

Restoration Business Plan for the Umpqua National Forest

Issue: Restoring healthy ecosystems improves habitats for listed threatened species, improves water quality, and by doing so, improves the capacity for production of goods and services from suitable lands and employs local contractors.

Background:

- ❑ A Strategic Business Plan for aquatic and watershed restoration completed in 2000 facilitates **coordination** between the **Umpqua Basin Watershed Council** and the **Umpqua National Forest**, and leveraged implementation of priority restoration projects.
- ❑ We updated the **Restoration Business Plan** in March 2003 to reflect **2002 fire effects**.
- ❑ Our business plan approach **emphasizes strategic criteria** to spend money where it will do the greatest good first by focusing work in six watersheds identified as the Forests' highest priority.
- ❑ We have invested approximately **\$5.5 million in watershed and stream restoration** projects since 1995, resulting in 35 miles of salmon stream improvement, over 200 miles of road improvements, and improved big game habitat security and hydrologic function.
- ❑ We have an **updated inventory of 136 anadromous fish barriers** forest-wide and have prioritized work to restore historic fish access to native habitats.
- ❑ **Watershed restoration** is an important component of the 1990 Umpqua Forest Plan and has been an **important objective** of our agency and partners for **the last fifteen years**. We are hopeful that this program will continue to be funded at a level to allow us to leverage partnership resources and enhance forest and community health.
- ❑ **Diamond Lake Water Quality Restoration** is underway. A canal is flowing into Lake Creek this winter until September 2006, when the surface will be eight feet lower, and tui chub killed with rotenone. By April, the lake is now five feet down and monitoring is underway by state and federal partners from Diamond Lake through the North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River.

Opportunities:

While recent, appropriated, restoration budgets have declined, **we stand ready to implement** many additional projects in priority watersheds to restore salmon fisheries and watershed health and are **ready to invest from \$1 million to \$4 million/year in funds dedicated to assess, plan and implement on-the-ground restoration projects using local contractors.**

Stakeholders:

- ❑ Umpqua Basin Watershed Council
- ❑ OR Watershed Enhancement Board
- ❑ OR Dept. of Environmental Quality
- ❑ Oregon State Police
- ❑ OR Department of Fish and Wildlife
- ❑ Local contractors: Native American Contractors, Weekly Brothers, etc.
- ❑ Rogue-Umpqua Resource Advisory Committee
- ❑ Roseburg District, BLM

- ❑ Seneca Jones Timber Company
- ❑ Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- ❑ Umpqua Watersheds
- ❑ The North Umpqua Foundation
- ❑ Umpqua Valley Audubon
- ❑ Umpqua Fishermen's Association
- ❑ PacifiCorp
- ❑ Joe Hall Creek landowners/partners
- ❑ Partnership for Umpqua Rivers Watershed Council
- ❑ US Geological Survey

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