



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Modoc National Forest

Forest
Service

Annual Monitoring, Accomplishment, and Evaluation Report

September
2006

Final FY 2005 and Initial 2006



For Information Contact: Robert Haggard
800 West 12th Street
Alturas, CA 96101
530-233-5840

<http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/Modoc/management/monitoring/2005-2006>

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	iii
INTRODUCTION	1
Monitoring Activities and Evaluation	1
KEY FINDINGS AND CERTIFICATION	2
Forest Supervisor’s Evaluation and Certification	2
<i>Mission, Strategies, Plans, and Types of Monitoring</i>	3
Forest Service Mission	3
National Strategic Plan	3
Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) Monitoring	4
Monitoring Levels	5
Strategic Ecosystem Monitoring	5
National Reporting Requirements	6
Program of Work	7
<i>Monitoring Results for Resource Program Areas</i>	8
Air Quality	8
Energy and Firewood	9
Fire & Fuels	10
Heritage Resource Program	12
Lands	13
Minerals and Geology	14
Range	14
Wild Horse	16
Recreation	16
Visuals	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Specially Designated Areas	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Research Natural and Special Interest Areas	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Wilderness	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Sensitive Plants (Botany)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Pests and Noxious Weeds	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Timber Management	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Timber Products	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Watershed (Soil and Water)	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Soil	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Water Quality and Quantity	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Wildlife and Fish	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Biological Diversity	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Wildlife	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Fisheries	Error! Bookmark not defined.
<i>Monitoring Results for General Administration Goals</i>	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Community Participation	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Tribal Government Program	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Environmental Education	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Resource Advisory Committee Projects	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Partnerships	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Economic	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Budget	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Facilities	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Facilities **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Roads and Trails **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Human Resources **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Workforce and Organization Change **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Forest Planning **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Data Management **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
Supporting Documentation *Error! Bookmark not defined.*
List of Contributors..... *Error! Bookmark not defined.*
Acronyms..... *Error! Bookmark not defined.*

INTRODUCTION

This Monitoring, Accomplishment, and Evaluation Report documents the evaluation of monitoring information related to the Modoc National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) ability to reach established Forest Plan goals from October 1, 2005 through September 30, 2006, National Strategic Plan for the USDA Forest Service, while meeting assigned Regional management attainment targets. The combined report is based on final monitoring information for FY 2005 and initial monitoring information through August 2006. The final information for 2006 and evaluation will be completed prior to December 2006. The combined two year report reduces staff time in gathering information and reduces redundant and repetitive document and printing.

Regulations in 36 CFR 219 describe the purposes for evaluating the Forest Plan. They can be summarized as follows: to determine if conditions or demands in the area covered by the Forest Plan have changed significantly to require revision (219.10(g)); to determine if budgets have significantly changed the long-term relationships between levels of multiple-use goods and services to require amendment (219.10(e)); to determine how well objectives have been met (219.12(k)); to determine how closely management standards and guidelines have been followed (219.12(k)); to review research needs for management of the Forest (219.28(a)).

Evaluation is the analysis and appraisal of observations made during the monitoring process. Determining whether conditions or long-term relationships have changed significantly requires more than one year of monitoring. When monitoring results are compiled, the Forest Leadership Team evaluates the data's significance and recommends further action to the Forest Supervisor. Recommendations include: no action needed, monitoring indicates goals, objectives, and standards are achieved; modify the management prescription as a Plan amendment; modify the application of a prescription as a Plan amendment; revise the projected schedule of outputs; intensify monitoring where evaluation is not conclusive; initiate revision of the Plan.

Monitoring Activities and Evaluation

Even though the emphasis of the Modoc National Forest is on integrated resource management, this report is organized by program areas as in the Forest Plan. Each section identifies Forest Plan program goals, Strategic Plan emphasis items, summarizes the monitoring actions required for the program area and the results, and evaluates how well program goals are being met and how closely management standards and guidelines are followed. Program Emphasis goals can be found on pages 4-1 through 4-6 of the Forest Plan. Forest wide goals can be found on pages 4-4 through 4-5 of the Forest Plan. Monitoring elements from the Forest Plan Monitoring Plan can be found in Table 5-1 of the Forest Plan on pages 5-11 through 5-14. The National Strategic Plan is located at: <http://www.fs.fed.us>.

The Modoc National Forest is required to gather and report to many national data and monitoring projects based on resource program areas. Many are referred to in the individual program area as well as listed in the supporting documents section.

KEY FINDINGS AND CERTIFICATION

Forest Supervisor's Evaluation and Certification

I find that numerous efficiencies and clarifications should be undertaken for land allocations, prescriptions, monitoring, and reduction of duplication and conflicts presented in the Forest Plan published in 1991, when combined with the Northwest Forest Plan and the Sierra Forest Plan Amendments direction.

I find that the Forest Plan, as amended, monitoring activities do not always provide a measure or opportunity to effectively evaluate the effectiveness of the ability of the Forest to meet Forest Plan Goals or National Strategic Plan elements. The monitoring plan developed in 1991 often included program reporting elements and data collection called for in other areas, of particular interest to an individual resource specialist, and/or unrelated to reaching Plan goals or desired conditions. In addition many of the over abundant or redundant standards and guidelines were developed to maintain the status quo rather than moving the Forest to a desired condition.

After fifteen years of Forest Plan implementation and reviewing the past monitoring and evaluation reports it is apparent that actual budgets and staffing were insufficient to achieve stated goals, objectives, targets, and desired conditions. The lack of staffing and budget has resulted in fewer acres being treated for habitat improvement; not maintaining diversity in seral stages; increased fuel loading; and slower improvements in watershed conditions. The Forest continues to utilize the most current research and information in analysis of individual effects. There is need for the Forest to continue to work with the Region and the Research Station to recognize the significant difference in management and needs of the Modoc Plateau Ecosystem separate from the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem.

I have evaluated the monitoring results and find the Modoc National Forest Plan, as amended is sufficient to guide forest management while we begin the Forest Plan Revision process as the direction found in the Plan, Forest Service Policy, and existing laws and regulations provide sufficient guidance and mitigation measures for planning and implementation of site specific projects.

I am pleased with the accomplishments of our Forest Employees, volunteers and cooperators, and thank them for the dedication and hard work in the face of increasing workloads and decreasing budgets. Through their efforts we are maintaining a level of customer service that exceeds the funded service level.

Any amendments or revisions to the Forest Plans will be made using the appropriate National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Forest Management Act (NFMA) procedures.

/s/Stanley G. Sylva

STANLEY G. SYLVA

Forest Supervisor

October 6, 2006

Date

Mission, Strategies, Plans, and Types of Monitoring

Sustainable management of the Nation's forests and grasslands is complex. To assess resource conditions and trends and track the long-term results of Forest Service management, the agency uses a multitude of monitoring, reporting, and databases to track accomplishments and determine long term trends. Forest Plan Monitoring and Accomplishment reporting is one of these tools.

Forest Service Mission

The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations and is summarized as "Caring for the Land and Serving the People."

National Strategic Plan

To comply with the provision of the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), the Forest Service was required to develop and implement a Strategic Plan.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/publications/strategic/fs-sp-fy04-08.pdf>

The goals and objectives of the National Strategic Plan are outcome focused, identifying results that will be achieved over a period of time, typically longer than 1 or 2 years. These outcomes are to be achieved by managing the lands and resources of the National Forest System — in collaboration with the American public, interested organizations, private landowners, State, local and Tribal governments, Federal agencies and others.

Forest accomplishments reported in this report can correlated into one of the following goals and/or objectives.

Goal 1: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire

Outcome: Reduced risk to communities and the environment from catastrophic wildland fire by improving the health of the Nation's forests and grasslands.

1. Objective. Improve the health of NFS lands that have the greatest potential for catastrophic wildland fire.
2. Objective. Consistent with resource objectives, wildland fires are suppressed at a minimum cost, considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected.
3. Objective. Assist 2,500 communities and those non-NFS lands most at risk with developing and implementing hazardous fuels reduction and fire prevention plans and programs.

Goal 2: Reduce the impacts from invasive species

Outcome: Improve the health of the Nation's forests and grasslands by reducing the impacts from invasive species.

1. Objective. Improve the effectiveness of treating selected invasive species on the Nation's forests and grasslands.

Goal 3: Provide outdoor recreational opportunities

Outcome: Provide high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities on forests and grasslands, while sustaining natural resources, to help meet the Nation's recreational demands.

1. Objective. Improve public access to NFS land and water and provide opportunities for outdoor health-enhancing activities.

2. Objective. Improve the management of off-highway-vehicle use to protect natural resources, promote safety of all users, and minimize conflicts among various uses through the collaborative development and implementation of locally based travel management plans.

Goal 4: Help meet energy resource needs

Outcome: Consider opportunities for energy development and the supporting infrastructure on forests and grasslands to help meet the Nation's energy needs.

1. Objective. Work with other agencies to identify and designate corridors for energy facilities, improve the efficiency of processing permit applications, and establish appropriate land tenure (including transferability clauses) in easements and other authorizations to provide for long-term project viability.
2. Objective. Stimulate commercial use of small-diameter trees from NFS lands for biomass energy.

Goal 5: Improve watershed condition

Outcome: Increase the area of forest and grassland watersheds in fully functional and productive condition.

1. Objective. Assess and restore high-priority watersheds and maintain riparian habitat in these watersheds.
2. Objective. Monitor water quality impacts of activities on NFS lands.
3. Objective. Restore and maintain native and desired nonnative plant and animal species diversity in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and reduce the rate of species endangerment by contributing to species recovery.

Goal 6: Conduct mission-related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals.

Outcome: Improve the productivity and efficiency of other mission-related work and support programs.

1. Objective. Provide current resource data, monitoring, and research information in a timely manner.
2. Objective. Meet Federal financial management standards and integrate budget with performance.
3. Objective. Maintain the environmental, social, and economic benefits of forests and grasslands by reducing their conversion to other uses.
4. Objective. Maintain Office of Safety and Health Administration standards.
5. Objective. Develop and maintain the processes and systems to provide and analyze scientific and technical information to address agency priorities.

Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) Monitoring

The 1991 Land and Resource Management Plan identified 86 activities, effects, or resources to be measured. As a result of the duplicated and overly ambitious monitoring programs, and the high costs of monitoring identified in Forest Plans the Forest Service began evaluating various monitoring strategies due to changes in management needs. The Modoc National Forest Land and Resources Management Plan monitoring requirements and the Forest's performance in conducting the monitoring plan have been organized using the National Strategic objectives. The information presented in this report is shown using both tables and narrative discussions. Where tabular data to benchmark or measure an objective is lacking, a brief narrative follows the table. This reporting format was designed to assist the Forest Supervisor in determining the effectiveness of Forest Plan implementation. It closely conforms to the National Strategy implementing the Government Performance and Results Act.

Monitoring Levels

Implementation Monitoring is completed to determine if plans, programs, projects, and activities are implemented in compliance with Forest Plan objectives and management direction. Implementation monitoring answers the question, "Did we do what we said we would?" District and Forest personnel routinely conduct implementation monitoring: Projects are designed using Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines. Consistency is determined when the project is approved. During periodic review, project administrators determine if projects are implemented in accordance with project designs and Forest Plan standards. Forest ID team members and the management team participate in functional assistance trips and general management reviews to determine whether projects are implemented in compliance with the Forest Plan. Each year districts and various branches of the Supervisor's Office file Management Attainment Reports. These accomplishments can be readily compared against projected outputs from the Forest Plan. Implementation monitoring is an integral part of management and is largely built into current workloads and budgets.

Effectiveness Monitoring determines if plans, prescriptions, projects and activities are effective in meeting management direction and objectives. This is a two-part objective. First, do projects implemented according to the Forest Plan meet the intent of that direction? Second, if they do meet the intent of direction, are they the most efficient methods to meet that intent? Effectiveness monitoring answers the questions, "Did our actions accomplish what we intended, and are they the most efficient way to accomplish what we intended?"

Effectiveness monitoring is directly linked to implementation monitoring. Often they can be done simultaneously. This level of monitoring as conducted by resource and/or technical specialists on a limited basis as determined by resource values and risks, and public issues. A statistical sample of projects is usually sufficient to determine effectiveness.

Validation Monitoring determines whether initial data, assumptions, and coefficients used in developing the Forest Plan are correct. Validation monitoring should also determine if management actions are resolving the issues and concerns identified in the Forest Plan. Validation monitoring answers the question, "Are we achieving what we intended to achieve?"

Validation monitoring is conducted when effectiveness monitoring results indicate basic data, assumptions, or coefficients are questionable. Testing and evaluating predictive models, basic resource inventories, and modeling coefficients are conducted continuously. Validation monitoring is conducted on a limited number of projects and resources due to the high costs. The Forest will cooperate with neighboring Forests, Forest Service research, other federal, State and local agencies, and private interest groups to conduct validation monitoring.

Strategic Ecosystem Monitoring

Goals: The goals are to manage for healthy ecosystems, provide goods and services in an environmentally sound fashion, use new knowledge, develop an integrated inventory, cooperate with other agencies, and promote awareness and appreciation of species.

The **Northwest Forest Plan Amendment (NWFP)** initiated a management scheme which, applied over time, should result in healthy ecosystems. Monitoring of management actions is completed annually as part of the Forest Plan Implementation monitoring program conducted in a consistent manner throughout the range of the Northwest Forest Plan.

Implementation monitoring on the Forest related to the Northwest Forest Plan has been ongoing for ten years. Effectiveness monitoring at the Northwest Forest Plan scale is currently in progress to test the effectiveness of the Forest Plan land allocations and standards and guidelines relating to key issues; watershed, old growth, northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, social, economic and tribal. Monitoring documents and results are available on the web: <http://www.reo.gov/monitoring/implementation>

Since the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan, scientific understanding has increased. Results of the Northwest Forest Plan monitoring are contained in annual Northwest Forest Plan reports, which can be found on the web: <http://www.reo.gov/monitoring/reports.htm>

The **Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFP)** initiated a management scheme which, applied over time, should result in healthy ecosystems. Monitoring of management actions is completed annually as part of the Forest Plan Implementation monitoring program conducted in a consistent manner throughout the range of the Northwest Forest Plan.

Since the implementation of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment scientific understanding has increased. Results of the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan monitoring are contained reports which can be found on the web: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/snfpa/>.

National Reporting Requirements

A few of the major reporting systems used in developing this report are listed below. Since each of these systems and the Forest Plan differ in units of measure it is difficult to determine or even match data in many instances. This shortcoming has been recognized for years at all levels of the Forest Service and the National Office is working to combine and integrate these systems. The 2003 Performance and Accountability Report has a web page entitled Management's Discussion and Analysis – Validation, Verification, and Limitations of Data Sources which discusses these and other systems utilized on the Forest in developing this report at http://www.fs.fed.us/plan/par/2003/final/html/mda/val_ver_lim_data.shtml The Final 2005 and Initial 2006 Forest Plan Monitoring, Accomplishment, and Evaluation Report used the information that was available to the forest specialists at the time the report was created. Some information was not available and may not be available until sometime in 2007. The information provided however is sufficient to determine trends and needs for change in future Forest Plan Amendments or Revisions.

Management Attainment Report (MAR) is the standard Forest Service summary of program accomplishments (outcomes) from budget expenditures. Performance numbers shown with a data source indicator of 'MAR' are collected in the Management Attainment Reporting database. MAR data is compiled at the district and forest levels and then reviewed by regional and national offices for accuracy.

National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) is an interagency system designed to assist field personnel in managing and reporting accomplishments for work conducted under the National Fire Plan. It provides a consistent framework between land management agencies for tracking hazardous fuels and restoration and rehabilitation projects, and allows for improved reporting of accomplishments at field, regional, and national levels.

Infrastructure Application (Infra) is an integrated data management tool to manage and report accurate information and associated financial data on the inventory of constructed features, such as buildings, dams, bridges, water systems, roads, trails, developed recreation sites, range improvements, administrative sites, heritage sites, general forest areas, and wilderness.

Forest Service Activity Tracking System (FACTS) is an activity tracking system for all levels of the Forest Service. It supports timber sales in conjunction with TIM Contracts and Permits; tracks and monitors NEPA decisions; tracks KV trust fund plans at the timber sale level, reporting at the National level; and, it generates National, Regional, Forest, and/or District Reports.

Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) is published in January, April, July, and October. It contains a list of proposed actions that will soon begin or are currently undergoing environmental analysis and documentation. It provides information so that individuals, organizations, and agencies can become aware of and indicate their interest in specific proposals.

Timber Information Manager (TIM) creates national databases and tracking systems to report the permit issuing and product sales of various forest products including: firewood, sawlogs, Christmas trees, botanical forest products, cone sales, mushrooms, plants, etc.

Financial Foundation Information System: (FFIS) –is accounting system for all financial transactions from including payroll, fleet operation and maintenance, contracting, purchasing, etc.

Program of Work

Each year the Forest Leadership team develops a program of work which outlines our planning, project implementation, and monitoring efforts for the year. Updates are made throughout the year to reflect changes in conditions, budgets, and policy direction. Both in 2005 and 2006 many of the projects from the program of work are rolled over for completion in the next year. The major road block for not meeting our program of work is lack of funding and specialists to complete data collection, NEPA analysis, and large numbers of data calls and report requested by the National and Regional staffs.

Monitoring Results for Resource Program Areas

Air Quality

Forest Plan Goals: The goals are to comply with legal requirements and to manage activities to avoid prolonged air quality impacts to local communities. Legal requirements include the Federal Clean Air Act and the State Air Quality and Smoke Management Standards and Regulations.

Monitoring: Smoke plumes are monitored during prescribed burning projects and complaints about smoke intrusions are recorded.

Forest Plan Monitoring Results			
Activity, Effect, or Resource to be Measured	Objective	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2005	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2006
Prescribed burning: planned and unplanned ignitions.	Assure all prescribed fires comply with air quality Regulations	Methods for monitoring and collection of data are not available. Violations were not issued to the Forest Service.	Methods for monitoring and collection of data are not available. Violations were not issued to the Forest Service.
Total suspended Particulate emission production from Forest activities.	-Establishing baseline data -Comparison with established baseline values.	One monitoring station in Alturas by the County Air Quality Manager can not determine emission from Forest Activities.	One monitoring station in Alturas by the County Air Quality Manager can not determine emission from Forest Activities.
Effects of Forest activities on AQRVs of Class I areas	-Identify AQRVs -Establish baseline data -Identify trends. -Identify areas of potential impairment	Class I areas not affected by management activities.	Class I areas not affected by management activities.
Road construction	Assure dust control measures applied	Visual deterioration indicator of particulate levels exceeding standards.	No monitoring completed. Road construction did not occur.

Accomplishments:

Air quality management activities are not reported as part of the annual management attainment report nor are there Forest Plan objectives or targets related to air quality. .

Evaluation: No complaints were received during prescribed burning in 2005 or 2006. Fuels were treated with prescribed fire on about 10,000 acres annually which includes mastication, thinning and hand piling.

The California and National Environmental Protection Agency air quality databases indicate that overall air quality measured by PM10 has been good from 1999 through 2005. Forest management activities, such as prescribed burns, have not exceeded state or federal air quality standards.

The Monitoring elements called for in the Forest Plan are not practical nor do they provide an objective base for determining the effectiveness of the Forest Plan goals and objectives. Plans for visual monitoring using Likely Mountain Lookout can not be accomplished since the lookout has been closed for several years.

The Forest Plan unnecessarily restates the need that individual projects individually and cumulatively must comply with the Clean Air Act and follow State permitting and reporting requirements. A proper monitoring requirement would be to report number of projects which were found not to comply with the Clean Air Act or did not follow State requirements.

Energy and Firewood

Strategic Plan: Help meet energy resource needs. Consider opportunities for energy development and the supporting infrastructure on forests and grasslands to help meet the Nation's energy needs. Work with other agencies to identify and designate corridors for energy facilities, improve the efficiency of processing permit applications, and establish appropriate land tenure (including transferability clauses) in easements and other authorizations to provide for long-term project viability. Stimulate commercial use of small-diameter trees from NFS lands for biomass energy.

Forest Plan Goals: Provide energy-efficient facilities through state-of-the-art design, construction and retrofit; encourage the use of surplus biomass; provide for energy resource development, including hydroelectric, geothermal, oil, and gas; and sustain the firewood supply, with emphasis on personal use firewood.

Forest Plan Monitoring Results			
Activity, Effect, or Resource to be Measured	Objective	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2005	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2006
Buildings, utility, and dam functions	Evaluate facility maintenance, replacement needs, and energy consumption.	District Rangers and Forest Engineer reviewed Facilities Master Plan and identified structures that needed to be replaced, repaired, or upgraded. 3 structures were made available for sale and removal.	Facilities inspections show that nearly 90% of our heating plants need to be replaced.
Firewood	Verify supply and use of firewood permits.	Annual Growth of commercial timber exceeds harvest levels. Western juniper is the preferred species for firewood, easily accessible, and produces the most firewood in the area. Juniper growth is estimated at 18,000 cords per year.	Annual Growth of commercial timber exceeds harvest levels. Western juniper is the preferred species for firewood, easily accessible, and produces the most firewood in the area. Juniper growth is estimated at 18,000 cords per year.

Accomplishments:

In 2005 Construction was completed for two new structures at the South Fork Work Center to replace three outdated and failing structures.

In 2005 and 2006 the Forest continued to work an applicant for development of a hydroelectric development near Likely CA, geothermal developers at Medicine Lake Highlands, and holders of powerline permits. Monitoring of geothermal development is discussed below under geology and minerals, and permit administration of other energy related permits is discussed in the lands section.

Forest Plan Goals and Objectives (Targets)				
	Plan Base Year 1982	Plan Goal 2000-2009	2005	2006
Firewood (M Cords)	23.0	27.8	23	23

Evaluation: Funding for development or monitoring of existing developments associated with energy development is far below what is needed. The Forest works with all new developers to augment or pay for environmental studies and monitoring activities. Evaluating firewood supply in relation to the number of permits is not an effective monitoring of energy production due to relatively small amount of firewood cut in relation to the amount of material available.

Fire & Fuels

Strategic Plan Goals: Reduce the risk from catastrophic wildland fire. Reduced risk to communities and the environment from catastrophic wildland fire by improving the health of the Nation's forests and grasslands. Improve the health of NFS lands that have the greatest potential for catastrophic wildland fire. Consistent with resource objectives, wildland fires are suppressed at a minimum cost, considering firefighter and public safety, benefits, and values to be protected.

Forest Plan Goal: Reintroduce fire into the environment, reduce unacceptable fuel buildups, use the appropriate minimum impact suppression methods for wildfires, and develop management and protection strategies for intermixed state and private lands.

Fire and fuels managed in a consistent manner across the national forests, coordinated management strategies with other ownerships, integrated fire and fuels management objectives with other natural resource management objectives that address the role of wildland fire, and set priorities for fire and fuels management actions.

Monitoring: Management Attainment Reports were used in determining if acre targets were achieved. When implementing prescribed fire projects, smoke management plans are coordinated with the local Air Pollution District to assure adherence to smoke management guidelines; refer also to Air Quality section.

Forest Plan Monitoring Results			
Activity, Effect, or Resource to be Measured	Objective	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2005	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2006
Burned acres from wildfires by fire intensity class and management prescriptions Goal – 1 objective 1	Compare actual and predicted burned acres for the Forest and for designated fire management areas	Wildland fire reviews were conducted. Burned Area Rehabilitation plans were developed and implemented as needed.	
Fuel treatment Goal – 1 objective 1	Review all prescribed burn plans, annual fuel treatment accomplishment reports; field inspection of at least one project per district annually.	Projects are developed and planned to meet management area direction. Individual projects.	

Accomplishments:

Forest Plan Goals and Objectives (Targets)				
	Plan Base Year 1982	Plan Goal 2000-2009	2005	2006
Total Fuel Treatment (Acres)	5,100.0	3910.0	9,513	10,603
Fire-related Fuel Treatment (acre)	0.0	350.0	1,920	799
Timber-related Fuel Treatment (acres)	4,800.0	3,510.0	4,731	8,004
Other Fuel Treatment (Acres)	50.0	50.0	3,222	1,800
Expected Acres Burned by Wildfire	8,604.8	6,245.0	6,245.0	6,245.0

Accomplishments: Condition Class improvements were achieved on an average of about 10,000 acres per year. Fuel reductions achieved by biomass removal continue to be the primary treatments on an acreage basis.

Forest Accomplishments Using Common Target Tracking Measures						
Fuel Treatments 2005						
Treatments	# WUI Treatments	WUI Acres	# Non-WUI Treatments	Non-WUI Acres	Total Treatments	Total Acres
Mechanical	1	135	3	4236	4	4371
Prescribed Fire	1	572	2	1348	5	1920

Forest Accomplishments Using Common Target Tracking Measures						
Fuel Treatments 2005						
Treatments	# WUI Treatments	WUI Acres	# Non-WUI Treatments	Non-WUI Acres	Total Treatments	Total Acres
Other	6	1084	13	3138	19	3222
Totals	8	1791	18	8722	28	9513

Forest Accomplishments Using Common Target Tracking Measures						
Fuel Treatments 2006						
Treatments	# WUI Treatments	WUI Acres	# Non-WUI Treatments	Non-WUI Acres	Total Treatments	Total Acres
Mechanical	2	4600	4	3404	6	8004
Prescribed Fire	1	194	3	605	4	799
Other			10	1800	10	1800
Totals	3	4794	17	5809	20	10603

The comprehensive Fire Management Plan for the Modoc National Forest was revised and approved in both years. The Forest was directed to provide Firefighting Production Capability (FFPC): 9 Program Leadership positions, 10 engines, 1 water tender, 4 fire prevention units, 5 lookouts, 1 dispatch center, 1 Interagency Hotshot Crew, and 1 Type 2 hand crew. The three Fire Use Fire Management Units (FMU), South Warner Wilderness, Mount Bidwell and West Valley, allow lightning caused fires to play their natural ecological role in the units. The Big Sage Management Area is included in the Suppression Response FMU. This FMU allows for a full range of suppression responses from aggressive initial attack to multiple strategies to confine the wildland fire.

Forest Accomplishments Using Common Target Tracking Measures				
Fire Activity				
Activity	2005 number of fires	2005 acres	2006 number of fires	2006 acres As of Sept 15 th 2006 – Fire Season Not over
Lightning	20	118	133	9,879
Person caused	12	410	4	0
Total	32	528	137	9879

The Forest experienced a total of 32 wildland fires for the 2005 fire season. Twelve of these were “human” caused and the remaining twenty were “lightning” caused. There was no significant size fires assigned to Incident Management Teams during the 2005 fire season.

Final numbers of wildland fires are not available for the 2006 fire season as fire seasons do not reflect fiscal years. The figures in the chart above are reflective of the 2006 fire season as of September 20, 2006. During June and July the Forest experienced a series of lightening storms which caused 76 fires. Two Incident Management Teams were called in to manage the Miller and Happy Complexes so the Forest could concentrate on initial attack on the remainder of the Forest.

Prevention activities included the continuing involvement & establishment of Firesafe Councils (FSC) throughout the forest. The county FSC is writing a community Wildfire Protection Plan for the entire county that encompasses all private land within Forest Service boundaries. This Plan outlines the needs, provides assessments and priorities for fuel reduction projects. The county-wide FSC is continuing public information and education. Other prevention activities were residence inspections to ensure compliance with fire codes & regulations. Patrols were activated for public contact. Eight lookout towers were staffed again this year.

Evaluation: Treating areas around Communities at Risk has continued to be a high priority for the Forest. All of these planning and implementation efforts are coordinated with local fire safe councils and other

cooperators often funded through Community Development, Resource Advisory Council, and National Fire Plan grants and agreements.

The fluctuations in budget continue to make it difficult to have a solid out year program of work. This affects the organization (current & planned) along with other resource departments when integration is a direction of emphasis.

Heritage Resource Program

Strategic Plan Goals: Conduct mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals.

Forest Plan Goals: The goals are to sustain a progressive heritage resource program that includes the inventory of known archaeological and cultural sites, to determine the significance of each site, and to preserve, protect and manage cultural resources as a non-renewable resource. Complete an inventory and evaluation of the Forest's cultural resources by 2050. Provide information for public education and enjoyment of the Forest's cultural resources. Protect access and use of sites and locations important to traditional Native American religious and cultural practices.

Forest Plan Monitoring Results			
Activity, Effect, or Resource to be Measured	Objective	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2005	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2006
Effect of deterioration or destruction of cultural resources through vandalism or natural causes.	Determine effects of vandalism and natural factors on cultural resources and means to mitigate effects.	None Reported	None Reported.
Effect of land use projects on cultural resources,	Ensure cultural resources receive adequate protection.	Permitted Projects did not adversely affect cultural resources sites.	1 project conducted by a permit holder inadvertently affected cultural resources – evaluation, repair, and restitution is being carried out.

Monitoring: Two types of monitoring occur, related to Section 106 and Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act. As part of the review process for Section 106, historic properties that are potentially eligible and sites that are on the National Register of Historic Places are located and protected during project planning. After project completion, random sites are monitored to ensure that protection measures were adequate. As part of the evaluation process of properties eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places for Section 110, the condition of properties is monitored and evaluated. This usually requires a single visit to monitor and possibly re-record the condition of the known archaeological sites.

Accomplishments: The Forest Plan did not establish any annual or decade targets for the Heritage program.

Evaluation: Monitoring data is reviewed each year as part of Section 106 and 110 processes, including the number and acreage of pre-project surveys, the number of sites interpreted, the number of cultural education classes held, and the number of tribes consulted. Project planning and 106 monitoring facilitate the location and protection of historic properties. Section 110 monitoring continues, and is based on funding and available time. The Forest continues to enter new heritage resource reports and new archaeological site information into a national database and map sites in the Forest Geographical Information System. In 2005, the Forest met the heritage database targets established by the Region. In 2006 funding for a contract to complete this work was late in arriving from the Regional Office and was not processed by Forest Service Contracting due to fire commitments.

Lands

Strategic Plan Goals: Conduct mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals.

Forest Plan Goals: Achieve a land ownership pattern that facilitates Forest management and reduces administrative costs. Survey and mark property boundaries. Acquire rights-of-way needed to efficiently manage Forest resources. Pursue land withdrawals to protect Forest improvements and areas of special significance. Administer special use permits in conformance with Management Area Direction. Avoid separate utility rights-of-way. Resolve unauthorized occupancies of national forest land.

Monitoring: Since no land adjustments were conducted program accomplishments were examined and compared to the goal.

Forest Plan Monitoring Results			
Activity, Effect, or Resource to be Measured	Objective	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2005	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2006
Effect of land adjustment on total Forest land base for all resources	Assure that Forest's outputs are not adversely affected by land adjustments.	No Land Adjustments Made	

Accomplishments:

Individual forests and grasslands record boundary management accomplishments in their respective Corner Status Atlas, in conformance with direction provided in the Surveying Manual (FSM 7150). These accomplishments are physically marked on hard copy maps and then reported in the MAR system by each region for national reporting. Boundary management accomplishments will soon be electronically tracked in the Automated Lands Program (ALP) database.

Forest Plan Goals and Objectives (Targets)				
	Plan Base Year 1982	Plan Goal 2000-2009	2005	2006
Land Acquisition (Acres)	3,823.0	160.0	0	0

Forest Accomplishments Using Common Target Tracking Measures					
Accomplishment item	Unit of Measure	2005 Planned	2005 Actual	2006 Planned	2006 Actual
Landline Boundary Marked or Maintained Total	Miles	0	0	0	0
Special Uses Applications Processed	Permits	30	25	25	40
Special Uses Permits Administered to Standard	Permits	30	50	30	65
Special Uses Permits Administered Total	Permits	134	134	168	168

During 2005 and 2006 no land adjustments were made.

Land Use Authorizations are administered to Forest Service standards to ensure that the use of National Forest System lands is permitted and legal. Focus of the program is the administration of existing permits to standard. The Forest met its goals for permit monitoring, Civil Rights Act Section VI compliance, and the number of permits managed to standard. Applications for new permits are processed within regulation time frames+, and unauthorized uses are identified and brought under permit.

A growing backlog of right-of-way needs and property boundary marking is developing due to funding shortfalls in these areas. In 2006 the Forest Service trespassed on one inholding area during a reduction project cutting down several junipers.

Evaluation: Monitoring the effects of land adjustment on land base and forest outputs is not an adequate monitoring activity to determine if the goals of the Forest Plan are being met. As described above effectiveness of the lands program in meeting the goals may be more effectively gauged by the number of

applications processed and permits maintained or not maintained to standard, trespass cases, and right-of-ways obtained in comparison to the number needed.

Minerals and Geology

Strategic Plan Goals: Conduct mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals. Help meet energy resource needs. Consider opportunities for energy development and the supporting infrastructure on forests and grasslands to help meet the Nation’s energy needs. Work with other agencies to identify and designate corridors for energy facilities, improve the efficiency of processing permit applications, and establish appropriate land tenure (including transferability clauses) in easements and other authorizations to provide for long-term project viability.

Forest Plan Goals: Provide for mineral exploration and development while protecting surface resources, and reclamation of disturbed lands as a result of mineral development.

Monitoring:

Forest Plan Monitoring Results			
Activity, Effect, or Resource to be Measured	Objective	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2005	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2006
Mineral Development	Assess level of mining and mineral leasing operations to ensure operations are not unreasonably impaired.	Continued working with CALPINE Energy to insure future operations are conducted in an environmental sound manner.	
Plan of Operation	Assure compliance with Plan of Operation.	No locatable plans of operation submitted. 1 plan of operations is ongoing as planned.	
Withdrawals	Review Forest Service initiated withdrawals to assess whether they are needed.	No reviews were conducted. Existing withdrawals are necessary. The Forest Plan identified additional withdrawal needs to protect administrative, recreational, and special designated areas.	

Minerals operations for locatable minerals are controlled by the surface use regulations. A mineral administrator periodically visits operations to ensure compliance with the approved plans of operations. Operations not in compliance with plans are cited. Leaseable minerals and minerals materials are regulated by contract and monitored for compliance with contract requirements.

Accomplishments:

Forest Plan Goals and Objectives (Targets)				
	Plan Base Year 1982	Plan Goal 2000-2009	2005	2006
Minerals (Cases)	43.0	49.0	22	20
Mineral Sale permits			23	20
Free use obsidian permits			1024	Est. 1000 +/-

Evaluation: The Forest is complying with national direction to administer 100% of minerals operations to standard and will continue to do so. Reclamation of mineral material sites is conducted concurrent with operations unless to do so would affect the accessibility to extract available material. Some monitoring occurred on geothermal leases, and a small amount of activity occurred.

Range

Strategic Plan Goals: Conduct mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals.

Forest Plan Goals: The goals are to provide healthy ecosystems, make forage available on a sustainable basis, not retard or prevent attainment with aquatic conservation strategy objectives, provide forage to support big game objectives, and meet current livestock forage allocations. A priority for the rangeland

management program is conducting environmental analysis for allotments in accordance with the 1995 Rescissions Act (PL 104).

Balance permitted grazing and forage capacity by 2000 with grazing systems that complement other resource needs. Coordinate range resource planning opportunities with BLM, other agencies and individuals to achieve goals. Support the Experimental Stewardship Program to increase cooperation and gain understanding of resource plans. Complete the ecosystem classification program.

Monitoring: To assess the effects of the grazing program on rangeland health, 504 key areas within the allotments are systematically monitored. The monitoring methods include measuring stubble height, paired plot comparisons, Landscape appearance, and ocular estimate of key species and stream bank alteration examinations.

Forest Plan Monitoring Results			
Activity, Effect, or Resource to be Measured	Objectives	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2005	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2006
Permitted AUMs	Compare permitted to Forest Plan projected AUMs	Authorized use for FY 05 was 99,074 AUMs for cattle and sheep. These levels are below the 1991 Forest Plan projections.	Authorized use for FY 06 has not been compiled as grazing use is ongoing at the time of this report but is expected to fall below Forest Plan projections.
Developing allotment management plans.	Ensure AMPS are developed for all allotments within 10 years (I)	Allotment management plans (AMPs) are developed in conjunction with permit renewals. AMPs for all active allotments are scheduled for completion by the end of 2008, in accordance with the 1995 Rescission Act.	Allotment management plans (AMPs) are developed in conjunction with permit renewals. AMPs for all active allotments are scheduled for completion by the end of 2008, in accordance with the 1995 Rescission Act.
Riparian Health	Assure riparian Objectives are in AMPs	Annual Operating Instructions contain best management practices including methods to protect riparian areas. Annually isolated instances of breaching S&G's occurred.	Annual Operating Instructions contain best management practices including methods to protect riparian areas. Annually isolated instances of breaching S&G's occurred.
Forage Availability	Determine compliance with S&G's for forage utilization and evaluate stocking to ensure available capacity is not exceeded.	Over 90% of all key areas monitored met resource standards.	Over 90% of all key areas monitored met resource standards.
Implementing Allotment Management Plans	Ensure AMPs include S&G's and are implemented. Determine effectiveness of S&G's	Allotment management plans continue to maintain rangeland production and condition.	Allotment management plans continue to maintain rangeland production and condition.
Range health	Determine range ecologic condition and trend.	Monitoring continues to indicate an upward trend.	Monitoring continues to indicate an upward trend

Accomplishments:

Forest Plan Goals and Objectives (Targets)				
	Plan Base Year 1982	Plan Goal 2000-2009	2005	2006
Grazing (M AUM)	122.5	132.0	99.7	FNA

Forest Accomplishments Using Common Target Tracking Measures					
Accomplishment item	Unit of Measure	2005 Planned	2005 Actual	2006 Planned	2006 Actual
Range Grazing Non-Structural Improvements	Acres	100	70	80	100
Range Grazing Structural Improvements	Structures	8	3	14	15
Range NEPA	Each	8	5	9	9

Range Permittees meet with District staff annually to discuss allotment conditions, grazing strategies and range improvements. These meetings are documented in Annual Operating Instructions that are site specific and include standards and guidelines consistent with the Forest Plan.

The Forest is working to complete environmental analysis on allotments in accordance with the 1995 Rescissions Act (PL 104). During FY 05, decisions were completed for 5 allotments and in FY 06 decisions were completed for 9 allotments.

Regular permit administration resulted in various levels of permit actions from warning levels to reductions in authorized AUM's. In FY 2005, monitoring occurred on 184 key areas and 0 non-key areas. Of the total areas (184) monitored 153 (83 %) met resource standards and 28 or 17% did not meet the standards.

Evaluation: Range condition monitoring is adequately reflected and evaluated utilizing the monitoring and accomplishment reporting items listed above, particularly when combined with sensitive plant, wilderness, and riparian condition monitoring.

Wild Horse

Strategic Plan Goals: Conduct mission related work in addition to that which supports the agency goals. Restore and maintain native and desired nonnative plant and animal species diversity in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and reduce the rate of species endangerment by contributing to species recovery.

Forest Plan Goals: Maintain the wild horse herd population between 275 and 335 animals.

Monitoring: Annual population estimates are made through census by total numbers, sex and age class.

Forest Plan Monitoring Results			
Activity, Effect, or Resource to be Measured	Objectives	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2005	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2006
Wild horse management	Determine number of wild horses and territory expansion	During FY 05 260 wild horses were removed from the Devils Garden Wild Horse Territory to achieve appropriate management levels.	During FY 06 seven animals were removed. A removal is planned for the first quarter of FY 07 to bring populations closer to the appropriate management level..

Accomplishments:

During FY 05, 260 wild horses were removed from the Devils Garden Wild Horse Territory. The current population is estimated at approximately 550 animals. Another removal is planned for the first quarter of FY 07 to bring the population numbers closer to the appropriate management level.

Evaluation: Current trends in population do not support program goals. Forest Monitoring Plan is appropriate.

Recreation

National Strategic Plan: Provide outdoor recreational opportunities. Provide high-quality outdoor recreational opportunities on forests and grasslands, while sustaining natural resources, to help meet the Nation's recreational demands. Improve public access to NFS land and water and provide opportunities for outdoor health-enhancing activities. Improve the management of off-highway-vehicle use to protect

natural resources, promote safety of all users, and minimize conflicts among various uses through the collaborative development and implementation of locally based travel management plans.

Forest Plan Goals: Operate and manage Medicine Lake and Blue Lake as featured campgrounds. Operate other developed sites at standard levels. Manage a full spectrum of trail opportunities and ensure proper signing of National Recreation Trails. Provide a broad spectrum of recreation opportunities that offer an experience level commensurate with the ROS zone in which the activity takes place. Inform and assist the public to make their visits enjoyable. Facilitate an understanding of the various resources and uses of the national forests, and solicit feedback to improve the management of Forest resources; and where resource damage is occurring from concentrated use, correct the situation with management techniques that disperse recreationists, or provide facilities to protect sites.

Monitoring: The assessment of goal achievement for the Recreation Program was based on the professional judgment of recreation specialists, public comments, and information from Regional, Forest, and District Recreation Managers.

Forest Plan Monitoring Results			
Activity, Effect, or Resource to be Measured	Objective	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2005	Monitoring Conducted and General Results 2006
Physical, social and managerial setting for recreation opportunities.	Assure that selected physical and visual attributes described in the ROS User's Guide are being protected from degradation	Monitoring for Blue Lake Campground and Medicine Lake Campgrounds completed. Medicine Lake and Blue Lake Campgrounds lack adequate vegetation in some camping areas.	
Condition and use of developed and dispersed sites	Identify need for maintenance and/or regulation of sites	Sites are being maintained at less than standard condition.	
User (visitor) needs and expectations	Identify changing needs and expectations	Visitors are generally satisfied with the conditions of the developed campgrounds	
Off-highway vehicle (OHV) effects	Determine effects of OHVs on sensitive soil areas, vegetation, cultural, wildlife, and visual resources. Determine conflicts between OHV users and other recreationists	Inventory of over 80% of all roads and potential OHV routes was begun. Sensitive Plants and Cultural Resources inventories were also begun.	Inventory of roads and potential OHV routes was begun. Sensitive Plants and Cultural Resources inventories continued. NEPA analysis for project to repair OHV damage in Briles Reservoir Area begun.

Accomplishments:

Forest Plan Goals and Objectives (Targets)				
	Plan Base Year 1982	Plan Goal 2000-2009	2005	2006
Developed Public (M RVD)	81.2	106.7		
Dispersed (M RVD)	102.8	142.9		
Hunting-related Dispersed (M RVD)	98.4	103.3		
Open, Usable OHV Areas Summer (M Acres)	1,077.4	1,010.8		
Open, Usable OHV Acres Winter (M Acres)	1()92.1	1,034.6		
			RVD's are no longer utilized as a monitoring tool on an annual basis. Nation Recreation Visitor Use Monitoring protocols were completed in 2006. Report will not be out until sometime in late 2007.	
			The Forest is moving to restrict OHV and OSV use to designated roads and trails. Over 1 million acres remains open to unrestricted OHV use until evaluations and forest orders are completed. Nearly 3,000 miles of Forest Service roads and trails are open to	

Forest Plan Goals and Objectives (Targets)				
	Plan Base Year 1982	Plan Goal 2000-2009	2005	2006
			public use.	
Roads and Trails Open to OHV Use Summer (Miles)	2964.4	3,025.3	The Forest is moving to restrict OHV and OSV use to designated roads and trails. Over 3,000 miles of designated and user developed roads and trails remains open to unrestricted OHV use until evaluations and forest orders are completed. Annually approximately 100 miles of road are closed to the public on a seasonal basis to prevent road and other environmental damage.	
Roads and Trails Open to OHV Use Winter (Miles)	2,776.4	2,832.0		
Roads and Trails Closed to OH V Use Summer (Miles)	332.0	342.0		
Roads and Trails Closed to OHV Use Winter (Miles)	520.0	535.0		

Forest Accomplishments Using Common Target Tracking Measures					
Accomplishment item	Unit of Measure	2005 Planned	2005 Actual	2006 Planned	2006 Actual
Recreation Special Use Permits Administered	Permits	23	17	17	16
Applications Processed	Permits	15	10	10	9

The Forest continues to make incremental recreational facility improvements that retain valued natural character, increase visitor satisfaction, and contribute to tourism and community diversification efforts. With very limited recreation budgets, the Forest invests money in high demand/high priority developed recreation sites, areas, rivers, and trails. These investments typically support off-site recreation activities at scenic byways, rivers, lakes, trails, and in wilderness and backcountry. The Forest continues to increase the availability of facilities suitable for children, the elderly, and people with mobility impairments through the projects listed above. Progress continues on implementation of the Forest Accessibility Action Plan of 2000, which defines and prioritizes accessibility barrier removal for its 190 recreation sites over 10 to 20 years. New facility improvements balance optimal access for people with disabilities and conservation of onsite natural setting characteristics. The Forest continues to strategically identify, acquire funds, and plan recreation projects that remove barriers to people with mobility and other disabilities. Recreation operations and maintenance costs for key elements are regularly evaluated to improve the Forest program and provide high value services. Annual condition surveys on about 20% of recreation facilities identify budget needs to achieve standards. Developed recreation site fees collected under the national cost recovery program contribute significantly to providing onsite services and campground improvements. The achievement of Forest recreation goals is consistent with the National, Regional, and Forest Recreation Strategies.

Recreation use and demand continues to experience gradual, steady growth. Use is concentrated along scenic byways, rivers, lakes, backcountry roads, trails, and in wilderness and backcountry areas. Uncrowded and ecologically rich settings are the Forest's unique recreational assets and 'niche.'

The Forest continued to provide interpretive planning, coordination, and design services for the Emigrant Trail and Modoc Volcanic Scenic Byway, including work with agency partners and community stakeholders.

Evaluation: The Forest Plan accomplishment recording items are no longer appropriated for the evaluation for reaching national, regional, or forest program goals in relation to environmental impacts. The monitoring items