Development of a Quality Assurance System for Interagency Regional Monitoring of the Northwest Forest Plan

An "ad hoc" Quality System Development Team (QSDT) has been established to foster the development of the Regional Monitoring Team (RMT) quality system. A representative to the QSDT has been selected from each RMT module to assist in the development of quality system program plan. These individuals will serve as the QA coordinators for their respective modules until a permanent approach to QA staffing can be developed and implemented..

The responsibilities of the QSDT are as follows:

* Fulfill the functions of the QA Manager until such time as a QA Manger has been selected.

* Review and summarize current quality requirements for the program.

* Document and evaluate current data collection procedures and practices.

* Propose revisions to the draft (5/10/2002) RMT Quality System Management Plan based upon these evaluations.

* Create a quality system development schedule for the overall program. For example, the proposed RMT quality system was piloted in the Aquatic Riparian Effective Monitoring module in 2002. A plan is required to incorporate other modules within the quality system in subsequent years.

* Assist with quality assurance tasks designed to develop the quality system.

Module QA coordinators will have the following responsibilities in addition to assisting with the QSDT:

* Coordinate the preparation of a Quality Assurance Project Plan for their module.

* Coordinate the preparation of Standard Operating Procedures for their module. Document and evaluate current data collection procedures and practices.

* Coordinate audits and remeasurments for their module

* Prepare a quality assurance section for the module annual summary report.

* Prepare debriefing forms for field crews, conduct debriefing sessions and summarize these results for the module lead and lead project scientists.