potential habitat capability at the local level for management indicator species by identifying existing or establishing new reference areas and implementing long-term monitoring.	1-7	Over life of Plan	NA	The DPG monitoring handbook provides the inventory and monitoring schedule for management indicator species. For the western prairie fringed orchid, population surveys and monitoring occur on an annual basis. Our annual, long-term monitoring of sharp-tailed grouse, greater sage-grouse, and greater prairie-chicken continued in 2004.

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#	Action Plan Commitment	Plan Page	Time Given (Years)	Year Due	Progress and Comments
22	Identify travel opportunities and restrictions; including designating motorized travelways and areas, to meet land management objectives	1-7	5 years	2007	Non-motorized areas were marked on the ground in 2003 and special orders were written to enforce it. Site specific travel management planning will be initiated on the Sheyenne in 2004 and other priority areas will be identified in 2005.
23	Provide site-specific maps and information showing closures, restrictions, and opportunities for motorized and nonmotorized use.	1-7	Over life of Plan	NA	Maps of nonmotorized areas as identified in the Grasslands Plan were prepared in 2003 in conjunction with the special order limiting motorized use in these areas.
24	Identify the minimum Forest service road system for administration, utilization, and protection of national grasslands resources using a science-based roads analysis process.	1-7	Over life of Plan	NA	Completed as part of the LRMP revision. Updates ongoing as inventory of level 2 roads continue.
25	Develop and implement an approved land ownership adjustment plan in response to resource management and public needs. Coordinate, review and update every 3 years	1-8	3 years	2005	The land adjustment plan was started in 2003. When completed, this will still continue to be a dynamic document.
26	Develop and implement a 5-year Rights-of-Way Acquisition program in response to resource management programs and access needs. Coordinate, review and update annually.	1-8	3 years	2005	Development of the 5-year ROW acquisition plan was started in FY 03. Current plans are to finish the report in FY06.
27	Develop 64 sample AMPs to be reviewed by a Scientific Review Team to determine if the grazing portion of the Grasslands Plan can be implemented and to verify that grazing levels are similar to those projected in the Revised Grasslands Plan FEIS.	ROD	2 years	2004	Preparations for this process were made in 2002, began in 2003, and continued in 2004.

Also considered in administration are things such as new inventory and monitoring systems established, establishing baseline and trend surveys and technology transfers.

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Some highlights from FY 04 follow:

- GIS data exchanged/shared with other agencies or organizations include the following. Some of these were in support of Forest Service agreements.
 - USFS – Nebraska National Forest
 - USGS – Snake River Field Station
 - USGS – Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center
 - USDA – Natural Resource Conservation Service
 - USDI – Bureau of Land Management
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Bureau of Reclamation – Dakota Area Office
 - National Park Service – Theodore Roosevelt National Park
 - ND Heritage Center
 - ND Parks and Recreation
 - ND Department of Agriculture
 - ND Game and Fish
 - ND Oil and Gas Commission
 - University of North Dakota
 - Dickinson State University
 - University of Minnesota
 - St. Cloud State University
 - University of South Dakota
 - South Dakota State University
 - North Country Trail Association
 - Greystone
 - KMB Inc.
 - Premier Data Services
 - Agridata
- The Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center completed a two-year monitoring effort of the Little Missouri and Grand River National Grasslands' wetlands and waterfowl community.
- The University of North Dakota continued its multi-year inventory of golden eagle nests on the Little Missouri National Grassland.
- Residual vegetation transects were again sampled across the Dakota Prairie Grasslands to quantify the amount of residual vegetation remaining after the growing season.
- Sharp-tailed grouse surveys were conducted on all four National Grasslands administered by the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. In addition, greater prairie-chicken trend surveys were completed on the Sheyenne National Grassland.
- Small mammal surveys were performed on the Little Missouri National Grassland under a cooperative agreement with the University of North Dakota.
- Grassland bird surveys were conducted for a third year across the Dakota Prairie Grasslands through cooperative efforts with Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.
- St. Cloud State University continued its multi-year investigation of burrowing owl populations on the Little Missouri National Grassland.

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- Baseline surveys of the Little Missouri National Grasslands' butterfly populations were again conducted by qualified lepidopterists.



Figure 3: Red-bellied woodpecker. Photo courtesy of Bob Gress.

- Dr. David Lambeth surveyed pileated and red-bellied woodpeckers on the Sheyenne National Grassland.
- The University of Idaho intensified their inventory of the Little Missouri National Grassland's fish community in small tributary streams. (see photo below).
- Volunteer birders David and Carolyn Griffiths again surveyed grassland birds on the Grand River Ranger District.
- North Dakota State University continued their investigation of livestock grazing impacts on the threatened western prairie fringed-orchid.
- Woody draw monitoring on the Little Missouri National Grassland was done in FY04 in conjunction with North Dakota Game and Fish Department.
- Dr. Cunningham of Vassar University continued her research into bird community dynamics on the Sheyenne National Grassland.
- The University of Minnesota started monitoring the effects of road construction and rehabilitation on plant diversity.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was developed with the North Dakota Geological Survey for curating paleontological resources for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.



Figure 4: Casting a paleontological resource on the Grand River Ranger District.



Figure 5: Fish researchers seining for fish on the Little Missouri National Grassland.

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Community Relations

The Grasslands Plan includes three monitoring questions that address economic impacts of Plan implementation. The ultimate question is: “Are there economic effects from changes in grassland management, and what are they?”

CR1. What are the effects of National Grasslands management on adjacent communities?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness



Figure 6: Grasslands Supervisor, Dave Pieper, presents the award to the Mayor of Pekin, Steve Girodat; and to Pekin Community Development Director, Brenda Bjorlie.

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands works in partnership with the North Dakota Forest Service to provide assistance to communities through Economic Action and Rural Development programs.

Economic Action programs help rural communities and businesses that are dependent on natural resources become sustainable and self-sufficient. The Rural Community Assistance (RCA) program is one program under Economic Action that helps rural communities build skills, network, and develop strategies to address social, environmental, and economic changes.

In 2004, USDA Forest Service Chief, Dale Bosworth, awarded 23 national RCA awards to rural communities, community-based groups, and individuals throughout the nation. Dakota Prairie Grasslands nominated the City of Pekin who became the first community in North Dakota to receive the award that reads, “In the Spirit of Working Together for Rural America; Pekin, ND is being recognized for outstanding accomplishments and as an outstanding model of a small community with positive spirit, strong commitment, a focus on their strengths, belief in themselves, and willingness to work toward the achievement of community goals.”

In addition to the grants provided to local communities, Dakota Prairie Grassland staff often work with communities to develop strategic action plans to identify opportunities, establish goals and objectives, and prioritize projects. In 2004, Dakota Prairie Grasslands awarded \$127,775 in RCA grants to eight rural communities and five non-profit organizations (Table 2).

Table 2: Grants awarded through DPG’s Rural Community Assistance Program in fiscal year 2004.

Grant Applicant and Name of Project	Amount Awarded:	Purpose of Grant
Bowman-Slope Soil Conservation District, SW ND Coordinated Resource Management	\$10,000	Engage land owners/managers, and natural resource professionals in a collaborative planning, management and stewardship process to establish an integrated approach toward meeting sustainable farm/ranch management objectives that are compatible with AMP goals.

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City of Arnegard, ND Community Action Plan	\$5,000	Engage community and local residents in a strategic action planning process to establish long-term goals, objectives, and action items that enhance economic activity, develop local leadership capacity, and improve the general quality of life for the City of Arnegard and surrounding area.
City of Beach, ND Community Portable Stage	\$9,000	Build a portable community stage to use at community functions such as rodeo days, dances, and other festivities that attract people to the area.
City of Eagle Butte, SD Eagle Butte Recreation Project	\$20,000	Improve landscape design at existing park and add restroom and picnic shelters to enhance park facilities for public use.
City of Medora, ND Community Action Plan	\$5,000	Engage community and local residents in a strategic action planning process to establish long-term goals, objectives, and action items that enhance economic activity, develop local leadership capacity, and improve the general quality of life for the City of Medora and surrounding area.
City of Jud, ND-Park Board Jud Village of Murals Project	\$8,000	Community beautification and economic development project to paint murals on existing buildings using local artists. Promote awareness and appreciation of the arts, attract tourists to the area, and build community pride and participation.
City of Pekin, ND City Auditorium Renovation – Phase II	\$20,000	Repair foundation, replace windows and doors, and install new siding on the community auditorium. The facility serves as the region arts center for arts programming and traveling art exhibits.
Fessenden Area Community Betterment Association, Inc. Fessenden Community Action Plan	\$5,000	Engage community and local residents in a strategic action planning process to establish long-term goals, objectives, and action items that enhance economic activity, develop local leadership capacity, and improve the general quality of life for the City of Fessenden and surrounding area.
Mayville-Portland EDC Community Action Plan	\$5,000	Engage community and local residents in a strategic action planning process to establish long-term goals, objectives, and action items that enhance economic activity, develop local leadership capacity, and improve the general quality of life for the Cities of Mayville-Portland and surrounding area.

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ND Community Foundation, The Resource Center Grant Training Workshop	\$5,000	Training for rural and Tribal communities in ND and SD on how to research, write, and administer grants; and how to access RCA grants through the Dakota Prairie Grasslands and ND Forest Service.
Nelson County Arts Council Stump Lake Fine Arts Youth Camp	\$5,775	Provide a six-day camp at Stump Lake for students in grades 3-10 from throughout the county to participate in visual and performing arts activities.
Tatanka RC&D Council, Inc. Perkins County Fairground Bentley Building	\$20,000	Expand the existing Bentley building at the Perkins County Fairground to allow for multiple use as a community/county recreation center, and for youth and senior activity programs in the area.
Three Affiliated Tribes Museum, Inc. Earthlodge Art and Exhibit Project	\$10,000	Develop an earthlodge art exhibit and booklet to educate museum visitors and the general public about the practicality of the earthlodge, use of natural resources in construction, and how the interior and exterior art made it the first 'little house on the prairie.'
TOTAL 2004 GRANTS:	\$127,775	

In addition to awarding communities RCA grants, technical assistance is provided to help rural and Tribal communities access USDA Forest Service programs. In 2004, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands partnered with The Resource Center -- a division of ND Community Foundation -- to sponsor grant training workshops for rural communities and nonprofit organizations in the Dakotas. The workshops -- one in eastern ND and the second in western ND -- provided information about the RCA program, grant research and writing, and grants administration. Approximately 69 people attended the sessions. Invitations were also sent to Tribal communities within the Grasslands region.



Figure 7: Rose Stamp by Rosemary Gasel. Jud City of Murals - one of nine murals completed in 2004.

USDA Forest Service program outreach and information dissemination is also provided through a variety of annual conferences and programs. One of the largest events is the Marketplace of Ideas Conference. Marketplace has an annual attendance of over 6000 from the states of North Dakota, South Dakota, eastern Minnesota, western Montana, and Canada.

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CR3. What are the effects of National Grasslands management on economic conditions of local residents?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness

We are reporting economic effects of three resource programs: livestock grazing, oil and gas production, and recreation. These three are the most quantifiable programs with regard to economics on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

Livestock Grazing



Figure 8: Stockpond on the Grand River National Grassland.

Livestock grazing is reported as HMs (Head Months) authorized to graze on Forest Service land. One AUM (Animal Unit Month) is the amount of forage required by a 1,000-pound cow and her calf grazing for one month. However, billing is done by Head Months. A Head Month is counted as one grazing animal (or cow/calf pair) for one month for cattle. In most cases, this is virtually the same as an AUM, and is used as such for the calculations in Table 3.

The number of AUMs is multiplied by economic response coefficients to determine total jobs and income that can

be associated with the AUMs. Economic response coefficients used in calculating jobs and income were taken from spreadsheets used to determine economic effects in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Grasslands Plan. Information is reported for the Little Missouri National Grassland (McKenzie and Medora Ranger Districts), the Cedar River and Grand River National Grasslands, and the Sheyenne National Grassland because the response coefficients were different for each of the economic impact areas associated with these grasslands. Table 3 depicts the economic impacts from cattle grazing.

Drought conditions were severe in 2004 in western North and South Dakota. Adjustments were made in livestock numbers and/or season of use to respond to these conditions. The AUMs in Table 3 reflect these adjustments.

Table 3: Economic impacts from cattle grazing on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in 2004.

Unit	2004 AUMs*	Effects from National Forest System Lands Grazing	
		Total Jobs	Total Income
Grand River / Cedar River National Grasslands**	59,610	76	\$1,134,826
Little Missouri National Grassland	339,015	617	\$7,726,015
Sheyenne National Grassland	55,680	121	\$1,355,988
Total Dakota Prairie Grasslands	454,305	814	\$10,216,828

* AUMs on National Forest System lands, determined from the final billing to permittees; does not include sheep AUMs.

** Grand River also grazed sheep head months but this was not included in the calculations as the economic response coefficients were developed for cattle, not sheep.

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Due to delayed implementation of the grazing portion of the Grasslands Plan, as discussed on page 2, changes in livestock grazing and associated economics do not reflect the effects of the new Grasslands Plan. However, this data may help define the range of variability in the cattle industry that can occur due to natural effects, such as drought, independent of effects from Grasslands Plan direction.

Oil and Gas

Oil and gas production occurs only on the Little Missouri National Grassland.

Oil and gas production numbers for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands are kept in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM keeps the “down hole” records and manages below surface resources. This data is stored with the Minerals Management Service. Due to an on-going lawsuit, and changes in accounting and computer systems, agency specific information for 2004 has not yet become available. The numbers used for the table below are from 2002.



Figure 9: Oil well pad on the Little Missouri National Grassland in the Tracy Mountain field.

The economic response coefficients used to calculate jobs and income came from spreadsheets used to calculate economic effects in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Grasslands Plan. Table 4 shows the economic impacts from oil production in 2002.

Table 4: Economic impacts from oil production on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in 2002.

Unit	2002 Oil Equivalent Barrels of Oil and Gas	Effects from National Forest System Lands Oil and Gas Production*	
		Total Jobs	Total Labor Income
Little Missouri National Grassland	5,327,999	698	\$23,443,196

*These figures do not include the economic impacts associated with drilling.

While the total oil equivalent barrels is not yet available, the North Dakota Petroleum Council brochure lists the oil and gas revenues from the Little Missouri National Grasslands from Fiscal Year 2004 as \$13.4 million. Of that amount, one-fourth, or \$3.4 million was returned to McKenzie, Billings, Golden Valley and Slope Counties for schools and roads. (Source: North Dakota Oil & Gas Industry Facts and Figures brochure – 2005 edition).

Significant progress was made in the oil and gas leasing backlog on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands this Fiscal Year. Federal Bureau of Land Management lease sales (which includes those lands which the surface is administered by the Dakota Prairie Grasslands) from January through November 2004 generated \$16,660,797 from 192 parcels totaling 118,504 acres on the Little Missouri National Grasslands.

Recreation

The Grasslands provide North Dakota’s most extensive recreational trail systems; core habitat for greater prairie chicken, western prairie fringed orchid and bighorn sheep; key areas for mule

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deer, wild turkey, and sharp-tailed grouse hunting; and the largest expanse of public land in the state. These resources attract thousands of visitors each year.

The Forest Service National Forest Visitor Use Monitoring program collects information on National Forests and Grasslands about visitor satisfaction and use. Results of this effort show that recreation use on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands for fiscal year 2002 was 739,157 national forest (or grassland) visits. A national forest (or grassland) visit is defined as the entry of one person upon a national forest or grassland to participate in recreation activities for an unspecified period of time. This 2002 survey data is the most up-to-date information available, as no estimates or surveys were done for 2003. The next National Forest Visitor Use Monitoring for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands is scheduled for 2007.

The economic effects calculations in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Grasslands Plan used Recreation Visitor Days. A Recreation Visitor Day (RVD) can be understood to mean one person visiting the National Grasslands (or National Forest) for a period of 12 hours. One RVD could be one person camping overnight or 12 people hiking for an hour.

Table 5 lists solely a potential averaged estimate of the recreation economic impact to the DPG. This is based on an estimated average visit of 3 hours in 2002. Coefficients used in the plan were broken out by National Grassland. The survey data was not readily available by unit, and so an averaging was used to produce the rough estimate of jobs and income listed below. This would correspond to between a 5 and 10 percent increase based on the estimates from the plan. With the increase in recreation facilities, and growing use on the various trail systems, this seems to be consistent with the economic analysis in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

Table 5: Estimated economic impacts from recreation on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands in 2002.

Unit	2002 Recreation visits	2002 Estimated RVDs*	Estimated Effects from National Forest System Lands Recreation**	
			Total Jobs	Total Labor Income
Little Missouri National Grassland	739,157	184,789	459	\$6,009,615

*Estimated by dividing Recreation Visits by four (estimating each visitor spent an average of 3 hours on the National Grasslands during their recreation visit). Realize some people probably spent days on their trip, while others may have only spent an hour or less.

** Coefficients for jobs and income were different for the Grand/Cedar River National Grasslands, Sheyenne National Grassland, and Little Missouri National Grassland. The recreation visits were not broken out by National Grassland. To get this estimate, all the RVDs were attributed entirely to each unit with a coefficient, and then the totals were averaged.

CR4. To what extent are noxious weeds, invasive species, and animal damage spreading from the National Grasslands to other ownerships or from lands managed by other government agencies to the National Grasslands?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness

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Noxious weeds

Noxious weeds such as leafy spurge are present on all districts. Aggressive control practices are being implemented on ranger districts. These practices include herbicide spraying, biological control, mechanical treatment and grazing.

Although emphasis is placed on treatment of new areas, yearly inventories continue to reveal new infestations. In reference to leafy spurge and salt cedar, transport of seeds along waterways continues to start new infestations across all land ownership boundaries.



Figure 10: Leafy Spurge.

In 2004, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands provided over \$300,000 of grant money to county weed boards, some grazing associations, and the North Dakota Department of Agriculture as part of a larger effort to help control noxious weeds on state and private lands within the administrative boundaries of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

Black-tailed Prairie Dog

The black-tailed prairie dog remains one of the most controversial animals in the Northern Great Plains. The Grasslands Plan calls for increasing prairie dog populations while still being a “good neighbor”. Our good neighbor policy is focused on resolving unwanted encroachments of prairie dog colonies from National Forest System lands onto neighboring non-National Forest System lands.

In 2004, we took two important steps toward implementing our good neighbor policy. The first was the assembling of an interdisciplinary team to investigate all prairie dog colonies on the Grand River Ranger District. This team consisted of: range conservationists, a biologist, a line officer, a staff officer, a botanist, and a soil scientist. The team visited every prairie dog colony on-the-ground to assess what colonies should be recommended for expansion, passive management, or poisoning. The team’s recommendations were summarized in the 96-page report: “Black-tailed prairie Dog Conservation Assessment and Strategy for the Grand River Ranger District”. This report will be used to develop future management actions to resolve current encroachments, and reduce the likelihood of future encroachments.

On the Medora Ranger District, local staff was already aware of three problematic prairie dog colonies that were causing encroachment. Therefore, in August 2004 the district began preparation of an environmental assessment to propose poisoning at these sites. That assessment was completed on October 6, 2004.

Implementation

IMP1. Have site-specific decisions implemented the Land and Resource Management Plan direction?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Implementation

This question is basically asking whether the Standards and Guidelines in the Grasslands Plan have been implemented for on-the-ground projects.

Standards are actions that must be followed or are required limits to activities in order to achieve Grassland objectives. Site-specific deviations from Standards must be analyzed and documented in amendments to the Grasslands Plan.

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Guidelines are advisable actions that should be followed to achieve Grassland goals and objectives. Deviation from guidelines must be analyzed during project-level analysis and documented in a project decision document, but do not require an amendment to the Grasslands Plan.

Because of the “phased” decision on livestock grazing described on page 2, standards and guidelines related to grazing may not be implemented until a final decision is made in 2005.

District planning coordinators were consulted to determine whether Standards and Guidelines not related to grazing were implemented on projects that occurred in 2003. Project decisions included appropriate Standards and Guidelines.

All projects followed appropriate Standards. Only minor deviations from Guidelines, mostly relating to deciding to mow some vegetation instead of burn or treat with other methods, were found in the analysis.

Outputs

OUT1. Are the projected annual outputs and services being met annually and at anticipated costs?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Implementation



Figure 11: Cattle on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

The outputs tracked for this monitoring report include forage provided to domestic livestock and the number of oil and gas wells, as these are the two primary outputs of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands.

Livestock

In 2004 the Dakota Prairie Grasslands provided forage for 454,305 Head Months. The grazing information for 2004 really does not reflect implementation of the Grasslands Plan. As indicated in the Introduction under the heading “Delayed Implementation of Grazing Portions of the

Grasslands Plan”, except for the Grand and Cedar River National Grasslands, implementation of the grazing portion of the Grasslands Plan is being delayed pending the Final Report of the Scientific Review Team. Therefore, it will probably be FY 06 until changes in grazing due to the Grasslands Plan are initiated, and it may be several years after that until effects of the changes can be determined through monitoring.

Oil and Gas

In 2004, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands had output and budget targets associated with geological/paleontology reports, energy operations processed and energy operations administered to standard. In regard to reports, four were completed. This was 100% of targeted outputs.

Energy operations processed were 48, which is slightly greater than the 32 targeted. These outputs include applications for permit to drill or re-enter a

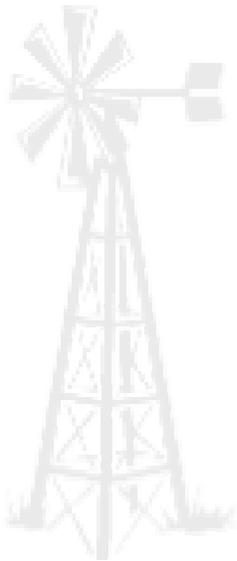


Figure 12: Tank batteries.

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well (APD), sundry notices, geophysical permits, operations on outstanding/reserved mineral leases and mineral related special use permits.

Energy operations administered to standard were 1,029, which is greater than the targeted output of 998. These operations include oil/gas wells under APD/surface use plan of operations (SUPO), wells on outstanding/reserved minerals, existing geophysical permits and mineral related special use permits. Administration of permits and reports were budgeted for \$1.2 million.



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Recreation

REC1. To what extent are trails managed to meet regional standards and to minimize conflicts among users?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands has constructed all trails to meet Regional standards since 1995. We have some old trails, like Summit and Long X, which have short portions that do not meet Regional standards. We are in the process of getting these to standard via the Capital Investment Program. We have no user conflicts on our system trails that we know of. All the trails are non-motorized and have foot, horse and bicycle traffic. The trails were designed to provide sight distance to alleviate potential user conflicts. We perform normal maintenance activities with temporary work crews.

Since completion of the National Visitor Use Monitoring project in FY03, we are seeing an upward trend in recreation use within trail corridors. Likewise, we note an upward trend in day and overnight use of campgrounds.

The DPG trail coordinator conducts condition surveys on 20% of the National Forest System trails each year. The DPG will continue to work with partners like the Maah Daah Hey Trail Association, North Dakota Department of Parks and Recreation, National Park Service, and International Mountain Bicycling Association to minimize conflict among trail users and achieve volunteer maintenance projects. The DPG trails coordinator and recreation forester organize the job of entering trail condition survey data into the Deferred Maintenance (DM), Real Property, and INFRA database. The DPG trails program strives to work with a growing number of user groups and partners to minimize conflict among trail users, further education of user groups regarding trail etiquette, and emphasize Tread Lightly principles.

Standard protocols for trail surveys are used as set forth in FSM 2350 and FSH 2309.18. The collected data is archived in the INFRA database for local use and annual reporting to Congress.

In an effort at public education, the DPG and Maah Daah Hey Trail Association publish and distribute a quarterly newsletter—Turtle Tracks that invites and provides perspectives of all trail user groups—primarily horse enthusiasts, mountain bikers, and hikers. The newsletter is a forum by which all users are involved in decision-making, maintenance projects, planning, and trails management issues.

The DPG recreation forester publishes and distributes recreation opportunity guides to all DPG offices and statewide visitor's bureaus. DPG trailhead and campground information kiosks now feature grassland maps, visitor information, and describe recreation regulations.

The DPG Recreation and Trails Plan, finalized in 2003, establishes a management priority to offer a variety of trails experiences for various ages, abilities, and interests. This management priority will translate to a high level of visitor satisfaction.



Figure 13: Mountain biker on the Maah Daah Hey Trail. Note the trail marker.

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Riparian

RIPARIAN 1. To what extent are perennial streams in proper functioning condition and riparian areas and wooded draws self perpetuating?

Frequency of Reporting: At least every 10 years
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness

As explained in the Dakota Prairie Grasslands' 2002 Monitoring Report, "Proper Functioning Condition" (PFC) is the term used to describe streams that have adequate vegetation, landforms, or large woody debris to dissipate the stream energy associated with high water flows. Streams that are in proper functioning condition have reduced erosion and improved water quality, and are better able to  sediment, capture bed loads, recharge ground and surface water flows, and develop floodplains.

In FY04, we received the final report from a PFC survey conducted along 122 miles of stream on the Grand River National Grassland. Results indicated that about 60% of the stream reaches surveyed were in proper functioning condition, whereas 16% were "non-functional" (the remaining 24% were rated as functional, but at risk).

Soils

SOIL1. To what extent have soils eroded or disturbed by Forest Service management or permitted activities been restored?

Frequency of Reporting: At least every 10 years
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness

The LRMP has established four overarching goals for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Part of Goal 1 is to achieve a 20 percent reduction in acres of eroded or disturbed soils caused by Forest Service permitted or management actions. In 2004, we completed four projects, which will help to reduce soil loss. These projects include:

- Construction of enclosure, spring in Indian Creek watershed to protect wetland soils and plants (7 acres)
- Reclamation of dam, Blacktail Creek watershed, to protect riparian soils from erosion (5 acres)
- Reclamation of dam, Antelope Creek watershed, to protect riparian soils from erosion (5 acres)
- Creation of riparian pasture, Phase I of Chicken Creek Watershed Restoration Project, to protect riparian area and adjacent upland sites from excessive grazing, soil compaction, cattle trailing, and soil erosion (160 acres)

Data on these projects will be stored in Terra, which is a Forest Service wide database.

Threatened and Endangered Species

TE1. To what extent is the Dakota Prairie Grasslands and its management contributing to the recovery and viability of black-footed ferrets?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness

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On the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, black-tailed prairie dog colonies provide potential habitat for the endangered black-footed ferret, although no ferrets currently occur there. The USDI Fish and Wildlife Service is interested in evaluating black-footed ferret reintroduction in any area where a prairie dog complex exceeds 1,500 acres. Currently no areas meet this criteria.

TE2. To what extent is the Dakota Prairie Grasslands and its management contributing to the recovery and viability of bald eagles?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness

Bald eagles do not nest on the DPG, nor does regular wintering occur. Incidental use is made of the grasslands by migrating bald eagles, and occasionally by wintering ones. Because of these facts, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands plays little role in this species' recovery and viability.

TE3. To what extent is the Dakota Prairie Grasslands and its management contributing to the recovery and viability of whooping cranes?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands might occasionally be used by migrant whooping cranes, but no nesting or wintering habitat is available. In 2001, no whooping cranes were sighted on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. Because of these facts, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands plays little role in this species' recovery and viability.

TE4. Are actions identified in national recovery plans for threatened and endangered species being implemented where opportunities exist on national grasslands?

Frequency of Reporting: Annually
Monitoring Type: Implementation

Western Prairie Fringed Orchid – Threatened



Figure 14: Close-up of the western prairie fringed orchid.

Important actions identified in the western prairie fringed orchid recovery plan include the maintenance of protective management on public lands, development of appropriate burning, grazing and mowing regimes, and development of appropriate noxious weed control practices.

In order to address these important actions, the US Forest Service developed an orchid recovery strategy as part of the 2002 Grasslands Plan revision. The US Fish and Wildlife Service has approved this strategy. It outlines appropriate management activities and provides approved mitigation.

In 2004, management activities related to burning, mowing, grazing, and noxious weed control in orchid habitat were consistent with the orchid recovery strategy.

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Vegetation

VEG2. To what extent is the Dakota Prairie Grasslands contributing to the viability of rare plant communities?

Frequency of Reporting: At least every 15 years
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness



Figure 15: Blue-winged teal. Photo courtesy of Bob Gress.

In 2003 and 2004 Dr. Jane Austin of the US Geological Survey's Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, investigated waterfowl use of stock ponds on the Little Missouri and Grand River National Grasslands.

As part of this research, Dr. Austin assessed wetland vegetation conditions, with particular attention paid to emergent species such as cattails, bulrushes, and spike rushes. Using definitions developed by Dakota Prairie Grasslands, stock ponds that had emergent vegetation on more than 10% of their perimeter or surface area were classified as meeting desired conditions.

Study results showed that only about 10% of the stock ponds on the Grand River National Grassland met desired conditions, whereas about 20% of those on the Little Missouri National Grassland (specifically the McKenzie Ranger District) did so. This study's final report is due in 2005.

Viability

VIA2. To what extent is the Dakota Prairie Grasslands contributing to the viability of sensitive plant, animal, and fish species?

Frequency of Reporting: Five Years
Monitoring Type: Effectiveness

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands provides habitat for 18 sensitive wildlife and fish species, and 46 plant species. Each year in this monitoring report, we address the Dakota Prairie Grasslands' contribution to a few of these taxa. This year we will focus on Dakota Buckwheat and Burrowing owls.

Dakota Buckwheat.

The Dakota buckwheat, a rare, annual plant, is endemic to the Northern Great Plains. It is typically found on small fans associated with barren, eroding, cone-shaped knobs, buttes, or escarpments. It also may be found along small erosional areas along drainages and slick spots on prairie flats. In FY04, the Dakota Prairie Grasslands surveyed the central portion of the Grand River National Grassland for this species. Results documented 1,240 new populations of this species, with most occurrences being in Pasture 9. Most of these populations were thriving, robust, and in flower, despite a protracted drought. No significant adverse impacts from human activity, cattle grazing, or noxious weeds were observed.

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Burrowing Owls

Burrowing owls are closely associated with prairie dogs. The owls use the prairie dog's burrows for roosting and nesting. The owls also forage extensively on prairie dog colonies, especially for insects and small birds. Burrowing owls supplement their diet with small mammals, which are typically captured in heavier cover outside of the prairie dog colony itself.

The burrowing owl is now classified as endangered in Canada. In North Dakota, the owl's occupied range has shrunk by one-third in recent years. As noted in the 2002 Monitoring Report, burrowing owls are found on only about 30% of the Little Missouri National Grassland's prairie dog colonies. This fact led the Dakota Prairie Grasslands to initiate intensive research on the species in 2001, in conjunction with Dr. Marco Restani of St. Cloud University. In FY2004, Dr. Restani and his colleagues completed a 2-year radio telemetry study of burrowing owl chicks. Based on this work, burrowing owls on the Little Missouri National Grassland are apparently fledging enough chicks to maintain their low-density population. Results do not yet explain why the owls occupy some colonies, but not others. Landscape features, such as % cropland, are currently being investigated.

Watershed

WSHD2. To what extent have water bodies on the National Grassland that have been degraded by Forest Service permitted or management actions been restored?

Frequency of Reporting: At least every 10 years
Monitoring Type: Implementation

In FY 2004, four miles of streams were improved through the creation of riparian pastures. This includes the restoration of three-miles of the South Fork Grand River with the creation of a riparian pasture in Pasture 6E NE and one in Pasture 6E NW; and the restoration of one-mile of Chicken Creek through the creation of a riparian pasture.



Figure 16: Active headwall cut in the Chicken Creek drainage. This area will be part of a riparian management pasture.

Appeals and Litigation

Grasslands Plan Level Appeals

The Grasslands Plan itself was appealed by several entities. On February 4, 2004, Gloria Manning, Reviewing Officer for the Chief of the Forest Service signed the Appeal Decision for the Grasslands Plan. This document affirmed the Regional Forester's decision.

On March 12, 2004, the Department of Agriculture chose to conduct a discretionary review of the plan and the appeal decision. On May 5, 2004, Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, United States Department of Agriculture David P. Tenny issued a statement upholding the Chief's decision, with the instructions to continue to be a good neighbor on prairie dog management and to minimize negative impacts on permittees and other users while maintaining appropriate range conditions.

Full copies of both decisions are on-line at <http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/applit/nhappdec.htm>.

Project Level Appeals

One Record of Decision, two Decision Notices/Finding of No Significant Impact and forty-two Decision Memos were signed in FY 04 (data from the Planning, Appeals, and Litigation System Database). No project level appeals were filed in FY 04.

Litigation Involving the Grasslands Plan

In 2004, there was no new litigation involving the Grasslands Plan.

Grasslands Plan Amendments (or Implemented Changes)

No amendments were needed this Fiscal Year. Two minor boundary changes of a quarter mile or less were documented as allowed for in the Grassland Plan.

Contacts and Information

Following is a list of Grasslands personnel who can be contacted for more information about this monitoring and evaluation report.

Table 6: Names and telephone numbers of people who contributed to the monitoring and evaluation report for fiscal year 2004 and/or are members of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Monitoring Team.

Name	Telephone Number	Resource Area(s) Addressed
Brenda Quale*	(701) 250-4443	Implementation, Amendments, Appeals, Litigation
Curt Glasoe*	(701) 225-5151	Engineering, Trails
Darla Lenz*	(701) 250-4443	Botany
Sheila McNee*	(701) 250-4443	Range, Noxious Weeds
Larry Melvin*	(701) 250-4443	Oil and Gas, Paleontology
Phil Sjursen*	(701) 250-4443	Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
Dan Svingen*	(701) 250-4443	Wildlife, Fisheries
Tom Turck*	(701) 250-4443	Archeology, Recreation

* Indicates the person is a member of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands Monitoring Team.

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Copies of the Grasslands Plan, the associated Final Environmental Impact Statement, and its Record of Decision can be found on the Web at <http://www.fs.fed.us/ngp/docs.html>. They can also be obtained from the Dakota Prairie Grasslands offices listed below:

Table 7: Dakota Prairie Grasslands offices with contact names and addresses.

Office	Line Officer	Address	Telephone Number
Dakota Prairie Grasslands	Dave Pieper, Grasslands Supervisor	240 Century Avenue Bismarck, ND 58503	(701) 250-4443
Grand River Ranger District	Jack Isaacs, District Ranger	1005 5th Avenue West PO Box 390 Lemmon, SD 57638	(605) 374-3592
McKenzie Ranger District	Frank Guzman, District Ranger	1901 South Main Street Watford City, ND 58854	(701) 842-2393
Medora Ranger District	Ron Jablonski, District Ranger	161 21st Street West Dickinson, ND 58601	(701) 225-5151
Sheyenne Ranger District	Bryan Stotts, District Ranger	701 Main Street PO Box 946 Lisbon, ND 58054	(701) 683-4342

The Dakota Prairie Grasslands website, <http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/dakotaprairie>, contains information and documents related to monitoring, evaluation and other aspects of Grasslands management.

Grasslands Supervisor Approval

I have reviewed this annual Grasslands Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report for fiscal year 2004. This report meets the intent of the Grasslands Plan, Chapter 4, and 36 CRF 219.

This report is approved.

/s/ David M. Pieper

September 30, 2005

DAVID M. PIEPER

Date