



Lassen Land & Resource Management Plan Accomplishment Monitoring Report for FY2005

Monitoring Summary

The Regional Forester signed the Record of Decision and approved the Lassen National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on January 11, 1993. In that decision, he also made a commitment to conduct a monitoring and evaluation program. The following Monitoring Reports were published by the Lassen National Forest

- 1) August 1997, comprising fiscal years 1993 through 1996;
- 2) July, 1998, comprising fiscal year 1997;
- 3) July 1999, comprising fiscal year 1998 and
- 4) September 2000, comprising fiscal year 1999.

Since that time, the Forest Plan has been modified by three Forest plan amendments including the 1999 Herger Feinstein Quincy Library Group (HFQLG) Record of Decision (ROD), the 2004 Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment (SNFPA) ROD, and the 1994 Northwest Forest Plan Amendment (as amended in 2001, and 2004). As a consequence to changing forest management direction, some monitoring was also changed to reflect the new strategies.

The Lassen NF is scheduled to begin Forest Plan Revision in Fiscal Year 2009. The first effort in plan revision under the 2005 Rule is developing a Comprehensive Evaluation Report. At that time the forest will evaluate whether or not the assumptions used to develop the Plan were correct. All the monitoring that has occurred since the Forest Plan's inception would be used for that effort.

The emphasis in this report will be on only a few monitoring components as they relate to Implementation Monitoring from October 2004 to October 2005.

Monitored Items

- Fire & Fuels
- Firewood
- Fish
- Range
- Off-Highway Vehicles
- Sensitive Plants
- Soils
- Timber
- Water & Riparian
- Wildlife



Mount Lassen

Fuel Treatment & Prescribed Fire

One objective for monitoring fire and fuels is to review prescribed burns and fuel treatments to determine if project objectives and Forest Plan Standards & Guidelines were met. This is to be measured by reviewing prescribed burning and annual fuel treatment planned and perform field

inspections to verify implementation. We are to annually review 10% of projects completed on each district.

In FY2005 a variety of fuel treatments were conducted, including 7,279 acres of mechanical thin, 6,066 acres broadcast burn, 3,518 acres biomass removal,

2,421 acres machine pile and burn, 667 acres mastication, 480 acres hand pile and burn, 282 acres mechanical lop and scatter, 40 acres mechanical chip, and 5 acres jackpot burn, for a total of 20,758 acres. Although we are only to annually review 10% of the project to verify implementation, 100% of the projects were reviewed and

Fire and Fuels

Burned Acreages by Fire Intensity Class

Another objective for monitoring fire and fuels is to compare actual and predicted extent of wildfires areas. In FY2005 a total of 40 wildfires occurred on the forest ranging from 0.1 to 100 acres in size; 75 percent were 0.1 acres or less. 88% of the fire intensity levels were at Level I or between 0-2 foot flame

lengths. Two fires were at fire intensity level 2 or between 2-4 foot flame lengths, one fire was at fire intensity level 3 or between 4-6 foot flame lengths and two fires were at fire intensity level 6 or between 6-12 foot flame lengths. Predicted intensities were not established.



North Coble Burn

Firewood

Firewood Supply

The objective for monitoring firewood supply is to determine if the forest is making available an adequate supply of firewood for personal use to meet the demand. This is to be measured by maintaining records of both personal use and commercial use permits. In FY2005 the forest sold 3,336 cords of firewood on the Almanor RD,

5,415 cords on the Eagle Lake RD, and 2,162 cords on the Hat Creek RD; the total sold was 10,674 cords of firewood for personal use and 239 cords for commercial use. This equates to 1,698 million board feet. Supply met demand.



Fish

The objective is to determine habitat status and trend in relation to management activities for resident and anadromous fish. In FY2005 data entry and analysis continued with amphibian and stream condition inventory databases. Stream-scape database was created and data entry/analysis design initiated. Wildlife and botany data were entered into NRIS FAUNA and TERRA databases. GIS analyses were performed to assist with data entry and plan for fish passage inventory/projects.

The Central Valley Spring-run Chinook Salmon and the Central Valley Steelhead are the anadromous fish for which monitoring is conducted. Also in FY2005, cooperative monitoring occurred with California Fish and Game. Inventories of approximately 50 miles of stream in support of vegetation and fuels projects in Antelope, Mill and Deer Creeks. This included spawning redd counts

and snorkeling for adult salmon counts.

Projects conducted to protect and improve habitat condition in Mill and Deer Creeks included road surface and drainage work on at least 45 sites and improvement to 8 miles of tributary habitat. For Antelope Creek, improvement of 25 sites, including one major fish passage crossing was upgrade to an open bottom arch. In addition, a radio-telemetry project to track Eagle Lake rainbow trout up their historical spawning stream.



Snorkeling at Deer Creek

Range

Updating of Allotment Management Plans

The objective for allotment management plans is to determine if allotment planning meets the timeframes and standards for AMP development. This would be monitored through review of Ranger District progress in developing allotment management plans. In FY2005 the inventory and analysis for 6 grazing allotments was com-

pleted. In addition, 13 environmental analysis were initiated. A key accomplishment to range allotment planning on the South Eagle Lake Allotment was development of the Grazing Heritage Strategy to comply with the Programmatic Agreement developed with the State Historic Preservation Office.

Off-Highway Vehicles

The objective for Off Highway Vehicles is to determine effects of OHV's on critical soil, vegetation, cultural, wildlife, and visual resources, to determine the level of conflict between OHV users and other recreationists and to update OHV plans. Although this portion of the forest plan monitoring calls for field review of OHV use areas, the forest took it one step further and inventoried all use areas and unclassified roads that are not part of the current system. Due to this effort in FY04 and FY05, we will be able to develop, through the route designation process, a proposed transportation system for motor vehicle travel, including off-highway vehicles such as ATVs and dirt bikes. We completed an inventory of 4,088 routes across the Forest in November 2004. They mapped a total of 1,121 unclassified miles. The public reviewed the inventory in 2005 and submitted maps of some missed routes. This added another 320 unclassified miles to our Forest inventory, totaling 1,441 at the end of FY2005.



Sensitive Plants

The objective is to ensure habitat maintenance or improvement for sensitive plants to avoid Federal listing as threatened or endangered species. This is accomplished through gathering ecological and biological data and documenting populations and habitat trends from field surveys conducted for environmental analyses of proposed projects. In FY2005 a total of 19 projects were surveyed; 50 new sensitive plant occurrences were found as well as revisiting 46 occurrences previously found from past project planning efforts. This includes monitoring of 8 rare plant species.

Soils

The objective is to prevent irreversible loss of soil productivity by using the erosion hazard information and by assessing the effects of management prescriptions and forest projects on soil properties. In FY2005 the forest monitored 13 projects both pre and post treatment. Of those 13 projects, soil porosity standards were met 70% of the time on pre-treatment units and 54% of the time on post-treatment units; 30% of those units had previous legacy compaction from past treatments, plus 54% of the units evaluated were group selection treatments which tend to have higher levels of equipment operation during harvest and regeneration.



Ishi Trailhead Plant Survey

Timber Sale Volume

The objective of the timber sale program is to evaluate timber sale volume for the Forest Plan period in relation to the allowable sale quantity. This is measured by determining the total volume sold each year during the Plan period. In FY2005 the forest advertised and bid 71,841 million board feet.

Timber



Regeneration Acreages

The objective of regeneration is to determine acreages of Forest's regeneration timber harvest by determining the total acreages of regeneration harvest from timber sale reports and other data sources. In FY2005 the forest regenerated 656 acres, including acres of plantations.

Water & Riparian Areas



Waterbar on Signal Thin

Water Quality Management

The objective for water quality is to assess compliance with and effectiveness of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for all management activities in a given watershed. This is measured by review of project environmental documents, contract provisions, field activities, water quality analysis, and field observations. In FY2005 the forest met implementation and effectiveness standards on 86% of the BMPs evaluated. One BMP that was implemented was not effective and two BMPs were not implemented. Corrective actions were taken.

Wildlife

The objective of monitoring for wildlife species is to ensure compliance with the Endangered Species Act and to maintain habitat capability for the species identified. Surveys to determine presence, absence and current-year reproductive status occurred for many of the species. Included were surveys for sandhill cranes, goshawk, great gray owl, deer, antelope, bufflehead and mallard, mollusk species and other aquatic species. Recorded calls, remotely triggered cameras, track plates and vocalizations were used to monitor presence and absence at site specific project locations. Point Reyes Bird Observatory Conservation Science provided landbird census and vegetation data related to census points within control and treatment areas following standardized protocols.



Osprey

LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST VISION

The Lassen National Forest is a land of many jewels and uses.

It is a resilient and healthy forest comprised of diverse ecotypes reflective of naturally occurring landscapes that change over time. Scientific information is used to determine appropriate management action. Unique areas on the Forest are managed consistent with natural processes.

The Forest provides a variety of quality recreation experiences, ranging from a high level of development to the more primitive and challenging. Wildernesses are managed for a state of naturalness. Recreation, interpretation, and conservation education are dynamic means to connect the American people with their environment. Effective communication with the public is maintained.

The Forest contributes to community stability by providing economic benefits and incentives to develop natural resource and tourism opportunities. The Forest provides natural resources for a variety of uses. We are a leader in promoting partnerships and in building customer and community relationships. Volunteers enhance the Forest's ability to accomplish additional work and provide improved customer service.

The Forest consists of a diverse and energetic workforce. Employees perform meaningful work consistent with their interests, abilities, and pay. Suitable facilities for the workforce are maintained.

The Forest continually monitors and adjusts ongoing business practices to assure that we are using the most practical and efficient work methods. Program funding occurs through a variety of financial sources.

The Forest works cooperatively with counties and communities in recognizing and resolving urban interface and land development issues. The Forest is a good neighbor, working with adjacent landowners to restore and maintain healthy ecosystems across the landscape.

The Forest provides exceptional public service to our visitors. The visiting public enjoys accessible, safe, and well-maintained facilities in a natural setting.

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