



NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST

14TH ANNUAL  
MONITORING AND EVALUATION  
REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2001

---

## INFORMATION REQUESTS AND COMMENTS

---

Information requests or comments about the Nez Perce National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan and/or Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report can be directed to one of the following offices:

**Salmon River  
Ranger District**

Slate Creek Ranger Station  
HC01, Box 70  
White Bird, ID 83554  
Phone: (208) 839-2211  
TTY: (208) 839-2328  
FAX: (208) 839-2730

**Moose Creek  
Ranger District**

Fenn Ranger Station  
HC 75, Box 91  
Kooskia, ID 83539  
Phone: (208) 926-4258  
TTY: (208) 926-7725  
FAX: (208) 926-7119

**CLEARWATER**

**RANGER DISTRICT**

Route 2, Box 475  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
Phone: (208) 983-1963  
TTY: (208) 983-0696  
FAX: (208) 983-4056

**Red River**

**Ranger District**

Elk City Ranger Station  
Elk City, ID 83525  
Phone: (208) 842-2245  
TTY: (208) 842-2233  
FAX: (208) 842-2250

**Nez Perce National Forest  
Headquarters Office**

Route 2, Box 475  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
Phone: (208) 983-1950  
TTY: (208) 983-2280  
FAX: (208) 983-4099

---

## INTRODUCTION

---

On October 8, 1987, the Regional Forester, Northern Region, USDA Forest Service, approved the Nez Perce National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). At that time a commitment was made to monitor and evaluate how well the Plan was being implemented. Monitoring and evaluation comprise the management control system, and the results of monitoring and evaluation provide the line officer and the public with information on the progress and results of implementing the Forest Plan.

A commitment was also made to consider modifications to the Forest Plan using amendments based on the monitoring and evaluation findings. Monitoring and evaluation each have a distinctly different purpose and scope.

**Monitoring** is the act of gathering information/data and observing the results of management activities to provide a basis for periodic evaluation of the Forest Plan. There are three types of monitoring:

**Implementation Monitoring** (sometimes called compliance monitoring) determines whether management actions are implemented as specified in the NEPA decision. For example, making sure that a specific required mitigation requirement is implemented. The question being asked is: “Did we do what we said we were going to do?” In this report, implementation monitoring is the type of monitoring assumed, unless otherwise specified.

**Effectiveness Monitoring** often occurs over a period of years and determines whether the actions are effective in meeting management direction and objectives. [For example, determining whether a standard for retaining a certain amount of wood debris on a site is effective in maintaining soil productivity and reducing erosion. The question being asked in this type of monitoring is: “Did the management practice do what we wanted it to do?”]

**Validation Monitoring**, which often occurs via research projects, determines if the assumptions underlying key elements of planning and analysis (including computer models) are correct. The question being asked here is: “Are the assumptions that are being used to make resource predictions and decisions correct?”

**Evaluation** is the analysis and interpretation of monitoring results. Evaluation assists in the review of the conditions on land covered by the Forest Plan, as required at least every 5 years by the National Forest Management Act Regulations. Actions resulting from evaluation are reported in the **Plan Amendments and Action Items** sections of this report (Appendix). Evaluating the results of implementation monitoring can lead to immediate changes in the operation of a project, whereas evaluating the effectiveness or validation monitoring can be a basis for changes in future planning or management.

**Monitoring and evaluation** focus on those facets of land and resource management that could most critically affect Forest Plan implementation. Monitoring elements include:

- Items on which implementation may have a potentially significant effect;
- Items where achievement of a relevant goal or objective is going to be difficult;
- Item where projected effects may or may not occur as predicted; and

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST  
14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION REPORT

- Items where accomplishment of an objective or meeting of a standard determines the ability to achieve another goal or objective.

Management activities were monitored and evaluated as outlined in the Monitoring Requirements section of the Forest Plan, (pages 6 and 7, Table V-1, and Appendix O). This was done to determine how well objectives were met and how closely management standards were applied. Informal and formal field reviews were also conducted on a variety of projects during fiscal year 2001. These are documented in various ways, including daily diaries, file notes, and letters. These reviews are often conducted as routine inspections of timber sales, road contracts, mining operations, or while planning or implementing other projects. A summary of the key field reviews can be seen in **Section D – Other Monitoring**.

This report summarizes results of Forest Plan monitoring and evaluation conducted from October 1, 2000, through September 30, 2001. In some instances it is difficult to determine how well the Forest Plan objectives, outputs, and standards are being met. For some items data is insufficient to evaluate trends. We are continuing to develop methodologies for data acquisition and interpretation useful for evaluation.

This report is organized into six main sections, plus an appendix:

- **Monitoring and Evaluation Results and Trends**

This section compares planned outputs and services with the actual accomplishments and discusses budget and expenditure history and future projections. It also includes a detailed summary of monitoring findings for each of the required Forest Plan Monitoring Elements, subdivided by resource emphasis, i.e. wildlife, timber, recreation, etc.

- **Research Needs**
- **Summary of Forest Plan Amendments, as of September 30, 2001.**
- **List of Preparers**
- **Forest Supervisor Approval**
- **Appendix**

---

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

	Page
<b>A. Monitoring and Evaluation Results and Trends</b>	
<b>Were Outputs and Services Provided as Predicted?</b> .....	1
• Table 1, a-z.....	1
<b>B. Are the Dollars and Workforce Costs of the Plan Implemented as Expected</b> .....	10
• Table 2.....	12
• Table 3.....	13
<b>C. Forest Plan Monitoring Requirements</b> .....	14
• <b>Wildlife</b> .....	14
Item 1c: Big-Game Carrying Capacity.....	14
Item 1d: Non-Game Habitat .....	17
Item 1e: Acres of Big-Game Habitat Improvement.....	21
Item 10: Population Trends of Indicator Species – Wildlife .....	22
Item 11: Validation of Resource Prediction Models – Wildlife .....	26
• <b>Fish</b> .....	27
Item 1f: Fish Habitat Improvements .....	28
Item 2e: Fish Habitat Trends by Drainage.....	28
Item 2p: Implementation of PACFISH and Effects of Management Activities on Anadromous Fish.....	28
• <b>Timber</b> .....	28
Item 1h-1: Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) Sold by Components.....	28
Item 1h-2: Financed Volume Offered Attainment by Components.....	31
Item 1i: Acres Timber Harvested by Method (includes pre-commercial thinning).....	32
Item 2f: Vegetative Response to Treatments .....	33
Item 4: Acres of Harvested Land Restocked within 5 Years .....	34
Item 5: Site-specific Examination to Determine Suitability of Land for Timber Management.....	34
Item 6: Maximum Size of Opening for Harvest Units .....	34
Item 11: Validation of Resource Prediction: Timber (Sold acres in FY 88-98) .....	35
Table 11-a.....	35
Table 11-b.....	36
Table 11-c.....	36
Table 11-d.....	36

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED**

---

	<b>Page</b>
• <b>Soil &amp; Water</b> .....	37
Item 1j: Soil and Water Rehabilitation and Improvements .....	37
Item 2g: Impacts of Management Activities on Soils.....	38
Item 2h: Impacts of Management Activities on Water Quality.....	44
Item 2i: Water Quality – Project Level Administration Reviews and Field Studies.....	45
Item 2j: Impacts of Management Activities on Riparian Areas .....	49
Item 11: Validation of Resource Prediction Models – Water Quality And Fish .....	51
• <b>Range</b> .....	52
Item 1g: Animal Unit Months Grazing Permits .....	52
Item 11: Range Analysis and Allotment Management Plan Updates .....	52
• <b>Recreation</b> .....	53
Item 1a: Recreation Visitor Days.....	53
Item 1b: Acres of Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) Category.....	54
Item 2a: Off-Road Vehicle Impacts.....	55
Item 2b: Adequacy of Cultural Resource Protection, Impacts on Cultural Resources .....	56
Item 2c: Limits of Acceptable Change in Wilderness .....	58
Item 2d: Achievement of Visual Quality.....	60
Item 2n: Management of Designated or Eligible Wild, Scenic or Recreational River Segments .....	61
• <b>Fire, Insects, &amp; Disease</b> .....	62
Item 1k: Acres and Numbers of Wild and Prescribed Fires .....	62
Item 7: Insect and Disease Activity .....	67
• <b>Facilities</b> .....	68
Item 2k: Mitigation Measures Used For and Impact of Transportation Facilities on Resources.....	68
Item 2l: Adequacy of Transportation Facilities to Meet Resource Objectives and User Needs .....	73
• <b>Minerals</b> .....	74
Item 2m: Adequacy of Mining Operating Plans and Reclamation Bonds .....	74
• <b>Economics</b> .....	75
Item 3: Cost of Implementing Resource Management Prescriptions.....	75
Item 3a: Forest Resource Derived Revenues.....	77

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS - CONTINUED**

---

	<b>Page</b>
• <b>Effects on Others</b> .....	78
Item 8: Effects of National Forest Management Lands, Resources, And Communities Adjacent to the Forest.....	78
Item 9: Effects of Other Government Agencies' Activities on the National Forest.....	82
<b>D. Other Monitoring</b> .....	86
• <b>Nez Perce National Forest Accessibility for People with Disabilities</b> .....	86
• <b>Environmental Analysis Accomplishments Related to Timber</b> .....	88
• <b>Noxious Weed Management</b> .....	89
<b>Research Needs</b> .....	91
<b>Plan Amendments</b> .....	94
<b>List of Preparers</b> .....	100
<b>Approval</b> .....	101
<b>Appendix</b> .....	102
• Action Item(s) Related to Timber .....	102
• Action Item(s) Related to Wildlife.....	102
• Action Item(s) Related to Recreation.....	103
• Action Item(s) Related to Fisheries.....	104
• Action Item(s) Related to Soil and Water.....	105
<b>References</b> .....	107