

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Intermountain
Region

Caribou-
Targhee
National
Forest



Caribou-Targhee National Forest

Forest Plan

Monitoring and Evaluation

Report

2000-2001

Caribou - Targhee National Forest

Forest Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Report

Abstract

The Caribou and Targhee National Forests were officially combined in the spring of 2000. While many positions are shared and personnel work together on projects, the management direction for each Forest zone is different. The Targhee has been monitoring as described in their 1997 Revised Forest Plan (RFP). The Caribou zone published an Analysis of the Management Situation in 1999 that identified several Needs for Change. The AMS determined that many of the Caribou's ecological communities are "functioning but at risk" and the LRMP management was not adequate to improve these conditions. As a result, the Caribou LRMP is currently being revised. In April of 2001, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou was released. The Targhee monitoring has identified some problems to address but overall, RFP standards and guidelines are effective and helping accomplish the resource objectives. In the Caribou zone, monitoring is validating the need for revision of the Caribou LRMP.

This report touches on all functional areas of the Forest but highlights areas where we have made extensive strides in meeting RFP goals and objectives; conducted some very interesting monitoring projects; and/or completed projects to enhance the human and natural environment. These include the wildlife monitoring program, particularly Canada lynx research and the fisheries program where we have done extensive monitoring and completed structural projects to enhance native trout fisheries. The heritage resource program completed a three-year effort to stabilize the historic charcoal kilns in Birch Creek on the Dubois District. In July of 2001 we completed the restoration of the Big Falls Inn at Mesa Falls. This cooperative project with the State of Idaho and other partners is a culmination of almost a decade of work. The lands department is currently working on four land exchanges to facilitate better Forest and resource management. Restoration of aspen and open stands of Douglas-fir continue to be an emphasis in the timber program. Initial monitoring has shown variable success rates. The range department completed a cooperative sheep relocation effort to move domestic sheep away from the Teton bighorn sheep range.

Forest Supervisor's Message

This has been a very busy year for the Caribou-Targhee National Forest personnel. The Caribou and Targhee were combined in spring of 2000 but we currently operate under two different Forest Plans. The Caribou Land and Resource Management Plan is under revision and new direction is expected by fall of 2002. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Draft Revised Forest Plan was released in April of 2001. Most of the Forest resources have been channeled into this effort and the Curlew National Grassland Plan Amendment. I have not put emphasis on the Caribou monitoring plan since we have determined that it needs revision. Despite this, there has been quite a bit of monitoring done in the Caribou Zone.

In the past two years, I have asked the Forest to channel their efforts into completing some of the big projects that we have been working for a long period of time. In 2000 and 2001 we released the decisions and Final EIS's for the East Beaver-Miners Creek Timber Sale, Swan Flat Timber Sale, Box Canyon Timber Sale, and Squirrel Meadows-Grand Targhee Land Exchange. The Draft EIS's and Draft Plans for the Curlew National Grasslands and the Caribou Revised Forest Plan were released in fall of 2000 and spring of 2001, respectively. The Birch Creek Charcoal Kiln Restoration and Mesa Falls Road and Recreation Site Reconstruction were both completed this summer. The Teton Canyon Road Upgrade is nearing completion as this goes to press. In addition to these "big ticket" projects, the Caribou-Targhee personnel have been working on a myriad of District projects and gathering field information for many outyear projects. Our Personnel and Contracting Departments have had very busy years hiring all the new employees for the National Fire Plan and developing fire contracts so that we can be more responsive to wildfire incidences. In the midst of all this, we consolidated the Caribou Supervisor's Office and most of the Targhee Supervisor's Office personnel into one building in Idaho Falls. The Headquarters for the Caribou-Targhee is now collocated with the Bureau of Land Management on Hollipark Drive in Idaho Falls. Earlier this month, the Westside District office in Pocatello moved from the Federal building downtown to Arthur (in Pocatello). This move is temporary while we solicit bids for a facility where we would collocate with the BLM there as well. We hope that these measures will help keep our fixed management costs down so we can channel more money out onto the ground for projects.

In December of 2000 the Caribou-Targhee published a Monitoring and Evaluation Report for the years 1997-1999. This extensive report will be produced approximately every 5 years. In the interim, the Forest will publish an abbreviated version highlighting the important milestones that the Forest has reached in the previous year. This monitoring report will cover 2000 and part of 2001 RFP monitoring. Please contact our office for additional information regarding any of our resource areas. The List of Preparers in the back of this report has the contributors and their telephone numbers if you wish to contact any one of them.

In the 1997-1999 Report we had recommendations for several changes to the monitoring protocols, standards, etc. The Forest Leadership Team has reviewed that list and determined that we have a need to amend the Targhee RFP to address one of the problem areas. This travel language amendment will be discussed in more detail in this report under Access. After evaluation of the monitoring data, some specialists recommended changes to the monitoring protocols and items monitored. The interdisciplinary team and Forest Leadership Team will review those recommendations and will decide on which, if any, changes need to be made. The teams may also decide to amend the monitoring plan, which would require an amendment to the RFP, analyzed under NEPA. This is not likely to occur until after the Curlew Amendment and Caribou Revision are completed.

Despite the opportunity to make other minor changes to the Targhee RFP, I have determined that the standards and guidelines therein are moving us towards the Desired Future Condition that the public and Forest Service worked together to develop.

Jerry B. Reese
JERRY B. REESE
Caribou - Targhee National Forest Supervisor

Monitoring Items

TABLE OF MONITORING ITEMS—TARGHEE ZONE

Table 1: Summary of monitoring accomplishments. Legend: ○--no monitoring;)--less than 25% of required; ◐--about 50% of required; ◑--about 75% of required; ●--100% or more of required; a blank space means the information was unavailable.

Monitoring Item	1997-1999	2000-2001
Long-Term Visual Range in Class I and II Airsheds	○	○
Hydrologic Disturbance in Watersheds	○	○
Woody Residue Needs for Soil and Wildlife	◐	◑
Detrimental Soil Disturbance	◑	◑
Fine Organic Matter Retention	○)
Improvement of Water Quality Limited Streams	○	◐
Application of Best Management Practices	○	●
Native Cutthroat Trout Habitat Features	●	●
Timber Volume Removed from Unsuitable and Suitable-Unscheduled (U/S-U) Lands	●	●
Pest Increase in Managed Stands	●	●
Ute Ladies'-Tresses Populations	●	●
Vegetation Structure, Composition, and Distribution of Sagebrush/Grassland Habitats	●	○
Cavity Nesters	○	○
Standing Dead Tree Habitat	○	○
Grizzly Bear Population	●	●

Monitoring Item	1997-1999	2000-2001
Grizzly Bear Habitat Improvement	●	●
Bald Eagle Nesting Population	●	●
Gray Wolf Population	●	●
Peregrine Falcon Nesting Population	●	●
Furbearer Population Trends	◑	◑
Goshawk Population Trends	●	●
Forest Owl Population	◐	◐
Spotted Frog Population	○	●
Common Loon Population	●	●
Harlequin Duck Population	◐	◐
Elk Vulnerability and Elk Habitat Effectiveness	●	●
Red Squirrel Population	◐	◐
User Satisfaction	○	○
Budget	○	○
Trumpeter Swan Nesting Population	●	●

Monitoring Item	1997-1999	2000-2001
Seasonal Trail Use Impacts to Soil and Vegetation))
Recreation/Wildlife Conflicts))
Dispersed Campsite Soil Displacement	●	●
Jedediah Smith Wilderness LAC and Further Details	●	●
Authorized Use Levels	◑	◑
Road Closure Effectiveness	○)
Achievement of Road Density Standards	●	●
Streambank Disturbance/Subtle Height/Channel Stability))
Riparian Forage Utilization w/in Key Areas	●	●
Upland Forage Utilization w/in Key Areas	●	●
Riparian and Upland Long-Term Benchmarks	●	●
Changes to Land Suitability	●	●
Maximum Created Opening Size	●	●
Security Cover Retention	●	●
Large Forested Block Retention	●	●

TABLE OF MONITORING ITEMS—CARIBOU ZONE

Table 2: Summary of the monitoring accomplishments from the 1998 Amended Monitoring Plan. Legend: ○--no monitoring;)--less than 25% of required; ◐--about 50% of required; ◑--about 75% of required; ●--100% or more of required; a blank space--information unavailable.

Monitoring Item	Developed Site Fee Records and Condition	Dispersed Area Use and Condition	Off-road Vehicle (ORV) Use and Resource Condition	Trail Condition	Project compliance with heritage resource protections	Protection and Evaluation of Significant Properties	Compliance with VOO's on projects	Condition and Use of Recommended Wilderness Areas	Deer and Elk Winter Range	Whooping Crane Occupancy	Bald Eagle	Cutthroat Trout	Bonneville Cutthroat Trout
1997-1999	●	●	◐	●			●	●	○	●	●)	●
2000-2001	●)	◐	●	●	●	●	◑	○			●	●

Monitoring Item	Northern Goshawk	Hairy Woodpecker	Red-naped Sapsucker	Sage Grouse	Special or Unique Habitats	Wildlife Habitat Diversity	Fish and Aquatic Habitat Rating	Range Condition and Trend	Changes to Timber Suitability Analysis	Regeneration within 5 years of Harvest	Compliance with Idaho Forest Practices Act	Abnormal timber mortality on suitable lands	Ensure Harvest schedule is followed	Compliance with State standards for potable water	Maximum size of clearcut units
1997-1999)	●	●	●	●	●	●	◐	●	●	●	●	●		●
2000-2001)			●	●		●	◐	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Monitoring Item	Compliance with State WO standards for mgt. activities	Changes in water yield	Compliance with terms of mining operating plans	Number of surface acres disturbed by mining and acres reclaimed	Resolution of public issues	Effects on lands managed by other jurisdictions	Actual implementation costs versus planned	Land and ROW purchases, exchanges, locations	Administration of Special Use Permits	Entry into Settlement Agreement Undeveloped Areas	Ecological Status based on soil potentials	Surface Erosion	Roadability	Mass Movement
1997-1999	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
2000-2001	●	●	●	○	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Monitoring Item	Road Construction or Reconstruction	Road Management	Trail construction or reconstruction	Natural Fuel Management	Fire Control Objective	Compliance with air quality S & G's for Rx burn	Ensure that destructive insects, disease, and undesirable plants do not increase after management	Ensure RNA's are managed according to their establishment reports
1997-1999	○	○	●	◐	●	●	●	◐
2000-2001		◐		●	●	●	●	●



Summary of Objectives & Monitoring Findings

This Chapter highlights the different resource areas on the Caribou-Targhee for 2000 and 2001. Monitoring, evaluation and accomplishments on the Forest are presented together here.

Ecological Processes and Patterns

PROPERLY FUNCTIONING CONDITION

To date, the Forest has completed two PFC assessments, covering two ecological subsections and one covering the Caribou Zone. Numerous watershed-scale analyses have been conducted using similar principles, most recently the Thomas Fork of the Bear River Watershed Assessment. The predominant trend of vegetation types on the forest is to more shade-tolerant, mature community types. Conifers are succeeding community types associated with periodic disturbances such as seral aspen stands, mountain brush complexes, tall forb meadows and open grasslands with scattered sagebrush. Timber stands are moving from lodgepole pine, Douglas fir, and open whitebark/limber pine stands to dense mixed conifer stands of Douglas-fir, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce. According to the GIS database, most of the timber on the Caribou-Targhee is mature and there is less age class diversity than historically present in these habitat types.

INSECTS AND DISEASE

Across the Forest, insect and disease activity has increased in the forests. This is likely due to the higher densities and older trees within the stands. A spruce budworm outbreak is occurring in the Lemhi/Medicine Lodge ecological subsection, however. Douglas-fir bark beetle and spruce budworm are attacking Douglas-fir in the Centennials, particularly in unmanaged stands on the west end of the mountain range. According to recent field surveys by the Insects and Disease team from Boise, Douglas-fir beetle activity is increasing throughout the Forest (August 2000 and 2001). White pine blister rust has been affecting many stands of whitebark and limber pine in the Centennial Mountains subsection.

Post-logging surveys on the Ta-Man-A-Wis and Camas timber sales have shown Douglas-fir bark beetle activity. Unlogged stands, however, have as much or more beetle activity. From this the Forest concludes that logging has not contributed to the increase in pest occurrences.

FIRE

In the wake of the 2000 fire season, the Caribou-Targhee fire management group has been implementing the National Fire Plan. The local and national emphasis has been on fuels management, wildland fire planning, and bringing fire-fighting resources up to Most Efficient Levels (MEL). In the wildland fire planning, the Forest is continuing work on the Wildland Fire Use Guidebooks which are an objective in the Targhee RFP. These Guidebooks are an interdisciplinary effort, addressing the use of prescribed natural fire and wildland fire in each subsection. In addition, the Forest is beginning work on the Island Park Interface Fuels Reduction project which would reduce fuels along the wildland/urban interface from the Montana border south to Ashton, Idaho.

As part of the National Fire Plan, the Caribou-Targhee has hired 30 career and 45 temporary employees. Sixty-two of these positions are in fire preparedness and 13 are in fuels reduction. The 20-person Centennial fire crew is now stationed in Island Park. To further support the C-T efforts, we have 11 more career preparedness jobs to fill.

In 2000, the Caribou-Targhee completed fuels reduction projects on 5,357 acres, most of which were in sagebrush/grasslands. In 2001, the C-T has burned 1,804 acres and mechanically treated 184 acres to reduce hazardous fuels. An additional 8000 acres of fuels reduction are planned for the fall of 2001.

The Caribou-Targhee received over \$200,000 for restoration of areas burned in 2000. Funding for noxious weed monitoring and prevention was given to Dubois and Montpelier Ranger Districts. On the Westside Ranger District, approximately 1000 acres have been seeded with native plants, including sagebrush, on the Curlew National Grassland.

Through other special funding authorized by the National Fire Plan, the Forest Service has paid out over \$215,000 to reimburse private landowners for losses of fences and other structures due to the wildfires of 2000. So far, payments have been issued to over 24 landowners in 10 communities. Nearly all of the money has gone towards replacing about 52 miles of fence on private lands in southeast Idaho.

Physical Elements

SOILS

In 2000 and 2001, monitoring has emphasized effectiveness of mitigation measures and effects of burns. To this end, we conducted soil monitoring on the Pritchard/Garden Creek and Meadow Creek prescribed fires and the Elk Valley, Taylor Canyon and Bare Canyon wildfires. So far, several field reviews and reports have been completed to document the successes in rehabilitation efforts.

Pre-harvest down woody debris and ground cover monitoring has been done on several timber sales and prescribed fire projects (Emigration, Brockman, South Big Holes, and others). Down woody debris is one of the essential factors needed to maintain long-term soil productivity. The site-specific data will be used to better describe existing conditions and to validate information from literature for natural conditions. Post-treatment monitoring has been conducted in the Ta-Man-A-Wis and Beaver Creek sale areas. On these three sales, down woody debris levels exceeded the standards except in those units where complete clean-up was required to meet project objectives (Girl Scout Camp hazard tree removal). Previous years' monitoring on other areas has shown that while 80-85% of the post-harvest units exceed minimum standards for down woody debris, 70% exceeded soil standards for compaction. Surprisingly, 50% of non-harvested samples also exceeded soil compaction standards; this will lead to adjustments in monitoring methods.

A team comprised of a soil scientist, hydrologist, and fisheries biologist has been evaluating the effectiveness of the road closure methods, primarily in the Henry's Lake Area. This effort was necessitated by the Appeal Decision on the Targhee Travel Plan II. The information gathered will be used in the Henry's Lake Area Travel Plan Implementation EA and will be extrapolated, where appropriate, to other areas. Preliminary information indicates that ripping the road is more effective in rehabilitating the road prism and avoiding impacts to soil and water. Earthen berms, however, appear to be the most effective method of stopping motorized travel.

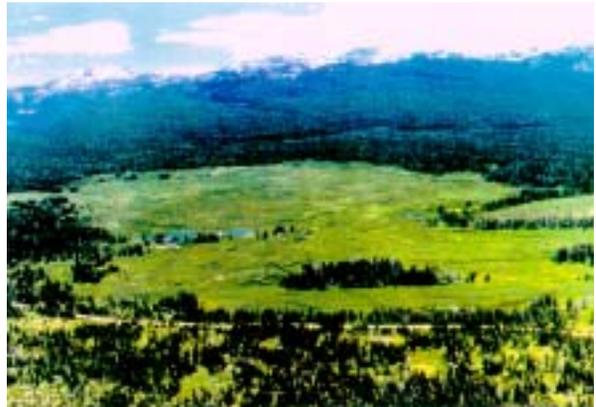
On Teton Basin District, there have been two landslides which have may have impacted the water quality in streams below. This information on mass movement potentials is being used to validate and update the management recommendations for those soil types in the Targhee Ecological Unit Inventory. One other mass movement has occurred on the Soda Springs District. This landslide in Stump Creek was not management induced.

The soil scientists continue to do ground cover measurements to determine soil productivity in rangelands, primarily on the Caribou Zone. According to the Forest

Plans, 65% to 70% ground cover is required to maintain soil productivity. As in previous years, the 2000 and 2001 monitoring has recorded an average of 85% to 90% ground cover on the sites. Monitoring has also shown a reduction in soil erosion in the past two years. This is likely because of the dry year with little water to move sediment. Long-term erosion, however, has also been reduced on the 24 sites measured each year.

LANDS

The Targhee has completed one land exchange since the signing of the RFP. In the North Fork exchange with Ricks College we acquired the first parcel of private land in Squirrel Meadows. This property, important grizzly bear habitat and a unique wetland, is under several different ownerships. In December of 2000, the Forest Supervisor signed the Record of Decision for the second exchange to acquire 400 acres of Squirrel Meadows in exchange for 120 acres at the base of Grand Targhee Resort. This was appealed and then litigated by several groups. The Forest is now working on a Supplemental EIS to comply with the Judge's August 2001 Order. Scoping has begun for the Yale Creek exchange which would transfer the final 21 acres into Federal ownership. If both of these exchanges are completed, it will end a 25-year campaign to acquire and preserve this critical wildlife habitat.



Squirrel Meadows, northeast of Ashton, Idaho

In September of 2001, a decision was signed approving the Oneida County Land Exchange. In this exchange, the Forest will acquire 120 acres of private land owned by Oneida County that is within in the Curlew National Grassland for 80 acres of NFS land on the boundary of the CNG.

MINERALS

The southeast portion of the Caribou-Targhee encompasses most of the Idaho phosphate reserves. In 1996 we discovered that selenium, a mineral essential to humans in trace amounts but toxic in large amounts, was leaching from overburden minewaste dumps on the Forest. In order to deal with this problem, the IDEQ, BIA, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, BLM, FS, EPA, US Fish and Wildlife Service, State of Idaho, university researchers, concerned citizens, and mining interests joined together to form the Selenium Area-Wide Advisory Committee. The primary focus of the group this year, is to guide data collection and process for an area-wide Risk Assessment conducted under the guidance of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality. Risk will be evaluated at the regional levels to assess the potential to impact human health and ecological populations from the release of hazardous substances from phosphate mining operations. From this effort, general guidelines and practices will be developed to manage phosphate mining and reclamation. Many of the mine operations are being modified right now to employ mitigations and alternative mine methods in an effort to reduce or eliminate hazardous substance releases. These include the Dry Valley, Central Rasmussen Ridge, Enoch Valley and Smoky Canyon Mines.

In addition to the mitigation measures, which are designed to prevent further contamination from current and future operations, the Forest has initiated a "Site Investigation" (SI) and subsequent "Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis" EE/CE to quantify and develop alternatives that will address any identified contaminant releases at the South Maybe Canyon site. Authority has been given to the Forest Service to conduct response action using the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Plans are emerging to approach other mining operations where suspected releases could be occurring. A Memorandum of Understanding signed in July 2000 between the FS, BLM, IDEQ, BIA, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and EPA will guide the process under which the Area wide Investigation and site-specific investigations will occur. FS personnel will serve to lead the investigation on all phosphate mine sites occupying National Forest System Lands. The Forest has hired an On-Scene Coordinator, and plans to hire a soil scientist and hydrologist to help with this effort.

Along with using mitigation measures to prevent leaching of hazardous substances, the mines have made strides in their reclamation efforts. Most mines have switched from using introduced plant species to using primarily natives for reclamation mixes. Mines are planting conifer and aspen seedlings and the brush and tree transplanting has increased. Some of the aspen seedlings are from seed collected on-site. At the Dry Valley mine, Astaris LLC relocated a stream into a new channel to preserve and intermittent reach of Dry Valley Creek which would have been destroyed by mining operations.



Aerial photograph of Dry Valley Creek showing original stream channel on the left and channel constructed by Astaris, Inc. in fall of 2000, on the right. Photo courtesy of Astaris, Inc.



Relocated Dry Valley Creek: note silt fencing; erosion matting along stream channel; willows planted at nick points; floodplain was seeded and covered with erosion matting as well. Photo 10/00.

Biological Elements

FISHERIES

The Caribou-Targhee National Forest Fisheries Program has again exceeded targets for fish population and habitat surveys during the 2000 and 2001 field seasons. For the most up-to-date information on the fisheries program, see our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/caribou/Targhee/fishing/>

Fish Distribution and Habitat Surveys

In 2000, the Caribou-Targhee Forest Fish Distribution Survey was used to sample 42 streams on Palisades, Soda Springs, and Montpelier Ranger Districts. Of the 31 streams sampled in the range of Yellowstone cutthroat trout, 20 were found to be strongholds for the subspecies. Of the 11 streams sampled in the range of Bonneville cutthroat trout, only 2 streams are

considered strongholds for the subspecies. The outlook for the long term viability of Yellowstone cutthroat trout improved, but the concern for Bonneville cutthroat trout increased. The extent of the invasion of nonnative fish species such as brook trout was very alarming. Brook trout are outcompeting Bonneville cutthroat trout for habitat and displacing them in most of the Bonneville cutthroat trout survey streams. The 2000 fish distribution surveys have identified restoration opportunities in most of the Yellowstone and Bonneville cutthroat trout drainages visited.

In 2001, fish distribution surveys were done on all of the major streams on the Westside District (Malad and Pocatello areas). The surveys in the Bear River Range of the Montpelier District were completed as well. Results from these surveys are not available at this time. Please check out the fisheries website at the end of the year for the 2001 Annual Report.



Yellowstone cutthroat trout

In 2000, the habitat survey crew inventoried the entire Burns Creek and Pine Creek Watersheds. These are extremely important tributaries to South Fork Snake River Yellowstone cutthroat trout. In 2001, R1/R4 stream channel surveys were completed on most of the major streams on the Westside District and in Moody Creek on the Palisades District.



2000 Habitat Survey Crew

The conservation of our rare fish species will not be successful unless we consider all life history patterns of the fish, including adfluvial, or lake dwelling, populations.

In 2000, Upper and Lower Palisades Lakes were selected as our first lake survey locations because of the high recreational use in the watershed and the potential to find an isolated population of pure Yellowstone cutthroat trout. A team of Forest and IDFG Fisheries personnel surveyed the lakes in late August. Aquatic and riparian habitat surveys were conducted on the lakes and their inlets. Water quality and macroinvertebrate data were collected. More than 60 genetic samples were collected from the isolated cutthroat trout population found in the upper lake.

Beaver Reintroduction Project

In the summer 2000, fish biologist Lee Mabey and project partners developed and implemented a survey to identify areas where beaver re-introduction or population enhancement could help improve riparian and hydrologic conditions. These improvements could spin off benefits to riparian and aquatic dependent resources and enhance water quality.

This survey of 80 stream miles on tributaries of the Teton River was the next logical step after a recent watershed analysis indicated a decline in beaver populations in the analysis area. The decrease in beaver populations has contributed to the decline of several stable, functioning streams. Beaver transplant compatibility matrices were completed for survey units on each stream to assess the feasibility of introducing beaver to an area based on social, biological/ecological, and habitat suitability parameters. Three streams were identified as pilot areas for beaver reintroduction. Idaho Fish and Game modified harvest rules to help insure success. In 2001, we found beaver in one of those streams, Packsaddle Creek, where they had been absent the year before. Beaver have also been successfully reintroduced to the East Fork of Indian Creek, on the Dubois District.

Free Fishing Days

For the past several years, the Forest has hosted 3 Free Fishing Day Celebrations throughout Southeast Idaho. The traditional event at Mill Pond in Island Park was joined by new events at Little Lemhi Boy Scout Camp near the South Fork Snake River and a Kelly Park pond in Soda Springs. An average of 25 kids and their parents participated in each of the events each year.

Rainey Creek Restoration

In a partnership with One Fly Foundation and Bonneville County Road Crew, personnel at Palisades Ranger District implemented a restoration project to decrease human impacts to lower Rainey Creek. Rainey Creek is an extremely important Yellowstone cutthroat trout spawning and rearing tributary of the South Fork Snake River.

Segments of Rainey Creek Road that encroached upon the stream were relocated out of the riparian area. Motorized access to Rainey Creek riparian area was minimized with the placement of rock and fence barriers. Riparian dispersed campsites were limited and replaced with hardened campsites out of the riparian area. Juniper revetments were placed on

eroding stream banks. A hydraulic stinger was used to burrow deep into the ground to plant willow and cottonwood close to the water table. This work is expected to decrease sediment delivery to the stream and enhance riparian areas, providing direct benefits to Yellowstone cutthroat trout.

Golden Lake Restoration

In October 2000, Golden Lake and its tributaries received their second treatment of piscicide in an effort to significantly decrease the number of non-native brook and rainbow trout in the system. Monitoring of the 1999 effort indicated the need for an additional treatment after several hundred surviving brook trout were observed. In the 2000 treatment, both antimycin and rotenone were used. Drip stations, backpack sprayers, and a rotenone sand mixture were used in the watershed. In June 2001, Golden Lake was restocked with native Yellowstone cutthroat trout. We are planning habitat improvement projects this fall, to create more pools and spawning habitat in the tributaries to Golden Lake.

Palisades District Weir Projects

In cooperation with Idaho Fish and Game, the Forest has installed fish collection weirs near the mouths of Burns, Rainey, Palisades, and Pine Creeks. The latter is under construction as this report goes to press. These weirs are designed to collect all upstream migrating fish. Native cutthroat are passed over the weirs and others are not allowed to migrate further upstream. In 2001, the Burns Creek weir collected 3150 trout, only 3 were hybrids; this confirms our identification of Burns Creek as Yellowstone cutthroat trout stronghold. The weir in Rainey Creek was shut down because of low flows from irrigation; this may have eliminated all fluvial spawning trout for this season. In Palisades Creek, 600 fish were collected, 180 of these were hybrids and rainbows. This is likely because obstructions were bypassed by an irrigation ditch for part of period.

Support for the C-T Fisheries Program has come from Federation of Flyfishers, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, Wyoming Dept. of Game & Fish, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, Idaho State Parks Department, Nature Conservancy, partners in the Henry's Fork Cutthroat Trout Subcommittee, and Idaho Dept. of Fish & Game.

WATER AND RIPARIAN RESOURCES

In 2000, the soils and hydrology department conducted a Best Management Practice review of timber sales on the Montpelier and Palisades Districts. The team found some minor problems but overall, projects are complying with the Idaho Forest Practices Act. A review is scheduled for September of 2001.

The Clean Water Act requires States to identify streams and stream segments with impaired water quality. These water quality limited streams (WQLS) can be listed for several reasons, such as too much sediment, high temperatures, chemical inputs, etc. Once a stream is listed, the State develops total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for the various

stream parameters. Forest hydrologists have been working with the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality to develop these TMDLs for basins in southeast Idaho. These have been finalized for Palisades and Lake Wolcott Basins; are almost final for Blackfoot and Portneuf River Basins; and are in draft form for Willow Creek and Bear River Basins.

In 2000 and 2001, the Forest put thermosters in all of the streams that are listed as WQLS for temperature. These devices record stream temperatures for the entire summer. Results from 2000 are in the tables below. The thermosters are still in the creeks as this report is being published so 2001 results are not available. Since the summer of 2000 was an unusually hot and dry summer, these findings likely represent the high end of the temperature regime. The hydrologists postulate that high water temperatures do not impair Medicine Lodge, Fritz, Beaver, and Fox Creeks. Beaver and Fritz Creeks will be monitored in 2001 to verify this conclusion. Bloomington Creek was measured for turbidity (sediment). It is within State water quality standards.

Water Quality Limited Segments

Stream	Max Temp (C)	# Days Over Standard*	Date of Max Temp	Comments
Medicine Lodge	19.1	0	Aug. 2	T11N, R8W, Sec 18
Fritz Creek	21.0	0	July 26	@ Forest boundary
Beaver Creek	22.1	1	July 30	Above Spencer, ID
Fox Creek	10.6	0	July 16	@ Forest boundary
Brockman Cr	--	--	--	Lost in beaver pond
Sawmill Creek	--	--	--	Found out of water
Corral Creek	26.9	37	July 30	@ 086 Road

*: Temperature standard for Cold Water Biota is a maximum of 22° C

Other Streams Exceeding State Standards

Stream	Max Temp (C)	# Days Over Standard	Date of Max Temp	Comments
Moody Creek	23.1	2	July 17	@ Forest Boundary
Upper Pine Cr	24.6	33	July 16	Below WF Pine Cr
Lower Pine Cr	23.1	14	Aug. 1	@ Forest Boundary

VEGETATION

The Ute Ladies'-Tresses is a threatened orchid, which has been found on the South Fork of the Snake River near Heise, Idaho. A cooperative project with the Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Conservation Data Center, and Caribou-Targhee has been monitoring this population for several years. Complete surveys of the known



populations of Ute Ladies'-Tresses have been conducted each year; this is over and above the RFP requirement to do grid surveys. The monitoring shows that short-term trend is up but long-term trend is unknown. The monitoring has pointed out some problems, which were resolved, such as changing the time of use within a grazing allotment. Livestock grazing standards appear to not conflict with managing for the long-term existence of the plant. Recreation management along the South Fork has been adjusted in several places to avoid disturbing the orchids during their flowering season. Drought conditions in 2001 appear to have affected the distribution and abundance. Surveys have also been conducted in marginal and potential habitat throughout the Forest; no additional plants or populations have been found.

WILDLIFE

The Caribou-Targhee wildlife program has been very active in seeking partnerships. Challenge-cost-share partnerships have been developed for monitoring, inventory, and habitat improvement projects. Populations of federally listed and candidate species on the Forest have been increasing steadily: grizzly bears have exceeded recovery targets; bald eagles have exceeded recovery targets; peregrine falcons were delisted in 2000 and the C-T is home to 38% of the known eyries in the State; wolf sightings are increasing; Canada lynx analysis units (LAUs) have been mapped across the Forest; and seven of the State's 25 active trumpeter swan nests are on the Targhee.

Grizzly Bear (T)

As detailed in the 1997-1999 Monitoring and Evaluation Report, the grizzly bear has exceeded all of the recovery targets and the States are convening teams to determine how they will be managed once delisted. C-T Forest Biologist Mark Orme is the FS representative and leader for the Idaho team, chartered by the State Legislature. Since 1999, there have been over 50 new grizzly bear sightings on the C-T, many of which are outside of the Recovery Zone. We had our first grizzly bear/domestic sheep conflict outside of the Recovery Zone in 2000. In the spring of 2001, we issued a Special Order extending the regulations for food storage and garbage disposal to include everything inside of the Recovery Zone, except for the Management Situation 3 habitat. This was an effort to further minimize human-grizzly encounters.

The 1997 RFP gives direction to phase out domestic sheep allotments inside the grizzly bear recovery line and in bighorn sheep habitat. In 2001, with the cooperation of the permittee and help the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, the Green Mountain Sheep allotment in the Bechler/Teton BMU was closed. In cooperation with another permittee, the Badger-Twin Sheep allotment, also in the Bechler/Teton BMU, has been held vacant for 2000 and 2001.

Known human-caused grizzly bear mortalities are documented each year throughout the recovery area and within 10 miles outside of the recovery area. For the C-T, the last human-caused grizzly bear mortality occurred in 1984. From 1985 through September 2001, a span of 16 ½ years, there have been no human-caused grizzly bear mortalities on the Caribou-Targhee.

Grey Wolf (T)

As of the summer of 2001, there are still no documented breeding pairs of wolves on the Caribou-Targhee. In 2001 we had livestock depredations adjacent and near to the Forest. This winter, a wolf was preying on livestock adjacent to the Forest in the Soda Springs area. This animal was caught in mid-winter. In May and June, wolves preying on sheep in the Humphrey area are thought to have spent some time on the Dubois District. After killing almost 40 adult rams, these wolves appear to have left the area.

Canada Lynx (T)

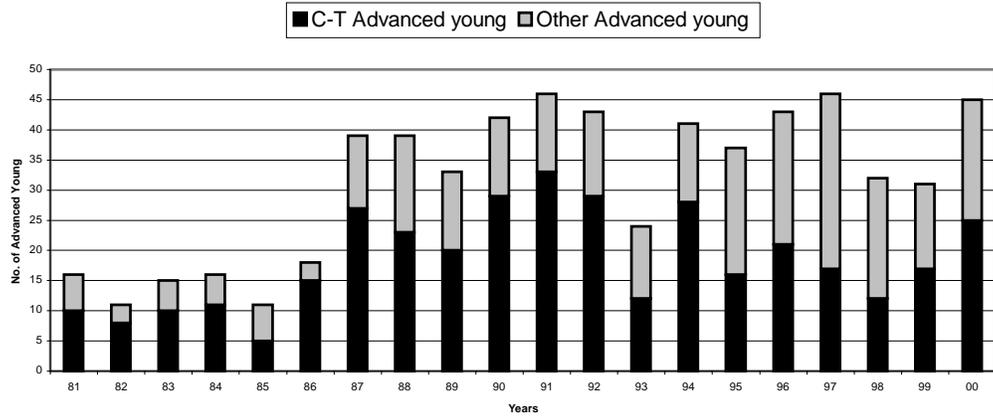
The Caribou-Targhee has been participating in a nation-wide study to determine Canada lynx occurrence and densities. In 1999 the Forest installed two sampling grids covering about 64 square miles each in the Centennials Mountains and on the Moose Creek Plateau. One grid was established in 2000, southwest of Afton, Wyoming. In 2001 those three grids were surveyed along with two others in the Big Hole Mountains and along the West Slope of the Tetons. The C-T has more sampling grids than any other Forest in the nation. We have received the analysis results from 1999 and 2000 surveys and no Canada lynx hair has been found. This information will be used to update the LAU maps.

Along with these hair-snare surveys, the Forest has been studying snowshoe hare densities, particularly in the Island Park area. The snowshoe hare is the primary food source for Canada lynx and high densities of hares are integral to maintaining a viable Canada lynx population. In this study, researchers have found no evidence of high hare densities in any stands older than saplings. They have also not found concentrations of hares in older stands, regardless of forest type. Based on these observations, McKelvey and McDaniel "do not believe that the stands in which we found the...most hares will be productive 10-15 years in the future." This information will be used to determine how to manage the many acres of young lodgepole pine in the Island Park area.

Bald Eagle (T)

In 2000, the bald eagles on the C-T and adjacent lands had their third highest productivity year since 1981. Twenty-five of the 45 advanced young produced in SE Idaho and adjacent Wyoming were from the Caribou-Targhee nest territories. The chart below shows trend in productivity since 1981.

Bald Eagle Productivity

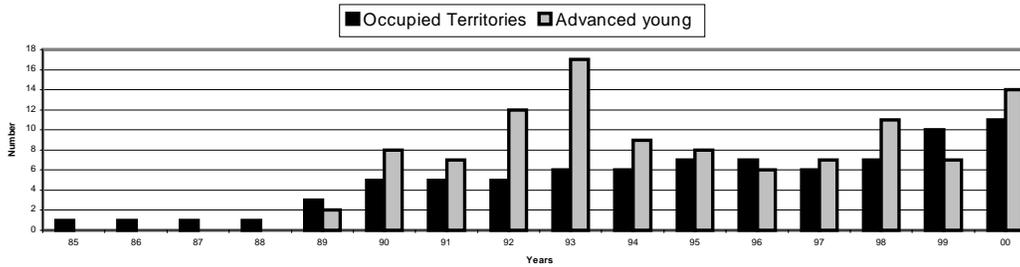


Peregrine Falcon

The peregrine falcon was removed from the Endangered Species List in spring of 2000. Late in 1999, a new peregrine falcon territory was discovered on the Soda Springs District. This pair successfully fledged one bird in

1999 and 3 in 2000. Another Eyrie was discovered in 2000 in Pine Creek Canyon. After several years of declining productivity, the trend was reversed last year. Fourteen birds were fledged off the Caribou-Targhee in 2000; this is the second highest number since 1989.

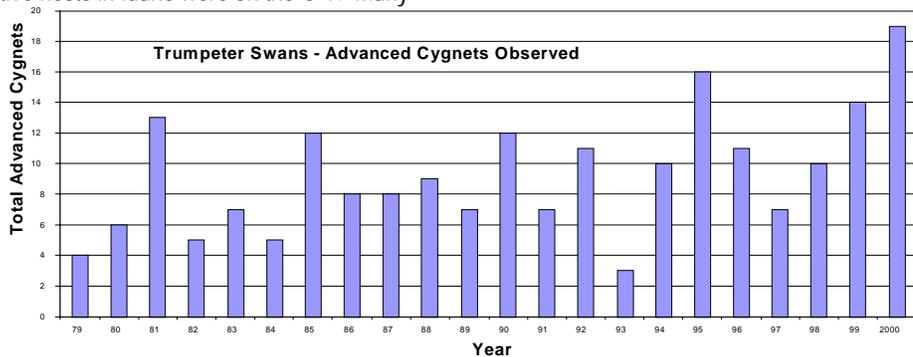
Peregrine Falcon Territories within and adjacent to the Caribou-Targhee



Trumpeter Swan

The resident trumpeter swans on the Caribou-Targhee are part of the Tri-State flocks which winter and breed in the Greater Yellowstone Area. This population of 346 birds remains one of the smallest and most vulnerable waterfowl breeding populations in North America. Trumpeter swans who breed in Alberta, Canada also winter in the Tri-State Area, primarily around Island Park. The Caribou-Targhee is vital to continuation of the Tri-State flocks. In 1999, seven of the 25 active nests in Idaho were on the C-T. Many

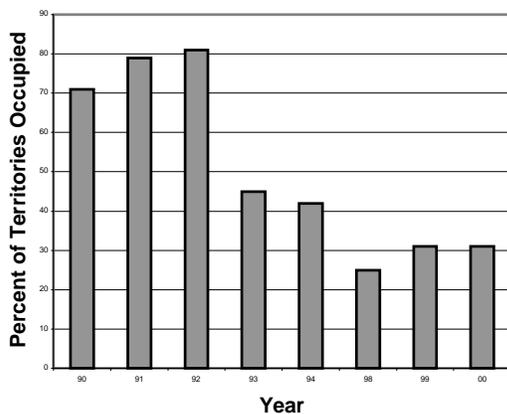
factors are affecting nest success by trumpeters, one of them being quality of the available breeding habitat. In 2000, the highest number of cygnets were observed since surveys were first conducted in 1979. In spring of 2001, the Caribou-Targhee proposed a project to improve trumpeter swan breeding habitat at four sites in the Ashton/Island Park District. We hope to complete these projects in the fall of 2001. The C-T has also been part of an Interagency effort to expand trumpeter swan distribution.



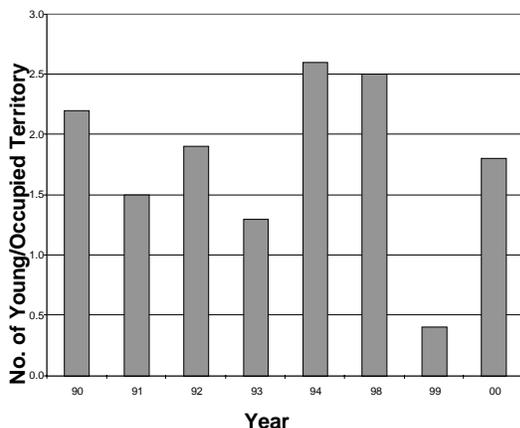
Northern Goshawk

The northern goshawk is a management indicator species that the Caribou-Targhee has been monitoring for over two decades. Due to various levels of surveying, only data from 1990-1994 and 1998 to present is used to determine trend. The percent of known territories that are occupied remains low (31%). Despite the protective standards developed in the 1997 RFP, this is down from the 80% occupancy rate in the early 1990's. Patla (2000) believes this trend is due to a variety of factors, including possible cyclic population, weather patterns, monitoring methods, management, etc. In 1999, the goshawk on the C-T produced only 2 young, the lowest number recorded. In 2000, however, 9 young were produced. This is about average productivity. The chart below show occupancy and productivity of northern goshawk territories on the C-T.

Goshawk -- # Territories Occupied



Goshawk -- # Young/Occupied Territory



Forest Use and Occupation

ACCESS

Access management has been one of the most, if not the most, contentious issues of the past decade. Since the RFP was signed, the Forest has been analyzing and designing its Travel Plan. The first Travel Plan decision under the RFP received approximately 1100 appeals. After a Regional Office review, the Targhee's decision was reversed based on inadequate public involvement and effects disclosure. Travel Plan II was issued in October of 1999 and it was also appealed. The appeal decision affirmed the Targhee on which roads were closed and which were open. The Forest has begun the first of the NEPA projects to analyze the effects of road decommissioning efforts in the grizzly bear management units. A team of a soil scientist, hydrologist, and fisheries biologist has spent the summer of 2001 field reviewing the road closures in the Henry's Lake Travel Plan Implementation Project area. This data will be used to analyze the effects of each closure and method.

In August of 2001, the Forest began a RFP amendment to adjust the definition of the "snow-season". Currently, the snow season is defined as beginning on Thanksgiving. Much of the Forest, however, has very little snow by this time and over-the-snow travel is not possible. The amendment would define the beginning of the snow season by environmental conditions; it should be completed by winter of 2002.

A Roads Analysis is being completed for both the Curlew National Grassland Amendment and the Caribou Forest Plan Revision. These analyses will chart the long-term transportation network on the Forest. On the Targhee, we will look at the Travel Plan documents to determine if they follow the six-step process identified in the Roads Policy.

RECREATION

Recreation continues to increase on the Caribou-Targhee. Trail use monitoring found that there are areas with moderate to significant effects on soils, vegetation, and water. The areas that exceed the soil quality standards have been scheduled for rehabilitation or maintenance. All dispersed campsites monitored met soil quality standards at the site. Ruts on the entrance roads and streambank disturbance were noted as problems. Impacts of recreation on wildlife have proven very difficult to assess. Monitoring has shown that area closures to motorized travel are being violated but it is unclear if this is affecting wildlife.

Bloomington Canyon, west of Bear Lake, is a very popular recreation area. The Forest is working on an environmental assessment to analyze and mitigate the recreation impacts in Bloomington. The Bloomington Canyon Recreation Analysis should be completed in 2002. We are expanding and

improving the Cherry Creek Campground, south of Downey, Idaho. Several other campgrounds have been reconstructed to bring them up to health and safety standards. These include Reunion Flat, Flat Rock, Warm River, Blowout, and Riverside Park Campgrounds and Big Elk Creek Trailhead.

The environmental assessment for the Teton Pass Trail Project is out for public review and comment. This proposal is part of former President Clinton's Millenium Trail Initiative and authorize would construction of a 10-foot wide paved trail from Driggs, Idaho, over Teton Pass to Wilson, Wyoming.

Mesa Falls Recreation Area

For the past 12 years, the Caribou-Targhee and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation have been working cooperatively to improve the Mesa Falls Recreation Site. Upper and Lower Mesa Falls on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River are on lands administered by the Caribou-Targhee. Upper Mesa Falls plunges over 100 feet while Lower Mesa Falls is about 65 feet high. In the early 20th century, Thomas Elliot applied for a permit to put a dam on the Henry's Fork at Upper Mesa Falls. His plan never came to fruition and when he sold the land, his residence was converted into the Big Falls Inn. This land was later traded to the Forest Service. Both waterfalls are popular destinations for visitors from all over the world.

The Mesa Fall project has had several components including upgrading the road to the falls; restoring the Big Falls Inn at Upper Mesa Falls; and improving the interpretive displays and pathways. The Mesa Falls Scenic Byway, between Ashton and Island Park, Idaho, was widened and repaved between 1999 and 2001. Volunteers and employees worked for several years to restore the Big Falls Inn and transform it into a universally accessible Visitors Center. The official Mesa Falls Grand Opening took place in July 2001. Mesa Falls has also been designated as a Forest Service "fee demo" site with an admission of \$3 per vehicle per day. Fees collected will supplement declining recreation funds and be reinvested in the Mesa Fall Recreation Area. Fees will be used to operate, maintain, and improve facilities and enhance recreation, interpretive and education opportunities.



Upper Mesa Falls on the Henry's Fork of the Snake River.



Big Falls Inn prior to restoration.



Big Falls Inn in summer of 2001, after restoration.

WILDERNESS

Although wilderness use has increased, the Jedediah Smith Wilderness is still within the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC). The sites monitored met the standards for all but vegetation loss at campsites. A monitoring protocol is currently being developed and tested. In the summer of 2001, the Teton Basin Ranger District has had a seasonal employee conducting monitoring throughout the Wilderness. A research project looking at the effects of recreation use on wolverine is in progress in the Jedediah Smith Wilderness.

TRIBAL COORDINATION AND HERITAGE RESOURCES

In 2001 the Forest completed some very big restoration projects and inventoried many acres. In 2001 a field crew completed heritage resource surveys on over 9000 acres. In cooperation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, the Forest recently developed an agreement allowing free use gathering of posts and poles in two areas on the C-T.

Birch Creek Charcoal Kiln Restoration

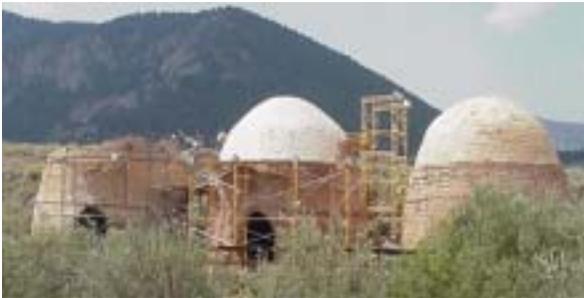
In 1998, the Dubois Ranger District completed an analysis to stabilize the Birch Creek Charcoal Kilns, an important historic site. The Kilns were built in the late 19th century and used to make charcoal for fueling ore smelters in the Birch Creek valley. Over the years most of the kilns have disintegrated but four remained standing. Weather and time was taking its

toll on them, however, and the domes were crumbling more each year. The Forest began a cooperative effort to stabilize the ruins. The structure repairs began in the summer of 2000 with District personnel scraping old mortar off the bricks and other preparation. An Interagency team of historic architects, masons, and archeologists developed detailed plans for the restoration and stabilization of the kilns. In the summer of 2001, expert masons converged upon the remote historic site, replacing bricks and mortar to preserve the domes on two of the remaining kilns. The third kiln was stabilized as a ruin. The next phase of the project will be to improve visitor access and interpretive displays.

Project partners include National Park Service, Idaho National Environmental and Engineering Laboratory, State Historic Preservation Office, Idaho State Historical Society, and numerous private individuals.



Three remaining Birch Creek charcoal kilns prior to preservation.



Reconstruction and stabilization on three kilns, July 2001.



The preserved kilns, August 2001.

Passport in Time on the Curlew National Grassland

During the summer of 2001 people from all over the west gathered on the Curlew to evaluate the historic importance of a heritage resource site there.

Production of Commodity Resources

RANGE

As a whole, the rangeland vegetation trend is upward, except where high sagebrush densities are affecting the understory species. Upland vegetation is generally under-utilized by livestock, although some sheep allotments continue to experience heavy grazing in localized areas. The actual livestock use on the Caribou-Targhee is less than the amount that is permitted. This is due to a variety of factors and reflects the grazing permittees' willingness to be flexible in order to maintain and improve range conditions. Permittee monitoring is on the rise; some Districts have been monitoring cooperatively with their permittees since the early 1990's and others are just beginning with the Targhee Permittee Monitoring Guide and INFISH's "2000 Implementation Monitoring Module".

2000 Implementation Monitoring Module

In 2000 the Caribou-Targhee implemented the Monitoring Module set up by the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH). This monitoring is similar to, but less detailed than, the Targhee's Rangeland Monitoring Protocol. Grazing units are separated into three categories: those with ESA-listed fish (I); riparian areas without listed fish (II); and pastures without riparian areas (III). Since the Caribou-Targhee does not have any listed fish species, monitoring focused on Category II units. Approximately 30% of the 447 Category II pastures on the Forest were monitored in 2000. Ninety-two percent of those units met end of season condition requirements. None of the 66 Category III units on the C-T were monitored.

Domestic Sheep Removed from the Teton Range

One of the standards in the Targhee RFP is to phase out all domestic sheep allotments in the Teton Range Subsection to reduce conflicts with grizzly bear and bighorn sheep. In August of 2001, the Forest was one step closer to this. The Caribou-Targhee, Ball Brothers Sheep Company, and the Wyoming Chapter of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (WY-FNAWS) have been working cooperatively for two years to remove domestic sheep from the Green Mountain allotment on the Teton Basin District. FNAWS helped Ball Brothers acquire grazing permits on the Soda Springs District so the Green Mountain allotment could be closed to grazing. Vacating the allotment will reduce the risk of disease transmission between domestic sheep and the bighorn sheep herd indigenous to the Teton Range. Although the *Pasteurella* bacteria, carried by some domestic sheep, has not been a factor in the Teton Range, it has caused large-scale die-offs in other bighorn herds. The move will also reduce domestic sheep-grizzly bear conflicts on the Forest. Ball Brothers have had problems with grizzlies on the Green Mountain allotment in 9 out of 10 years. During this

time the bears killed 60-70 head of sheep. According to Forest Supervisor Reese, "This is a rare opportunity to solve a problem in a win-win way."

TIMBER MANAGEMENT

Management Accomplishments

The Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) for the Targhee's RFP per decade is 80 million board feet (mmbf), or 8 mmbf per year. During the first three years of the RFP (1997-1999), the Targhee offered 8.5 mmbf, of timber for sale, or about 10% of the total RFP ASQ. In 2000, the Targhee sold just under 2.3 million board feet, or about one third of the yearly ASQ ceiling. In 2001 we project that we will offer (sell) 0.7 mmbf, or less than 10% of the yearly ceiling. For the first half of the planning period (1997-2001) we will have sold or offered a total of 11.5 mmbf of timber. This is about 14 percent of the total ASQ for the decade sold in the first half of the decade.

On the Caribou, the current ASQ is to offer 10.5 mmbf per year; in the Draft Caribou RFP we propose an ASQ of 2.2 mmbf per year. In 2000 the Caribou sold 0.924 mmbf, less than 10% of the ASQ. For 2001, we project we will offer 6.6 mmbf, about 60% of the ASQ.

Reforestation and Timber Stand Improvement

Insect outbreaks and fire suppression have taken a toll on the whitebark pine stands in the Centennial Range. Last year, 5000 whitebark seedlings were planted on 35 acres on the Ashton/Island Park District. In addition to the whitebark, the Forest replanted 1095 acres of trees in 2000. In 2001, 1145 acres were reforested on the Caribou-Targhee.

One of the ways to maintain the vigor of timber stands is to thin seedlings and saplings to wider spacings. This way they do not compete as much for water, light and nutrients and can grow faster and healthier. This makes stands more resistant to insect and disease outbreaks. The Caribou-Targhee thinned 2719 acres in 2000 and 1415 acres in 2001, to improve timber stand conditions. The Forest has been working with Canada lynx researchers in Ashton/Island Park to determine the effects of thinning on snowshoe hares, primary prey for the lynx.

Restoration Sales on the Caribou-Targhee

Because such a large part of the Forest, 80%, is in mature conditions, prescriptions favor early seral species by removing conifers from aspen stands and regenerating aspen where possible or removing the alpine fir and mature lodgepole and favoring lodgepole regeneration. Commercial thinning in Douglas fir has helped maintain the vigor of the stands. Several aspen and mountain brush restoration timber sales have been completed and others are ongoing in the Centennial and Caribou Subsections. We have had varying degrees of success; preliminary results indicate that aspen regeneration increases as the remaining overstory

decreases. On some of our aspen regeneration sites, we have not removed enough conifers and the aspen have not regenerated well. We are using this information in the design of future projects. Other factors such as stand condition and ground disturbance level may contribute to regeneration success.



Thomas Draw Timber Sale on the Dubois District in July 2001, approximately 10 months after timber harvest was completed. This aspen/mountain brush/range restoration project removed most of the Douglas-fir from the cutting unit to better mimic historic patterns.



Aspen regeneration in the Thomas Draw Timber Sale approximately 10 months after the harvest was completed. These suckers are about two feet tall despite the drought conditions.

New Inventory Methods

In 2001 the Caribou-Targhee began collecting timber stand data using Common Stand Exams. This nationwide program integrates information from many resources such as fuel loading measurements used for fire analysis; canopy cover percentages used by wildlife biologists; and down woody debris levels needed to maintain long-term soil productivity. Information gathered with the Common Stand Exam inventories can be tailored to the site-specific needs of each individual project.

Planning and Infrastructure

FOREST PLANNING

As mentioned previously, the Caribou-Targhee is working on two major Forest planning efforts. In response to the Forest Service policy requiring National Grasslands to have their own management plan, we are working on an amendment to the Caribou Forest Plan and developing a management plan for the Curlew National Grassland. The Draft EIS and Draft Management Plan for the 47,000-acre Curlew NG was released in the Fall of 2000. Preferred Alternative G would fence livestock out of the riparian areas; treat 5,000 acres of sagebrush and bulbous bluegrass over the next decade; and establish grazing utilization standards. The ID Team is responding to comments received from the public. As a result of public comments, we are conducting additional analysis on sagebrush return intervals, sage grouse populations, and vegetation treatments. The Final Grassland Management Plan and EIS should be available to the public by December of 2001.

The Draft EIS and Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou were released to the public in April of 2001. The Forest will be accepting comments on these documents until November of 2001. Preferred Alternative 7 features riparian grazing standards; prescription area direction for big game winter range; limiting motorized travel to designated roads and trails throughout most of the Forest; and recommendations for Wilderness designation in the Mt. Naomi and Caribou City Roadless Areas. Between the Draft and Final documents we will be completing a Roads Analysis and making recommendations for management of the other 32 Roadless Areas on the Caribou. The Final EIS and Revised Forest Plan for the Caribou is scheduled for release in September of 2002.

The Targhee RFP was signed in 1997 and we completed our first amendment of that plan in 2000. The Animal

Damage Amendment deleted a standard and modified a guideline in the RFP to comply with National Interagency direction. In August of this year we began analyzing a second amendment pertaining to travel management. This amendment would define the snow-season based on environmental conditions rather than a set date. This is further described in the "Access" section of this report.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY

One of the most important safety tools used by the Caribou-Targhee is our radio system. In the past two years we have totally rebuilt the radio back-bone on the Forest. The new and upgraded repeaters, antennae, towers, and buildings have greatly improved the coverage of the radio system. This allows us to have better communication with field-going personnel; especially important during extreme fire seasons such as 2000 and 2001.

The computer networking personnel have been working behind the scenes to combine the Caribou and Targhee computer systems. Working nights and weekends to minimize disruptions, we have completed the "cell consolidation". Now the files for both Forests are combined into one network. This allows resource specialists access to integrated databases containing information layers such as timber vegetation, infrastructure, roads, and others.

In the past two years the Information Systems personnel have also redone the telephone systems in the Supervisor's Office, Headquarters Office, and all of the District Offices. Direct Inward Dial (DID) and individual voicemail is now available for almost all the personnel. We hope that this greatly improves our customer service. These changes have also signaled the end of the Forest Service telephone network; we now go through private companies for all of our telephone service. This is another of our actions to improve economic efficiency on the Caribou-Targhee.



List of Contributors

Name (in alphabetical order)	Section Contributed (in whole or in part)	Position
Ali Abusaidi	Heritage Resources	Archaeologist
Lynn Ballard	National Fire Plan	Public Affairs Officer
James Capurso	Fisheries	Fisheries Biologist
Walt Grows	Range	Range Specialist
Betsy Hamann	Wildlife	Wildlife Biologist
John Hamann	Soils	Soil Scientist
Jeff Jones	Minerals and Reclamation	Mineral Specialist
Adrienne Keller	Achievement of Road Density, Authorized Use	Ashton/Island Park District Ranger
Sid Keller	Information Systems & Technology	Computer Specialist
John Kidd	Fuels management, fire planning	Fuels Specialist
Lee Leffert	Hydrology	Hydrologist
Rose Lehman	Utes Ladies'-Tresses	Botanist
John Lott	Soils	Soil Scientist
Anita Lusty	Reclamation photos	Mining Engineer
Carol Lyle	Range, RNA's	Ecosystem Management Branch Chief
Lee Mabey	Fisheries	Fisheries Biologist
Gina Martin	Fuels, National Fire Plan	Fire Planner
Mac Murdock	Achievement of Road Density, Authorized Use	Dubois District Ranger
Tanya Murphy	Recreation, Heritage Resources	Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
Kaye Olpin	Mesa Falls Restoration	Recreation Forester
Mark Orme	Wildlife	Wildlife Biologist
Bruce Padian	Timber	Forester
Michael Philbin	Hydrology	Hydrologist
Cheryl Probert	Report Creation, Compilation and Editing, Planning	Forest Planner, NEPA, Appeals, & Litigation Coordinator
Steve Robison	Minerals/Reclamation	Geologist
Dee Sessions	Timber	Silviculturist
Randall Tate	Roads	Supervisory Civil Engineer
Randy Thompson	Heritage Resources	Archaeologist
Debrah Tiller	Recreation, Visuals	Landscape Architect



If you received more than one copy of this Report; have an address correction; or wish to have your name removed from our mail list, please call Cheryl Probert at (208) 557-5821 or write to Forest Planning, 1405 Hollipark Drive, Idaho Falls, ID 83401

Receipt of the 2000/2001 Monitoring and Evaluation Report indicates you are on our mailing list. Under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), unless there is clearly an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, the Forest Service will release names and addresses on this list.



The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, and marital or familial status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communication at (202) 720-2791 (voice) or (800) 855-1234 (TDD). To file a complaint, please write the Secretary of Agriculture, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250 or call (800) 245-6340 (voice) or (800) 855-1234 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.



**USDA Forest Service
Headquarters Office
1405 Hollipark Drive
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401**

**First Class Rate
Postage and Fees Paid
USDA Forest Service
Permit No. G-40**

*Official Business
Penalty for Private Use \$300*



*Printed on recycled paper.
Please share this schedule with friends and recycle.*