

Issue Topic Ranking Factors, Watershed Prioritization Table, and Overall Watershed Rankings - Upper Crooked River

(Source: Appendix E – Upper Crooked River Prototype Subbasin Review)

I. Issue Topic Ranking Criteria (Synthesis)

After the characterization step was completed, the following criteria were used to help integrate characterization information and to develop some relative risk, opportunity and/or stronghold rankings for each of the watersheds in the subbasin. The rankings were subsequently used to assist the collaborators in developing watershed priorities.

Those watersheds which exhibited (in either quality or quantity) the greatest of the characteristics shown were assigned the highest numerical rankings. Rankings were then apportioned accordingly.

Issue: Wildlife Habitat Fragmentation

Highest road densities, most habitat fragmentation, least acres of old growth habitat, most acres of biological hot spots, and/or least vegetation cover/structure (compared to historical ranges).

Issue: Timber Supply

The highest potential for contributing timber from National Forest or BLM-administered lands.

Issue: Scenic Quality

Unique or especially attractive landscape features such as rivers, lakes, old growth stands, meadows, riparian areas, aspen stands/other particularly appealing vegetation/topographic diversity. High visitor use, such as in developed areas and campgrounds; frequently traveled corridors such as highways, arterial roads, and roads in the vicinity of frequently used sites. Congressionally recognized scenic/other special areas, such as Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers. Recreation and other sites of high Federal investment. Significant recreation issues/concerns exist, and further/more detailed planning is required. Scenic integrity remains; limited evidence of human-caused alterations.

Issue: Recreation

Concentrated recreation use. Conflicting and/or competing uses within fixed resource space. Visitor use impacts on other resource values. Visitor safety in jeopardy. High value, Congressionally-designated areas (Wilderness, Wild and Scenic Rivers). Areas of high Federal investment. Areas having significant recreation issues/concerns (and requires detailed recreation planning).

Issue: Big Game Damage to Private Croplands

Areas from which the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has received the most animal damage complaints.

Issue: Wildland Urbanization

Areas which currently have the highest concentration of permanent human occupation, or indications of trends toward human occupation.

Issue: Ranch Economic Sustainability

Areas which have the highest number of Federal livestock grazing permit AUMs.

Issue: Hydrologic Processes, Soils, Erosion and Sedimentation

Large upland areas having high current erosion or erosion hazard (including high road density areas); flashy stream/overland flows during storm events; and/or conversion of wetlands to high-efficiency water transfer systems

Issue: Physical Non-Functioning Stream Channels/Riparian Areas; Wetlands and Special Habitats

Areas having low-gradient, broad valley bottoms having high potential for recovery.

Issue: Road Risks to Aquatic and Riparian Resources

Landform areas having high risks for failure; low water holding capacity; high road densities; and/or quantity of roads within 300 feet of stream channels.

II. Watershed Prioritization Table

The following table is the result of the watershed ranking exercise (see *Issue Topic Ranking Criteria*).

1 = least risks, opportunities, and “strongholds” for that element; 8 = greatest risks, opportunities and contains “strongholds” for that element

ISSUES R = prioritization risk -based S = prioritization stronghold -based	WATERSHEDS							
	Bear Creek	Camp Creek	Deep Creek	Horse Heaven	Howard Johnson	Lower North Fork Crooked	Middle Crooked	Upper North Fork Crooked
Hydrologic processes, soils, erosion, and sedimentation (R)	8	7	3	1	5	2	6	4
Water Quality (R)	4	2	7	3	6	5	1	8
Physical Non-Functioning Riparian Areas and Stream Channel (R)	6	7	2	3	4	1	8	5
Fish Habitat Fragmentation, Rarity, Populations (R/S)	3	1	8	4	6	5	2	7
Road Risks to Aquatic and Riparian Resources (R)	2	3	6	8	4	1	7	5
Fire (R)	8	3	1	6	2	5	7	4
Air Quality (R)	3	2	5	4	1	7	8	6
Wetlands and Special Habitats (R)	6	7	2	3	4	1	8	5
Vegetation Health/Structure Composition (R)	2	1	7	4	5	3	8	6
Vegetation Distribution/Composition (S)	3	2	6	4	7	1	5	8

ISSUES R = prioritization risk -based S = prioritization stronghold -based	WATERSHEDS							
	Bear Creek	Camp Creek	Deep Creek	Horse Heaven	Howard Johnson	Lower North Fork Crooked	Middle Crooked	Upper North Fork Crooked
Rarity: Plant Populations/ Habitats (R/S)	2	1	8	5	7	3	6	4
Plants of Tribal Interest (S)	2	1	6	4	5	3	8	7
Noxious Weeds and Exotic Plant Species (R)	7	4	1	2	5	3	8	6
Wildlife Habitat Fragmentation, Rarity, Populations (S)	2	1	5	4	6	3	8	7
Soil, Vegetation Damage from Big Game Animals (R)	7	5	1	6	3	4	8	2
Recreation Opportunities ()	3	5	7	2	4	1	8	6
Scenic Quality and Integrity ()	3	2	8	4	7	1	6	5
Roads (R)	2	1	6	7	5	4	3	8
Timber (R)	2	1	6	3	7	5	4	8
Consequence of Urbanization (R)	7	6	1	5	4	3	8	2
Ranch Economic Sustainability (R)	8	7	5	1	3	2	4	6
TOTAL	90	69	101	83	100	63	131	119
SCORE (average)	4.30	3.30	4.80	3.90	4.80	3.00	6.20	5.60
RANKING	M	L	M	L	M	L	H	H

III. Overall Watershed Rankings

WATERSHED	SCORE	RANK
MIDDLE CROOKED	6.20	H
UPPER N. FORK CROOKED	5.60	H
DEEP CREEK	4.80	M
HOWARD JOHNSON	4.80	M
BEAR	4.30	M
HORSE HEAVEN	3.90	L
CAMP CREEK	3.30	L
LOWER N. FORK CROOKED	3.00	L