

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

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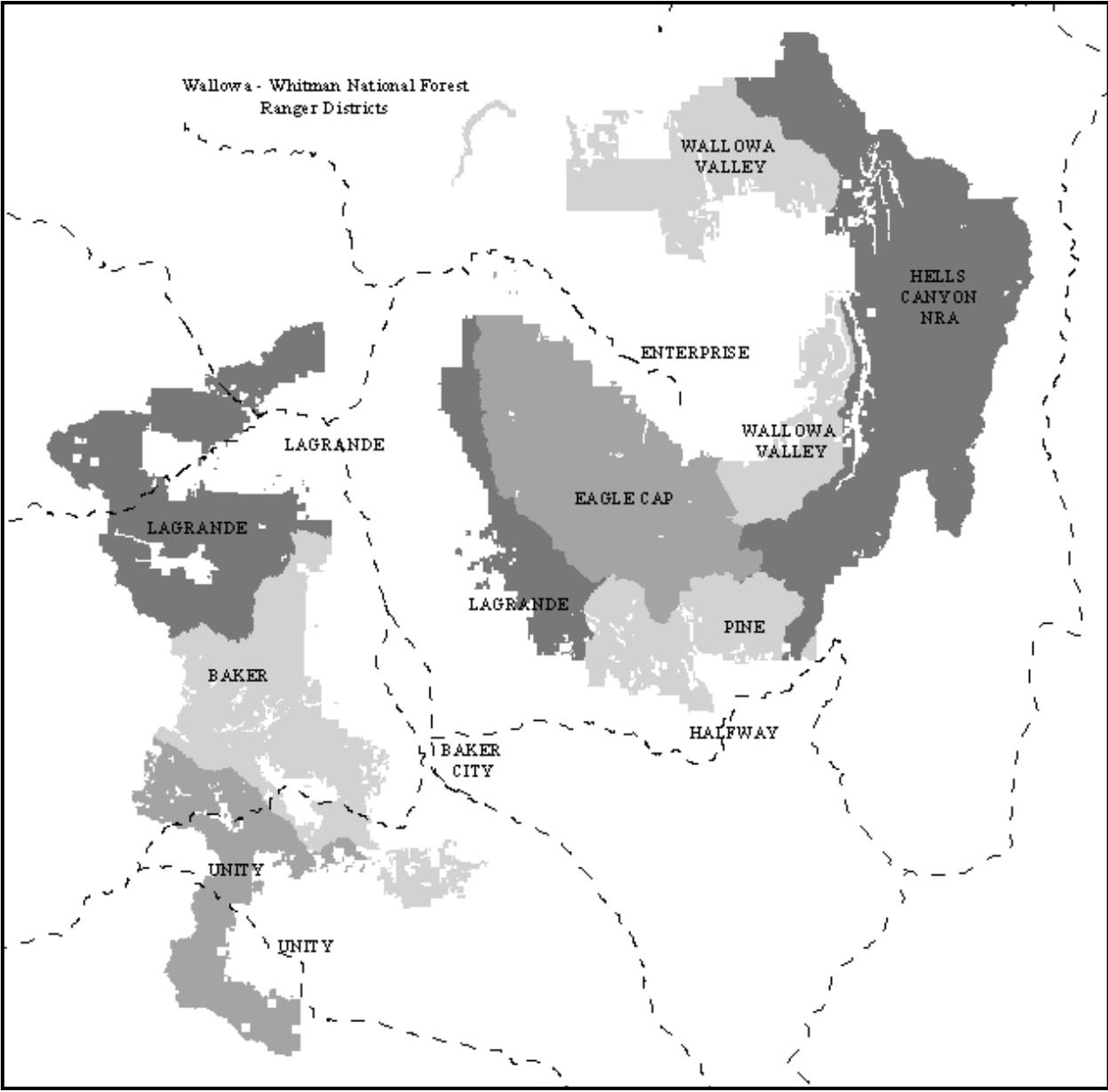
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SECTION W

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MONITORING ITEMS NOT REPORTED FOR FY2000

A number of Monitoring Items from the Wallowa-Whitman Forest's 1991 Monitoring Implementation Plan were not reported in FY2000. Some items need only to be reported at predetermined intervals to detect trends; some were purposely deferred pending updated monitoring protocols or direction; while others were deferred due to lack of funding, personnel issues, or other work priorities.

Monitoring Items that were not reported are as follows:

- Item 1 Compliance with NEPA and the Forest Plan
- Item 2 Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines
- Item 7 Harvest Unit
- Item 14 Range Vegetative Conditions
- Item 18 Watershed Standards, Guidelines and Best Management Practices
- Item 19 Riparian Area Cumulative Effects
- Item 20 Peak Flow/Low Flow Cumulative Effects
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- Item 44 Cultural and Historic Resource Sites
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FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS

The following nonsignificant Forest Plan amendments were prepared in fiscal year 2000.

<u>Amendment Number</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Summary and Comments</u>
26	03/20/00	Starkey Research, Restoration and Fuels Reduction Project. Allowed cutting of trees greater than 21 inches in diameter to validate squirrel/dwarf mistletoe research.
27a	05/16/00	Government Draw (Gerald S. Strickler) Research Natural Area. Changed the Government Draw RNA from a "proposed RNA" to an "established RNA". Name was later changed to Gerald S. Strickler RNA.

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The Summary of Recommended Actions, beginning on page W-6, shows all Wallowa-Whitman Monitoring Items and whether they were deferred, consolidated with the other Blue Mountain Forests (Section C), or reported in this section (W). The table summarizes the key findings and the recommended actions to be taken because of this year's monitoring for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. A more complete analysis of reported monitoring items can be found later in this section (W) or in the Coordinated Monitoring Section (C).

Categories of recommended actions are identified in the table as follows:

Change Practices (CP) - Indicates that the results of current practices are outside the thresholds of variability and/or are not meeting specific direction set by the Forest Plan. A change in practice or procedure may be needed.

Further Evaluation (FE) - Indicates that results may or may not have exceeded the threshold of variability, but additional information or evaluation is needed to better identify the cause of the concern and/or determine future actions.

Amend Forest Plan (AP) - Indicates that results are inconsistent with the Forest Plan, or the Forest Plan direction was not clear. The Forest Plan may need to be changed or clarified through the amendment or revision process.

Continue Monitoring (CM) - Indicates we will continue with the current protocol.

Not Evaluated (NE) – The monitoring item was not evaluated this year.

Summary of Recommended Action

◆ 2000 Monitoring Report ◆
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Report Section*	MI#	Monitoring Item (MI)	1999 Action	2000 Recommended Action			Remarks**
				Change Practice	Further Eval.	Amend Forest Plan	
DEF	1	Compliance with NEPA and Forest Plan	NE				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	2	Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines	NE				Not evaluated in FY2000.
COORD	3	Insect and Disease Management	CM				"Insects and Diseases". Douglas-fir tussock moth reached outbreak status. Viral insecticide used on the Pine Ranger District. Increased trend in Douglas-fir beetle. Continue to monitor.
COORD	4	Timber Offered for Sale	FE AP		X	X	Forest offered 83% of funded level. Harvest levels are well below Forest Plan levels (16%).
COORD	5	Silvicultural Harvest Methods	FE AP		X	X	"Harvest Methods and Acres". All harvest methods except thinning are well below Forest Plan levels. Predominant harvest method is thinning.
ACCOM RPT	6	Precommercial Thinning	CM				4,625 acres of timber stand improvement were done (63% of Forest Plan level).
DEF	7	Harvest Unit	NE				"Harvest Methods and Acres". Not evaluated in FY2000.
COORD	8	Reforestation	CM		X		2,706 acres were regenerated naturally and 1,492 acres were planted. Overall this is 31% of the Forest Plan level. 1 st and 3 rd year survival rates were below historic averages.
COORD	9	Lands Not Suitable for Timber Management	CM				"Timber Suitability". All forest land is mapped in GIS. Continue to monitor.
COORD	10	Vegetation Management	CM				"Vegetation Management and Noxious Weeds". 11,238 acres were treated by various methods. 8 year trend is an increase in herbicide use and a decrease in prescribed fire. Continue to monitor.

* More information on items can be found in: W-W = Wallowa-Whitman; COORD = Coordinated; or ACCOM RPT = Accomplishment Report Table at the end of the Wallowa-Whitman section. DEF = Deferred (not evaluated for FY2000);

** Items in quotation marks note title of items in the Coordinated Section if different from the Forest monitoring title.

Report Section*	MI#	Monitoring Item (MI)	1999 Action	2000 Recommended Action			Remarks**
				Change Practice	Further Eval.	Amend Forest Plan	
COORD	11	Transportation	FE				"Roads". 64.7 miles of road were decommissioned or closed. 36.5 miles were reconstructed. Continue to monitor.
ACCOM RPT	12	Range Outputs	CM				AUMs were 73% of Forest Plan level. Continue to monitor.
COORD	13	Forage Utilization	CP	X			93% of monitored pastures met standards, only 45% of total pastures were monitored. Some lower priority pastures are not being adequately monitored.
DEF	14	Range Vegetative Condition	NE				Not evaluated in FY2000.
ACCOM RPT	15	Range Improvements	CM				34 structural improvements were done. Continue to monitor.
COORD	16	Allotment Management Planning	CP FE		X		No AMPs were completed, though 19 allotments were in various planning stages. Completion of ESA consultation is main delay factor.
COORD	17	Noxious Weeds	CM				"Vegetation Management and Noxious Weeds". 2,775 gross acres treated by various methods. Noxious weeds increasing in many areas. Continue to monitor.
DEF	18	Watershed Standards, Guidelines, and BMPs	CM				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	19	Riparian Area Cumulative Effects	CM				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	20	Peak Flow/Low Flow Cumulative Effects	NE				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	21	Soil Productivity	CM				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	22	Air Quality	CM				"Air Quality and Smoke Management". "Fire Managed for Resource Benefits". Not evaluated in FY2000
DEF	23	Fisheries Habitat	CM				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	24	Anadromous Fisheries Consultation	CM				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	25	Columbia River PIG, PACFISH, and INFISH	CM				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	26	Salmon Summit Action Plan Commitments	CM				Not evaluated in FY2000.

Report Section*	MI#	Monitoring Item (MI)	1999 Action	2000 Recommended Action			Remarks**
				Change Practice	Further Eval.	Amend Forest Plan	
COORD	27	Old Growth	CM		X	X	"Old Growth Habitat". 1,425 acres in management area 15 surveyed, 42% met old growth standards. Management requirements for old growth not being met.
COORD	28	Dead and Defective Tree Habitat and Primary Cavity Excavators	CM		X		"Dead and Defective Tree Habitat". 1,800 acres surveyed, 67% met standards for snags. Threshold of variability exceeded for surveyed timber sales.
W-W	29	Pileated Woodpecker	FE		X		No trend monitoring occurred. Need to complete habitat and population monitoring.
W-W	30	Goshawk Populations	FE		X		Three districts surveyed, six nest site found Two sites produced 2 fledglings each. Current inventory inadequate.
W-W	31	Pine Marten Populations	FE		X		No monitoring occurred. Need to complete habitat and population monitoring.
COORD	32	Elk Habitat/Populations	FE		X		"Elk/Deer Habitat". 70% of analyzed projects met HEI objective. Elk numbers at 78% of management objective.
W-W	33	Bald Eagles	CM				Two nest sites monitored, both produced 1 young each. Winter roost site monitoring had highest number ever observed. Continue to monitor.
W-W	34	Peregrine Falcons	CM				Two successful nests monitored, 1.5 young fledged per nest. Nest site plans completed. Continue to monitor.
W-W	35	Sensitive Species - Wildlife	CM				Lynx hair pad survey completed, results not available. 1999 lynx survey results were negative. Continue to monitor.
DEF	35	Sensitive Species - Plants	CM				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	36	MacFarlane's Four-O'Clock	CM				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	37	Greenman's Lomatium	CM				Not evaluated in FY2000.
COORD	38	Minerals	FE AP		X	X	About 90% of operations met resource objectives. Possible conflicts with Forest Plan and mining law need to be addressed.
W-W	39	Wilderness	CM		X		Need more on the ground Forest Service presence. Two restoration plans completed.
COORD	40	Wild and Scenic Rivers	CM				River classifications maintained to standards. Fund implementation of management plans. Continue to monitor.

Report Section*	MI#	Monitoring Item (MI)	1999 Action	2000 Recommended Action			Remarks**
				Change Practice	Further Eval.	Amend Forest Plan	
W-W	41	Recreation Setting	CM				Public generally satisfied with available opportunities. Continue to monitor.
COORD	42	Off-Road Vehicle Use	FE				"Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use". Variable use across the Forest. ORV use increasing, especially during hunting season. Continue Tri-Forest strategy development. Continue to monitor.
DEF	43	Visual Resource Objectives	NE				Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	44	Cultural and Historic Resource Sites	CM				"Cultural and Historic Site Protection". Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	45	Budget	NE				"Socio-Economics". Not evaluated in FY2000.
DEF	46	Costs and Values	NE				"Socio-Economics". Not evaluated in FY2000.
COORD	47	Community Effects	NE				"Socio-Economics". Payments to counties have continued to decline. Employment and income related to timber harvesting continues to decline. Continue to monitor.
DEF	48	Adjacent Lands	NE				Not evaluated in FY2000.

Pileated Woodpecker

Item 29

Purposes: To determine whether or not pileated woodpeckers are using designated habitat and feeding areas as planned. To determine population trends.

Sampling for pileated woodpecker population levels was not funded and did not occur in FY2000. There were no nest surveys or monitoring to determine trend. Foraging sign and sightings were noted during timber sale surveys.

Recommended Action:

- Continue to implement Regional Forester's Forest Plan Amendment 2 to maintain all existing old-growth forest stands, the 100 percent snag level, and adequate down logs.
- If pileated woodpeckers are going to continue to be used as a management indicator, then both habitat and population monitoring needs to be completed. Without this information, the Forest cannot confirm assumptions made about this species within the Forest Plan.

Goshawk Populations

Item 30

Purposes: To determine whether goshawks are using allocated old growth habitat or nesting habitat in other allocations where considerations allow. To determine baseline populations and trends.

Only three districts completed some goshawk monitoring in FY2000. A total of six nest sites were found. Two of the nests produced two fledglings each, while the third failed to produce young. Productivity of the remaining three was unknown

No monitoring of goshawk prey species was conducted. Funding was not available to determine baseline populations and trends.

There is an inadequate level of monitoring to address the threshold of variability. Inventory on at least some timber sale areas is inadequate to ensure location of active nest territories. Without this inventory, the protection afforded by Amendment 2 is not realized.

Recommended Action:

- Obtain funding for surveying goshawks in each new timber sale analysis area since this action has the potential to modify existing habitat.
- Follow guidelines for goshawk habitat management outlined in Amendment 2.
- Survey for goshawk nest site occupancy and productivity Forest-wide.

Pine Marten Populations

Item 31

Purpose: To determine if the old growth habitats (by management areas), subalpine forest, and lodgepole pine areas are available and being used by pine marten as planned.

All districts reported not having sufficient funds to complete any monitoring for martens. Therefore, the Forest cannot determine populations, reproductive parameters, or habitat preferences.

Recommended Action:

- If the marten is going to continue to be used as a management indicator species, both habitat and population monitoring needs to be completed. Without this information, we cannot confirm assumptions made about this species in the Forest Plan. Appropriate funding is necessary.
- Continue to implement Amendment 2 to maintain all existing old growth forest stands, the 100 percent snag levels, and adequate down logs.

Bald Eagles

Item 33

Purposes: To determine if the nesting, communal roosting, and associated foraging habitats are being identified and protected. To determine if individual site management plans are being developed. To determine if the young per occupied territory goals are being met.

Two bald eagle nests were closely monitored on the Forest in FY2000. Both sites have approved nest site management plans. Both bald eagle nests produced one young each.

Monitoring of winter roost sites was completed on the La Grande District in mid January. Thirteen bald eagles were observed on this 70-mile survey that starts at Ladd Marsh and ends at Vey Meadows. This total is the most ever observed.

Recommended Actions:

- Continue to monitor both nest and roost sites.

Peregrine Falcons

Item 34

Purposes: To determine if the nesting and associated foraging habitats are being identified and protected. To determine if individual site management plans are being developed. To decide whether potential nest habitats are identified and being managed to maintain suitability. To determine if the young per occupied territory goals are being met.

Two successful nests were monitored on the Forest in FY2000. Three birds were fledged from the two sites, which is 1.5 young fledged per active nest. This exceeds the standard of 1.35 young per active site. Nest site plans have been completed for both sites.

No potential nest sites were surveyed in FY2000. No new active nests were found.

Recommended Actions:

- Continue to monitor all active nest sites and search for additional nests at each habitat identified to have good potential.
- Continue to monitor productivity in known nests.

Sensitive Species – Wildlife

Item 35

Purpose: To determine whether species management guides for birds and mammals are being developed in a timely manner based on an established schedule.

Protection of sensitive birds and mammals and their habitats has been through prescriptions developed during project-level planning. The effectiveness of these prescriptions and associated risks are documented in BEs.

An aggressive lynx hair pad survey effort was completed in August and September of 2000. Approximately 125 pads were placed near the Anthony Lakes ski resort using the National Lynx Detection Protocol. About 120 pads were located on 11 sites scattered over the Forest using the Weaver protocol. We were able to collect animal hair on about 16 pads. These were sent to a lab in Missoula, Montana for DNA analysis to determine what species the hair came from. At this time, we have not received the results. The 1999 results were negative for lynx.

Surveys for Townsend's big-eared bat, wolverine, upland sandpiper, and spotted frog were completed on the Forest. All species except for wolverine were found. Due to funding shortages, no other sensitive species were found.

Recommended Actions:

- Continue basic inventories of sensitive birds and mammals when funding is available.

Wilderness

Item 39

Purposes: To determine if wildernesses are being managed in accordance with the Wilderness Act (P.L. 88-577) as amended. To ascertain if wilderness use levels are within the limits established for each Wilderness Resource Spectrum class. To summarize the physical/biological, managerial and social setting of each wilderness Resource Spectrum to assure their maintenance is consistent with the standards for wilderness management.

Four wilderness areas were monitored in FY2000; Eagle Cap, North Fork John Day (Baldy Creek Unit), Hells Canyon, and Monument Rock.

Eagle Cap Wilderness

Physical/Biological standards: Regional haze is currently the most significant impact to this area. Air pollution threats are being monitored through contract surveys and an ongoing survey of baseline lichen conditions. Native vegetation was restored on 20 campsites in the Lakes Basin Management Area, and two recently completed restoration projects were monitored and as a result replanted, with additional improvements accomplished. Three vegetation monitoring plots were established. Nine acres were treated for the noxious weeds, knapweed and scotch thistle. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife surveys indicated deer populations are low but stable, while elk numbers are greatly decreased. The number of hunts has been reduced. There are two active cattle allotments in the wilderness. The Lakes Basin Management Area continues to receive the greatest amount of use. The Eagle Cap Wilderness Restoration Plan was completed in FY2000.

Managerial standards: Four Wilderness Rangers and three trail crews worked in the wilderness. Many junction and Lakes Basin Management Area signs were replaced. About 456 miles of trail were maintained. Six fires were reported (two human caused, four from lightening), with a total of 7.7 acres burned. Two prescribed burns were planned but not implemented due to unfavorable weather conditions and a national moratorium on new prescribed burns.

Monitoring conducted in FY2000 is inconclusive for determining if the wilderness is being managed according to management direction and provisions of the Wilderness Act.

North Fork John Day Wilderness – Baldy Creek Unit

Physical/Biological standards: One lightening caused fire was reported, two acres were burned. Human impacts are small, localized, and do not appear to be significantly increasing.

Social Setting standards: Non-conforming uses, specifically mountain bike and ATV use, continues to be a problem in some areas.

Managerial standards: A total of 20.4 miles of designated trails received minimal maintenance (logging out) by volunteers and force account crews in FY2000.

Hells Canyon Wilderness

Physical/Biological standards: Regional haze is currently the most significant impact to this area. Air quality monitoring involved preliminary lichen community sampling. Biological control agents were used for yellow star thistle at three sites, however at two of these sites the weed site and control agents were destroyed by the Eastside Complex Fire. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife surveys indicated deer populations are low but stable, while elk numbers are greatly decreased. The number of hunts has been reduced. There are six active cattle allotments and

one active sheep allotment. The Hells Canyon Wilderness Restoration Plan was completed in FY2000.

Managerial standards: Six trail crew members, Wilderness Rangers, and volunteers worked in the wilderness. Many of the trail junction signs need to be replaced. A total of 533 miles of trail were maintained. Four lightning and one human caused fires were reported in FY2000. The Eastside Complex Fire burned 28,712 acres.

Monitoring conducted in FY2000 is inconclusive for determining if the wilderness is being managed according to management direction and provisions of the Wilderness Act.

Monument Rock Wilderness – Wallowa-Whitman Portion

Managerial standards: Four hiking trails were maintained. Due to limited budgets, there were less than 10 days of Forest Service presence in the wilderness.

Recommended Actions:

- Place additional Wilderness Rangers and volunteers on the ground.
- Complete re-inventory of campsites.
- Eliminate the backlog of trail maintenance work.
- Continue implementation of ignited fire projects.
- Complete wilderness boundary marking.
- Continue implementation of the new wilderness fire management plan.
- Monitor non-conforming use trespass.
- Implement restoration plan action items.
- Seek and implement Community Wilderness Volunteers Program (RTP grant) opportunities.



Recreation Setting

Item 41

Purposes: To determine whether Forest settings with desirable recreation attributes are being managed to provide high quality and stable opportunities for outdoor recreation use. To monitor recreation developments in order to ensure that they are maintained to a standard which provides for customer satisfaction.

The Forest's scenic beauty, rugged landscape, and numerous year-round opportunities continued to appeal to the hundreds of thousand visitors that come to NE Oregon. In FY2000 the Forest continued to manage sites with the objective of balancing resource needs and meeting customer's needs. Examples of specific activities that met these objectives include:

- Designing and relocating campsites away from sensitive fisheries.
- Upgrading water systems
- Developing accessible paths to toilets
- Installing additional information boards explaining the features in the area, as well as the Recreation Fee Demonstration program.
- Protecting aspen sites near developed sites.
- Installing more riding and pack stock facilities at trailheads.
- Developing additional accessible toilets (The forest goal is 75 percent - we are currently at 64 percent).
- Producing interpretive guides and trail brochures for popular recreation areas and trails.

As in past years, written and verbal comments indicate that the public is generally satisfied with the opportunities available, and while on the Forest had a positive meaningful experience. Dissatisfaction from some visitors however is still being expressed. These are mostly categorized into Federal restrictions or limitations that change the form of recreation these users have experienced in the past. Examples include:

- Ecological concerns such as dispersed camping restrictions near bull trout and salmon streams; motorized use restrictions in cross country areas, or snowmobile trail construction moratoriums on new snowmobile trails
- New and ongoing programs such as Recreation Fee Demonstration fees at trailheads, picnic areas, and campgrounds.
- Budgetary constraints that limit accomplishments like; early trail maintenance, delayed campground openings, lack of utilities at campgrounds and cabins; limited accessible sites for disabled users.
- Social concerns with perceived and actual conflicting uses; horses, and ATVs on multi purpose trails; motorized and float operations on the Snake River, running generators in campgrounds, and encountering unauthorized motorized uses in wilderness areas.

Visitor satisfaction for specific recreational opportunities include;

- Campgrounds: Overall satisfactory; some concern with Recreation Fee Demonstration (Fee Demo) program which is active in 15 campgrounds throughout the Forest. Since this program has leveled off no new campgrounds are anticipated being added to the system in 2001. Some sample comments about the best part of the experience: "getting together", "camping with friends", "the weather", "scenery", "clean toilets", "hunting". Some of the negative comments received: "Nothing", "no water", "fire restrictions", "fees", "road to site".
- Recreational Outfitter and Guide and other Recreation permits: Overall satisfactory; Positive comments regarding the upgrade at Anthony Lakes and wintertime opportunities at Mt. Howard. A few accidents on the Snake River due to low flows have generated negative comments by clients. These will be handled by the Coast Guard and annual performance review.
- Dispersed Recreation: Overall satisfactory.
- Trails: Overall satisfactory; some concern with the Northwest Forest Pass (formerly the Trail Park Pass) Fee Demo program which has been in place on the Forest since 1997

and includes 38 trailheads and picnic areas. Compliance is fair to good yet some negative comments were received disagreeing with the program itself as well as application at a specific trailhead. No changes are anticipated in the program in FY2001.

- Winter Activities: Overall satisfactory; some concern with encroachment of snowmobiles in wilderness areas and desire to have increased winter patrols.
- Wild and Scenic River use: Overall satisfactory; The Forest again met with advocates of the jet boat community concerning their desire to lift the non-motorized window. Many comments are also still being received that support the limited restrictions.
- Wilderness: Overall satisfactory; Compliments were received on the restoration work, and trail conditions and relocation projects. The presence of FS employees and their willingness to help was also noted.

Recommended Actions:

- Continue to monitor visitor satisfaction and setting.
- Continue to assess the adequacy (capacity), and condition of our facilities and upgrade/adjust as budgets allow.
- Monitor customer satisfaction with Recreation Fee Demo on existing sites, adjust as needed.
- Assess accessibility of sites to meet intent of American with Disability Act (ADA), and revise existing plan.



FOREST ACCOMPLISHMENTS – FISCAL YEAR 2000
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

This table provides a summary of selected Forest accomplishments and resource outputs for FY2000. Where possible, these are compared to Forest Plan estimates, but in many cases the unit of measure has changed since the Forest Plan was completed and direct comparison is no longer possible.

RESOURCE ACTIVITY/OUTPUT	UNIT OF MEASURE	FOREST PLAN PROJECTION (avg/year)	ACTUAL FY2000 FOREST OUTPUT	% ACTUAL TO FOREST PLAN
<u>FIRE</u> Natural Fuel Treatment Activity Fuel Treatment	Acres Acres	22.4 (total combined)	-	-
<u>FISH</u> Anadromous Stream Restored/Enhanced Inland Stream Restored/Enhanced	Miles* Miles*	250 acres 500 structures (Anad & Inland)	- -	- -
<u>RANGE</u> Permitted Grazing - Sheep & Goats Cattle & Horses Non-structural Improvements Structural Improvements Noxious Weed Treatment	AUMs* * Acres Structures Acres	186,000 (total livestock) Not Specified Not Specified 400	136,600 0 34 2,775	73 NA NA 694
<u>RECREATION</u> Trail Construction/Reconstruction Developed Recreation Capacity	Miles PAOTs	4 661,000	- -	- -
<u>ROADS</u> Construction Reconstruction Decommissioned	Miles Miles Miles	249 (C/RC Combined) Not Specified	39.3 59.1	16 NA
<u>THREATENED, ENDANGERED, and SENSITIVE SPECIES</u> Aquatic Habitat Restored/Enhanced Terrestrial Habitat Restored/Enhanced	Miles Acres	Not Specified Not Specified	- -	NA NA
<u>TIMBER</u> Total Program Sale Quantity Reforestation Timber Stand Improvement	MMBF Acres Acres	205 14,300 7,400	33 4,457 4,625	16 31 63
<u>WILDLIFE</u> Habitat Restored/Enhanced Habitat Structures	Acres Structures	1,000 Not Specified	- -	- NA
<u>WATER</u> Watershed Improvements	Acres	1000	-	-

* Unit of measure changed between FY 1990 Forest Plan and FY2000 Accomplishment Report.