



File Code: 1950

Date: September 30, 2004

Dear Interested Party:

This past year has been a busy one for the Boise National Forest, and I want to share some important information with you.

We worked hard to address the four threats to forest and rangeland health, identified by Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth in the summer of 2003. As Forest Service leaders, we are committed to reduce the four threats -- fire and fuels, invasive species, loss of open space and unmanaged recreation -- from the landscape. We are especially proud of the accomplishments summarized in the enclosed document.

Last September, we also began implementing our revised Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan), which will shape management of the Forest for the next 10 to 15 years. This revised plan emphasizes the maintenance or restoration of watershed conditions, species viability, terrestrial and aquatic habitats, and healthy, functioning ecosystems.

One of the key elements of the revised Forest Plan is monitoring and evaluation. Quite simply, we need to periodically assess our Forest Plan to make sure it is still working as intended. Have we carried out the projects that we said we would? How effective have our projects been in accomplishing our desired outcomes? How valid were the assumptions we used to decide on the Forest Plan management strategy?

Although we have been implementing our revised Forest Plan for only a year, we already have some good information about how the plan is working. We documented this information in our 2004 Monitoring and Evaluation Report for the Boise National Forest Land and Resource Plan, which can be accessed from our Forest Web site (www.fs.fed.us/r4/boise) or by contacting our Forest Planner, Randall Hayman, at 208-373-4157. If you do not want the entire report, refer to the enclosed document for some of the key accomplishments. Many of these activities also address the four threats described above.

When I read the report and reflect on what we have accomplished this past year, I believe we are actively implementing the Forest Plan are indeed doing what we said we would. Because our revised plan is so new, we do not have enough information to determine how effective our projects have been or how valid our Forest Plan assumptions were. However, I am confident we are on the right track and do not see a need to change the plan at this time.

Our job as land stewards is important and challenging, and I thank you for your interest and support in National Forest management.

Sincerely,


RICHARD A. SMITH
Forest Supervisor

