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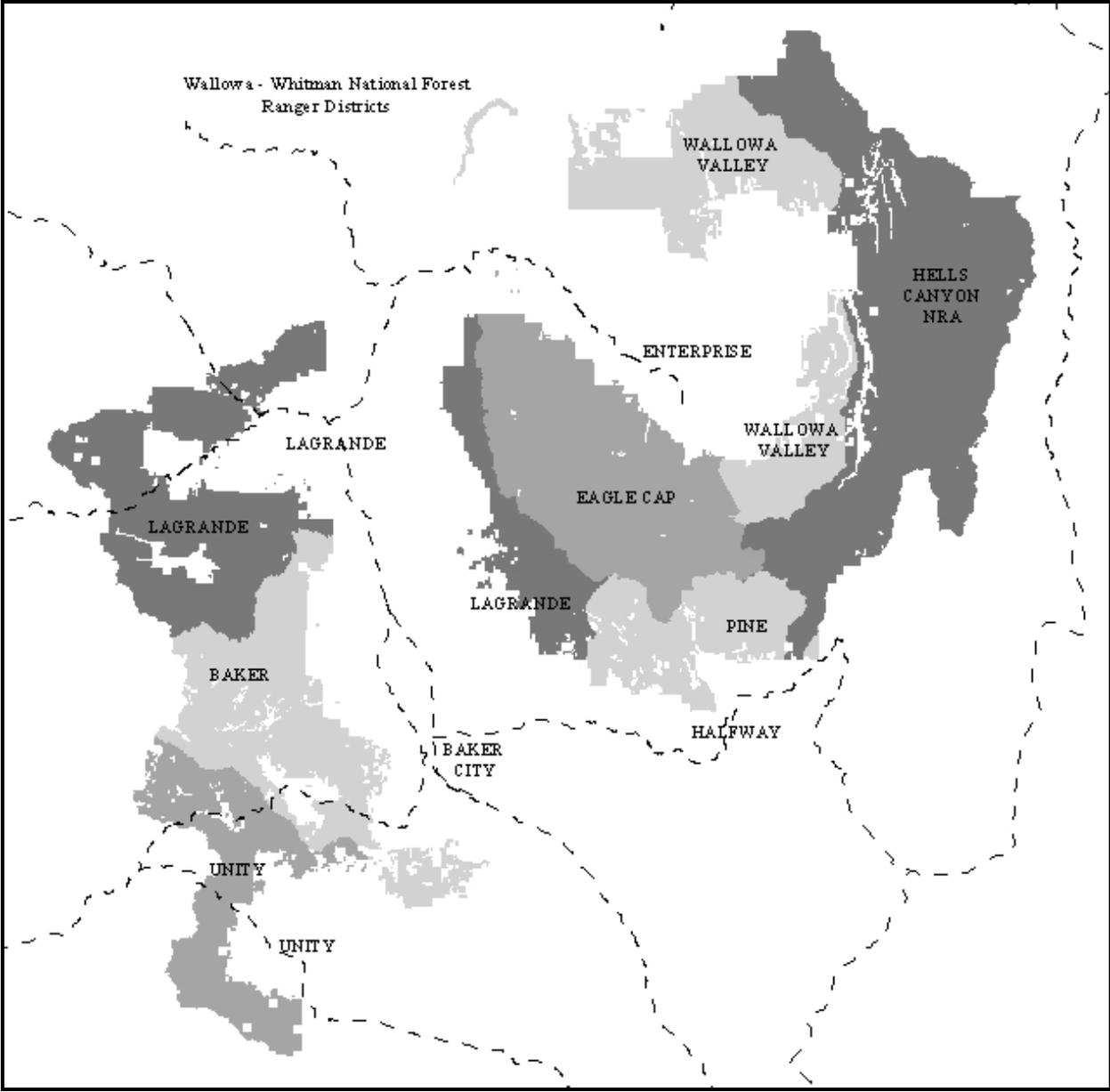
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SECTION W

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MONITORING ITEMS NOT REPORTED FOR FY2001

A number of Monitoring Items from the Wallowa-Whitman Forest's 1991 Monitoring Implementation Plan were not reported in FY2001. Some items need only to be reported at predetermined intervals to detect trends; some were purposely deferred pending updated monitoring protocols or direction; while others were deferred due to lack of funding, personnel issues, or other work priorities.

Monitoring Items that were not reported are as follows:

- Item 1 Compliance with NEPA and the Forest Plan
- Item 2 Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines
- Item 12 Range Outputs
- Item 13 Forage Utilization
- Item 14 Range Vegetative Conditions
- Item 15 Range Improvements
- Item 16 Allotment Management Planning
- Item 20 Peak Flow/Low Flow Cumulative Effects
- Item 23 Fisheries Habitat
- Item 24 Anadromous Fisheries Consultation
- Item 25 Columbia River PIG, PACFISH, INFISH
- Item 26 Salmon Summit Action Plan Commitments
- Item 29 Pileated Woodpecker
- Item 35 Sensitive Plants
- Item 36 MacFarlane's Four-O'Clock
- Item 37 Greenman's Lomatium
- Item 44 Cultural and Historic Resource Sites
- Item 45 Budget
- Item 46 Costs and Values
- Item 47 Community Effects
- Item 48 Adjacent Lands

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENTS

The following nonsignificant Forest Plan amendments were prepared in fiscal year 2001.

| <u>Amendment Number</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Summary and Comments</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|
| 28 | 05/07/01 | Carrol Creek Salvage and Restoration Area Decision Notice. Due to fire caused alterations, switched areas in MA 15 (Old Growth) and MA 1 (Timber Production). |
| 29 | 05/25/01 | Decision Notice to change Vance Knoll proposed Research Natural Area to a Research Natural Area. |

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

The Summary of Recommended Actions, beginning on page W-6, shows all Wallowa-Whitman Monitoring Items and whether they were deferred, consolidated with the other Blue Mountain Forests (Section C), or reported in this section (W). The table summarizes the key findings and the recommended actions to be taken as a result of this year's monitoring for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. A more complete analysis of reported monitoring items can be found later in this section (W) or in the Coordinated Monitoring Section (C).

Categories of recommended actions are identified in the table as follows:

Change Practices (CP) - Indicates that the results of current practices are outside the thresholds of variability and/or are not meeting specific direction set by the Forest Plan. A change in practice or procedure may be needed.

Further Evaluation (FE) - Indicates that results may or may not have exceeded the threshold of variability, but additional information or evaluation is needed to better identify the cause of the concern and/or determine future actions.

Amend Forest Plan (AP) - Indicates that results are inconsistent with the Forest Plan, or the Forest Plan direction was not clear. The Forest Plan may need to be changed or clarified through the amendment or revision process.

Continue Monitoring (CM) - Indicates we will continue with the current protocol.

Not Evaluated (NE) – The monitoring item was not evaluated this year.

Summary of Recommended Action
 ♦ **2001 Monitoring Report** ♦
 Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

| Report Section* | MI# | Monitoring Item (MI) | 2000 Action | 2001 Recommended Action | | | Remarks** |
|-----------------|-----|--|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--|
| | | | | Change Practice | Further Eval. | Amend Forest Plan | |
| DEF | 1 | Compliance with NEPA and Forest Plan | NE | | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 2 | Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines | NE | | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| COORD | 3 | Insect and Disease Management | CM | | | | "Insects and Diseases". Slight increases in bark beetles, trend expected to be short-lived. Bark beetle pheromone treatments effective. Continue to monitor. |
| COORD | 4 | Timber Offered for Sale | FE AP | X | X | | Forest offered 116% of funded level. Harvest levels are well below Forest Plan levels (16%). |
| COORD | 5 | Silvicultural Harvest Methods | FE AP | X | X | | "Harvest Methods and Acres". All harvest methods except thinning are well below Forest Plan levels. Predominant harvest method is commercial thinning. |
| ACCOM RPT | 6 | Precommercial Thinning | CM | | | | 10,047 acres of timber stand improvement were done (136% of Forest Plan level). Continue to monitor. |
| COORD | 7 | Harvest Unit | NE | | | | "Harvest Methods and Acres". See item #5. |
| COORD | 8 | Reforestation | FE | X | X | | 2,316 acres were regenerated naturally and 1,141 acres were planted. Overall this is 27% of the Forest Plan level. 1 st year survival rates were at historic averages. |
| DEF | 9 | Lands Not Suitable for Timber Management | CM | | | | "Timber Suitability". |
| COORD | 10 | Vegetation Management | CM | | | | "Vegetation Management and Noxious Weeds". 14,319 acres were treated by various methods. Trend is an increase in herbicide use and a decrease in prescribed fire. Continue to monitor. |

* More information on items can be found in: W-W = Wallowa-Whitman; COORD = Coordinated; or ACCOM RPT = Accomplishment Report Table at the end of the Wallowa-Whitman section. DEF = Deferred (not evaluated for FY2000);

** Items in quotation marks note title of items in the Coordinated Section if different from the Forest monitoring title.

| Report Section* | Mi# | Monitoring Item (MI) | 2000 Action | 2001 Recommended Action | Remarks** | |
|-----------------|-----|---|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|--|
| | | | | Change Practice | Further Eval. | Amend Forest Plan |
| COORD | 11 | Transportation | CM | | | |
| DEF | 12 | Range Outputs | CM | | | "Roads". 45 miles of road were decommissioned or closed. 49.1 miles were reconstructed. 1.1 miles were constructed. Continue to monitor. |
| DEF | 13 | Forage Utilization | CP | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 14 | Range Vegetative Condition | NE | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 15 | Range Improvements | CM | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 16 | Allotment Management Planning | FE | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| COORD | 17 | Noxious Weeds | CM | | | "Vegetation Management and Noxious Weeds". 5,039 gross acres treated by various methods. Continue to monitor. |
| W-W | 18 | Watershed Standards, Guidelines, and BMPs | NE | | | BMPs met during project implementation. Road drainage a problem. Continue to monitor. |
| W-W | 19 | Riparian Area Cumulative Effects | NE | | | Effectiveness monitoring of streamside enclosure fence identified corrective action. Continue to monitor. |
| DEF | 20 | Peak Flow/Low Flow Cumulative Effects | NE | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| COORD | 21 | Soil Productivity | NE | | | Productivity standards and guidelines met. Subsoiling found to enhance soil recovery process. Continue to monitor. |
| COORD | 22 | Air Quality | NE | | | "Air Quality and Smoke Management". Met reporting obligations. Continue to monitor. |
| DEF | 23 | Fisheries Habitat | NE | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 24 | Anadromous Fisheries Consultation | NE | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 25 | Columbia River PIG, PACFISH, and INFISH | NE | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 26 | Salmon Summit Action Plan Commitments | NE | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| COORD | 27 | Old Growth | FE AP | X | X | "Old Growth Habitat". Management requirements for old growth not being met. Only 20% of surveyed allocated old growth areas met Forest Plan standards. |
| COORD | 28 | Dead and Defective Tree Habitat and | FE | X | X | "Dead and Defective Tree Habitat". 2,700 acres |

| Report Section* | MI# | Monitoring Item (MI) | 2000 Action | 2001 Recommended Action | | | Remarks** |
|-----------------|-----|------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | | Change Practice | Further Eval. | Amend Forest Plan | |
| | | Primary Cavity Excavators | | | | | surveyed, 52% met standards for snags. Threshold of variability exceeded for surveyed timber sales. |
| W-W | 29 | Pileated Woodpecker | FE | | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| W-W | 30 | Goshawk Populations | FE | X | | | Three districts surveyed, five nest sites found. Two sites produced 2 fledglings each. Current inventory inadequate. |
| W-W | 31 | Pine Marten Populations | FE | X | | | No monitoring occurred. Need to complete habitat and population monitoring. |
| COORD | 32 | Elk Habitat/Populations | FE | X | X | | "Elk/Deer Habitat". 100% of analyzed projects met HEI objective. New habitat model needed. |
| W-W | 33 | Bald Eagles | CM | | | | Two nest sites monitored, one produced 1 young. Continue to monitor. |
| W-W | 34 | Peregrine Falcons | CM | | | | La Grande eyrie active, two adults observed. Continue to monitor. |
| W-W | 35 | Sensitive Species - Wildlife | CM | | | | Management guides needed for wolverine and spotted frogs. Continue to monitor. |
| DEF | 35 | Sensitive Species - Plants | NE | | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 36 | MacFarlane's Four-O'Clock | NE | | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 37 | Greenman's Lomatium | NE | | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| COORD | 38 | Minerals | FE AP | X | | | About 80% of operations met resource objectives. |
| COORD | 39 | Wilderness | FE | | | | Regional haze most significant impact on wilderness values. Continue to monitor. |
| COORD | 40 | Wild and Scenic Rivers | CM | | | | River classifications maintained to standards. Fund implementation of management plans. Continue to monitor. |
| W-W | 41 | Recreation Setting | CM | | | | Public generally satisfied with available opportunities. Updated ATM plan needed. Continue to monitor. |
| COORD | 42 | Off-Road Vehicle Use | CM | | | | "Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Use". ORV use increasing, especially ATV and Quad machines. Continue Tri-Forest strategy development. Continue to monitor. |
| W-W | 43 | Visual Resource Objectives | NE | | | | Visual quality objectives maintained. Scenery Management System (SMS) needs to be implemented. Continue to monitor. |

| Report Section* | MI# | Monitoring Item (MI) | 2000 Action | 2001 Recommended Action | | | Remarks** |
|-----------------|-----|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------|---|
| | | | | Change Practice | Further Eval. | Amend Forest Plan | |
| DEF | 44 | Cultural and Historic Resource Sites | NE | | | | "Cultural and Historic Site Protection". Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 45 | Budget | NE | | | | "Socio-Economics". Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 46 | Costs and Values | NE | | | | "Socio-Economics". Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 47 | Community Effects | NE | | | | "Socio-Economics". Not evaluated in FY2001. |
| DEF | 48 | Adjacent Lands | NE | | | | Not evaluated in FY2001. |

Watershed Standards, Guidelines, and BMPs

Item 18

Purpose: To determine if watershed standards and guidelines (S&Gs) and best management practices (BMPs) are being properly implemented within each project area. To determine if watershed S&Gs and BMPs are effective in meeting project objectives and State water quality standards. To determine, for watershed improvement projects, if prescriptions and the project as a whole are effective in meeting project objectives.

Three levels of implementation monitoring occur on the Forest. Level One occurs during the planning phase to determine if S&Gs and BMPs were considered and incorporated into project design, Level Two occurs during contract/permit administration to determine if S&Gs and BMPs were implemented, and Level Three occurs during post-project field reviews to determine if S&Gs and BMPs were implemented.

Level One Monitoring

Wallowa Valley Ranger District

Timber Sale EA's: Buck TS, Lone Dog TS, Rice (including Baldwin) TS, Spooner (including Marr) TS, and Muddy Sled. Timber sales were surveyed for both hydrology and soil conditions. Hydrology surveys consist of a modified PFC and stability analysis in both perennial and intermittent channels as well as ephemeral draws. Soil surveys were conducted using the Wallowa-Whitman NF soil protocols (1998 and revised 2001). All areas have units that exceed soil standards and guidelines. A database has been created to track soil conditions through the sale and into the future.

Special Project: Haypen 3. Conducted soil surveys and set up monitoring points for post activity monitoring of soil conditions. This is a cooperative project with Wallowa Resources.

TSI project: Coordination plan for thinning and release projects within reforestation units.

Coordination Plans: Watershed (hydrology and soils) provided input on approximately 25 coordination plans for various zone projects.

Elk Creek Structure Restoration Project: Continued to plan the restoration of cross-channel structures within Elk Creek. Structures placed in the channel in the late 1970's and early 80's are deteriorating or are fish passage barriers. The structures need to be stabilized or modified. In 2001, the zone re-measured three channel cross-sections and profiles (cross-sections established in 2000) and hosted a field peer review of the project with specialists from the Wallowa-Whitman and the Umatilla NF.

Fish Passage Culvert Inventory: Surveyed remaining culverts (80) for fish passage against regional standards. Used the Region 6 fish passage protocols. This information will be incorporated into watershed assessments, and will help identify and prioritize culvert replacement projects.

Sled Springs Facility Expansion and Thomason Meadow Facility Special Use: Surveyed the site for wetland, soil, and hydrologic considerations related to facility expansion or changes in use.

Eagle Cap Ranger District

Wilderness Campsite and Trail Restoration: Continuation of the restoration project started six years ago.

Lostine River Recreation Site Reconstruction: Hydrologic field review of campsite and stream access locations.

Hells Canyon NRA

Tin Shed and Camp Creek Erosion Sites: Continued monitoring of the erosion at Tin Shed and Camp Creek.

Toilet Placement: Field review of toilet placement at developed and dispersed recreation sites.

Level Two Monitoring

Wallowa Valley Ranger District

Soil Monitoring in Buck and Haypen 3 Timber Sales: Established pre-activity soil condition transects in Buck and Haypen 3 timber sales per the EA. These transects will provide implementation monitoring for timber projects in the demo area.

Riparian Fencing: Watershed personnel participated in the construction of riparian fencing. Planning objectives and watershed S&Gs and BMPs were met during implementation of the project.

Eagle Cap Ranger District

Lostine Campsite Restoration Project: Watershed personnel reviewed the location of campsites and river access points in the Lostine Canyon. Identified the bankfull elevation for the step construction. Planning objectives and watershed S&Gs and BMPs were met during implementation of the project.

Wilderness Campsite and Trail Restoration: Watershed personnel participated in the restoration and stabilization of campsites, and closed trails in the Lakes Basin in the Eagle Cap Wilderness (Lostine and Wallowa Watersheds). Drainage was re-established on the trails and within the campsites, soil amendments were applied, and vegetation planted in the closed areas. Monitoring was conducted in 2001, a summary report written and distributed. Planning objectives and watershed S&Gs and BMPs were met during implementation of the project.

Level Three Monitoring

Wallowa Valley Ranger District

Large Woody Material Placement along Rich Creek: Hydrology reviewed large woody material placement along Rich Creek. Review recommended changes in procedures for placing large woody material along channels to restrict livestock access to the channel. This information will be used for future project design and implementation.

Eagle Cap Ranger District

Eagle Cap Wilderness Campsite Stabilization: Campsites were monitored for recovery. Maintenance of the sites was completed as needed. Re-vegetation techniques have been modified based on monitoring and site maintenance.

Evaluation and Recommended Action:

- Continue to have watershed (hydrologic and soil) input in the planning process for all projects.
- Conduct post activity soil monitoring as indicated in EA's.
- Conduct native plant establishment and survival surveys to continue improvement of implementation of revegetation projects.
- Implement changes in procedure for placing large woody material along channels. This includes not cutting dead standing trees that will reach the channel and provide wildlife habitat, or trees providing channel stability.
- Continue to monitor effectiveness of the campsite stabilization projects in the Lostine River Corridor and the Eagle Cap Wilderness.

Effectiveness monitoring also occurred in several areas. The objective was to determine if prescriptions for watershed improvement projects, and the project as a whole were effective in meeting project objectives.

Water Temperature Monitoring - Baseline/Trend/BMP Effectiveness

Seventeen water temperature stations were operated across the Wallowa Mountains Zone during FY 2001. Hobo Temp Probes collected maximum and minimum temperature data, hourly, from June to September. The data was collected for stream survey analysis and the zone Bull Trout study. Sites are being entered onto a GIS map layer and into a PC based analysis program (this data base and GIS layer is being coordinated to include all of Wallowa County's water quality monitoring). Monitoring site locations were coordinated with other land management agencies in the area through participation in the Wallowa County Monitoring Group.

Flow and Snow Level Monitoring - Baseline/Trend/BMP Effectiveness

Flows in Chesnimnus Creek and Elk Creek were monitored. There are no gauging stations in Upper or Lower Joseph Creek, thus no baseline data is available. The zone has established a staff gauge and has been monitoring flow levels for the past six years to characterize streamflows in the area.

Mid elevation snow levels have been monitored for three years. Site elevations are in the transition snow zone so this data provides snow depth and period of time that snow is on the ground. The information is used for baseline and to provide guidelines for winter logging in timber sale planning documents.

Road Drainage Monitoring - Baseline/Trend/BMP Effectiveness

Road drainage that does not meet Forest Plan S&Gs and BMPs is a Forest-wide problem. Many of these roads were constructed before implementation of the Forest Plan. Engineering zones in consultation with watershed personnel have set up a process for identifying these problem roads so zone maintenance engineers can plan corrective measures. Refer to the engineering report for detailed information.

Timber sale administrators wrote up stream and road inspection reports to document any road related concerns. These reports are available at the Wallowa Mountains Office Watershed shop and will be used to recommend roads for closure and/or reconstruction.

Remaining zone culverts (80) were surveyed for fish passage concerns; Lower Joseph Creek, Big Sheep Creek, Imnaha River, Lower Main Grande Ronde, and Wallowa Watersheds. Identified culverts of concern will be prioritized cooperatively with engineering staff and a plan of action developed to move culverts towards a fish friendly condition.

Channel Morphology Monitoring - Baseline/Trend/BMP Effectiveness

Elk Creek X-Sections: Three channel cross sections were re-measured related to the Elk Creek Structure Restoration Project. A report was written (Wallowa Mountains Zone Files).

Swamp Creek Hardwood Restoration Project: Established three cross-sections in Swamp Creek for long-term documentation of channel and floodplain changes related to re-establishment of hardwoods along Swamp Creek (Report written, Wallowa Mountains Zone Files).

Rich Creek X-sections: Three channel cross-sections were re-measured in upper Rich Creek (intermittent channel). The cross-sections found improving vegetation conditions within the exclosures. Refer to the report (Wallowa Mountains Zone Files).

Evaluation and Recommended Action:

- Analyze data as time and funding allows.
- Continue to monitor the flows and snow courses currently established.
- Continue to monitor activities and natural events on the zone, and document this monitoring with photographs and written reports.
- Prioritize culverts for replacement, repair, or removal.
- Continue to read and establish cross-sections. Analyze and report the results as the databases build.

Riparian Area Cumulative Effects Item 19

Purpose: To determine if desirable riparian vegetation and stream channel characteristics of riparian and aquatic ecosystems are being maintained over the long term, or if in poor condition, are being improved after proper implementation of appropriate standards and guidelines and BMPs.

This monitoring item requires long-term studies. The purpose of the studies listed below is to collect baseline and trend data. Trends may be apparent in as little as one to two years, or may not be apparent for five to ten years. Data may be quantitative, qualitative (such as photos), or both.

Long-Term Monitoring

Zone

Exclosure Monitoring: Over 65 miles of streamside exclosure fence and 160 upland spring/seep exclosures (approximately 150 acres) were monitored for effectiveness. Corrective action was taken when needed to insure that exclosure objectives were being met.

Riparian Plantings: In 2001, riparian enhancement projects included planting deciduous shrubs and conifers within riparian zones. Maintenance of the plantings occurred.

Channel cross-sections established or read: Refer to Item 18 for channel cross-sections read during 2001.

Hells Canyon NRA

Tin Shed and Camp Creek Terrace Erosion: Terrace and sandbar erosion was measured along the Snake River in the HCNRA. Terrace monitoring consists of bank profiles and erosion pin measurements. Written reports are available (SO watershed files).

Baseline Stream and Lake Inventories

Non-fish Bearing Streams. Inventory work was done on the Wallowa Valley Ranger District in response to timber sale planning projects.

Evaluation and Recommended Action:

- Continue to maintain the riparian fences.
- Continue to re-read channel cross-sections in Little Sheep Creek, Chesnimnus Creek, Elk Creek, Peavine Creek, Rich Creek, Shadow and Road Canyons at regular intervals. Report changes in channel morphology and maintain the GIS layer and associated database.
- Continue to obtain baseline and trend information as funding permits.

Goshawk Populations
Item 30

Purposes: To determine whether goshawks are using allocated old growth habitat or nesting habitat in other allocations where considerations allow. To determine baseline populations and trends.

Only three districts completed some goshawk monitoring in FY2001. A total of five nests were found. Two of the nests produced two fledglings each, while a third failed to produce young. Productivity of the other two was unknown

No monitoring of goshawk prey species was conducted. Funding was not available to determine baseline populations and trends.

Evaluation and Recommended Action:

- Obtain funding for surveying goshawks in each new timber sale analysis area since this action has the potential to modify existing habitat.
- Follow guidelines for goshawk habitat management outlined in Amendment 2.
- Survey for goshawk nest site occupancy and productivity Forest-wide.

Pine Marten Populations
Item 31

Purpose: To determine if the old growth habitats (by management areas), subalpine forest, and lodgepole pine areas are available and being used by pine marten as planned.

All districts reported not having sufficient funds to complete any monitoring for martens. Therefore, the Forest cannot determine populations, reproductive parameters, or habitat preferences.

Evaluation and Recommended Action:

- If the marten is going to continue to be used as an indicator of forest health, both habitat and population monitoring needs to be completed. Without this information, we must assume the designated old growth areas are inadequate, since current research indicates they are grossly undersized.

Bald Eagles
Item 33

Purposes: To determine if the nesting, communal roosting, and associated foraging habitats are being identified and protected. To determine if individual site management plans are being developed. To determine if the young per occupied territory goals are being met.

The annual Oregon midwinter eagle count was completed for the Ladd Marsh-Vey Meadow survey route. Ten bald eagles were located, five adults and five immature birds.

The bald eagle nest on Baker RD successfully fledged one eaglet in the summer of 2001. The nest at the Unity RD was monitored in FY2001, but the nest failed. It is not known why it failed. The CFR road closures near both nest sites were continued.

Evaluation and Recommended Action:

- Continue to monitor both nest and roost sites.

Peregrine Falcons
Item 34

Purposes: To determine if the nesting and associated foraging habitats are being identified and protected. To determine if individual site management plans are being developed. To decide whether potential nest habitats are identified and being managed to maintain suitability. To determine if the young per occupied territory goals are being met.

The La Grande peregrine eyrie was active in FY2001, two adults were observed. The Peregrine Falcon Habitat Management Plan for this nest site was completed in 1998, and continues to be implemented.

No surveys were completed on the NRA peregrine eyrie.

Evaluation and Recommended Action:

- Continue to monitor all known active nest sites.

Sensitive Species – Wildlife
Item 35

Purpose: To determine whether species management guides for birds and mammals are being developed in a timely manner based on an established schedule.

No species management guides were developed for any sensitive species.

Evaluation and Recommended Action:

- Obtain funding to complete guides for wolverine and spotted frogs.

Recreation Setting

Item 41

Purposes: To determine whether Forest settings with desirable recreation attributes are being managed to provide high quality and stable opportunities for outdoor recreation use. To monitor recreation developments in order to ensure that they are maintained to a standard which provides for customer satisfaction.

The varieties of the Forest's recreational settings are a reflection of its landscape diversity. Ranging from lower elevation Great Basin deserts and the Snake River grasslands, to the high elevation subalpine peaks in the Wallowa and Elkhorn Mountains, the Forest is quite unique. This diversity attracts hundreds of thousand visitors year round to NE Oregon each year. Visitors who visit the Forest seek recreational opportunities in the various dispersed to developed settings. The challenge for the Forest is to manage these sites and settings with the objective of balancing resource needs and customer's needs. Efforts made this year to meet this objective include:

- Designing and relocating campsites away from sensitive fisheries.
- Upgrading water systems
- Improving accessibility to developed overnight and day use sites.
- Installing additional information boards and interpretations of activities or areas.
- Upgrading more riding and pack stock facilities at trailheads.
- Developing additional accessible toilets (The Forest goal is 75 percent – current status is 65 percent).
- Updating popular visitor brochures and website information.

To monitor visitor satisfaction, the Forest uses a variety of methods for public feed back. These include personal conversations with Campground Hosts, FS employees, and Front Desk Information Specialists; customer comment cards; and letters to the District and Supervisor's offices. Overall the comments indicate that our visitors are generally satisfied with the opportunities available, and enjoy their stay on the Forest. This has been a stable trend for the past five years.

Some suggested areas of improvement that were heard can be categorized into the following types:

- Use Fees: Implementation of Recreation Fee Demonstration projects such campgrounds and trailheads are not always acceptable to traditional users who have used the sites for free in the past. Their suggestions ranged from dropping the fees to reducing them for local users, or multiple night stays.
- Existing Areas Closures and Motorized Restrictions: In light of not having an updated comprehensive Access and Travel Management Plan, many areas are closed or restrict use based on project level decisions from the Ranger District. Users are requesting updated Access and Travel Management information. They also challenge restrictions into many areas that formerly were open to cross country and road use, yet are now closed to motorized travel.
- Lack of Customer Expectations: These comments are on the timeliness or quality of maintenance and administration of facilities. Comments include: need for earlier, more frequent, or later in fall trail maintenance; delayed campground openings; water not turned on early enough or not left on late enough; lack of utilities – garbage, power, water at campgrounds and cabins; and inadequate accessible sites and trails for disabled users.
- Social concerns: These have been noted for the last several years and include perceived and actual conflicting uses between: horses and ATVs on multi purpose trails, and motorized and float operations on the Snake River; running generators in campgrounds; and encountering unauthorized motorized uses in wilderness areas.

Visitor satisfaction includes many of the same comments as in previous years. These include:

- Campgrounds: Overall satisfactory with positive comments regarding the forest setting, quality campground maintenance, and excellent service by volunteer Campground Hosts. The Forest has 15 Recreation Fee sites and will add 8 more campgrounds next year based on the available facilities the sites offer (water, table, fire rings, access road, etc).
- Dispersed Recreation: Overall satisfactory; no specific sites were mentioned or brought forward.
- Trails: Overall satisfactory; some concerns regarding motorized use in the Hells Canyon NRA and lack of motorized use allowed in the Hells Canyon NRA. Only a few comments were received for the Northwest Forest Pass Recreation Fee Sites. The Forest had 37 sites this year and will reduce 1 trailhead and 1 picnic area in 2002. Compliance is fair to good, yet should improve with a formal compliance strategy set to be implemented next year.
- Winter Activities: Overall satisfactory; a growing number of concerns for the need of a comprehensive winter sports plan for specific areas on the Forest such as the Wallowa, Elkhorn, or southern Blue Mountains.
- Wild and Scenic River use: Overall satisfactory; the Forest again met with advocates of the jet boat community concerning their desire to lift the non-motorized window. Comments from both sides have been received that support or do not support the limited restrictions.
- Wilderness: Overall satisfactory; compliments were received on the restoration work, trail conditions, and relocation projects. The presence of FS employees and their willingness to help was also noted.

The Forest will be engaging in the National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) program in 2002-2003. The protocol will sample use in developed areas, dispersed use areas, wilderness, and trails. The goal is to determine visitor satisfaction, overall use figures, and areas of improvement.

Recommended Actions:

- Monitor and Listen: Continue to monitor visitor satisfaction and setting. Use preliminary NVUM results for improvement strategy.
- Deferred Maintenance and Need: Continue to assess the adequacy (capacity), and condition of our facilities and upgrade/adjust as budgets allow.
- Efficient & Economical Programs: Review business practices of Recreation Fee Sites for economic viability.
- Assess Value to Customers: Monitor customer satisfaction with Recreation Fee Demo on existing sites and adjust as needed.
- Improve Facility Access: Assess accessibility of sites to meet intent of American with Disability Act (ADA), and focus new capital investment proposals on identified sites.

**Visual Resource Objectives
Item 43**

Purpose: To determine if visual resource objectives for treated acres and created opening size are being met.

The visual resources are managed by meeting standards and guidelines that have been established in the Forest Plan as Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's). The VQO's are designated to Forest areas by a number of factors: Scenic Attractiveness, Concern Levels, Distance Zones, and Landscape Visibility. VQO's establish harvest limitations regarding created opening size, percentage of regenerated acres in a viewshed per decade, and percentage of disturbance in a viewshed at one time in order to retain visual resources (Table W-1).

Table W-1
HARVEST LIMITATIONS PER VQO

| VQO's | Max. Regen./decade | Max. Seen Area Disturbance | Max. Regen. Unit Size |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Retention Foreground | 7% | 10% | 3 acres |
| Partial Retention Foreground and Retention Middleground | 9% | 5% | 5 acres |
| Partial Retention Middleground | 10% | 20% | 10 acres |

No harvest is allowed in Preservation VQO.
There are no measurable limitations in Modification or Max. Modification VQO's.

The vegetation management projects proposed and accomplished in the years between 1996 and 2001 have not utilized the practice of regeneration prescriptions. Harvest treatments have been primarily thinning from below and small (less than 2 acres) openings. The Visual Quality Objectives have been maintained.

In 1994, the Landscape Aesthetics Handbook was developed to guide the Forest Service in implementing the Scenery Management System. This system is similar to the Visual Management System but applies biophysical and social considerations to manage the aesthetic resources in a more holistic manner. This system has been sporadically implemented (at best) on a project by project basis. There is a need to complete conversion/validation of the inventory data, as well as training. The Scenery Management System (SMS) establishes Landscape Character Goals and Scenic Integrity Objectives that help the IDT develop appropriate project prescriptions that would move the existing landscape character toward the Landscape Character Goal.

Evaluation and Recommended Action:

- The SMS is difficult to implement on a project by project basis. It is recommended that an effort to implement this system be taken during the upcoming Forest Plan Revision (FPR). In order to be ready to put it into practice, the concepts and tools of this system (inventory and constituent information) for FPR need to be gathered prior to revising the Forest Plan. This could be accomplished by contract prior to the alternative development stage of the FPR process. This contract would consist of taking and validating inventory of the scenic resources, constituent information gathering, "place" mapping, writing existing landscape character descriptions for each place, and determining existing scenic and ecological integrity ratings for each place. This effort is essential to the success of SMS implementation, and will be immensely valuable in developing alternatives that incorporate social values in our planning efforts.

FOREST ACCOMPLISHMENTS – FISCAL YEAR 2001
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

This table provides a summary of selected Forest accomplishments and resource outputs for FY2001. Where possible, these are compared to Forest Plan estimates, but in many cases the unit of measure has changed since the Forest Plan was completed and direct comparison is no longer possible.

| RESOURCE ACTIVITY/OUTPUT | UNIT OF MEASURE | FOREST PLAN PROJECTION (avg/year) | ACTUAL FY2001 FOREST OUTPUT | % ACTUAL TO FOREST PLAN |
|--|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| <u>FIRE</u> Natural Fuel Treatment Activity Fuel Treatment | Acres Acres | 22,400 (total combined) | 7,310 | 33 |
| <u>FISH</u> Anadromous Stream Restored/Enhanced Inland Stream Restored/Enhanced | Miles* Miles* | 250 acres 500 structures (Anad & Inland) | 85 11 | NA NA |
| <u>RANGE</u> Permitted Grazing - Sheep & Goats Cattle & Horses Non-structural Improvements Structural Improvements Noxious Weed Treatment | AUMs* * Acres Structures Acres | 186,000 (total livestock) Not Specified Not Specified 400 | 5,039 | NA NA 1,260 |
| <u>RECREATION</u> Trail Construction/Reconstruction Developed Recreation Capacity | Miles PAOTs | 4 661,000 | 4 1,300,000 | 100 197 |
| <u>ROADS</u> Construction Reconstruction Decommissioned | Miles Miles Miles | 249 (C/RC Combined) Not Specified | 50.6 - 45 | 20 - NA |
| <u>THREATENED, ENDANGERED, and SENSITIVE SPECIES</u> Aquatic Habitat Restored/Enhanced Terrestrial Habitat Restored/Enhanced | Miles Acres | Not Specified Not Specified | 8 85 | NA NA |
| <u>TIMBER</u> Total Program Sale Quantity Reforestation Timber Stand Improvement | MMBF Acres Acres | 205 14,300 7,400 | 32 3,457 10,047 | 16 24 136 |
| <u>WILDLIFE</u> Habitat Restored/Enhanced Habitat Structures | Acres Structures | 1,000 Not Specified | 2,496 1,495 | 250 NA |
| <u>WATER</u> Watershed Improvements | Acres | 1000 | 389 | 39 |

* Unit of measure changed between FY 1990 Forest Plan and FY2001 Accomplishment Report.