

Table 17. Number of Individual Western Snowy Plovers During Winter Window Surveys (January) for Siuslaw National Forest Beaches 1993-2000.

Site Name	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	Total
Sand Lake Spits									
Berry Cr to Sutton Cr	10	6	0	14	14	13	14	17	88
Sutton Cr to N. Jetty Siuslaw R.	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	0
Siuslaw R. to Siltcoos Spit	0	0	4	3	22	26	23	0	78
Siltcoos Spits	1	18	19	11	0	0	1	20	70
Siltcoos Spit to Tahkenitch Spits	6	0	-	1	0	-	0	0	7
Tahkenitch Spits	0	0	0	4	7	-	0	1	12
Tahkenitch Spits to Threemile Cr	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
Threemile Cr to N. Jetty Umpqua R.	1	0	-	0	-	0	0	0	1
S. Jetty Umpqua R. to Tenmile Spits	7	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	11
Tenmile Spits	0	12	18	21	19	-	0	11	81
Tenmile Spit to Horsfall Beach	13	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	25
Horsfall Beach to N. Jetty Coos Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7
Total Birds	38	36	41	60	62	51	45	52	385

**Recommended action:** Continue to cooperate on snowy plover data collection as funding permits.

### ***SOCIAL (COMMODITY PRODUCTION)***

**ISSUE: Is the Forest providing commodities at levels projected in the Forest Plan?**

Question 1: Are the total sale quantity and probable sale quantity (TSQ and PSQ) similar to the levels predicted in the Forest Plan?

**Monitoring action:** TSQ includes the PSQ. Information came from the Periodic Timber Sale Report and MARS Reports for FY 1997 through 2000

**Results:** The amount of TSQ and PSQ is shown on the following table.

Table 18. TSQ and PSQ Status for FY 97 through Fy 00.

Fiscal year	Planned TSQ MMBF <sup>1</sup>	Offered MMBF	Sold MMBF <sup>2</sup>	PSQ Volume Sold in MMBF
97	27.1	28.5	36.7	approx. 3
98	29	3	23.1	approx. 2
	(Assigned Target) TSQ MMBF	Offered MMBF	Actually Awarded MMBF	Awarded PSQ Volume MMBF(see discussion)
1999	28.8	18.7	11.4	0
2000	17.6	3.5	2.2	0

**Discussion:**

The Forest Plan level for PSQ is 12 MMBF annually. The PSQ is designated to come from Matrix/AMA designated land. It is anticipated that this level of harvest will not likely be met in the near future for the following reasons: 1) These land allocations are small isolated areas surrounded by various land allocations, i.e., Riparian Reserves, Late-Successional Reserves. The restrictive nature of the standards and guides of these reserves reduces the options for efficient and economical timber harvest. 2) No clearcutting is being done. Since these areas are small in size, even with clearcutting, the Plan level of 12 MMBF would not be met on a sustainable basis.

**Recommended Actions:** Continue to monitor

Question 2: Are the annual quantities of Special Forest Products within limits prescribed in Forest Plan Amendment #6 (Special Forest Products)?

**Monitoring action:** Monitoring items are bushels of moss harvested and mushroom permits. The Forest maximum levels are 25,000 bushels of moss and 100 commercial mushroom permits. Moss harvest is limited by permit. The mushroom harvest is limited by the total number of permits with no limit on quantity for each permit.

**Results:** The results are shown below:

Table 19. Mushroom Permits Issued For FY 97- FY 98

Fiscal Year	Bushels of moss harvested	Number of mushroom permits issued
97	25,000	68
98	25,000	82

<sup>1</sup> MMBF = million board feet

<sup>2</sup> Includes those sales offered in fiscal years 1996 and 1997 and awarded in fiscal years 1997 and 1998, respectively.

**Discussion action:** There are several research areas on the Forest that are being monitored to determine the effects of the harvest of these Special Forest Products. The results of this monitoring will be used to refine these levels. See Terrestrial SFP

**Recommended Action:** Continue to monitor.

## ***SOCIAL (CULTURAL RESOURCES)***

### **ISSUE: Are cultural and historical sites being used and protected as planned?**

Question 1: Is a complete structural inspection of all historic buildings listed on, or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) being accomplished, and are the necessary repairs being made?

**Monitoring actions:** The Forest currently manages nine sites where eligible or listed historic structures are located. Inspection records of these structures are maintained and updated by the Forest's facility engineer. The heritage program manager reviews the Forest's Facilities Report and consults the facilities engineer to assess maintenance status, and periodically inspects these structures to ensure necessary repairs have been completed.

**Results:** All historic structures were inspected during the report period. Forest-wide facility condition assessment surveys were completed in FY99, and a Facilities Master Plan was compiled. Properties were identified which are currently excess or surplus to Forest needs. These include eligible historic structures at the Mapleton Upper Compound, Hebo warehouse, and Waldport Ranger Station. Identified forest facility priorities and budget constraints resulted in reduced allocations for maintenance of these buildings.

Planned restoration of the Alsea Guard Station remained unfunded until fire monies became available as a result of the FY00 fire season. Reassessed refurbishing of the station and reconstruction of the garage and pump house at the Mill Creek site are scheduled for FY01-02. The site will serve as a fire crew workstation.

Heceta House, listed on the National Register, continued to operate under the Granger-Thye permit program as a bed and breakfast. Permittee was required to submit an annual operations plan to enable specialists' review prior to initiating repairs or alterations for their business. Proposed projects were reviewed on-site by the heritage program manager, facilities engineer and safety officer, in addition to the customer services specialist who administers the permit. Historic preservation specialists were consulted to ensure appropriate actions were taken to preserve the historic integrity of the structure and cultural landscape. Maintenance and upgrades accelerated during this period with on-site permittees and increased revenues collected from their business operations returning to a G-T maintenance fund.

Projects at the Cascade Experimental Station included residing of the main house and installation of a new septic system. A project engineer in consultation with the heritage program manager oversaw this work.

Ongoing monitoring of the Forest's historic structures, including the West Shelter and Stone Parapet atop Cape Perpetua, the Hebo Lake Picnic Shelter and the administrative sites addressed above was conducted by the heritage program manager and district heritage technicians.

**Recommended action:** Continue monitoring.

Question 2: Is appropriate stabilization or rehabilitation of damaged or eroded sites eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NHRP) being done?

**Monitoring actions:** Monitoring of archaeological resources by heritage team members, site stewards and law enforcement officers identified sites threatened by erosion or deposition, or vandalism. Monitoring of projects in high probability areas during project implementation has become standard procedure by heritage specialists.

**Results:** Shoreline and wind erosion continues to impact cultural sites along the outer coast and estuaries on all districts. The Good Fortune Cove site (35LNC56) was impacted by winter storms during FY 97 resulting in bank erosion of the western area of the shell midden. Alternatives to stabilize the bank and determine the level of data recovery to mitigate damage to the site were explored. Consultation with the regional archaeologist, and other professionals, including Tribal representatives, university researchers and engineers continues to assess alternatives for future stabilization or data recovery at eroding sites.

In FY 99 and 2000, data collection at four sites was initiated in lieu of stabilization efforts, following consultation with appropriate Tribal representatives and professional archaeologists. These sites include the Siuslaw Dune site (35LA25) on the south bank of the Siuslaw River, site (35LA12) on the open shoreline north of Big Creek, site 35LNC64 on the south shore of the Salmon River, and the Cape Cove site (35LNC57) at Cape Perpetua. Work at these sites was conducted as partnerships with Western Oregon University, University of Oregon and Portland State University. Extent and content of cultural deposits, faunal and radiocarbon analysis, and locational mapping and photo documentation was accomplished at these most vulnerable sites.

In FY 98 the Siuslaw National Forest, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, initiated a field survey of culturally significant sites on ancestral tribal lands, including the Oregon Dunes NRA, Mapleton and Waldport districts. This project, which included identification, documentation and GPS location of each site, was completed in FY 00.

Monitoring by heritage team members during project implementation resulted in the identification and protection of three prehistoric sites (shell middens) exposed during vegetation (gorse) control on the Mapleton Ranger District. Equipment was directed away from the sites, the forest archaeologist was immediately notified, and exposed sites were successfully protected from further impact.

On-going monitoring by heritage team members and volunteer site stewards provided year-round assessment of our cultural sites across the forest, including reports of natural site damage, exposure of previously hidden resources and sites targeted by looters. In cooperation with the Forest's law enforcement officers, on-site monitoring and road patrols have lessened the occurrence of archaeological resource vandalism at sites on the Oregon Dunes NRA. Archaeological awareness was highlighted during the FY 00 Oregon Coast Watch training. Discovery of inappropriate excavation at the Good Fortune Point site (35LNC55) by ODOT subcontractors resulted in mitigation actions during FY 00.

In addition to archaeological site monitoring, a full survey of the Blodgett Tract Logging Railroad was completed in FY 98. This survey included a baseline, point-to-point condition assessment of features from which future monitoring will be based.

**Recommended action:** Continue monitoring.

Question 3: Are cultural resource surveys performed in accordance with the Forest/SHPO agreement?

**Monitoring action:** A Programmatic Agreement (PA) regarding Cultural Resource Management on National Forests, signed in 1995 by Oregon national forests and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), shifted the decision-making responsibilities from the SHPO to the Forests' heritage program managers. Included in the PA are projects or "undertakings" that are exempted from standard pre- and post-cultural surveys, or are exempted by inspection of monitoring requirements (these are listed in the Appendices A and B of the PA). Since the PA was implemented, this agreement has significantly modified the number of surveys required and the procedures by which our heritage team provides protection of cultural resources. Forest project plans are reviewed by heritage technicians, in consultation with the forest archaeologist to determine which strategy is required to meet compliance criteria. The forest archaeologist reviews reports and compares district input against forest work plans.

**Results:** During FY 97, 22 forest-wide projects were completed by heritage specialists. These included nine projects identified for review under the 1995 Programmatic Agreement (Stipulation III.A.4), and 13 projects that were accomplished under standard case-by-case review (Stipulation III.B). A total of 25 projects were completed in FY 98, with 14 identified under programmatic review and 11 following standard review.

During FY 99, 23 forest-wide projects were completed by heritage specialists. These included 17 projects identified for review under the 1995 Programmatic Agreement (Stipulation III.A.4), and 6 projects that were accomplished under standard case-by-case review (Stipulation III.B). A total of 14 projects were completed in FY 00, with 5 identified under programmatic review and 9 following standard review. On-site monitoring during project implementation has been the preferred action for those projects identified in high probabilities areas or near known sites.

In addition to standard Section 106 compliance efforts, Passport in Time projects provided opportunities to document and evaluate sites across the Forest. During FY 97, fieldwork was initiated at Umpqua City (on the Oregon Dunes NRA), Cape Creek CCC Camp (Waldport Ranger District), and administrative sites on the Hebo and former Alsea Ranger Districts. In FY 98, documentation of the Nestucca CCC Camp (Hebo Ranger District), testing at US Army Fort Umpqua (Oregon Dunes NRA) and continued work at Cape Creek Camp were accomplished as PIT projects by Heritage team members, assisted by trained volunteers.

During FY 99, PIT projects included mitigation testing of three loci at Lily Lake (Mapleton Ranger District), continued field work at Camp Cape Creek (Waldport Ranger District), and documentation of the Rifle Range and evaluation of US Army Fort Umpqua on the Oregon Dunes NRA. Work continued in FY 00 at Fort Umpqua and was initiated at Marys Peak (Waldport Ranger District). During the summers of FY 99 and FY 00, survey and excavation at the Siuslaw Dune site (Oregon Dunes NRA) was accomplished in partnership with Western Oregon University field school in archaeology, and included PIT volunteers during the second field season.

Survey and documentation of more than 100 cultural sites was jointly undertaken and completed by members of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians and the Forest's heritage program manager. Sites including burials, canoe landings, villages, fish weirs and campsites were identified and globally positioned on forest and adjacent lands. The documentation of these features will enhance our ability to provide protection to these cultural resources as future projects are planned.

Annual reports are filed with the Regional and Washington Office. An annual monitoring report is filed with the State Historic Preservation Office and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation under the 1995 Programmatic Agreement.

**Recommended action:** Continue monitoring.

## ***SOCIAL (LOCAL ECONOMIES AND COMMUNITIES)***

**ISSUE: Are local natural resource based economies and communities healthy?**

Question 1: What are the trends in employment, unemployment and wages in communities affected by the Forest?

**Monitoring actions:** County level data on employment, unemployment and wages were compiled for the eight individual counties surrounding the Siuslaw National Forest from reports by the State of Oregon Employment Department. The results cover the last years for which data are available, in order to show general trends rather than a single-year snapshot. Three industrial sectors are specifically examined: forestry; fishing, hunting and trapping; and lumber and wood products. These sectors can be directly influenced by outputs from the forest or activities on forest lands. These sectors are defined as follows:

Forestry: Forestry industrial subsectors include timber tracts, forest products, and forestry services. Over the 1993-1997 period, the Forestry sector has seen increases in both employment and wages.

Fishing, Hunting and Trapping: This sector includes fishing for fin- and shellfish, and hunting, trapping and game propagation. During the study period, both employment and wages have fluctuated annually with an overall decrease in employment and wages. Some fluctuations can be attributed to the small number of employees in this sector. Other factors such as seasonal and annual variability in game and fish seasons and limits, fish availability and market prices contribute to the overall wide variability in this sector.

In 1999, revisions in the scope of Unemployment Insurance law coverage have had an impact on the comparability of employment and wage data from year to year. For the subsector Fishing, services performed by workers on boats with crews of less than 10 individuals where the payment is based on the share of the catch are no longer covered (beginning with fourth quarter, 1999 tax reports) (Oregon Employment Department: Covered Employment and Payroll 12/00).

Lumber and Wood Products (LWP): The LWP sector is a broad classification, ranging from logging, milling, and plywood to prefabricated wood and mobile home manufacturing. Over the 1993-1997 period, employment in this sector has slightly decreased, while wages have slightly increased.

**Results:** Tables 20 and 21 display employment and wages in three specific industrial sectors in the eight-county area, for 1993-1999. Each sector is discussed separately below, followed by a summary of the overall trends.

Table 20. Employment in Selected Sectors in the 8-County Area

Sector	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	% Change 1993-1998	1999	% Change 1993-1999
Forestry	1,842	2,003	2,161	2,211	2,059	1,632	-11.4	1,675	-9.0
Fishing, hunting & trapping	466	424	438	465	440	404	-13.3	381 <sup>3</sup>	na
Lumber & wood products	19,527	19,706	19,192	19,062	19,232	17,405	-10.9	17,257	-10.2
Total of 3 sectors	21,835	22,133	21,791	21,738	21,731	19,441	-11	19,313	-11.5
<b>All covered employment<sup>4</sup></b>	252,826	265,612	273,836	283,731	291,997	297,359	17.6	299,746	18.5

Between 1993 and 1998, all three employment sectors declined in number of employees an average of 11%. Wages for Industrial Sector Forestry jumped 29% but an average of all three sectors showed a decline in wages earned of approximately 11%.

Table 21. Average Annual Wage (1999 \$s) for Selected Sectors in the 8-County Area

Sector	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	% Change 1993-1998	1999	% Change 1993-1999
Forestry	19,313	21,982	21,020	21,070	20,282	24,928	29.1	28,157	45.8
Fishing, hunting & trapping	30,699	36,394	41,249	35,438	37,632	24,462	-20.3	31,433 <sup>5</sup>	na
Lumber & wood products	31,358	31,445	31,612	32,056	32,202	31,885	1.7	32,934	5.0
Average of 3 sectors (weighted by employment)	30,328	30,684	30,755	31,011	31,183	27,092	-10.7	30,841	na
<b>All covered employment</b>	23,957	24,011	24,241	24,594	25,039	24,901	3.9	25,807	7.7

In contrast, all covered employment in the 8-county area has experienced higher growth in both employment (17.6%) and wages earned (3.9%). Although the Forestry sector had wage increases similar or greater than the all employment average, the sector represents less than 1% of covered

<sup>3</sup> 1999 figures for this sector are not comparable to previous years due to revisions in the scope of Unemployment Insurance law coverage (see full explanation page 36).

<sup>4</sup> All covered employment refers to all sectors covered by Unemployment Insurance Program.

<sup>5</sup> Same as 1.

employees in the area. The Lumber and Wood Products sector employs 5.9% of covered employees, and wage trends in this sector increased approximately half of the average for all covered employees.

Table 22 displays the unemployment rate for the 8-county area for the past 7 years. Unemployment was highest in 1993 (7.7%), declined to 5.3% in 1995, peaked again in 1997 and dropped to 5.5% in 2000. This variation cannot be explained solely by the employment trends in the industrial sectors examined above. Factors such as total workforce levels (in- and out-migration of workers in the area) and employment in other sectors of the economy also influence the unemployment rate.

Table 22. Percent Unemployment in the 8-County Area

1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
7.7	5.8	5.3	6.0	6.1	na	6.1	5.5

**Summary:** Not unexpectedly, the figures indicate a decline in numbers of people employed as well as the average annual salary earned in the three sectors tracked. As mills retooled to accommodate smaller diameter logs, more automation required less skilled employees resulting in lower wages demanded. Some mills closed completely due to the loss in Asian markets for dimensional lumber.

Projections for future trends indicate a continued loss in these sectors as well. Natural resource based industries will continue to register job losses (Ayre 2001), employment in lumber and wood products could decline by more than two percent while the number of timber cutters and loggers is expected to decline by four percent (Ayre 2001). The decline of the forest products industry left many rural areas and industry workers with high levels of unemployment and serious economic challenges. Growing, high paying industries such as technology and some service industries have been slow to move into some-particularly rural-regions suffering losses in natural resource industries. Many new jobs pay less than those that were lost and use skills and involve working conditions that are very different from those of the jobs that were lost, making it difficult for recently unemployed workers to take such jobs and support their families (Ayre 2001).

**Recommended Action:** Continue to monitor.

Question 2: What are the demographic trends in communities affected by the Forest?

**Monitoring actions:** Data on population distribution in the 8-county zone of influence were collected from State of Oregon census publications.

**Results:** Population in the 8-county zone of influence has increased by 8.8% in the period from 1993 to 2000. In contrast, the state of Oregon’s population was up 20.4% from 1990 to 2000, making it the 11<sup>th</sup> fastest growing state in the nation (Ayre 2001).

Table 23 displays percent population by age bracket in the 8-county area. Year 2000 data show an increase in the 0-17 age bracket while both 18-64 and 65 and older lost percent of population. As the total population has grown, the percentages of the population in the 18-64 and 65+ age categories have increased slightly.

Table 23. Population by Age in 8-County Area

Year	Total Population	Age 0-17 (percent)	Age 18-64 (percent)	Age 65+ (percent)
1993	717,600	25.0	60.3	14.7
1994	726,400	24.8	60.3	14.9
1995	732,300	24.5	60.4	15.1
1996	741,900	24.1	60.7	15.2
1997	748,600	23.9	61.1	15.1
1998	759,900	24.3	60.6	15.1
2000	780403	26.8	58.7	14.6

The ethnic and racial composition of the 8-county population is displayed in Table 24. The new Census 2000 data are not comparable to prior racial categories, even though they appear similar. Therefore changes in the population of Oregon’s racial groups between 1990 and 2000 can only be roughly estimated, rather than precisely measured. However, Census officials indicate that the Hispanic population group data are comparable with prior Census data (Ayre 2000) available for year 1990, 1996 and 2000 to demonstrate trends. All categories of racial composition remain relatively similar except for Hispanic, which grew from 112,707 in 1990 to 275, 314, a 5.7% increase.

Table 24. Ethnic and Racial Composition of 8-County Area, In Percent

Year	Black	Am. Ind.	Asian&PI	Hispanic	White	Other
1990	0.5	1.4	1.9	2.8	92.4	1.1
1996	0.6	1.6	2.1	3.8	91.7	0.1
2000	0.5	1.7	1.7 <sup>6</sup>	5.7	91.1	3.4

**Recommended Action:** Continue to monitor.

Question 3: Are economic assistance opportunities available or operating in local communities?

**Monitoring actions:** Annual summaries were compiled for rural community assistance grants administered in FY 1997 through FY 2000 by the Siuslaw National Forest.

**Background:** The Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative was developed as part of the Northwest Forest Plan. The objective of the Initiative was to bring nine agencies together in providing economic assistance to rural, timber-dependent communities. These communities are defined as having: 1) populations under 10,000, 2) at least 15% of primary and secondary labor and income derived from forestry and related industries, 3) a location within 100 miles of a national forest. In addition, whole counties may qualify if they do not contain a “Metropolitan Statistical Area” and meet the second two criteria. The Forest Service participates in the initiative by providing technical assistance to communities in developing economic diversification projects, and by providing grant dollars for project implementation.

**Results:**

<sup>6</sup> Figure represents total percent increase in Asian and Pacific Islander population.

**Community Assistance Grants.** As the number of years since the inception of the Northwest Forest Plan grows and other programs such as the County Payments Act arise to address the economic needs of rural communities, the Rural Community Assistance (RCA) Program is getting smaller. The two separate Rural Community Assistance Coordinator positions for the Siuslaw and the Willamette National Forests were merged into one position with the office stationed in the Supervisor's Office of the Willamette.

In 1997 and 1998, the Siuslaw NF administered \$840,606 and \$655,956, respectively, for community assistance grant projects. This funding included 14 grant projects in 1997, and 11 new projects in 1998. Two communities developed strategic plans: Clatskanie and Hoskins/Kings Valley.

Over the past two years, funding for the RCA program decreased from an annual program allocation of \$5 million for Oregon to \$1.8 million. In 1999 and 2000, the Siuslaw NF administered \$156,760 and \$217,995, respectively, for community assistance grant projects. Six grant projects were funded in 1999 for communities surrounding the Siuslaw National Forest, and six projects were funded in 2000.

Most of the projects were for technical assistance other than strategic plans; however, a general prerequisite for grant approval is that the project be a part of a strategic plan. The Tillamook County Economic Development Council headed a project to develop downtown revitalization plans for a cluster of communities including: Nehalem, Manzanita, Wheeler, Rockaway Beach, and Garibaldi.

In addition, several projects have been funded that continue the efforts started in the planning process. Eight communities have begun or completed downtown revitalization efforts with community assistance grants (Astoria, Vernonia, Toledo, Philomath, Monroe, Mapleton, Florence, Reedsport).

Table 25. Communities Receiving Technical Assistance and/or Grant Money

Astoria	Yachats *	Florence *
Clatskanie *	34/20 partnership Area *	Blachly
Scappoose	Alsea *	Dunes City *
Tillamook	Harlan *	Reedsport/Winchester Bay
Vernonia *	Independence/Monmouth *	Lakeside
Rainier	Monroe *	Seaside
Lincoln City	Wren *	Hebo
Depoe Bay	Summit	Waldport
Toledo *	Philomath	Nehalem
Newport	Hoskins/Kings Valley *	Wheeler
Siletz	Adair Village	Manzanita
Rockaway Beach	Garibaldi	
Mapleton	Monroe	

\*Strategic planning efforts funded through Siuslaw National Forest.

Several business and organizations were provided assistance by the Siuslaw National Forest:

- Clatsop Community College
- Tillamook County
- SW Lincoln County Water District
- Hebo Joint Water and Sewer District
- Economic Development of Lincoln County
- Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development
- Mid-Coast Watershed Council
- Cascades West Council of Government
- Benton County
- Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians
- Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Siletz Economic Development Commission
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Indians

Grant projects with seven Ports on the Oregon Coast have helped diversification from log exports to other forms of revenue. Efforts include expanded crabbing opportunities; shellfish cultivation; product development, such as urchins, zircon sand and fertilizers, and kiln-dried lumber; rebuilding and retooling antiquated docks, piers, and facilities; market analysis; and outreach to compatible industry.

- Port of St. Helens
- Port of Tillamook Bay
- Port of Toledo
- Port of Newport
- Port of Alsea
- Port of Siuslaw
- Port of Umpqua

Partnerships. The Siuslaw NF is involved in numerous partnerships working in land stewardship, ecosystem management, and community economic development. Some of these partnerships create opportunities for displaced timber and fisheries workers.

Watershed Enhancement/Wyden Amendment

Dates: 1998-1999.

Partners: Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development.

Dollars: USFS - to be determined.

Mission: The Wyden Amendment has made federal funding available for private landowners to do watershed enhancement projects. Projects are to be in watersheds that contribute to restored coho runs and implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

Mid Coast Watershed Council

Dates: 8/95-3/97

Partners: Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development.

Dollars: USFS - \$31,500; USFWS - \$50,000; ODFW - \$35,000.

Mission: Create a model for administration and funding of the Mid Coast Watershed Council. Enable local participants to develop a new program that meshes with the Governor's Oregon Coastal Salmon Restoration Initiative and other programs, is self-sustaining, and has a well-defined coordinator position.

#### Mary's Peak Collaborative Stewardship

Dates: 1997, 1998

Partners: Local people and interest groups, e.g. Friends of Marys Peak.

Dollars: Volunteer time.

Mission: Collaboration between the Siuslaw and the public on ways to provide quality recreational experiences on Marys Peak.

#### Sand Dollar Program

Dates: Summer 1998

Partners: Florence Chamber of Commerce and businesses.

Dollars: \$3 match per permit.

Mission: Up to three \$1 incentives per sale of day-use recreation fee demonstration permits encourages patronage of local businesses in Florence and sales of USFS recreation permits.

#### Tsalila Partnership

Dates: 1997 - 1998

Partners: 17, including Pacific Outdoor Alliance, Reedsport/Winchester Bay Chamber, Coos Bay BLM, ODFW.

Dollars: USFS (CCS) \$44,000; NFWF \$27,000; ODFW (USFWS) \$60,000; GTE \$7,000.

Mission: Develop an environmental education forum, complete watershed restoration projects, build tribal relationships and school curriculums, provide community economic development.

#### Siletz Tribe

Dates: April 20, 1998 - Sept. 30, 1998

Partners: Conf. Tribes of the Siletz Indians, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Dollars: CTSI \$4,400; USFWS \$10,400; USFS (CCS) \$13,000.

Mission: Begin assessing the response of salmon populations to marsh recovery in the Siletz Bay estuary.

#### Diamond Lakes

Dates: 1998-1999

Partners: Oregon Hunters Assoc., National Audubon Society, ODFW, Tenmile Creek Assoc., Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Trout Unlimited, Ducks Unlimited.

Dollars: USFS (CCS) \$40,000; Nonfederal partners ~\$40,000.

Mission: Pond stabilization and meadow maintenance activities on an ecologically significant parcel of land formerly owned by Diamond B lumber company and developed for game hunting.

#### Salmon Watch

Dates: 1995-1998

Partners: Oregon Trout, GWEB; Volunteers from Conf. Tribes Siletz, City Corvallis.

Dollars: USFS (CCS) \$60,000 per year for Siskiyou, Rogue, Willamette, Mt. Hood, Siuslaw.

Mission: Provide hands-on, in-the-field education to school-aged kids on the full range of issues that affect salmon.

### Tenmile Creek

Dates: 1995-1997

Partners: Tenmile Creek Association, ODFW.

Dollars: USFS-undetermined

Mission: Collect data on fish habitat and populations; develop basin restoration program.

### Knowles Creek

Dates: 1992-1998

Partners: Pacific Rivers Council, Hancock Timber Group, ODFW, Florence STEP.

Dollars: Varies by year depending on monitoring or restoration activities; USFS \$8,000-\$200,000/yr.

Mission: Restore historically significant salmon stream to healthy condition.

### Silverspot Butterfly

Dates: ~1988-1998

Partners: The Nature Conservancy, Paul Hammond (OSU).

Dollars: USFS (CCS) - amount varies.

Mission: Monitoring the population status of the species and impacts of management. The Nature Conservancy has biologists who monitor their site on Cascade Head, and the Siuslaw provides funds for them to monitor Forest Service sites also.

### Stream Channel Restoration Drift Creek

Date: October 1999

Partners: The Timber Company (Georgia/Pacific)

Dollars: USFS \$80,000, collaborator \$20,000

Project: Placing of large logs by helicopter (donated from National Forest Land) into stream system.

Objective: Restore habitat and water quality for Threatened and Endangered salmonid species. Increase water quality by trapping and slowly releasing sediment over time, thereby increasing groundwater retention and mixing during low flow periods; reconnecting floodplain and main channel interactions; creating pools for summer rearing; and trapping and supplying detritus and nutrients to the stream system.

### Design Seven Watershed Restoration Projects

Date: 1999

Partners: Alsea Watershed Council

Dollars: USFS \$8557, collaborator \$2943

Project: Fund consultant to develop conservation plans for private landowners

Objective: Provides necessary technical assistance in developing conservation plans, preparing grant applications, contacting appropriate offices for private landowners wishing to complete watershed restoration activities on their lands and contribute to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds.

#### North Fork Siuslaw Bioengineering Demonstration

Date: 1999

Partners: Siuslaw Watershed Council, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, Private Landowner.

Dollars: USFS \$2929, Collaborators \$1076

Project: Install root wads and small wood to trap sediment and stabilize streambank over time.

Objective: Demonstration project as to how private landowners could reintroduce shrub and tree component into riparian zone following grazing activity.

#### West Fork Deadwood Creek Bioengineering Demonstration

Date: 1999

Partners: Siuslaw Watershed Council, Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, Private Landowner.

Dollars: USFS \$2925, Collaborators \$4000.00

Project: Install crib structure back filled with gravel and planted to willow to stabilize stream banks.

Objective: Demonstration project as to how private landowners could reintroduce shrub and tree component into riparian zone to develop streambank stabilization and fish habitat.

#### Deadwood Creek Powerline Relocation

Date: 1999

Partners: Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, Blachley Electric Cooperative, Private Landowner

Dollars: USFS \$5136, Collaborators \$3375

Project: Bury an overhead power line in an existing road corridor from present location within stream riparian area. Consequently planted conifers can grow to full height.

Objective: Demonstrates alternatives to traditional power line placement that benefits riparian habitat and water quality.

#### North Fork Siuslaw Estuary Tide Channel Restoration

Date: 1999

Partners: Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Private Landowner

Dollars: USFS \$1000, \$2040

Project: Complete removal of material from partially breached dikes.

Objective: Restore and reconnect stream channels which will again allow resident and anadromous aquatic species full use of streams and estuary.

#### Schofield Stewart Project

Date: 1999

Partners: Tsalila Community Watershed Festival, three private landowners

Dollars: USFS \$10,000, Collaborators \$ 29,860

Project: Install large wood structure in prime coho habitat: install .75 miles of fencing along the creek to exclude livestock; livestock will seasonally be excluded from 5 acres of wet meadow; remove failing culverts; construct 2 rocked stream crossings; install 10 waterbars to restore hydrologic flow.

Objective: Demonstrate opportunities to improve riparian conditions to local landowners, involve community schoolchildren in project monitoring and water quality sampling. Structure will facilitate water flow into an overflow channel for

escapement and winter rearing of juvenile fish during high flow events as well as create deep complex pool habitat on private land in the mainstem of Scholfield Creek for summer rearing habitat.

#### West Creek Riparian Restoration

Date: 1999

Partners: Tillamook soil and Water Conservation District, Nestucca Watershed Council, three private landowners

Dollars: USFS \$28,443, Collaborators \$ 19,136

Project: Both sides of 1.4 miles of stream channel will be fenced and planted with native vegetation. Off-stream watering devices will be installed to remove the impact of livestock from stream banks.

Objective: Improves watershed condition and increases fresh water survival of salmonid species produced throughout the watershed through increased stream shading, reduced animal waste and fecal coliform input, reduced sedimentation and increased stream bank stability will be the outcome of this project.

#### Watershed Restoration and Enhancement Agreement

Date: 2000

Partners: Ore Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Midcoast Watershed Council

Dollars: USFS \$19,6000, Collaborators \$1500

Project: Provide large wood to ODFW when available and agreed upon.

Objectives: Provides a stockpile of large wood readily available for project implementation.

#### Porter Creek

Date: 2000

Partners: Natural Resource Conservation Service, Soil and Water Conservation District, John Hancock Insurance/Olympic Resource Management

Dollars: USFS \$1600, collaborators \$1600

Project: Reshape native surface road, install waterbars, remove side cast material, install culvert

Objectives: Eliminates a source of sedimentation and improve water quality and assist in restoration of spawning habitat for endangered salmonids.

#### Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

Date: 2000

Partners: Over 30 state, federal, private organizations and individuals act as collaborators

Dollars: USFS \$225,000, Collaborators \$56,250 (minimum)

Project: Provides funding for the restoration, protection, or enhancement of the physical, biological, social or economic conditions within a focused restoration area.

Objectives: Restore water quality, in-stream habitat and fish access to National Forest Lands in the headwaters.

Alternative resource incomes. Local communities planning or implementing alternative natural resource income efforts (e.g. special forest products, hardwoods, small diameter timber, etc.) are listed below:

- Yachats, Waldport, and Newport area individuals and organizations have created the Lincoln County Growers Association through a USFS grant. They have completed a market analysis and are currently working on job development.
- Alsea Community Effort completed an analysis of fresh market and farm product processing opportunities and a feasibility study of creating a food cooperative store in the Alsea area. The community has also been interested in pursuing funding for a small diameter timber products marketing analysis.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians purchased and installed a dry kiln and boiler for converting to small hardwood secondary processing with USFS grant dollars.
- Astoria is developing a farmers market through a USFS grant that will potentially include locally gathered natural resource products.

**Discussion:** The Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative was originally intended to be a three-year transitional program (1994-1996). It was extended for two years, through 1998, and again through 2000. However, funding levels have declined and other programs such as the County Payments Act will eventually replace the Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative.

**Recommended action:** Continue to monitor the Siuslaw's technical assistance and grant program for rural communities.

Question 4: What are the annual payments to counties?

**Monitoring action:** Payments to counties data were obtained from the Regional Office for FY 1994 through FY 2000.

**Results:** Prior to 1994, 25% of each national forest's revenues were paid to the counties in which it was located, with the payment distributed on the basis of county acreage falling within the forest boundary. A provision of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 provided a guaranteed level of payments to counties affected by reductions in forest revenues associated with the listing of the northern spotted owl. These payments are mandated to be used to fund roads and schools.

Beginning in 1994, the guaranteed payment was calculated as 85% of the 5-year average receipts from FY 86 through FY 90. Each year thereafter, the guaranteed payment has been reduced by 3%. In 1999, the payment was \$11,301,459, or 70% of the 5-year average. In 2000, the payment was \$10,962,415, or 67% of the 5-year average. Table 26 displays the distribution of the 1999 and 2000 payments by county.

Table 26. Distribution of FY 1999 and FY 2000 Payments to Counties

County	Acres in Siuslaw NF	Percent of County Acres in NF	FY 1999 Allocation	FY 2000 Allocation
<b>Benton</b>	16,310	0.0261	\$294,892	\$286,045
<b>Coos</b>	10,867	0.0174	\$196,823	\$190,919
<b>Douglas</b>	61,653	0.0986	\$1,114,714	\$1,081,272
<b>Lane</b>	247,044	0.3952	\$4,466,667	\$4,332,667
<b>Lincoln</b>	171,980	0.2751	\$3,109,476	\$3,016,192
<b>Polk</b>	318	0.0005	\$5,749	\$5,576
<b>Tillamook</b>	91,463	0.1463	\$1,653,475	\$1,603,871
<b>Yamhill</b>	25,423	0.0407	\$459,659	\$445,869
<b>Totals</b>	625,058	1.0000	\$11,301,459	\$10,962,415

The guaranteed payments to counties are scheduled to decrease by 3% per year until 2003, at which time the payment will be \$9,256,950, or 58% of the FY 1986-1990 average.

**Recommended Action:** Continue to monitor. Any changes to the payment calculations must be determined by Congressional action.

Question 5: Do trends in the Forest’s contribution to area forest products industries indicate about as much contribution by the end of the first decade as provided at the beginning of the Northwest Forest Plan?

**Monitoring action:** Timber sale volume and disposition data were compiled from forms FS-2400-59, “Certification of Receipt and Disposition of Timber Originating from National Forest System Lands” for calendar years 1997 through 2000.

**Results:** Table 27 displays the timber volume harvested on the Siuslaw by county of disposition for calendar years 1995 (first year of the Northwest Forest Plan), 1997 through 2000. Volumes recorded are thousand board feet (mbf). Shaded counties are those within the Forest’s 8-county zone of influence.

Table 27. Timber Harvest Volume Flows to Oregon Counties

County	CY 1995 MBF	CY 97 MBF	CY 98 MBF	CY 1999 MBF	CY 2000 MBF
Benton	136.00	307.24	540.04	10.49	0
Coos	251.00			0	0
Douglas	1,421.00	19.00		4.5	1,772.62
Lane	6,968.00	400.38	981.82	9,193.89	14,280.10
Lincoln	0		4.60	0	401.28
Linn	6,463.00	4,067.00	5,825.50	0	518.03
Marion	2,033.00			0	0
Polk	2,424.00	2,415.40	7,590.20	47.22	0
Tillamook	2,572.00	280.90	234.43	32.53	0
Yamhill	1,243.00	2,231.22	5,874.28	837.18	1,467.38
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,511.00</b>	9,721.14	21,050.87	<b>10,125.81</b>	<b>18,439.41</b>

Beginning in CY 1997, part of the volume from the Forest is reported in tons, instead of mbf. The majority of the Forest's harvest is commercial thinning of overstocked plantations to promote development of late-successional forest conditions. These harvests consist of numerous small diameter logs, and weighing as opposed to traditional scaling is a more efficient means of measuring the harvest volume. It is expected that volume reported as tons, will continue to increase, as commercial thinning comprises the majority of the planned harvests.

**Recommended Action:** Continue to monitor.

### ***SOCIAL (RECREATION DIVERSITY)***

**ISSUE: Is the diversity of recreation opportunities provided for in the Forest Plan being supplied and used?**

Question 1: Is management of the following areas consistent with the assigned Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) or Wilderness ROS classification and other direction in the Forest Plan? Wilderness, Oregon Dunes NRA, Cascade Head SRA, Special Interest Areas, Undeveloped areas, Sutton, Sandlake, and developed recreation sites

#### **Developed Recreation Sites**

**Monitoring actions:** In 1997, seventeen developed recreation sites were evaluated for consistency between existing Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) and the ROS objective set by the Forest Plan. A variety of sites were evaluated from different districts of the Forest to represent a wide variety of existing conditions on the Forest. No monitoring of recreation setting was done for 1999 or 2000. Standard review of individual construction projects at their completion was done.

In 1997, the majority of recreation sites were visited and photographed to help in evaluating the variety of recreation settings available overall and their condition. A preliminary study map was

made of recreation opportunity settings on the Forest, in order to get a general sense of the relative amount of different recreation settings on the Forest.

One to two Oregon State University recreation students who have studied the ROS system at the University and who had previous experience working at National Forest Recreation sites monitored the sites.

**Results** - The majority of the developed recreation sites on the Forest were allocated in the Forest Plan to either Roded Natural or Rural ROS class. Observations of the sites 7 years after Plan implementation indicates that, in general, the settings of the sites are within the assigned ROS class, both in terms of their appearance and sound (Table 28). The recreation sites themselves, however, rarely meet their ROS standards. Most of the sites are of a highly developed character with extensive use of concrete and asphalt, which has isolated them from their settings.

In the ROS system, the minimum possible level of development is to be done to meet the requirements with the given ROS class. Many sites have made extensive use of concrete curbing and directional line pavement painting which has had the effect of giving the site a suburban parking lot feel. The fact that most of the sites observed are of a highly developed nature, and some of those that were not highly developed suffered from an appearance of abandonment due to lack of maintenance, suggests that the Forest's developed recreation sites are steadily gravitating towards the urban end of the ROS spectrum.

Table 28. Comparison of ROS Allocation and Current ROS at Forest Recreation Sites

<b>Site</b>	<b>ROS Allocation</b>	<b>Current ROS at facility</b>
Blackberry Campground	roded natural	rural to urban
Canal Creek Campground	roded natural	roded natural
Canal Creek Group Campground	roded natural	roded natural
Cape Perpetua Campground	roded natural	rural
Cape Perpetua Overlook	roded natural	rural
Conner's Camp	roded natural	roded natural, borderline rural
Harris Ranch Trailhead	roded natural	roded natural
Horse Creek South Trailhead	roded natural	roded natural
Launching boat ramp	roded natural	rural, with some elements of roded natural
Marys Peak Observation Site	roded natural	roded natural
Marys Peak Wayside	roded natural	picnic area - roded natural Wayside area - rural
Mike Bauer Recreation Site	roded natural	Rural
River Edge Boating	roded natural	Rural
River Edge Group Camp	roded natural	rural to urban
Sandbeach Campground	roded natural	Rural
Spinreel Campground	rural	Rural
Sweet Creek Homestead	roded natural	Rural
Tillicum Beach Campground	roded natural	Urban

Most facilities were found to be a mixture of recreation opportunity settings. An example is at Marys Peak Wayside where paved parking lots with curbs and "city type" concrete sidewalks dominate the wayside. Garbage containers are of a highly modified urban design. The restroom is

Cascade modified design suitable for roaded natural. The interpretive signs are beveled dimensional lumber closer to rural or urban ROS standards.

Some sites are overly hardened. An example is at Cape Perpetua Overlook where it was noted: “steel, concrete used inappropriately.” A review at the completion of 1999 construction work done at the Mary’s Peak Observation site found that the recreation opportunity setting of that site was improved as a result of the construction. Urban features were removed as part of replacing the restroom building, including concrete block retaining wall, and the concrete restroom that had been located in the viewing area and trail entrance area, and the parking area was slightly reduced in size. The new appearance is much closer to the site’s roaded natural standard.

At Conner’s Camp, the use of asphalt walkway to the picnic table is found not consistent with Roaded Natural. Also, the size of the parking area relative to the size of the site is trending towards Urban.

At a number of sites, “grass creates more of a lawn effect than meadow.” At River Edge, the overall layout is like “an urban or suburban park.”

Sounds and sights of the surrounding area affect ROS. At Sandbeach Campground, there are many homes nearby and OHV activity and surrounding vehicular traffic can be heard. This contributes to a more Urban setting. At Spinreel Campground, the sites (camp units) are in close proximity to each other, which makes the setting more Urban. The “quiet” at Drift Creek Falls Trailhead helped make its opportunity setting Roaded Natural.

The number of regulatory signs affects the actual ROS setting. More signs raise the ROS level. At Tillicum Campground, the effect is Urban rather than Roaded Natural, because there are many regulatory signs throughout the site. Between the roar of the highway and the highly developed nature of the facilities (pavement with concrete curbs and directional lines, bright blue restrooms, newspaper boxes at entrance), this site is very much like an urban campground. At Cape Perpetua Campground, a high number of rules and regulations were found. The fact that there are few signs along Pioneer Indian trail helped to keep that facility Roaded Natural.

Facilities that met the appropriate ROS setting were those where development was minimal, and where the setting is allowed to dominate the facility as at Canal Creek Campground where old forest and stream dominate the site.

**Recommended action:** Each site’s Recreation Opportunity Setting should be reviewed prior to making decisions about maintenance and reconstruction. Built facilities at a site should be of a less developed or equally developed level to the assigned ROS. Features to consider include materials, scale of materials and scale of built facility, layout etc.

Leaving out concrete curbing and parking lot pavement painting would not have significantly affected durability of the sites surveyed, and would help blur the lines between a site and its surroundings. Use of gravel in place of asphalt or concrete parking lots and paths instead of sidewalks, and more unobtrusive restroom placement would help integrate a site with its surroundings. This would let the setting dominate, and bring more recreation sites consistent with their recreation opportunity setting objective.

As the Forest goal is to provide recreation opportunities across the ROS spectrum, a thorough re-examination should be conducted of the actual opportunities being provided by the Forest to ensure that the desired amount of opportunities at each level are being provided. Reconsider the ROS allocation at heavily used facilities adjacent to heavily use major highways (Hwy. 101) to more accurately reflect demand in the changing recreation market.

### **Wilderness Areas**

**Monitoring action:** A recreation student from Oregon State University visited the following wilderness areas to evaluate Wilderness Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (WROS) quality:

1. Rock Creek area, not beyond homestead site. February 1998,
2. Cummins Creek Wilderness. April 28, 1998.  
Cummins Creek Wilderness was viewed from Cummins Ridge Trailhead and Trail.  
Also briefly visited Cummins Creek Trailhead and walked a short portion of that trail.
3. Drift Creek Wilderness from the southern Horse Creek Trailhead. June 2, 1998. Evaluated Wilderness from trail and trailhead.

### **Results:**

**Cummins Creek Wilderness** - Cummins Creek Wilderness is a small Wilderness, so to compensate for the lack of vast primitive land, the quality of the area should be consistent with Wilderness objectives. At Cummins Creek Wilderness, the entrance bulletin boards, signs, access points and general character is consistent with Wilderness objectives.

At the trailhead, there was a metal barricade at the entrance of the trail. The presence of the barricade gave an immediately unsatisfying impression of the Wilderness, as if it was an attempt to separate the Wilderness area from the rest of the Forest. The presence of the barricade implied that drastic means were necessary to control the public, which conflicts with Wilderness. In addition, there is a dispersed campsite to the right of the trailhead and a spur road to the left.

The campfire ring was located in what would be better suited as a parking space. The Wilderness area is not so large that a user would need to campout for a night before entering the area on a backpacking trip. The campsite at the trailhead gave the user the impression that people do not use the Wilderness to camp in, though they make the effort to travel to the site.

The spur road to the left of the trailhead (north) as one faces the gate from the outside appeared to be a major route, yet was "tank-trapped." The spur road gave the impression that there is something further along that may intrude into what visitors would rather think of as a primitive area. The hiker may question the location of the road and hope it does not intersect the area wherein he or she is expecting to enjoy a primitive experience.

Signage at the trailhead to Cummins Creek is sufficient, and yet not overdone. The sign-in sheet is important.

In the Wilderness, the road/trail through the area follows an old roadbed. Characteristics of the old road bed can still be seen, e.g., the unusual width of the trail bed, the banks on either side of the path, the remnants of drainages on the inside of the bed, the flatness factor as one glances "trans-trail," the underlying gravel substrate, the lack of older, larger trees along the trail.

The actual trail was approximately the standard 18 inches wide. But, it is apparent the path is actually approximately 18 feet wide with an 18-inch route where use has been concentrated. The old road is an obvious manmade feature and is not consistent with Wilderness. The road/trail is generally disconnected from the surroundings and does not, in its location and layout, allow much appreciation of the Wilderness or awareness that the visitor is in Wilderness.

Visitor use was observed. No people were seen, but there was evidence of use by the existence of the fire rings at the trailhead.

**Drift Creek Wilderness** - The Drift Creek Wilderness has some characteristics that classify it as a relatively high quality Wilderness Area. All three access points to this area are of substantial distance from any main roads, a good portion of those roads being gravel, which provides a sense of distance from towns and people.

The access points to Drift Creek Wilderness are simple. Rustic, wooden signs inform the hiker of the trail that he or she is about to journey on, but no details or maps were provided. This was consistent with 'primitive' WROS.

The trails in Drift Creek were typical of Wilderness trails. Narrow switchbacks, step over logs, etc. Some of the trail was overgrown, mostly with blackberry and maple, which required ducking and closing eyes. This enhanced the primitive character of the area, but could irritate some users. One section of trail has stairs built with lumber and detracted from the Wilderness quality.

The campsites observed in Drift Creek Wilderness suited Wilderness values. At most, a fire ring and a log to sit on were found near a bare, flat spot suitable for a tent. Some social trails surrounded the campsites, which is generally expected. No significant litter, disturbances, or otherwise adverse impacts near the campsites were observed.

Use observed of Drift Creek Wilderness on a cloudy Tuesday included two people camped by the creek, two couples hiking in later in the day, and a vehicle approaching the trailhead as the person monitoring was leaving. The Wilderness has an appropriate low level of visitor use.

The small size of the Wilderness allows users to get from the trailhead to the creek as an easy overnighiter. Day hikes were found to be challenging, yet feasible for most people. In general, the characteristics of Drift Creek Wilderness were consistent with Wilderness values. The lack of development, simplicity, illusion of seclusion, recreational attractiveness, and natural beauty compensate for its relatively small size.

#### **Recommended actions:**

**Rock Creek Wilderness** - This area may be best managed for scenery, recreation and as a cultural resource. This Wilderness could undergo some minimal development to enhance access to and appeal of the homestead and scenic creek. A trail following the general direction carved by the creek, if feasible, would allow users to have access to aesthetic enjoyment, fishing, swimming, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other experiences associated with Wilderness while being brought back in time by the presence of the old homestead.

**Cummins Creek Wilderness** - To deter people from driving into the Wilderness area, some alternatives to the metal barricade is preferred. Placement of large rocks, preferably a rock type indigenous to the area and consistent with the local geology, or placement of logs would prevent vehicles from entering the area. Least preferable, but an improvement from the present barricade,

would be using barrier posts. The area can be blocked from vehicle access and still be consistent with the ideals of a primitive area.

Activities that would restore consistency with Wilderness ideals would include removing the gravel from the road, planting or otherwise promoting native vegetation to enhance the trail, and possibly revising the trail maintenance plan for the area. Another alternative would be to design and build a new trail through the area. The road bed could be left to fill itself back in, and the new trail could be strategically placed in order to prevent future users from recognizing the historical disturbance. A new trail could also lead hikers to scenic destinations. This area has the potential to provide high quality recreational experiences but as currently managed, is not consistent with wilderness objectives.

**Rock Creek - Cummins Creek Wilderness** - Combining the two Wildernesses, if possible, would provide more qualities that enhance Wilderness values in those areas. Enlarging either Wilderness would also benefit Wilderness values.

**Drift Creek Wilderness** - At Drift Creek Wilderness, the bulletin board and signs, most of the trails, the access points, and the general character were found consistent with Wilderness. The material used in constructing the stairs is consistent with Wilderness. This Wilderness should receive the most attention as the site provides a range of recreation values well suited to a variety of recreation users. The primitive qualities of this Wilderness need to be preserved so that users can enjoy the area as Wilderness.

At Drift Creek Wilderness, the monitoring report recommends keeping the area clean, monitoring and minimizing impact, and involving the public. It recommends construction of a trail connecting Harris Ranch Trail to Horse Creek Trail along the waterway; a user created trail already exists there.

Drift Creek Wilderness has the potential to fill the primitive side of the recreation opportunity spectrum. If trails are maintained, the area is kept clean, users are surveyed, site impact is evaluated, and the area remains primitive, people can enjoy this area in perpetuity. As Wilderness, natural processes will dictate the health and structure of the forest, the potential for wildlife, and other "eco"- type characteristics.

#### **General**

The Siuslaw National Forest has the opportunity to provide and enhance more recreation in the primitive classification via these Wilderness Areas. This would help to meet the variety of recreation interests that people have. The higher the quality of recreation (which is not consistent with development in this case), the better the experience will be. The Wilderness areas should be managed to best promote quality Wilderness experience without compromising health and integrity of ecosystems.

Question 2: Is the amount and type of recreation use occurring in various areas of the Forest as predicted in the Forest Plan?

**Monitoring action:** Recreation use information has not been compiled for the Forest for 1999 and 2000. The last Forest reporting of recreation use was in 1997. For the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Hebo and Waldport Ranger Districts, no formal monitoring of recreation use has been completed for 1999 and 2000. Traffic counts were done within the Sutton Recreation complex on the Mapleton District.

**Results :** Use at developed sites on the Mapleton Ranger District is reported to have increased based on Recreation manager's observation and traffic counts done in the Sutton Recreation complex. The amount of increase has not been assessed. An increase in use has also been observed on trails and dispersed recreation sites that are maintained on the Mapleton Ranger District. Recreation managers for the Oregon Dunes, Waldport, and Hebo Ranger Districts report observing a steady increase in use at each facility.

## ***SOCIAL (RECREATION - OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES)***

### **ISSUE: Is off-highway vehicle (OHV) use taking place as intended in the Forest Plan?**

Question 1: Is off-highway use of vehicles confined to those areas designated for such use in the Forest Plan?

**Monitoring Actions:** Formal and informal monitoring records are used to measure accomplishment in this program area. Informal monitoring records include periodic random field observations by Forest Service law enforcement and other agency personnel, as well as by off-highway (OHV) groups/clubs operating under formal (signed) agreements with the agency. Formal records consist of notice of violation records and incident reports maintained by law enforcement.

Closure violations on the Forest are routinely monitored as part of other work duties.

### **Results:**

Primary means for determining if OHV use is confined to designated areas on the Forest include:

- 1) Incidents of vehicles within "OHV Closed" areas - anywhere on the Forest.
- 2) Incidents of vehicles off of "Designated Route" requirements - applicable only at Oregon Dunes NRA.
- 3) Incidents of people camping outside "Designated Dispersed Locations" requirements - applicable only at Oregon Dunes NRA

Formal monitoring records for OHV closure violations consist of annual law enforcement notices of violation (NOVs), warning notices and incident reports. Information for the entire Forest during 1999 and 2000 is displayed below. Based on incident notices and monitoring observations from field personnel, OHV closure violations are not a major problem on the Forest, but tend to be persistent at a low level in specific localized areas, usually adjacent to open riding areas, such as at Tenmile Creek Research Natural Area.

OHV designated route compliance and OHV dispersed camping compliance are only applicable on the Oregon Dunes NRA. The dispersed camping permit program at the NRA was initiated in 1998 and the incidence of non-compliance noted were formal or informal warnings to persons not having a required permit. They do not reflect improper use of closed areas. Monitoring results on these items (only for the NRA) are shown in Table 29.

Table 29. Annual OHV Violations Of Closures And Dispersed Camping Permits, ODNRA

<b>Type of compliance</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
<u>Closure violation:</u> Incidents	40	43
<u>Designated OHV Route Compliance:</u> Incidents	20	17
<u>Dispersed Camping Compliance (no permit):</u> Incidents	16	11

**Recommended actions:** Continue to monitor and enforce closure violations as they are encountered in the course of other work. At the same time, develop strategies and take steps to address specific local problem areas. For example, at Sand Lake riding area (Hebo RD), the district has installed fencing and visual screening (plantings) to better define the riding area and discourage OHV trespass into the adjacent Sand Lake Research Natural Area. This has proved very successful. Continue current efforts to discourage unauthorized use, such as brush barriers and/or signing on non-designated OHV routes on the Oregon Dunes.

At the Oregon Dunes NRA, where a majority of the OHV-use on the Forest occurs and where area-specific standards and objectives exist (e.g. night-riding curfews, designated route requirements, designated dispersed camping requirements, stricter OHV noise standards, etc.), continue monitoring each of these areas on a regular basis.

Question 2: Is off-highway vehicle use at the Oregon Dunes NRA complying with operating hour restrictions (curfews) and noise emission (dB) standards established in the Forest Plan?

**Monitoring actions:** Law enforcement officers in the course of their routine night patrols monitor Curfew compliance. OHV noise is monitored by agency personnel at riding-area entry points. Night-riding curfews and stricter OHV noise limits are only applicable on the Oregon Dunes NRA portion of the Forest.

**Results:** Curfew violations are still occurring within in the Oregon Dunes NRA. There were 22 violations noted in 1997, 13 violations in 1998, 17 violations noted in 1999 and 25 violations in 2000.

OHV noise goals at the Oregon Dunes are intended to reduce the legal OHV muffler-noise output from the State legal limit of 99 decibels (dB) to 90dB. This goal reflects a nearly tenfold reduction in noise over time. The Forest Plan sets a goal of 95% compliance with the applicable noise standard. Stricter noise standards at the NRA were enacted as part of a Forest Plan amendment and are intended to minimize OHV noise impacts on nearby residents and other recreation visitors.

Significant progress has been made on the issue of OHV noise at the NRA through a combination of user education and enforcement. In 1995, when voluntary (user option) sound checks began,

only about 50% of machines met the then-current 99dB noise limit. (Because testing at that time was voluntary, information and observation indicates that the overall population of OHVs meeting the standard was perhaps much less than 50%.) During 1997 and 1998, mandatory testing was implemented to better reflect the overall OHV population and to facilitate year-to-year comparisons.

Monitoring shows a steady trend toward improving compliance with applicable decibel standards, although compliance is still below the 95% Forest Plan goal. Although not shown in the statistics below, many of the tested OHVs were measured at 90 or less decibels during 1999 (44%) and 2000 (60%). Increased violations (Tables 30 and 31) do not necessarily indicate reduced compliance because enforcement has become progressively stricter over time, after the initial “user education/learning” period.

Table 30. Violations of Noise Emission Standards, Oregon Dunes NRA 1997 – 1998.

	<b>1997</b>	<b>1998</b>
Violations of applicable (95dB) noise standard	181 violations	281 violations
Muffler sound checks	64% meet 95dB level 82% meet 99dB level	66% meet 95dB level 86% meet 99dB level

Table 31. Violations of Noise Emission Standards, Oregon Dunes NRA 1999 – 2000.

	<b>1999</b>	<b>2000</b>
Violations of applicable (93dB) noise standard	196 violations	185 violations
Muffler sound checks	70% meet 95dB level 87% meet 99dB level	81% meet 95dB level 94% meet 99dB level

**Recommended actions:** Continue regular noise curfew monitoring efforts.

For OHV noise-standard compliance, do not use the number of violations as a monitoring tool, since amount of use and strictness of enforcement varies over time. Thus, increased violations may indicate increased numbers of users or changes in the enforcement standard, rather than compliance with the applicable OHV noise standard. In this case, number of violations is not a good indicator of the objective (OHV noise) being measured.

Continue to monitor OHV muffler noise in a systematic manner and to seek, through user education and enforcement, increased compliance of the applicable noise standard (currently 90dB). If the OHV-noise compliance trend eventually levels off below the 95% Forest Plan goal, further assess the situation at that time.

## SOCIAL (ACCESSIBILITY)

**ISSUE: Are Forest recreation facilities, buildings, administrative sites and environmental education programs usable by all people regardless of physical and mental ability?**

Question 1: Are recreation sites and administrative facilities on the Forest being brought to standard in accordance with the Forest Accessibility Transition Plan (1996)?

**Monitoring action:** Work done to improve accessibility in 1999 and 2000 was reviewed at completion of each project, as part of standard construction project review. At Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, in 1999, reviews of individual campground units at several campgrounds were completed to assess how to be more effective in improving campground accessibility and review of completed work.

**Results:** Within the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, at Umpqua Beach Access II, a viewing deck, trail, restroom and parking meeting easy accessible standards were added. At Lagoon Trail, some boardwalk was replaced and trail improvements were made to make some of the trail accessible to easy standards. At Horsfall Campground, four campsites were made accessible. At Driftwood Campground, four campsites were made accessible, at Tahkenitch Campground, two campsites were made accessible, and a vault restroom was added.

At Sutton Recreation Area, in Fiscal Year 1999 an accessible vault restroom was installed at Baker Beach. Improvements were made to the trails. The goal at Baker Beach is to provide accessible horse trail rider day use and camping facilities. In fiscal year 2000, all eleven restrooms in the Sutton Complex were upgraded to meet access standards.

At Cape Perpetua Scenic Area, planning and design work was done for an overlook to view Devil's Churn and for an improved access to Cape Perpetua Interpretive Center. Planning was also done for two accessible restroom buildings at Cape Perpetua Campground, a site that has restrooms, which are not usable because of location and having been built according to earlier standards. An accessible vault restroom building was installed at Ocean Beach Picnic Site. The access survey of 1996 has been updated to show work completed in 1999 and 2000 (Table 32).

Table32. Summary of Access Survey, Forest Recreation Sites

Facilities	Accessible <sup>1/</sup>	Usable <sup>2/</sup>	Not accessible <sup>3/</sup>	Not accessible <sup>4/</sup>
Campgrounds				
Hebo RD	0	0	8	0
Mapleton RD	0	1	3	0
Waldport RD	0	0	7	0
ODNRA	2	1	9	0
Day Use Sites				
Hebo RD	0	1	1	0
Mapleton RD	2	1	7	0
Waldport RD	0	4	6	0
ODNRA	4	12	3	2

<sup>1/</sup> Accessible. Meets UFAS/ADA standards

<sup>2/</sup> Usable. Facility was developed to be accessible. People with some disabilities may have difficulties using the facility. One or more standards are not met.

<sup>3/</sup> Not accessible, but can be brought to standard without unreasonable resource impacts.

<sup>4/</sup> Not accessible, but cannot be brought to standard without unreasonable resource impacts.

**Conclusion:** Continued progress is being made in improving sites to meet access standards. The campsite work at Oregon Dunes National Recreation area are the first campsites and only campsites on the Forest to meet access standards, and campsites meeting standards are rare in the state, and very likely in the Nation, so these improvements are very important. A major finding of the Transition Plan was that no campgrounds on the Forest met access standards. That has now changed.

**Question 2: Are Forest Environmental Programs available to people with disabilities?**

**Monitoring action -** Public information specialists submitted information on provisions made to make Forest environmental education programs available to all. Research was done on what environmental programs can do and are doing to be available to people who have disabilities: requests for information sent to national electronic mailing list; several national centers for environmental education and for awareness of needs of people with disabilities were contacted.

**Results:**

Forest programs. People with a variety of disabilities have participated in Forest environmental education programs, and media or site or access provisions were made to allow the programs to be enjoyed by all. Programs on fire prevention were done specifically for children who have disabilities.

Cape Perpetua Interpretive Center: The Interpretive Center partially meets accessible standards. Access from the parking lot into the Interpretive Center is difficult (modifications are planned). The theater within the Center was not constructed to be accessible. The seats in the first, upper row are removable to allow use by people who use wheelchairs. The Center is installing a computer with programs such as field trip into the sea, weather, navigation, and environmental issues.

Outdoor guided walks are not accessible because trails around the Interpretive Center are not accessible. The Center offers the alternative of interpretive programs given on the Center's deck

or around the parking lots for those who cannot access the trails or travel up and down them. For groups, the Center has enlisted help from the Job Corps to provide assistance to people in wheel chairs on sections of the trails.

At Hebo Ranger District, 26 environmental education programs were given in 1997 to different groups or individuals, some over several days. Environmental education materials were provided to at least four other groups or individuals. In 1998, 25 environmental education programs were given to different groups and individuals. Needs for specific equipment etc. to make the programs available to all who attended was addressed on an individual basis.

The new interpretive facilities at the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area Visitor Center meet physical access standards and are multi-media. The audio portion of the interpretation is activated by the presence of someone at certain points through the display, so does not require use of hands or sight. The theater is level. Closed captioning is available for the movie that is shown. The door is not push button, but personnel are always available.

**Recommended action:** Consistently provide accessible environmental education programs.

## ***SOCIAL (ACCESS & TRAVEL MANAGEMENT)***

**ISSUE: Is the plan for long-term access roads (primary and secondary roads) sufficient for general public access needs?**

Question 1: What are the volume and trends in use patterns for the Primary and Secondary system of roads?

**Monitoring action:** Total traffic surveillance coverage amounted to a combined 10% of the Access & Travel Management (ATM) system of roads.

**Results:** Surveillance results for 1998 are shown in Table 33.

Table 33. Traffic Use of a Sample of ATM System Roads, 1998

ATM class <sup>1/</sup>	Primary	Secondary	Secondary	Other
<b>Level of vehicle</b>	Low clearance	Low clearance	High clearance	High clearance
<b>Total miles</b>	173	140	359	99
<b>% Covered</b>	19%	39%	9%	5%
<b>AADT <sup>2/</sup></b>	82	20	9	5

Table 34. Traffic Use of a Sample of ATM System Roads, 1999

ATM class <sup>1/</sup>	Primary	Secondary	Secondary	Other
<b>Type of vehicle</b>	Low clearance	Low clearance	High clearance	High clearance
<b>Total miles</b>	163	142	388	90
<b>% Covered</b>	34%	3%	4%	0%
<b>AADT</b>	11	4	3	N/A

<sup>1/</sup> **Primary roads** the primary routes included in this report are interior forest roads forming connector and through routes to other system roads or mixed-use roads such as campground access roads. Primary ATM  
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routes “encourage” access and travel, typically the passenger car, although a significant portion of annual traffic on these routes is high clearance pick-up truck travel during annual big-game hunting seasons. **Secondary roads** “allow” for passenger car travel on low-clearance vehicle roads but “discourage or accept” low clearance vehicle use on the high-clearance level roads. Lower maintenance levels may increase occurrence of storm debris, cut bank sloughing and other minor road deterioration that can be negotiated with a pick-up truck rather than a passenger car.

**Other roads** are those that fit the long-term category but may not necessarily be managed under the ATM system for general public use.

<sup>2/</sup> **AADT (Average Annual Daily Traffic)** is the cumulative number of vehicles divided by the number of days within the annual surveillance period and averaged (weighted) according to length of individual travel segments monitored.

Peak use and trend. Predictably, the volume of traffic peaks in the months of October and November by 2 to 3 times the Annual Average Daily Traffic amounts. The greatest variation is occurring on the High-clearance roads. Hunting regulations, availability of game animals, decreases in forage and open road access, fuel prices, and general weather and road conditions may alter traffic use and volumes over time. The least variation is on Primary roads along the Oregon Coast. These roads typically access viewpoints, campgrounds and trail heads along or near the coastal scenic highway corridor.

Question 2: Are road maintenance and stabilization needs identified in Watershed Analysis or Road Assessments being accomplished?

**Monitoring actions:** A comprehensive look at recommendations in watershed analyses has not yet been made. However, districts have been requesting road work that is consistent with recommendations from their respective watershed analyses. Completion of the Forest Roads Analysis Process in 2002 will include a review of watershed and project analysis recommendations on both ATM and non-ATM roads.

**Results:** Road maintenance levels by mile and descriptions of objectives for vehicle types expected to travel the roads are summarized in Tables 35 and 36.

Table 35. Road Maintenance Levels and ATM Objectives, 1997-1998

Maintenance Level	Total Miles	Description
<b>Basic custodial - closed</b>	204	Non-ATM intermittent access
<b>High clearance use</b>	1,881	Includes ATM Secondary High-clr
<b>Standard passenger car use</b>	285	Includes ATM Low-clearance
<b>Moderate user comfort</b>	35	Some ATM Primary roads including developed recreation site roads.
<b>Some ATM Primary roads including</b>	39	“ “ “ “

Table 36. Road Maintenance Levels and ATM Objectives, 1999-2000

Maintenance Level	Total Miles	Description
Basic custodial - closed	322	Non-ATM intermittent access
High clearance use	1764	Includes ATM Secondary High-clearance
Standard passenger car use	292	Includes ATM Low-clearance
Moderate user comfort	33	Some ATM Primary roads including developed recreation site roads.
High user comfort	39	“ “ “ “

Because of limited funds, only 77% of these miles were maintained to standard through 1998. Only 55% of these miles were maintained to standard over the two-year period of 1999-2000. The remaining miles are under deferred maintenance.

Road stabilization includes 1,036 miles of water barred roads in maintenance levels 1 and 2. During 1999 and 2000, 95 miles of level 2 roads were stabilized and converted to maintenance level 1, closing the roads to public use and reducing environmental impacts.

Road Decommissioning was completed on 24 miles of road in 1997 and 1998 and on 22.5 miles of road in 1999 and 2000. Decommissioned roads may include restoring stream drainage by removing culvert and fill material from the roadbed, installing water bars across the roadbed and barricading the road entrance. The road miles are removed from the road “system”.

Reconstruction for environmental and access improvement totaled 14.2 miles of system roads.

Deferred maintenance was performed on a total of 8.9 miles of system roads damaged by flood events in calendar years 1996-1999. The projects are generally short segments of system roads with culverts washed out or slope failure repairs. The total miles are scattered throughout the road system.

Road Construction of 0 new road miles were constructed or added to the forest system in 1999 or 2000.

**Recommendations:** Request funding levels to cover the needed ATM road deferred maintenance. Seek funds to cover the deferred road stabilization and decommissioning work.

#### ***IV. OTHER (PROGRAMS AND BUDGETS)***

**ISSUE:** Are Forest programs and budgets providing the needs for Forest Plan implementation?

Question 1: Are the annual programs and budgets needed to implement the Forest Plan being realized?

**Monitoring Action:** Management Attainment Reports (MARs) for FY 1997 through FY 2000 were obtained from the Budget and Finance office. The reports include planned and actual accomplishments for programs and activities on the Forest.

**Results:** Table 37 shows the FY 1997 through FY 2000 MARs accomplishments.

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