

General activities on the Ninemile Ranger District

■ Past activities

Timber Sales	Watershed	Year
Soldier	Nineface 2-6 Burnt Fork Soldier Cr Camp Cr Big Blue Little Blue	1962-1968
Pine Creek	Little Blue Pine Cr	1964-1970
Ninemile Divide	Eustache Sawpit Martina Mattie V Little Bear	1966-1975
Siegel Louis	St Louis Siegel	1969-1973
St Louis Saddle	St Louis Beecher	1969-1973
Divide	St Louis Beecher	1969-1972
Bird Cr	Bird Cr Little Bear	1970-1972
Little Bear	Little Bear	1971-1973
Sawpit	Martina	1972
Bird Creek Salvage	Bird Cr Little Bear	1976-1978
Camp Creek	Big Blue Little Blue Camp Creek Soldier Creek Burnt Fork Nine Face 3-5	1976-1978
Sawpit Salvage	Sawpit Nugget	1978-1979
Mattie V	Little Bear Mattie V Martina	1978-1990
Ninemile Salvage	St Louis Cr Big Blue	1980
Burnt Fk Beetle #1 & #2	Burnt Fork Nine Face 2	1983-1985
Beecher Cr	Burnt Fork Beecher	1985-1986
Divide Fire Salvage	Sawpit	1986
Burnt Fork Salvage	Burnt Fork	1986-1987
Marion Josephine	Marion Cr	1986-1987
Devils Creek	Eustache	1988-1990
Pats Creek Lodgepole	Beecher Cr	1988-1990
Alpine Divide	Sawpit Eustache	1988-1992

Timber Sales	Watershed	Year
	Nugget	
Siegel Pass	Eustache St Louis Cr	1989
Siegel LP	St Louis Cr Beecher Cr	1989-1990
Eustache Saddle	Eustache	1989-1992
Ninemile Bugs	Burnt Fork Cr	1991-1992
Red Devil	Burnt Fork Beecher Cr	1993-1994
Alpine Divide BD Salvage	Sawpit Eustache	1994-1995
Blue Ridge	Nine Face 7 Little Blue	1996-1998
Old Town Salvage	Nugget	1997-1999
Starkhorse	Bird Cr	1997-present
Shapes and Feathers	Eustache Sawpit Nugget	2000-present
Small post and pole sales	All watersheds	1965-2002
Small sales associated with mining claims	All watersheds	1953-1970

Timber harvest on private land

The project area contains both small private and a minor amount of industrial timberlands. Early harvesting provided timbers for mining activities and ties for the railroads. An extensive railroad network was constructed early in the last century to facilitate harvest of Anaconda Company Mining (ACM) timberlands. The railroad system has been abandoned and most of the ACM land has been incorporated into the National Forest System. Most of the small private timberland has been harvested and some has been converted to agriculture. Some of the industrial and private forestland that was burned during 2000 was salvaged immediately after the fires.

Utilities

A microwave tower site lies north of Siegel Pass. An access road is in place for tower maintenance.

Noxious weed treatment

A cattle allotment has been spot treated for noxious weeds by the permittee from the mid 1970's to the present. Roads associated with the Eustache Saddle and Red Devil timber sales were sprayed in 1996 and 1997. Most roads used for access to the 2000 fires were sprayed for noxious weed control in 2001.

Tree planting

About 10 acres of burned plantations were replanted in 2000 immediately after the fires. During 2001, 357 acres of burned plantations were replanted.

Trail reconstruction

Portions of the Burnt Fork and Reservation Divide trails were reconstructed in 2000 and 2001.

Wildfires

Approximately 25,000 acres have experienced various fire severity due to wildfire. This includes the entire Ninemile Ranger District from 1984 to 2001. Approximately 1,000 of those acres were near or in the project area. This does not include the acreage burned in 2000 (approximately 20,000 acres). The 2000 fire season was the most extensive wildfire situation since the 1910 wildfire event. The historic fire event in 1910 and subsequent years overlapped with the project area. Active suppression action has been taken

on all fires when resources have been available. Suppression response has been successful on more than 95% of fire starts. This means the acreage has been mostly burned in 1/10 to 1/4 acre fires, with very few fires exceeding 50 acres.

Prescribed burning

Prescribed burning has primarily been used for site preparation following timber harvest activities. The most recent has been about 900 acres in the Old Town and Blue Ridge timber sale areas. Prescribed burning for interface values or wildlife habitat has been implemented in the lower Ninemile Valley outside the project area. The closest prescribed burning is in the McCormick Creek drainage, where approximately 2000 acres were burned for wildlife habitat improvement in spring of 1999.

■ **Ongoing activities**

Timber harvest

Two active timber sales lie within the project boundary. Some of the timber in the Shapes and Feathers Sale area was burned in the 2000 fires and no harvesting has occurred yet. Ten acres of the completed Starkhorse Timber Sale lie within the project boundary.

Precommercial thinning

Fifty-five acres of plantations will be precommercially thinned in 2002.

Mushroom and special product harvest

Mushroom harvest will likely continue on the district in the fire areas for the next few years.

Continuing tree mortality

Some trees that were damaged during the fires will continue to die from insect and disease infestations for several years.

■ **Reasonably foreseeable activities**

Timber harvest

Post and pole harvesting may occur on up to forty acres in the Bird Creek watershed. No other timber harvests are planned for the reasonably foreseeable future.

Precommercial thinning

Precommercial thinning of up to 100 acres of plantations may occur over the next three years.

Timber harvest on private land

The salvage on private land is continuing.

Tree planting

About 500 acres of burned plantations and 1600 acres of severely burned sites are scheduled for planting in 2002 through 2005.

Prescribed burning

Prescribed fire is included in the Shapes and Feathers timber sale area, near the Alpine Fire. Approximately 100 acres are planned for prescribed fire treatment. There is also the application of prescribed fire post harvest within areas identified for silviculture treatment in the Post Burn EIS. This may be implemented on approximately 1500 acres.

Noxious weed treatment

The fire recovery efforts identified by the Burned Area Emergency Recovery team included weed treatment on approximately 3500 acres. This is a combination of aerial application (3000 acres) and roadside or hand application (500 acres). These treatments were considered under the Winter Range EIS and the BEAR effort.

Roadside spraying on the Shapes and Feathers timber sale is scheduled in the next 3-5 years.

Helispots within the project area, approximately 5 acres total, primarily in the McCormick Creek drainage adjacent to the project area, will be treated for weeds in the foreseeable future.

Mushroom and special product harvest

Mushroom harvest will likely continue on the district in the fire areas for the next few years.

General activities on the Superior Ranger District

■ Past activities

Timber Sales	Drainage	Year
Trout Creek	Trout Creek	1951-1957
Trapper Hoodoo	“	1955-1958
N Fork Trout Fire Salvage	“	1957
Upper Trout Creek	“	1958-1963
Eagle Rock	“	1962-1964
Lower Trout Creek	“	1963-1967
Tin Cup	“	1965-1969
Hoodoo Creek	“	1965-1969
Prospect Dunn	“	1965-1971
Twin Van Ness	“	1966-1967
Windfall Gray	“	1966-1971
Lower Van Ness	“	1968-1973
Gold Mountain	“	1968-1974
Westside Cleanup	“	1970
Cayuse Saddle Pole	“	1970-1972
Ohio Sunrise	“	1971-1975
Prospect Dunn Fire Salvage	“	1972
Deep Windthrow	“	1973-1979
Trout Creek Skyline	“	1973-1979
Trout Trap	“	1979
Brook Trout	“	1979-1982
Magone	“	1983
Frozen Trapper	“	1989
Phoebe Windfall	“	1993-1996
Sunrise Creek	Sunrise Creek	1959-1961
Donut Hole	“	1989-1990
S. Fork Second Creek	Second Creek	1959-1963
Second Creek Divide	“	1965-1968
First Creek Salvage	“	1965-1967
N. Fork Second Creek	“	1965-1969
Ninemile Divide	“	1966-1975
Lower Second Creek	“	1968-1971
Horsehead Peak	“	1968-1972
Pine Swamp	“	1976-1977
Second Flat	“	1982-1984
Upper First Creek	First Creek	1964-1965
First Creek Salvage	“	1965-1967
Lozo Fire Salvage	“	1977
First Fork	“	1978-1980
Cain Springs Pulp	“	1982
Initial Attack	“	1987
Lozo Creek	Lozo – Camp 4 Creek	1966-1971
Camp 4 – E. Johnson	“	1972-1975
Shyrock Chute	“	1978-1984

East John	“	1993
Johnson Creek	Johnson Creek	1960-1965
Johnson Bottom	“	1977
E. Johnson	“	1982-1984
Shyrock Blowdown	“	1984
Club Gulch	Flat Creek	1943-1953
Idaho Gulch Flat Creek	“	1967-1970
Flat Pardee	“	1979

Timber harvest on private land

The project area contains both small private and large industrial timberlands. Early harvesting provided timbers for mining activities and ties for the railroads. Most of the private timberland has been harvested and some has been converted to agriculture. The industrial forestland that was burned in the Flat Fire during 2000 was salvaged immediately after the fires. Burned timber on small private holdings has also been removed.

Other road construction and utilities

The BPA powerline crosses the Flat Fire. The powerline was constructed during the 1980’s. An extensive road network was constructed for access to each tower. The road network remains in place for powerline maintenance.

Interstate 90 was constructed in the 1960s.

Railroads

The Old Milwaukee and Burlington Northern railroads ran along the Clark Fork River. These were a frequent source of wildfire ignitions. Both of those rail companies are gone.

Noxious weed treatment

Roadside spraying for noxious weed was done on First and Second Creek Roads. The first treatment was in 1999, with a follow up treatment in 2000. This was covered in the Superior Ranger District weed treatment EA, updated in 2000.

Tree planting

About 90 acres of burned plantations were replanted in 2000 immediately after the fires and about 100 acres were aerielly seeded with Douglas fir seeds. During 2001, about 275 acres of burned plantations were replanted.

Trail reconstruction

Reconstruction of the Trail Lake Trail was completed in 2001.

Wildfires

Portions of the 1910, 1914 and 1919 fires overlap the project area. Active fire suppression was implemented following those fires. Fire salvage sales in the list of timber harvests show the occurrence of some of the larger fires in the past four decades. Fire suppression kept the fires small until 1994 and 2000. There were several small fires in the Johnson Creek drainage during 1994. These fires were not salvaged.

Prescribed burning

Prescribed burning has mostly been used for site preparation following timber harvest in the Superior Ranger District portion of the project area. Prescribed burning for big game winter range improvement was done in Trout Creek during spring 2000 and 2001. Other winter range burning was done adjacent to the project area in Deep and Eddy Creeks during 1999.

Ongoing activities

Timber harvest

There are no ongoing timber sales adjacent to or within the project boundary on the Superior Ranger District.

Mushroom and special product harvest

Mushroom harvest will likely continue on the Superior Ranger District in the fire areas for the next few years. Beargrass is the other special product commonly harvested on the district.

Continuing tree mortality

Some trees that were damaged during the fires will continue to die from insect and disease infestations for several years.

Developed recreation sites

Trout Creek Campground receives about 250 visitors each summer.

Outfitter and Guide permits

There are three outfitter and guide permits that use portions of the project area.

Reasonably foreseeable activities

Timber harvest

There are no timber harvests planned for the reasonably foreseeable future on Superior Ranger District within the project boundary.

Timber harvest on private land

The salvage on private land appears to be complete.

Tree planting

About 1000 acres of severely burned sites are scheduled for planting in 2002.

Prescribed burning

Several units have been proposed for prescribed burning in the lower Trout Creek drainage for winter range improvement. These areas are all outside the fire perimeter.

Noxious weed treatment

Roadside spraying for noxious weed was done on the Trout Creek, Verde-Windfall and Sunrise Roads in the spring of 2001. A follow up treatment is scheduled for 2002. These were analyzed in the Superior Ranger District weed treatment EA, updated in 2000.

Johnson Creek and Idaho Gulch Roads were also scheduled for treatment in the district weed EA. The first treatment is scheduled for 2002 and will be done with BAER funding.

Aerial herbicide treatment of winter range in the Blacktail and Bald Hill areas may begin in 2002. These areas are adjacent to the project area.

Mushroom and special product harvest

Mushroom harvest will likely continue on the Superior Ranger District in the fire areas for the next few years. Beargrass is the other special product commonly harvested on the district.