

Reply To: 2350 River Management

Date: July 23, 1993

Dear River Enthusiast:

Enclosed is a Decision Notice which announces our sixth Forest Plan amendment. This amendment incorporates the Chetco River Management Plan into the Siskiyou Forest Plan for management of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River.

When Congress designated the Chetco Wild and Scenic River under the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988, it directed the Secretary of Agriculture to develop a management plan for the river. The Forest Plan provided interim direction for this river until the management plan could be completed.

The Chetco Wild and Scenic River Management Plan and its Environmental Assessment have been completed. This amendment replaces the interim direction with the Chetco Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. This plan provides for the protection and enhancement of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the river as well as other river related values.

The Environmental Assessment, upon which this decision is based, is available here at the Chetco Ranger District Office. If you have questions or would like to receive a copy of the River Management Plan or Environmental Assessment, please contact Paul E. Cruz here at the Chetco Ranger District Office at 555 Fifth Street, Brookings, OR., 97415, or phone (503) 469-2196

Sincerely,



MICHAEL FRAZIER
District Ranger

DECISION NOTICE
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

CHETCO WILD AND SCENIC RIVER
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

FOREST PLAN AMENDMENT NO. 6

Curry County, Oregon
USDA Forest Service
Siskiyou National Forest
Chetco Ranger District

DECISION

The Chetco River was designated a Wild and Scenic River in 1988, with passage of the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Act directs the Forest Service to preserve the freeflowing character of the river and to develop a management plan for the protection and/or enhancement of the outstandingly remarkable values (ORV's) of the designated river and associated corridor. The ORV's for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River are fisheries, water quality and recreation. This Decision Notice designates what the management regime will be for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River.

This decision affects four key areas:

1. The Wild river corridor (located mostly in designated Wilderness).
2. The Scenic river corridor.
3. The Recreational river corridor.
4. The viewshed adjacent to the Scenic river corridor.

It is my decision to implement the following alternatives:

1. Alternative II for the Wild segment.
2. Alternative II for the Scenic segment, modified to change the portion that recommends mineral withdrawal to maintain the river segment open to mineral entry.
3. Alternative VII for the Recreational segment.

It is also my decision to:

1. Implement the management actions as described in Chapter IV, Section A of the River Management Plan (RMP).
2. Implement the boat use allocation system as outlined in Chapter IV, Section B of the RMP.
3. Implement the schedule of planned activities as displayed in Chapter IV, Section C of the RMP.
4. Implement the monitoring and evaluation plan as shown in Chapter IV, Section D of the RMP.

5. Cooperate with individuals, groups, private interests and public agencies to assure that the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River are protected and that all interests are served to the fullest extent possible.

TIERING

The Chetco Wild and Scenic River Environmental Assessment (EA) documents the results of the analysis of management alternatives for the river, its designated corridor, and adjacent viewsheds. The Chetco Wild and Scenic River EA is tiered to the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the 1989 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Siskiyou National Forest.

I have reviewed the FEIS and the Forestwide and Management Area Standards and Guidelines in the Forest Plan designed to protect fisheries, water quality, recreation, and other resource values. I have found those Standards and Guidelines to be adequate protection for all river resource values except where additional protective measures have been added in Chapter III, Section C of the RMP. These additional standards and guidelines will clarify, enhance, expand, or add to the protection that the Forest Plan currently provides, so that river values will be protected and can be enhanced.

Because my review found existing Forestwide and Management Area Standards and Guidelines to be adequate and additional standards and guidelines to be enhancing, I found no need to direct the Interdisciplinary Team to perform a basinwide analysis. All projects that occur in the Chetco River drainage basin will be evaluated for their effects to the Chetco Wild and Scenic River resource values, and those values will be protected.

The EA and associated documents are available for review at the Chetco Ranger District Office, the Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor's Office, and the Chetco Public Library.

LOCATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

The Chetco Wild and Scenic River originates in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness just below Doe Gap and ends at the Forest Boundary just above Loeb State Park. The Chetco Wild and Scenic River is divided into three segments: Wild, Scenic, and Recreational. Based on my decision above and with Congressional approval, the segments will occur as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Wild | 27.5 mile segment from the headwaters to Mislatah Creek. |
| Scenic | 7.5 mile segment from Mislatah Creek to Eagle Creek. |
| Recreational | 9.5 mile segment from Eagle Creek to the Forest Boundary. |

The Chetco Wild and Scenic River corridor boundary averages approximately 320 acres per river mile and is described specifically in the Boundary Description

(Appendix E) of the River Management Plan (RMP) and is shown on the RMP Corridor Map (Appendix D) also.

DESCRIPTION OF SELECTED ALTERNATIVES

Recreational Segment: Alternative VII is the Selected Alternative.

- Overcrowding caused by too many boats:** A carrying capacity of 34 boats per day, from October 1 through March 31, is the maximum limit.
Phase 1: Guides would be reduced to 40. Mandatory private boater registration would be implemented. No use limits would be set for commercial or private boat use. Boating use would be monitored for ratio of commercial/private use and for the 34 boat threshold.
Phase 2: A 50/50 split allocation system will be enacted based on the 34 boat carrying capacity.
2A-Guides: Daily limit of 17 boats per day will be implemented with a pre-season draft signup.
2B-Private: Daily limit of 17 boats per day will be implemented with a daily permit system required.
- Motorized boat use:** Motorized boat use for any purpose other than emergency search and rescue would not be allowed.
- OHV use in and along the river:** Off-highway vehicle crossings would be prohibited except for historic private property access. OHV use would still be allowed along the river bars.
- Use of anchors:** Education on river etiquette and the responsible use of anchors will be emphasized.
- Fishing derbies:** The number of fishing derbies permitted per year would be no more than two.
- Level of facility development:** The level of facility use and development would be moderately high, with primary emphasis on developing the facilities identified in the Forest Plan, creating or improving dispersed recreation sites, and creating some viewpoints and angler access points.
- Mineral Withdrawal:** The river corridor would remain open to mineral claim and discovery. Removal of common mineral materials such as gravel, would be administered on a permit basis in areas where extraction would not conflict with resource protection or other resource objectives.

Scenic Segment: Alternative II is the Selected Alternative.

- Extending the Scenic segment terminus:** The Forest Service is recommending to Congress that the Scenic segment be extended approximately 1.5 miles downstream from the existing designation at Steel Bridge to the confluence of Eagle Creek. This 1.5 mile addition shall be

managed as Scenic until Congress acts on the Forest Service recommendation.

Level of facility development:

The level of facility use and development would be moderate to low, with emphasis on developing projects identified in the Forest Plan, as well as potentially developing improved parking at the 1917-067 river access point, developing some viewpoints along the 1376 Road above the Steel Bridge, and installing an angler access trail from the 1917-063 Road.

Changing VQO's adjacent to the Scenic corridor:

The visual quality objectives (VQO's) of specific areas adjacent to the Scenic river corridor would be changed from Modification to Partial Retention.

Motorized boat use:

Motorized boat use would not be allowed except for emergency search and rescue operations.

Mineral Withdrawal:

The river corridor would remain open to mineral claim and discovery. Removal of common mineral materials such as gravel, would not be permitted.

Wild Segment

Extending the Wild segment terminus:

The Forest Service is recommending to Congress that the Wild segment be extended approximately 2 miles downstream from the existing designation at Boulder Creek to the confluence of Mislatah Creek. This 2 mile addition shall be managed as Wild until Congress acts on the Forest Service recommendation.

ADJACENT FOREST PLAN MANAGEMENT AREAS

The National Forest System lands adjacent to the Wild and Scenic Chetco River corridor have been reviewed for effects that management of these lands could have on Outstandingly Remarkable Values. In general, existing management direction and Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines are adequate to protect ORV's and other river-related values. Changes affecting adjacent lands are described below.

1. The visual quality objectives of specific land areas directly adjacent to the Scenic river corridor will be changed to Partial Retention as per the Visual Analysis Map in Appendix D in the RMP.
2. Small boundary adjustments to the interim 1/4 mile corridor were made to take advantage of topographical features, identifiable points on-the-ground, legal boundaries, and to maintain the average acres per river mile at or below 320 acres in conformance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This is reflected in the boundary description in Appendix E of the RMP and in the RMP Corridor Map (Appendix D)

REASONS FOR DECISION

My decision focuses on protection and enhancement of the ORV's, resolution of the major issues, and management of each individual river segment as a separate element of the entire Chetco Wild and Scenic River.

Wild Segment

My selection of Alternative II will initiate a recommendation from the Forest Service to Congress that the Wild segment end at Mislatah Creek. This is an extension of the original Congressional designation by two miles. This is my preference because the two mile segment of river from Boulder Creek to Mislatah Creek is remote and accessible only by trail; is entirely free of impoundments, diversions, or other alterations; and has high water quality and shorelines which are essentially primitive. All these criteria meet the definition of a Wild river segment.

Scenic Segment

My selection of Alternative II will:

1. Initiate a recommendation from the Forest Service to Congress that the Scenic segment end at Eagle Creek. This is an extension of the original Congressional designation by 1.5 miles. This is my preference because the 1.5 mile segment of river from Steel Bridge to Eagle is accessible only by trail and unimproved road in one place; is entirely free of impoundments, diversions, or other alterations; contains a steep, scenic gorge; and has high water quality and shorelines which are still largely primitive. All these criteria meet the definition of a Scenic river segment.
2. Implement a moderately low level of facility development. This is because the Scenic river segment currently exists in a minimally developed state, and the desired future condition for this segment is to maintain a semi-primitive type of recreation experience. The minimal improvements planned for this segment through this alternative will enhance the recreational experience without altering the semi-primitive quality of the area.
3. Change VQO's in adjacent land area to Partial Retention, as identified on the visual analysis map. This is because the visual analysis has shown that some critical viewpoints from the river in the Scenic segment are currently managed under Modification (MA-14) VQO's. The scenic quality of these highly visible land areas could be impacted unless managed at more restrictive visual guidelines. Therefore, changing VQO's in these specific areas to Partial Retention (MA-13) protects the visual resource without eliminating other management options as well.
4. Prevent motorized boat use from occurring except for emergency search and rescue type situations. This is because the highly pristine nature of the river and shorelines in this section lend themselves to a

semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experience as identified in the desired future condition stated in the RMP.

5. Change the portion of this alternative that recommends mineral withdrawal to maintain the river segment open to mineral entry. This is because it would be impractical to recommend mineral withdrawal on an area that has low mineral potential and low probability of existing claims being developed into mining operations. Recommending mineral withdrawal of an area to the BLM implies a high level of need and carries a burden of documentation that warrants recommending only those areas with a high probability for claims or development. In this case, the need does not exist.

Recreational Segment

My selection of Alternative VII will do the following:

1. Implement an allocation/permitting/monitoring system for commercial and noncommercial winter boat use that will limit the use to a carrying capacity of 34 total boats per day. Commercial guides operating on the Chetco River will be reduced to 40 and private boaters will be required to register their daily use. Further restrictions may be determined by monitoring.

This alternative was selected because it deals with the winter use boat overcrowding problem directly, while still retaining some options for the future as well. Immediate allocation alternatives could ignore changes in use which may have occurred since the OSU Chetco River Recreation Users Study was completed in 1988, and since subsequent public input was received for the RMP. Conversely, waiting until monitoring results indicate a greater need, letting attrition reduce guide numbers, or doing nothing would ignore the need and opportunity to implement a solution now. Because this alternative meets the need; because it has two phases of implementation which set some restrictions in place now and reserve some for a later date; because it has specific monitoring triggers identified; and because it is based on sound methodology and tied directly to the Users Study, I have chosen it as the preferred solution to this problem.

2. Prevent motorized boat use from occurring except for emergency search and rescue type situations. This is the result of public input received during the RMP planning process. Many private individuals and most of the guides contacted preferred to see a ban on motorized boat use on the river. The existing use of motors impacts other users through smoke, noise, upstream movement against "drift" traffic, disturbance to fish and fishing success, repeated runs up through prime holes, and racing downstream to the next hole. The competition and disturbance that motors create have caused enough public response to warrant a ban on motorized use. In addition, few rivers are so accessible by boat and yet lend themselves so readily to a quality fishing experience in a quiet and natural setting, that the absence of motors would be missed by few and would greatly increase the potential for a quality experience for many.

3. Initiate an education program aimed at river etiquette and the responsible use of anchors. I am not banning anchors altogether because the issue with anchoring appears to be related to the issues of overcrowding and motorized boat use. My decisions on those two issues may alleviate most of the perception that use of anchors is causing major congestion problems. However, in order to ensure that anchor use causes minimum impacts, we will proceed with informational materials and opportunities to educate the guides and general public alike.
4. Prevent off-highway vehicles (OHV) from crossing the river, allowing this use only for historic private property access. This is because the existing problems and potential future problems of allowing river crossing to continue will not be solved and may likely escalate if this use is not curtailed. The alternative to zone the use would not solve the problems associated with it, but only focus them to a particular area, and eliminating OHV's entirely from the river bars is so restrictive that it would prevent river bar access to a majority of the users. This alternative, while eliminating motorized vehicular access across the river, prevents some conflicts and impacts while still allowing wading and boat access across the river to users interested in escaping the crowds.
5. Limit the number of annual fishing derbies to two. This is both for administrative/enforcement reasons and so that the general public have a majority of the available season to recreate without being impacted with the concentrated use and traffic that occurs during fishing derbies. This still allows the special use to occur but limits the use to an equitable number for that type of event.
6. Implement a moderately high level of facility development. This is because the Recreational river segment currently exists in a moderately developed state and the desired future condition for this segment is to maintain a semi-social type of recreation experience. By implementing a moderately high level of development, the existing demand for recreation facilities will be met and a gradual increase in demand can be planned for, while maintaining the natural setting that attracts recreationists to the Chetco Wild and Scenic River.
7. Maintain the river segment open to mineral entry. This is because it would be impractical to recommend mineral withdrawal on an area that has low mineral potential and low probability of existing claims being developed into mining operations. Recommending mineral withdrawal of an area to the BLM implies a high level of need and carries a burden of documentation and need that warrants recommending only those areas with a high probability for claims or development. In this case, the need does not exist.

Protection of the ORV's and other resources

The standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan as well as those in the River Management Plan will protect the ORV's and other resources of the entire Wild and Scenic River. In addition, opportunities for enhancement of those resource values are allowed to occur as described in the RMP. Therefore, the protection

and enhancement of all resource values of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River have been provided for in the RMP.

AMENDMENTS MADE TO THE FOREST PLAN

Amendment No. 6 to the Siskiyou Forest Plan will do the following things:

1. Include the final corridor boundary description, acreage and map into the Management Area sections for MA 2 - Wild River and MA 10 - Scenic/Recreational River.
2. Incorporate by reference the Management Goals and Objectives, Desired Future Condition, and Standards and Guidelines described in the RMP for both MA 2 - Wild River and MA 10 - Scenic/Recreational River.
3. Adopt the Implementation section of the RMP (Chapter IV), into the Forest Plan, Chapter V - Implementation of the Forest Plan. This would include the Management Actions, Boat Use Allocation System, Schedule of Planned Activities, and Monitoring and Evaluation sections of RMP Chapter IV. (Completion of projects listed under the Schedule of Planned Activities would be dependent upon site-specific NEPA analysis and available funding.)
4. Change the acreage of some land areas directly adjacent to the Scenic river corridor from MA 14 - General Forest allocation, to MA 13 - Partial Retention allocation. This is because of my decision to implement Alternative II for the Scenic segment which includes this change.

These changes are determined to be non-significant amendments to the Siskiyou Forest Plan for the following reasons:

1. The changes to the final river corridor boundary from the interim corridor boundary are minor and still maintain approximately the same total acres of corridor and average acres of corridor per river mile.
2. The standards and guidelines, management goals and objectives, and desired future condition included in the RMP are consistent with those of the Forest Plan and add to it, to make the Forest Plan more specific in reference to the Chetco Wild and Scenic River than it previously was.
3. The implementation of management actions, the boat use allocation system, the schedule of planned activities, and the monitoring and evaluation plan included in the RMP all help make the Forest Plan more specific in reference to the Chetco Wild and Scenic River and do not make significant changes in the multiple use goals and objectives for long-term land and resource management.
4. Changing land allocation in areas adjacent to the Scenic river corridor amounts to a change of 708 acres from MA 14 to MA 13 allocation. This is a reduction of about 1/6 of 1% of the total Forest acres available under the General Forest (MA 14) land allocation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Public participation was an integral part of the river planning process. Interested citizens, groups, guides, local governments, and state and federal agencies were involved and contributed to the development of the major issues and review of the Draft River Management Plan. The river planning team used a variety of methods to contact and record public input. This scoping process is described in detail in Chapter I, Section C of the EA, and in Chapter I, Section D of the RMP.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED IN DETAIL

Recreational Segment

The river planning team developed and analyzed seven alternatives in detail in the Environmental Assessment for the Recreational river segment.

*Alternative I (No Action): This would prescribe no change from existing management direction and the river would be managed under existing Forest Plan guidelines and interim river management direction. No Draft RMP or Final RMP would be developed and no standards & guidelines, management objectives, desired future condition, implementation plan, or monitoring plan would be developed. No restrictions or alternatives would be developed for any of the major issues identified and none of the existing problems would get resolved.

*Alternative II: This alternative focuses on a high level of use and development with numerous new facilities proposed as well as those already listed in the Forest Plan. It would limit total boats on the river to 48 and reduce the number of guides to 58. It would enact a 50/50 split allocation system between commercial and noncommercial users and permits would be required for both user types. It proposes education as the primary emphasis for resolving the issues of motorized boat use, use of anchors, and OHV use in and along the river. Also, no more than four fishing derbies would be allowed and the segment corridor would remain open to mineral entry.

*Alternative III: This alternative focuses on a moderately high level of use and development with some new projects and site improvement proposed as well as those already listed in the Forest Plan. It would limit total boats on the river to 34 and reduce the number of guides to 40. It would enact a 50/50 split allocation system between commercial and noncommercial users and permits would be required for both user types. It would allow motorized boat use only on specific days of the week; anchor use within ten feet of the shore; and OHV use across the river would be curtailed except for historic private property crossings. Also, no more than three fishing derbies would be allowed and the segment corridor would remain open to mineral entry.

*Alternative IV: This alternative focuses on a moderate level of use and development with only those projects listed in the Forest Plan proposed. It would limit total boats on the river to 22 and reduce the number of guides to 25. It would enact a 50/50 split allocation system between commercial and noncommercial users and permits would be required for both user types. It would allow motorized boat use only below Nook Bar; anchor use only below Nook Bar;

and OHV use across the river would be allowed only below Redwood Bar. Also, no more than two fishing derbies would be allowed and the segment corridor would be recommended to be withdrawn from future mineral entry.

***Alternative V:** This alternative focuses on a minimal level of use and development with no projects proposed at all. It would eliminate fishing boats on the river entirely, eliminate motorized boat use entirely, eliminate anchoring entirely, eliminate OHV use in or along the river entirely, and allow no fishing derbies to be held at all. Also, the segment corridor would be recommended to be withdrawn from future mineral entry.

***Alternative VI:** This alternative focuses on input received from numerous meetings with river guides. It would maintain the existing moratorium on issuing new guide permits, allow for guide attrition from the system, and institute a minimum two year monitoring program before any more restrictions are placed. If monitoring thresholds are exceeded, a 50/50 split allocation system would then go into effect and total boat restriction placed. No motorized boat use would be allowed, no fishing from an anchored device would be allowed, and no more than three fishing derbies would be allowed annually. Also, the alternative focuses on a high level of use and development with numerous new facilities proposed as well as those already listed in the Forest Plan, and OHV use across the river would be curtailed except for historic private property crossings. In addition, the segment corridor would be recommended to be withdrawn from future mineral entry.

***Alternative VII:** This alternative was developed after input from the guides and the public to combine various elements of the other alternatives in order to balance recent information and input with that received during initial scoping. This alternative would set a total boat carrying capacity on the river at 34 boats per day and would be implemented in two phases. Phase 1 would reduce the number of guides to 40 and require mandatory private boater registration but would not place limits on use by guides or private boaters. Instead, it has a detailed monitoring system with triggers that would determine when Phase 2 would be implemented. Phase 2 would institute a 50/50 split allocation system based on the 34 boat carrying capacity. Depending on monitoring results, Phase 2A would restrict guides to 17 boats per day and would require pre-season sign-up of limited use days, and Phase 2B would limit private boats to 17 per day and require a daily permit system. Either Phase 2A or Phase 2B could be enacted independently, or both could be implemented at the same time, depending on monitoring results.

In addition, this alternative would prohibit motorized boat use on the river, stress education on responsible use of anchors, limit the number of fishing derbies to no more than two, and restrict OHV use across the river to only historical private property access. It also represents a moderately high level of use and development and would propose some new projects and site improvement as well as those projects listed in the Forest Plan, and the corridor would remain open to future mineral entry.

Scenic Segment

The river planning team developed and analyzed two alternatives in detail in the Environmental Assessment for the Scenic river segment.

***Alternative I (No Action):** Similar to Alternative I in the Recreational segment, no RMP with its accompanying direction would be developed and the river corridor segment would be managed under existing Forest Plan and interim river management direction. As a result, the Scenic river segment terminus would remain at Steel Bridge, only projects listed in the Forest Plan would be proposed, no restrictions on motorized boat use would be developed, land allocations adjacent to the corridor would remain the same, and the river corridor would remain open to future mineral entry.

***Alternative II:** This alternative focuses on a moderate to low level of use and development where some improved access and site enhancement projects would be proposed in addition to the trail development project listed in the Forest Plan. Also, the terminus would be recommended to be extended 1.5 miles downstream to Eagle Creek, no motorized boat use would be allowed, some adjacent land area allocations would be changed to Partial Retention from General Forest, and the corridor would be recommended to be withdrawn from future mineral entry.

Wild Segment

The river planning team developed and analyzed two alternatives in detail in the Environmental Assessment for the Wild river segment.

***Alternative I (No Action):** Similar to Alternative I in the Recreational and Scenic segments, no RMP with its accompanying direction would be developed and the river corridor segment would be managed under existing Forest Plan and interim river management direction. That would include management of the river under Wilderness (MA 1) standards and guidelines because the whole of the Wild river segment is within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area. As a result, the Wild river segment terminus would remain at Boulder Creek at the boundary of the Wilderness.

***Alternative II:** Under this alternative, the Wild segment terminus would be recommended to be extended 2 miles downstream to Mislatah Creek, and standards and guidelines developed in the RMP for MA 2 - Wild River would determine management constraints for the area.

OTHER ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED, BUT ELIMINATED FROM DETAILED STUDY

Other alternatives to address the major issues above were not developed because of the full range of alternatives proposed in the Recreational segment and the limited scope of the issues in the Scenic and Wild segments. Other issues were brought up by the public that were considered to be important but not major issues needing alternatives to resolve them. Much of this input was used to develop standards and guidelines found in the RMP and some issues were found to be outside the scope of this Environmental Assessment. A list of these other issues and an accompanying explanation of how they were handled can be found in Appendix A to the Environmental Assessment titled Sub-issues.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Following a review of the Environmental Assessment and project file, I have determined that this is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary and will not be prepared. This determination is based on the following considerations:

1. Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources and adverse cumulative or secondary effects will not exceed those discussed and evaluated in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Siskiyou Forest Plan.
2. Direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts were analyzed and disclosed in the Environmental Assessment, and were not found to be significant.
3. There will be no negative effects to wetlands, floodplains, prime farmlands, rangelands, or forest lands; and no civil rights of minority groups, women, or consumers will be adversely affected.
4. Activities planned in the Chetco Wild and Scenic River corridor will not affect the environment beyond or downriver from the designated corridor.
5. River Management Plan direction is not expected to cause any significant adverse impacts to any threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant or animal species. Site-specific biological evaluations will be done for specific projects planned in the corridor.
6. The River Management Plan is in compliance with relevant federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and requirements designed for the protection of the environment. The RMP meets the State of Oregon water and air quality standards.
7. There are no anticipated impacts on cultural/heritage resources or on Pacific yew from implementation of the RMP.
8. Projects proposed and listed in the River Management Plan will be evaluated separately for their environmental effects and no project determined to have significant environmental effects will be implemented without first completing an Environmental Impact Statement

The River Management Plan and Environmental Assessment meet all requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA); the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA); the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968; and all other applicable laws.

Biological Evaluations for plants and animals have been done and are located in the Chetco Wild and Scenic River project file. The Biological Evaluations assess the impacts of the RMP on all threatened, endangered, and sensitive species that could potentially be found in the Chetco Wild and Scenic River corridor. The Biological Evaluations conclude that the RMP is not expected to

cause any adverse effects to any of these species. Further site-specific surveys for these threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and appropriate interagency consultation will be conducted for any proposed project. Part of the river corridor is included in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Critical Habitat Area and in the Interagency Scientific Committee's Habitat Conservation Area proposed for the northern spotted owl. Final boundaries and governing regulations for the northern spotted owl may take precedence over some of the standards and guidelines and proposals contained within the RMP. These governing regulations will be incorporated into the Forest Plan and implemented appropriately.

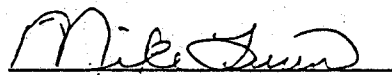
RIGHT TO APPEAL

There are wetlands and floodplains within the planning area. Therefore, implementation of this decision shall not occur within 30 days following publication of the legal notice of the decision in the Grants Pass Daily Courier.

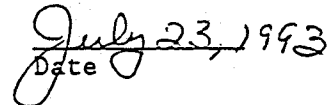
This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Any written Notice of Appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9 (Content of a Notice of Appeal) and must include the specific reasons for appeal. A written Notice of Appeal, in duplicate, must be filed with the Reviewing Officer, John Lowe, Regional Forester, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR., 97208-3623, within 45 days of the date legal notice of this decision appears in the Grants Pass Daily Courier.

For further information contact: Paul E. Cruz, River Planning Team Leader, Chetco Ranger District, 555 Fifth Street, Brookings OR., 97415; (503) 469-2196.

Responsible Official



J. Michael Lunn
Forest Supervisor
Siskiyou National Forest
P.O. Box 440
Grants Pass, OR. 97526

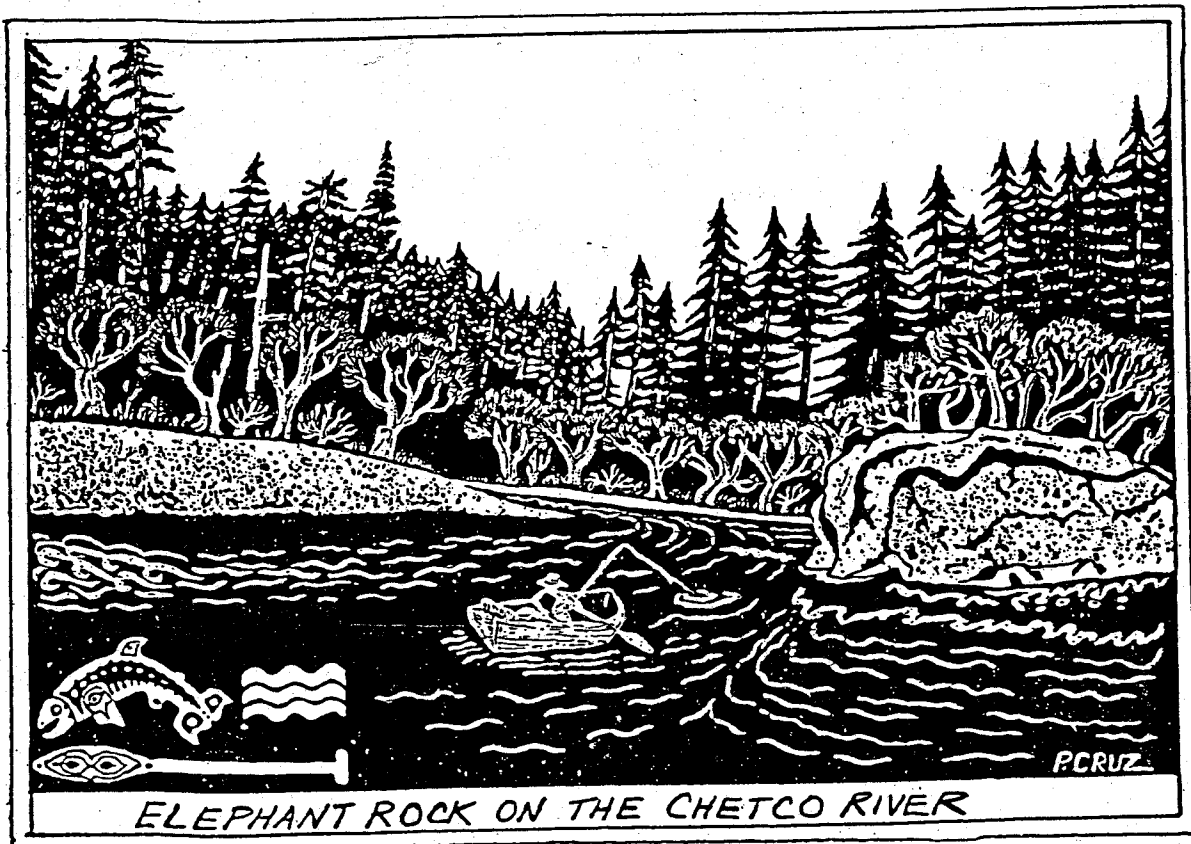

Date

RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

FOR THE



Chetco Wild and Scenic River



SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

CHETCO WILD AND SCENIC RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

USDA - Forest Service

Siskiyou National Forest

CHETCO WILD AND SCENIC RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....1

Quick Reference.....3

Chapter I. INTRODUCTION.....5

- A. Historical Perspective.....5
- B. River Management Plan Design - What the Plan Will Do.....5
- C. Values and Issues - Drivers of Plan Development.....5
- D. Public Involvement.....7
- E. Relationship to Other Plans.....7
 - 1. Siskiyou Forest Plan
 - 2. Curry County Comprehensive Plan
 - 3. ODFW Draft Fisheries Management Plan for the Chetco River
 - 4. Chetco River Basin Anadromous Salmonid Habitat Overview

Chapter II. RIVER DESCRIPTION.....11

- A. Overview.....11
 - 1. Location
 - 2. River segments
 - 3. Brookings-Harbor
 - 4. Access
 - 5. Land Ownership
 - 6. Landscape character
 - 7. Climate
- B. Outstandingly Remarkable Values.....13
 - 1. Recreation
 - 2. Fisheries
 - 3. Water (Quality and Quantity)
- C. Other Resource Values15
 - 1. Vegetation
 - 2. Wildlife
 - 3. Cultural
 - 4. Geological
 - 5. Soil
 - 6. Scenic
 - 7. Wilderness
 - 8. Fire
 - 9. Port-Orford cedar and Pacific yew

D.	Resource Activities and Land Uses	18
1.	Timber	
2.	Range	
3.	Minerals	
Chapter III.	CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN.....	20
A.	Management Goals and Objectives.....	20
1.	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act	
2.	Forest Service Manual 2300	
3.	Forest Plan	
a.	MA-2 Wild River	
b.	MA-10 Scenic/Recreational River	
B.	Desired Future Condition.....	21
1.	MA-2 Wild River	
2.	MA-10 Scenic/Recreational River	
C.	Standards and Guidelines	28
1.	MA-2 Wild River	
2.	MA-10 Scenic/Recreational River	
D.	Corridor Boundary Description.....	36
Chapter IV.	IMPLEMENTATION.....	37
A.	Management Actions.....	37
B.	Boat Use Allocation System.....	41
C.	Schedule of Planned Activities.....	48
D.	Monitoring and Evaluation.....	50
E.	Roles and Responsibilities of Management Partners.....	51
F.	Coordination with Other Agencies.....	55
Chapter V.	TRACKING ALTERNATIVES SELECTED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT...	59
LIST OF APPENDICES.....		61
Appendix A.	Resource Assessment	
Appendix B.	MA-1 Wilderness Standards and Guidelines	
Appendix C.	Glossary	
Appendix D.	Maps	
Appendix E.	Boundary Description	

QUICK REFERENCE

The Quick Reference section is designed to help people find quickly the information they are most interested in.

Private property:

- * Existing Condition...See Chapter II, section A, "Overview", under "Land Ownership".
- * Curry County land use regulations...See Chapter I, section E, "Relationship to Other Plans", under "Curry County Comprehensive Plan"; also see Chapter IV, section F, "Coordination with Other Agencies", under "County Planning Commission: County Ordinances...".
- * Forest Service actions to reduce impacts of recreation on private property...See Chapter IV, section A, "Management Actions", under "Recreation".
- * Land Acquisition...See Chapter III, section C, "Standards and Guidelines", under "Lands".
- * Other Agencies with roles in private land use...See Chapter IV, section E, "Roles and Responsibilities of Management Partners", under DSL, DEQ, DLCDC, ODFW, and ODF.
- * Relationship to Wild and Scenic River boundary...See Chapter III, section D, "Boundary Description"; also see Appendix F, "Maps".

River recreation:

- * Existing condition...See Chapter II, section B, "Outstandingly Remarkable Values", under "Recreation".
- * Vision for the future...See Chapter III, section B, "Desired Future Condition".
- * Forest Service actions affecting river recreation...See Chapter III, section C, "Standards and Guidelines" under "Recreation"; also see Chapter IV, section A, "Management Actions", under "Recreation" and section D, "Monitoring and Evaluation".

Boat Use:

- * Allocation of permits...See Chapter IV, section B, "Boat Use Allocation System"; also see Chapter V, "Tracking Alternatives Selected in the Environmental Assessment".

Timber harvest:

- * Existing condition...See Chapter II, section D, "Resource Activities and Land Uses", under "Timber".
- * Vision for the future of the corridor landscape...See Chapter III, section B, "Desired Future Condition".
- * On private land...See the "Private property" topic above.
- * On National Forest land...See Chapter III, section C, "Standards and Guidelines", under "Timber Management".

Fish and fish habitat:

- * Existing condition...See Chapter II, section B, "Outstandingly Remarkable Values", under "Fisheries".
- * Vision for the future...See Chapter III, section B, "Desired Future Condition".

- * Forest Service actions affecting fish and fish habitat...See Chapter III, section C, "Standards and Guidelines", under "Fish"; also see Chapter IV, section A, "Management Actions", under "Fish" and "Water Quality".
- * Other federal and state agencies that have roles in fish management... See Chapter IV, section E, "Roles and Responsibilities of Management Partners", under "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service" and "Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife"; also see Chapter I, section E, "Relationship to Other Plans", under "ODFW: Draft Fisheries Management Plan for the Chetco River" and under "Chetco River Basin Anadromous Salmonid Habitat Overview".

Water Quality:

- * Existing condition...See Chapter II, section B, "Outstandingly Remarkable Values", under "Water (Quality and Quantity)".
- * Vision for the future...See Chapter III, section B, "Desired Future Condition".
- * Forest Service actions affecting water quality...See Chapter III, section C, "Standards and Guidelines", under "Water Quality" and "Fish"; also see Chapter IV, section D, "Monitoring and Evaluation".
- * Other federal and state agencies that have roles in water quality... See Chapter IV, section E, "Roles and Responsibilities of Management Partners", under WRD, ODFW, and DEQ.

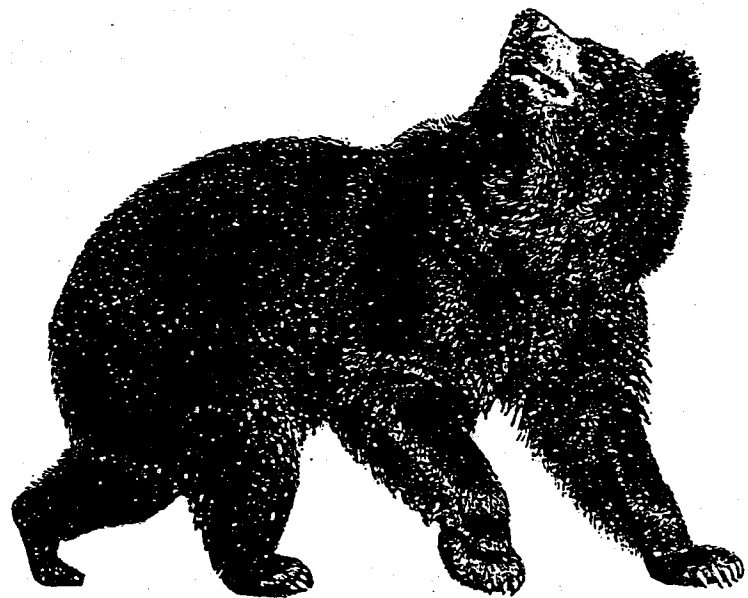
Wildlife, including threatened, endangered and sensitive species:

- * Existing condition...See Chapter II, section C, "Other Resource Values", under "Wildlife".
- * Vision for the future...See Chapter III, section B, "Desired Future Condition".
- * Forest Service actions affecting wildlife...See Chapter III, section C, "Standards and Guidelines", under "Wildlife and Sensitive Plants".

Scenic values:

- * Existing condition...See Chapter II, section C, "Other Resource Values", under "Scenic".
- * Vision for the future...See Chapter III, section B, "Desired Future Condition".
- * Forest Service actions affecting scenic values...See Chapter III, section C, "Standards and Guidelines", under "Visual Resource".

CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION



CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

A. Historical Perspective

In 1968, Congress enacted the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and, for the first time, established a system for preserving outstanding free-flowing rivers. As defined in the Act, a National Wild and Scenic River must be free-flowing and have at least one Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV). The Act provides regulations for protective management and control of development for rivers included in the system.

In 1988, the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act added parts of forty rivers in Oregon to the National Wild and Scenic River system. A 44.5 mile segment of the Chetco River was designated a Wild and Scenic River under this legislation. The Act required the Forest Service to prepare a comprehensive river management plan within three years. The Congressional Record indicated that anadromous fisheries and water quality qualified as Outstandingly Remarkable Values on the Chetco. Congress also recognized on-site angling and other recreation opportunities as important.

The Chetco Wild and Scenic River is located in southwest coastal Oregon on the Siskiyou National Forest on the Chetco Ranger District, which has its office located in Brookings, Oregon.

B. River Management Plan Design - What the Plan Will Do

The Chetco River Management Plan (this document) will guide management of federally designated portions of the Chetco River for the next 10-15 years.

This River Management Plan (RMP) is accompanied by an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA gives the public information about the issues involved and the environmental analysis done by the river planning team. The alternative chosen by the Forest Supervisor from the Environmental Assessment is the foundation for the River Management Plan. The Forest Supervisor's decision is in the Decision Notice, which is bound in the Environmental Assessment.

This plan establishes management goals for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River and management guidelines for protection of all river-related resource values and enhancement of the ORV's. It incorporates the decisions made in the Environmental Assessment and describes the desired future condition of the Chetco River corridor. The management goals and desired future condition, described in detail in Chapter II of the River Management Plan, will guide implementation of the plan.

C. Values and Issues - Drivers of the Plan

The resource values and the issues, along with the management objectives, are the "drivers" of plan development.

Values

When the river planning team began work on a river management plan in 1990, they did a detailed assessment of the resource values on the Chetco River.

The Resource Assessment, which was completed in November 1990, evaluated all the resources and values on the river. In addition to the fisheries and water quality values recognized in the Congressional record, the recreational value of the Chetco was identified as an Outstandingly Remarkable Value.

To qualify as an ORV, each value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a regional or national level. Specific criteria and detailed assessments of individual values are available in the complete Resource Assessment (Appendix B). The team's findings are summarized below.

Recreation: "The recreation opportunities available on and near the Chetco River, particularly the outstanding opportunity to catch large Chinook salmon and steelhead, attract visitors from outside the geographic region. Visitors travel long distances to use the river resources for this outstanding fishing value. The river also provides settings for competitive events such as fishing derbies. These recreational values are considered to be Outstandingly Remarkable."

Water Quality: "The overall high water quality of the Chetco River is recognized as being a critical component of several other related river values and is found to be an Outstandingly Remarkable Value."

Fish: "The Chetco is a world class fishery which is frequently cited in outdoor publications and commercial outfitter/guide advertising. The habitat and river system is identified and rated by the ODFW as a special management area for anadromous fisheries and is one of the top five fisheries within the region. The quality and significance of the anadromous fisheries on the Chetco qualifies this resource to be considered an Outstandingly Remarkable Value."

Issues

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) defines issues as "...unresolved conflicts regarding alternative uses of available resources." Issues can also be defined as subjects of public interest relating to resource management. The river planning team identified issues for the Chetco River through a scoping process. They consulted with other agencies, interested groups and individuals. The identified issues are fully defined and addressed in the Environmental Assessment. The following issues were identified:

- 1) Overcrowding caused by too many boats in the Recreational segment.
- 2) Motorized boat use in the Recreational segment.
- 3) Use of anchors in the Recreational segment.
- 4) Off-highway vehicle use in and along the river in the Recreational segment.
- 5) Number of fishing derbies held in the Recreational segment.

- 6) Level of facility development in the Scenic and Recreational segments.
- 7) Mineral withdrawals in the Scenic and Recreational segments.
- 8) Extending the Scenic and Wild River segments.
- 9) Changing visual quality objectives adjacent to the Scenic segment.

Protection and enhancement of other resource values and resource uses are dealt with in this plan, but were not considered issues that needed development of a range of alternatives to resolve.

D. Public Involvement

The scoping process was carried out in two main phases. Phase 1 was used to collect and compile a list of the issues, and to determine the significance of each issue prior to the development of a proposed action or Draft River Management Plan (DRMP). Depending on their significance, the issues were addressed with either an array of alternative management strategies or with a mitigating standard and guideline.

Phase 2 was used to allow public review of the significant issues and their corresponding alternatives, as well as the proposed DRMP. The objective was to generate any issues with the DRMP, identify any additions or changes which needed to be made in it, and to provide input on the development of the alternatives. Very little input was received during Phase 2 scoping.

E. Relationship to Other Plans

1. The Siskiyou Forest Plan

Planning for National Forests has two levels. The first level of planning, the programmatic level, includes the Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). The Forest Plan provides direction for all resource management programs, practices, uses, and protection measures on the Siskiyou National Forest. The River Management Plan also falls within this category. Since the Forest Plan is already in effect, it will be amended to incorporate the RMP and any changes to standards and guidelines or allocations. The standards and guidelines for the Chetco MA-10 Scenic/Recreation River and MA-2 Wild River will be added to Chapter IV of the Forest Plan. The Chetco River Management Plan will be included as an appendix to the Forest Plan. The Forest Supervisor is responsible for developing the RMP and its associated Environmental Assessment, and for integrating this direction into the Forest Plan.

The second level of planning is project-level planning. At this level, site-specific projects are tiered to the Forest Plan, and are designed to achieve the goals and objectives of the Plan. Individual projects are proposed for implementation and are analyzed for their effects using the process formulated by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These site-specific plans will be done to implement projects identified in the RMP, as well.

2. Curry County Comprehensive Plan

The Curry County Comprehensive Plan does not presently reflect the fact that the Chetco River has been given Federal Wild and Scenic River status. It does recognize the need to cooperate with the administering agency (Forest Service) when reviewing proposed land divisions or building permits which could affect Wild and Scenic River areas.

The county's Scenic Waterway Areas Overlay Zone (SW-zone) addresses Wild and Scenic Rivers in the county. Following are the uses permitted in the SW-zone (from the Curry County Zoning Ordinance, 1989).

Any use permitted in a zoning district shall be allowable on lands adjacent to Scenic Waterways located in the county provided that:

1. If the property proposed for use is located within the legal boundaries of a National Wild and Scenic River, as established by Act of Congress, then no building permit shall be issued unless the applicant has obtained an authorization from the administering agency for construction on property subject to a scenic easement.
2. The uses allowed by the Curry County Zoning Ordinance are consistent with those permitted by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act on those lands regulated by these laws.
3. Single-family residential densities in the scenic waterway shall be defined by the densities allowed by the National Wild and Scenic River Act and the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act and the Curry County Zoning Ordinance.
4. No divisions of land for developmental purposes within the scenic waterways areas shall be approved by the County until the residential density of the property is established under the National Wild and Scenic River Act and/or the Oregon Scenic Waterways Act.
5. Minimum lot sizes for divisions of land for the purpose of construction of a dwelling within the scenic waterways area shall be determined by the area necessary to provide an adequate water supply, sewage disposal, access, and setback requirements and not the lot size specified for resource use of the land.

The entire designated Chetco Wild and Scenic River is within Curry County. The privately owned portions of the corridor are in three different zone designations. Most of the lands fall within the Forest Grazing (FG) zone. Some are zoned Timber (T), and there's a small parcel in the Rural Residential (RR) zone.

The FG-zone lands are used primarily for combinations of grazing/pasture land and forested areas. The purpose of the zone is to protect these uses and to allow other compatible uses. The T-zone lands are protected for the continued production of forest products and related, compatible uses. The RR-zone allows people to live in rural

areas, but generally limits dwelling density to one dwelling for every 5 or 10 acres.

The parcel of RR-zoned land within the Chetco River corridor is an exception to the guidelines for that zone. Known as "Wilderness Retreat", this roughly 32-acre parcel was sub-divided into 47 lots, ranging between 0.6 and 1.3 acres in size. Half of the lots line the high embankment along the river. Forest road #1376 crosses behind these, and the remaining lots line the other side of the road. This lot size exception was made before the current guidelines went into effect.

Setbacks are one of the most important design standards used as a tool to mitigate environmental and visual impacts of possible rural residential or commercial development adjacent to rivers. Section 4.011 of the County Zoning Ordinances requires that structural development "be set back fifty (50) feet from the streambank of all perennial streams unless, after consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, it is found that reduction of the setback will not jeopardize stability, water, and wildlife habitat quality."

The required setback for septic leachfield systems is 100 feet from any river, perennial stream, well, or wet area. Exceptions are made for sand filtration septic systems, which must be setback at least 50 feet from these same water sources.

Currently, Curry County has no specific ordinances regarding riparian vegetation. During their next periodic review, the County will review its current ordinances to assure compliance with the many goals outlined by Oregon's Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD). Compliance with Goal 5, Natural Resources Protection, will require the County to address ordinances which may affect the Chetco Wild and Scenic River.

3. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife: Draft Fisheries Management Plans for the Chetco River

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has two draft plans for management of the fisheries in the Chetco River.

The Draft Chetco Basin Plan for Fall Chinook, of January 14, 1991, outlines historical data about origin, distribution, spawning density, run size, migration, hatchery production, and harvest. It also outlines objectives for two alternative methods of management. Alternative 1 directs management to be consistent with the wild fish policy, and does not allow for any hatchery-raised fall Chinook. This is not their recommended alternative.

Alternative 2 directs management to be consistent with the wild fish policy, but allows hatchery supplementation of fall Chinook. This is their recommended alternative. The two management objectives under this recommended alternative are (1) Provide for an average annual run size to the river of about 10,000 wild and hatchery fall Chinook to the mouth of the Chetco River. (2) Achieve and maintain a 10-year average in-river harvest of about 2,500 wild and hatchery fall Chinook, as

estimated by salmon-steelhead tag returns, from a run size of about 10,000. These numbers are current goals and may change upon further staff and public review.

The Draft Winter Steelhead Plan for the South Coast Basin, of May 23, 1991, outlines historical data about origin, distribution, spawning density, migration, escapement, population trends, hatchery production, and harvest of steelhead in the Chetco, Floras Creek/New River, and Winchuck River systems. It does not contain alternative methods for management of the steelhead fishery, nor does it outline specific management objectives.

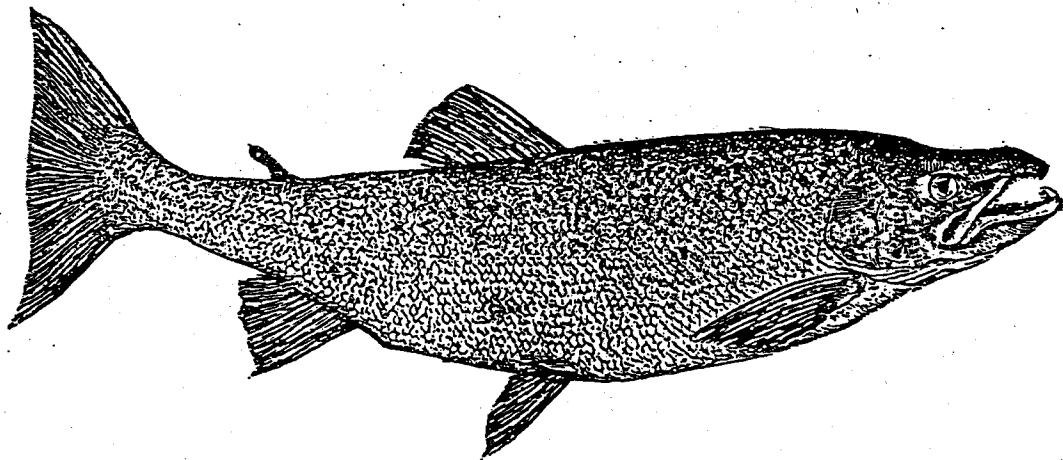
These plans are the ODFW's latest attempt to plan the management of the fish resource on the Chetco River. The goals and objectives for fisheries management by the ODFW are consistent with the objective of protecting and enhancing Outstandingly Remarkable Values, as per Section 10(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968.

4. Chetco River Basin Anadromous Salmonid Habitat Overview

The Chetco River Basin Anadromous Salmonid Habitat Overview, of February 1986, provides guidance for salmonid habitat management and improvement. Specifically, it describes the watershed, fish population status and trends, and fishery harvest. It also describes habitat requirements, limiting factors, improvement opportunities and improvement priorities. This plan was a coordinated effort between fish biologists from the Siskiyou National Forest, the ODFW in Gold Beach, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Coos Bay, Oregon. The purpose of the overview was not to direct action, but rather to inform agencies and the public of recognized options and opportunities for enhancement of the sport and commercial fisheries.

This overview has been used to help identify opportunities for fishery enhancement projects and to help describe the existing condition for the fish resource in the Chetco Wild and Scenic River Resource Assessment (Appendix A).

CHAPTER II
RIVER DESCRIPTION



CHAPTER II. RIVER DESCRIPTION

The following information is an overview of the Chetco River environment. More detailed resource information can be obtained by reviewing the Chetco Wild and Scenic River Resource Assessment, (Appendix B).

A. Overview

1. Location

The Chetco Wild and Scenic River is located within Curry County in Southwest Oregon on the Chetco Ranger District of the Siskiyou National Forest. Over its 55.5-mile length, the Chetco drops from 3700 feet, in the mountains of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, to sea-level, where it empties into the Pacific Ocean between the towns of Brookings and Harbor, about 5 miles north of the California border. The average drop of the river is 66.6 feet/mile and the average discharge, measured over a period of 18 years, is 2,364 cubic feet per second (cfs) from a drainage area of 271 square miles (173,440 acres). Highest flows occur in the months of November through March.

Other major rivers in the local geographic area include the Illinois, Rogue, and North Fork Smith Rivers, each included in the National Wild and Scenic River System, and the Pistol and Winchuck Rivers. To the south, the Smith River in California is a Federal Wild and Scenic River and is part of the designated Smith River National Recreation Area.

2. River Segments

The Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 designated 44.5 miles of the Chetco River as Wild and Scenic, from its headwaters down to the National Forest boundary. Specific legislated segments include the Wild portion from the headwaters down to Boulder Creek (25.5 miles), the Scenic portion from Boulder Creek down to the Steel Bridge (8 miles), and the Recreational portion from the Steel Bridge down to the Forest boundary (11 miles).

3. Brookings-Harbor

The designated Wild and Scenic portion of the Chetco River is located about 11 miles above the river's mouth. Located on either side of the river's mouth are the towns of Brookings and Harbor. Both towns withdraw their municipal water supplies from the Chetco River. The base of their economies is primarily on the wood products industry, fishing, and tourism. The combined population of the two towns and their outlying areas is approximately 12,000, nearly two-thirds the total population of Curry County, and the average growth rate is currently 15%. Retirees make up approximately 60% of the Brookings-Harbor population.

4. Transportation/Access

Primary transportation routes within the river corridor are the North Bank Chetco River Road (#1376), the South Bank River Road (#1205) and associated spur roads. Recreationists can access the river and launch boats in several locations on the Forest, including Miller, Nook, and Redwood

riverbars, Low-water Bridge Site, Forest road 1917-067, and the dispersed campsite at Steel Bridge. Various trails access the river, both maintained and unmaintained. The maintained trails include the Chetco Gorge Trail (#1112) in the Recreational segment, the Tincup Trail (#1117) in the Scenic and Wild segments, and the Upper Chetco (#1102), Emily Cabin (#1121), and Bailey Cabin (#1109) Trails within the Wild segment.

5. Land Ownership

Forty-four and one-half (44.5) miles of the Chetco are included in the Federal Wild and Scenic designation. Of those, 41.5 miles are within the Siskiyou National Forest, and three miles flow through private lands.

There are approximately 1,165 acres of privately-owned lands within the boundaries of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River corridor. The Tolman Ranch, located within the Scenic segment, comprises about 45 acres. This historic ranch site consists of a main residence, as well as three recently built guest cabins. The site is accessed by trail, boat or cable-car in winter and is accessible by vehicles crossing the river in the summer.

In the Recreational River corridor, there are approximately 1,120 acres under various private ownerships and uses. Much of the land is owned and managed by a local timber company, and is in varying stages of timber management. The remaining lands consist primarily of single-family dwellings situated on several acres, and are often combined with agricultural uses, such as cattle grazing. There is also a small rural community, known as "Wilderness Retreat", located on the river's south bank near the confluence of First Creek. The area has been sub-divided into 47 parcels, ranging between 0.6 and 1.3 acres in size. Half of the parcels line the high embankment along the river. Forest road #1376 crosses behind these, and the remaining parcels line the other side of the road.

Most of the properties in the Recreational segment are accessed by Forest and/or private roads year-round. A few are also accessed by vehicle river-crossings during the late summer months.

6. Landscape Character

The Chetco River heads in steep, deeply dissected, sparsely vegetated, mountainous terrain within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area. In this upper section, the river floor is fairly narrow and boulder-strewn with numerous falls and rapids. As the river leaves the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, its character gradually changes. The country becomes generally less dissected, the river gradient gradually becomes less steep, the river bottom widens, and the surrounding hills become more densely forested.

The river narrows in several areas crossing through rock outcrops and leaving enormous boulders in the riverbed. The Chetco River Gorge, found just below Steel Bridge, contains steep sides, unusual rock formations, and Class IV and V rapids, and is the most well-known of these areas on the Chetco. Below this, the Chetco continues to broaden and the gradient becomes less steep, with sand and gravel bars and raised river terraces becoming more common.

7. Climate

The average annual precipitation along the Chetco's upper reaches is about 120 inches, decreasing to an average of 80 inches toward the coast. Most of the precipitation falls between the months of October and June, with a portion of that falling in the form of snow, primarily in the higher reaches. Temperatures, which average annually between 50 and 70 degrees, are moderated by the influence of marine air.

B. Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Recreation

The Chetco River and its adjacent corridor offer a wide diversity of recreational opportunities. In winter, salmon and steelhead fishing and whitewater kayaking are the primary recreational uses. There are no known conflicts between these users because the kayakers prefer the river's upper, more challenging Wild and Scenic segments, while anglers typically remain in the lower Recreational segment. In summer, fishing, four-wheel driving, swimming, boating, camping, sightseeing, and picnicking are the major attractions. The 1987 estimate of recreational use within the river corridor was 29,700 Recreation Visitor Days (RVD's) annually. The projection for the year 2000 is 31,580 RVD's annually. A RVD is defined as 12 visitor hours and may consist of one person for 12 hours, or 12 persons for one hour, or any equivalent combination.

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum: Forest Service recreation managers use the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) to help describe the levels of development, social interaction, and management controls that are appropriate for different areas of the forest. This concept acknowledges that visitors participate in different recreational activities in different settings in order to realize certain experiences. For example, some visitors backpack into Wilderness to experience solitude, challenge, and self-reliance. Other visitors camp in campgrounds to have more comfort, security, and social interaction.

Descriptions of various opportunities have been standardized and divided into general categories. Indicators such as remoteness, management activities present, on-site modifications, visitor management controls, the number of social encounters between groups, and visitor impacts were considered in developing these descriptions.

The Chetco Wild and Scenic River fits into six ROS classes. The following are expressed in river miles measured from the mouth of the river. The Forest boundary is at river mile 11.0.

River Segment	River Miles	ROS Class
Recreation	11.0 - 15.5	Roaded Natural
	15.5 - 18.5	Private Land
	18.5 - 22.0	Roaded Natural
Scenic	22.0 - 28.0	Roaded Natural
	28.0 - 30.0	Semi-primitive Non-motorized
Wild	30.0 - 37.0	Primitive
	37.0 - 37.5	Semi-primitive Non-motorized
	37.5 - 46.0	Semi-primitive Motorized
	46.0 - 46.5	Semi-primitive Non-motorized
	46.5 - 55.5	Primitive

A more complete explanation of the existing recreation condition and each of the ROS classes is contained in the Analysis of Public Use, in Appendix B of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River Environmental Assessment.

2. Fisheries

The Chetco River fishery, typical of Pacific coastal systems, is dominated by trout and salmon. There are important populations of anadromous winter steelhead, fall Chinook salmon, and sea-run cutthroat trout. Coho and Chum salmon are occasionally observed. Resident cutthroat and rainbow trout are abundant in upper stream reaches. Native populations of fall Chinook and winter steelhead are supplemented with hatchery fish. The Chetco provides excellent spawning and rearing habitat and has some of the highest salmonid smolt returns of any coastal stream in Oregon. Pacific lamprey, three-spined stickleback, and assorted sculpin are also known to inhabit this system.

A more complete explanation of the existing condition of the fisheries is contained in the fisheries report, located in the project files for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River.

3. Water

Quality

The excellent water quality of the Chetco River plays an integral role in the high quality of other river values, such as Fisheries and Recreation. The Chetco's water quality was found to be an Outstandingly Remarkable Value based on its striking color and clarity, its ability to clear quickly following storm events, its contribution to both recreation and fisheries, and its contribution of exceptionally pure and clean water for the domestic water supplies of both Brookings and Harbor.

Quantity

The Chetco River drains an area of about 347 square miles, approximately 271 square miles are on National Forest. The river is a relatively short (55.5 miles) coastal river originating in the Siskiyou Mountains.

The quantity of water in the Chetco, at any one time, varies greatly throughout the year. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, which maintains a water gauge at river mile 10.7 (Second Bridge), the Chetco's average discharge over the 18 year period from 1969 to 1987 was 2,364 cubic feet per second (cfs) or 1,713,000 acre-feet per year. The maximum discharge during the period of record was 65,800 cfs on January 16, 1971. The minimum discharge was 45 cfs on October 21-23, 1974. During the flood of December 22, 1964, which was before the official period of record, the level of the river reached an extreme gage reading of 32.25 feet, and the discharge was 85,400 cfs.

A more complete explanation of the existing condition of water quality/quantity is contained in the Water Quality/Quantity Report, located in the project files for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River.

C. Other Resource Values

1. Vegetation

The Chetco River traverses a variety of vegetation types, reflecting changes in elevation, aspect, soil type and localized climate. Much of the vegetation in the higher reaches is influenced by the nutrient-poor soils derived from ultramafic parent rock material. Large Port Orford and incense cedars, mixed with various pines and shrubs, dominate the riverside vegetation in these areas.

On more fertile sites, Douglas-fir, tanoak, and Pacific madrone replace the cedars as the dominant tree species. Red alder, big-leaf maple and willow are found along the stream and river banks. Dry, sloping meadows occur occasionally on hillsides above the river. Coast redwood and its associated vegetation occur at the end of the river's designated segments, in an isolated section just above Loeb State Park.

2. Wildlife

The Chetco River area supports between 150-200 different species of wildlife, including Roosevelt elk, blacktail deer, black bear, cougar, river otter, and beaver, as well as a variety of small game and non-game birds. The diversity of habitats along the Chetco, including old-growth Douglas-fir, a variety of seral stages of Douglas-fir, hardwoods, and high and low elevation shrubs, is characteristic of the coastal rivers of southern Oregon. Amphibian habitat, ranging from slow moving river and stream to moist talus slopes, is also present within the river corridor.

Several sensitive (federally or regionally listed) wildlife species are known to inhabit the Chetco River corridor, including the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, northern bald eagle, and the northwestern pond turtle. There is a Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) for the northern

spotted owl which encompasses the Chetco River corridor from Big Redwood Creek down to the Forest boundary (3.5 miles).

Also associated with the river is an area known as the hyporheic zone. This underground ecosystem is located directly beneath the river channel (possibly 15' or more deep) and extends laterally to unknown distances (possibly beyond a half-mile on the Chetco). This is an active and very productive area where water and organic compounds are exchanged with those in the river channel above. On the Chetco, as with other river systems, there is a vast and complex community of small organisms living in these gravels, sands, and soils that lie directly and laterally under the river. Many types of small blind shrimp, primitive worms, algae, bacteria, and various kinds of immature insects are found only in this zone. Research indicates that this underground ecosystem is crucial to the health of the entire river system. None of the known species of this hyporheic zone are currently listed as sensitive, threatened, or endangered.

3. Cultural Resource

Human habitation of the river corridor goes back to prehistoric times when the Athabaskan-speaking Chetco Indians occupied the area. The Chetcos were removed from their ancestral lands and relocated to the Siletz Indian Reservation in the 1850's.

Historic use of the river corridor included gold and chrome mining. Cabin remnants of mining efforts in the 1940's and 1950's still exist within the river corridor, although all are in poor condition.

4. Geological

The Chetco River flows through the Klamath Mountains Geomorphic Province from its headwaters to approximately Chetco Bar, and through the Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province from Chetco Bar to the ocean. By flowing through these two geomorphic provinces, the Chetco exposes the edge of what is believed to be the location of a major subduction (downward movement) of a western tectonic (earth's crustal) plate.

The Klamath Mountain Province includes metamorphosed intrusive rocks and the Josephine peridotite, a large ultramafic (intrusive rocks composed of mostly olivine, pyroxine, and serpentine) body, which supports a distinctive flora. The Dothan formation is the major rock type found within the Coast Ranges Province. It consists of graywacke sandstone, with interbedded siltstone and shale, occasional pillow lavas, volcanic breccia, chert and conglomerate.

5. Soil

The soils within the Chetco River corridor are outlined in the Soil Resource Inventory for the Siskiyou National Forest, published in 1979. In general, the soils upstream from the confluence of Sluice Creek, near Chetco Bar, are relatively shallow (10-20 inches). They are primarily derived from Diorite, Quartz Diorite and Gabbro parent materials, and occasionally from Serpentinite and Peridotite. They are typically gravelly soils with good drainage and severe surface erosion potential.

Below the confluence of Sluice Creek, the soils begin to deepen, averaging 20-60 inches or more. Parent materials are those of the Dothan formation (see Geologic section) and so are quite variable. These deep soils were often formed by gravitational movements of soil down moderately-steep to steep slopes, in combination with natural rock weathering occurring in place. These soils exhibit good to excellent drainage and moderate to severe surface erosion potential.

6. Scenic

Several components make up the varied scenery of the Chetco River. The vegetation along the corridor exhibits pleasant patterns and textures due to the mixture of coniferous and deciduous trees. The river landscape ranges from enclosed river canyons of steep cliffs and giant boulders, to wide open flats with views of forested hillsides, both near and far. Deep pools occur along the length of the river and are accented by the Chetco's water clarity and deep green-blue color.

With few exceptions, the Chetco appears unmodified by human influence in both the Wild and Scenic segments. The Recreational segment has been highly modified with the development of roads, houses, buildings and other structures. Timber management activities on both private and federal lands become more apparent in this segment.

7. Wilderness

The Wild segment of the Chetco River originates in and flows through the Kalmiopsis Wilderness, which is located in the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon. The northern portion of the Wilderness is bisected by the Illinois Wild and Scenic River. The southern portion of the Wilderness contains the headwaters of both the Chetco and North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The Kalmiopsis Wilderness is characterized by deep, rough canyons, sharp, rock ridges, and clear, rushing, mountain streams. Its highest point is Persoll Peak at 5,098 feet. A complex geologic history has contributed to this Wilderness's diverse and unusual botanical makeup, and one endemic shrub, Kalmiopsis leachiana, gives the Wilderness its name.

The Wilderness character of the area is nearly intact, but is compromised in a few isolated locations by the presence of mines and access roads. One such road crosses the Chetco River twice. In general, however, the Chetco River within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness provides opportunities for solitude and a high quality, rugged Wilderness experience.

8. Fire

Over the last 20 years, there have been eight small fires located within the 1/4-mile corridor of the Chetco River. Each was less than 1/2-acre in size. Most occurred within the Recreation segment with only one occurring in the Scenic segment. Statistics show that 85% of these fires were human-caused. The Silver fire, which began with a lightning strike, combined with two human-caused fires in 1987 to burn a total of 13,499 acres down to the Chetco Bar area, in the Wild River segment. Three large

fires also burned down to the Chetco in the late 1930's. Two were in the Wild River area, one was in the Scenic and Recreational segment.

9. Port-Orford Cedar and Pacific Yew

Port-Orford cedar and Pacific yew are both species of unique concern. Port-Orford cedar is highly susceptible to Phytophthora lateralis, a root-rot disease which is transported by water-borne spores. The Chetco River watershed within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness contains large quantities of uninfected Port-Orford cedar.

Pacific yew also occurs within the Chetco River watershed. The yew is considered important because its bark yields a promising new cancer-fighting chemical, known as taxol. The yew is not a dominant species in any part of the Chetco drainage, but it is found interspersed with other riparian species along many of the river's tributaries. The yew also was recently found to be somewhat susceptible to the same root-rot disease which afflicts the Port-Orford cedar.

D. Resource Activities and Land Uses

1. Timber

Of the approximately 6,080 acres of non-Wilderness within the river corridor (1/4-mile on each side of the river) there are approximately 2,783 acres of land available for timber production, with some restrictions. These lands tend to be average to high in production potential and are estimated to have a current standing volume of 75 MMBF (million board feet). An additional 724 acres have been harvested and are in managed plantations. The remaining acres are not available to timber production due to other land use allocations.

2. Range

While most of the suitable grazing land within the river corridor is located on private land, there is a six square-mile upland grazing allotment, of which approximately 50 usable acres fall within the Scenic river corridor. Based at the old Tolman Ranch (T.38 S., R.12 W., Sec. 11, SE 1/4), the "Chetco Range Allotment" allows approximately 11 cattle (10 cow/calf pairs and 1 bull or 11 cow/calf pairs) to graze freely over the area during the season between June 1 to October 1. No cattle have ever been reported in or near the river and there are no existing problems associated with the cattle.

3. Minerals

The lands within the river corridor of the Chetco River are known to contain valuable deposits of locatable minerals, primarily placer gold. These known deposits of placer gold are located along the upper reaches of the Chetco River, within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The most significant placer gold deposits occur within the flowing stream and the bench gravels adjacent to the river.

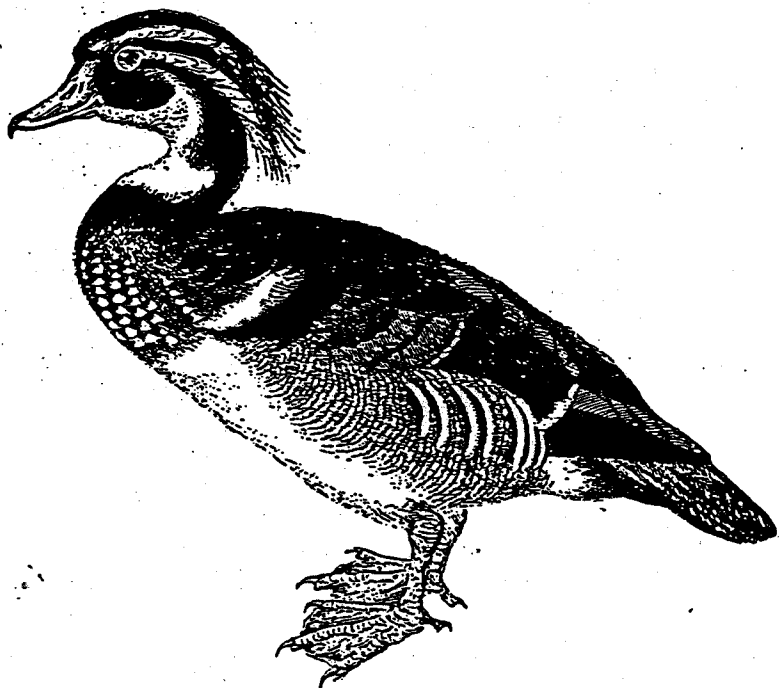
There are mining claims located along the river corridor from the confluence of the Chetco River with the Little Chetco River downstream to

the forest boundary. Some of these placer mining claims were located prior to creation of the Kalmiopsis Wilderness by the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136). Other mining claims were located subsequent to creation of the Wilderness, but prior to the closure of the area to mineral entry after December 31, 1983.

Of the 66 mining claims in the Wild River segment, one is under an approved Plan of Operation and another has filed for patent. This patent would include ownership of both the mineral estate and the land. The Scenic and Recreational River segments remain open to mineral entry and location under the General Mining Laws of the United States (30 U.S.C. 21-54).

There are currently 16 claims recorded in the Scenic River segment and 15 claims recorded in the Recreational segment. None of the mining claims located in these segments have been active for many years.

CHAPTER III
CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN



CHAPTER III. CORE MANAGEMENT PLAN

This section constitutes the core of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. It includes management goals and objectives, statements of the desired future condition, standards and guidelines, management actions, and a description of the corridor boundary. This section of the plan was scoped for potential issues to it, without any major issues being raised. Minor changes were suggested and were incorporated throughout.

The management goals and objectives (Section A) is self-explanatory. The statements of desired future condition (Section B) were developed to describe an overall picture of what the physical environment should look like in the next decade. Specific statements concerning a range of desired future conditions, as they pertain to the recreational opportunity, mineral withdrawal, and the level of facility development, are provided in the EA.

The standards and guidelines (Section C) for the Wild River (MA-2) and Scenic/Recreational River (MA-10) segments were developed from issues, concerns, and ideas raised during the internal and public scoping process. They mitigate issues and concerns and implement ideas as standards and guidelines to be followed when any action is proposed or implemented in these management areas.

The corridor boundary description (Section D) is self-explanatory. It was developed from the interim corridor boundary with a few minor adjustments to include land that was acquired by purchase in 1992.

A. Management Goals and Objectives

1. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, states that all designated Wild and Scenic Rivers shall be preserved in a free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations (Sec. 1b). Also, that each component of the national wild and scenic rivers system shall be administered in such a manner as to protect and enhance the values which caused it to be included in the system (Sec. 10a). The Act also states (Sec. 2b) that these rivers shall be administered as one of the following:

- a. Wild River areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- b. Scenic River areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- c. Recreational River areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some

development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

2. Forest Service Manual 2300

The objective as stated in the Forest Service Manual for River Recreation Management (FSM 2354.02) is to provide river and similar water recreation opportunities to meet the public needs in ways that are appropriate to the National Forest recreation role and are within the capabilities of the resource base. Protect the free-flowing condition of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers and preserve and enhance the values for which they were established.

3. Forest Plan

Overall Forest Management Goals are to protect and enhance identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values and free-flowing condition of Wild and Scenic Rivers (p. IV-2).

Overall Forest Management Objectives require management of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers to emphasize the maintenance of the natural/near natural character of the river corridors and the continued availability of a high quality recreation experience (p. IV-8). Specific goals and objectives for each segment type and Management Area include:

a. Wild River (MA-2): The goal is to maintain the river environment in a natural state while providing for recreation opportunities (p. IV-77).

The objective for MA-2 Wild River is to maintain the natural, free-flowing, and primitive character of Wild segments of the river corridor (p. IV-66).

b. Scenic/Recreational River (MA-10):

Scenic: The goal is to maintain or enhance the high quality scenery and the largely undeveloped character of the shorelines (p. IV-121).

Recreational: The goal is to provide a wide range of recreation activities which are river oriented (p. IV-121).

The objective for MA-10 Scenic/Recreation River is to provide river-oriented recreation in an area of high quality scenery and largely undeveloped shoreline of Scenic and Recreation segments of the river corridor (p. IV-66).

B. Desired Future Condition

The Siskiyou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan of 1989 (Forest Plan) describes a desired future condition (DFC) for the Forest in both a 10-year timeframe (p. IV-2) and a 50-year timeframe (p. IV-4). The DFC for MA-1 Wilderness (see Appendix B) establishes the framework for management of the Wild River segment within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area. The DFC for MA-2 Wild River, below, enhances the Wilderness DFC, but

does not take precedence over it. The following DFC descriptions for MA-2 Wild River and MA-10 Scenic/Recreation River are consistent with the overall Siskiyou National Forest DFC for the next 10-year timeframe.

1. Wild River (MA-2)

Landscape View

There will be some evidence of human influence due to the existence of valid mining claims, however, mitigation techniques in plans of operation will be used to minimize the impact of these activities. Foot-trails will be the only permanent modifications in this area. The remainder of the area will be managed under the Preservation visual quality objective (VQO). Overall, the area will be managed so as not to degrade the wild and primitive attributes for which it was designated.

Stand Level View

The casual observer will see little difference between the stands and vegetation as they appear now and as they will appear after a decade of management under this river plan. The majority of the river corridor's timbered areas will continue to show old growth stand structure and functional characteristics. The peridotite-based vegetation in the upper portions will continue to exhibit distinctive plant communities.

Biodiversity

Habitats for wildlife species dependent on mature and old growth stands will be maintained within the river corridor where those characteristics currently exist. Habitats will be protected and populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species will be maintained. Wetlands and riparian areas will be maintained as well as unusual plant and animal communities, including those in the hyporheic zone.

Fish and Fish Habitat

Wilderness (MA-1) and Riparian (MA-11) standards and guidelines currently guide management of fish habitat in the Wild river section inside the Wilderness. Only natural caused changes can occur and mineral entry is limited. Much of the fish habitat in the Wild section is in good condition and will continue to be.

The ODFW is charged with the protection and enhancement of fish populations, including wild fish stocks. The goals and priorities of ODFW's Draft Chetco Basin Plan for Fall Chinook and the Draft Winter Steelhead Plan for the South Coast Basin should be finalized into plans that can be implemented and ongoing. The Forest Service has a responsibility to cooperate with the ODFW to ensure that fish habitat and fish population goals and objectives are in concert with each other and are being met.

Water Quality

Water quality will be protected or enhanced through implementation of Forest-wide soil and water protection standards and guidelines, Riparian Area (MA-11) standards and guidelines, Wilderness (MA-1) standards and guidelines, and Forest water quality monitoring.

Minerals

Mining will be regulated to fully protect the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) for which the river was designated into the National Wild and Scenic River System. The level of activity will be minimal. Any mining in the Wild section will be subject to the establishment of valid existing rights prior to any Plan of Operation approval.

Recreation

Most of the area will be essentially unmodified with the probability of experiencing solitude very high. The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) concept will be implemented and monitoring of recreation use and its attendant impacts will be on-going. Recreation use will still be relatively light compared to other Forests in the region. The desired future condition for Wilderness (MA-1) will also apply.

In addition to the Wild river inside the Wilderness, the Forest Service is recommending to Congress that an additional two miles of river, from Boulder Creek to Mislatah Creek, be designated as Wild river. This river segment will be managed as Wild both before and after the designation becomes formal.

River System

The existing primitive character of the Wild section of the Chetco River will be maintained overall. This section will appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human activities substantially unnoticeable. Natural processes, including fire, erosion, plant succession, flood events, and natural stream morphological changes, will continue to be the primary forces affecting the condition of the Wild river corridor. The river system will remain free-flowing and in a natural state, with a functioning ecosystem both above and below ground level.

2. Scenic/Recreational River (MA-10)

Landscape View

*Scenic segment: The existing semi-primitive character of the Scenic section of the Chetco River will be maintained overall, and will appear to be in a natural condition as seen from the river. A mixed conifer and deciduous and old-growth character will be prevalent along much of this segment of the river, as a result of the strong foreground dominance. However, middleground distance views into adjacent management areas will be visible from certain viewpoints along the river and management activities may be more apparent. The visual quality objectives (VQO) of specified areas adjacent to the

river corridor would be changed to Partial Retention to better fit the characterization of a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment.

Natural processes will continue to be the primary forces affecting the condition of the Scenic river corridor, however, there may be evidence of human influence due to the existence of roads, trails, private land holdings, and mining claims. Timber harvest will be limited in scope and subject to Retention visual quality objectives.

*Recreational segment: The existing roaded-natural character of this section of the Chetco River will be maintained overall and will appear to be in a near-natural condition when viewed from the river. A mixed deciduous/conifer character will be prevalent along much of this section in the foreground view. Middleground views into adjacent management areas will be visible from certain viewpoints along the river and management activities may be apparent.

There will be some evidence of human influence due to the existence of roads, bridges, trails, campgrounds, parking areas, boat launches, mining claims, and private land holdings. Transportation system improvements that do not affect the free-flowing nature of the river may be implemented and visible from the river. Timber harvest will be limited in scope and subject to Retention visual quality objectives.

Stand Level View

The casual observer will see some difference between the way the forest stands appear now and the way they will appear after a decade of management under this River Plan. The existing plantations and harvest units that can be seen from the river will continue to grow and exhibit more natural appearing forest characteristics. Future harvest activity will be implemented with greater sensitivity than past harvest and will meet Retention visual quality objectives within the river corridor. The remaining proportion of the river corridor (roughly 85%) will continue to show mixed and old growth stand structure and functional characteristics.

Biodiversity

Habitats for wildlife species dependent on mature and old growth stands will be maintained within the river corridor where those characteristics currently exist. Habitats will be protected and populations of threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant and animal species will be maintained or enhanced. Wetlands and riparian areas will be maintained or enhanced, as well as unusual plant and animal communities including those in the hyporheic zone.

Fish and Fish Habitat

The protection and enhancement of salmonid fish spawning, rearing, and migration habitat will be emphasized similar to the goals stated in Management Area 11 - Riparian areas. The vegetation in some portions of the riparian area will be managed for various objectives including stream shading, large woody material, species mixture, successional

stage diversity, wildlife, and some limited timber production. Tributary streams should contribute cold clear water to the mainstem and should provide for habitat diversity. The mainstem should serve as a migration corridor to prime spawning habitat and should itself provide much of the rearing habitat necessary for salmonid survival and growth. Fish habitat will continue to improve with application of Forest-wide standards and guidelines for salmonid and aquatic habitat protection, soil and water protection, and riparian ecosystem protection; and application of Best Management Practices (BMP), recruitment of large woody material, and fish habitat enhancement projects.

The ODFW is charged with the protection and enhancement of fish populations, including wild fish stocks. The goals and priorities of ODFW's Draft Chetco Basin Plan for Fall Chinook and the Draft Winter Steelhead Plan for the South Coast Basin should be finalized into plans that can be implemented and ongoing. The Forest Service has a responsibility to cooperate with the ODFW to ensure that fish habitat and fish population goals and objectives are in concert with each other and are being met.

Specifically, the Chetco River should achieve and maintain a 10-year average in-river harvest of about 2500 wild and hatchery fall Chinook, from a run size of about 10,000 fish. The objective for winter steelhead run size for the near future is to increase total harvest from 2800 fish/year to 3000, and to change the ratio of hatchery:wild fish caught from 50:50 to 70:30, respectively (4-13-92 contact with Tim Unterwegner, ODFW Fisheries Biologist, Gold Beach, Oregon). This is not to say that the hatchery:wild steelhead run composition would change to 70:30, but rather that the proportion of hatchery produced steelhead caught would increase. This would be accomplished by locating hatchery release sites to make returning adults more susceptible to harvest and by creating an acclimation pond on Second Creek to improve survivability of steelhead released from that site.

Protection, enhancement, and restoration of anadromous fish habitat, along with an adequate return of adults to spawning areas, should produce sustained high numbers of juvenile (smolt) salmon and steelhead. Protection and enhancement of resident fish habitat should result in healthy resident fish populations as well.

Water Quality

Water quality will be protected and enhanced through implementation of Forest-wide soil and water protection standards and guidelines, Riparian Area (MA-11) standards and guidelines, Best Management Practices (BMP), Watershed Improvement Needs (WIN) projects, and Forest water quality monitoring.

Minerals

Mining will be regulated to fully protect the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) for which the river was designated into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The level of mining activity will be minimal.

Recreation

*Scenic segment: River-oriented recreation, compatible with the natural landscape and undeveloped character of the shoreline, will continue to occur and could increase, possibly triggering some restrictions in use in portions of this river segment. This segment focuses on a moderate to low level of use and development, and a semi-primitive recreation experience. This is best characterized by the ROS description of a Semi-primitive/Non-motorized setting, although a small portion would fit the ROS setting of Roaded Natural.

A semi-primitive recreation experience is where complete solitude is not expected, but is possible. During winter, boating user density would be moderate to low. Access would be limited to existing roads and trails or those planned for development. Motorized boat use would not be allowed except for emergency search and rescue operations.

Summer recreation use is also expected to reflect moderate to low user densities. Uses would mainly be limited to fishing, floating, swimming or hiking. Motorized vehicle use in and along the river would not be allowed except for historical private property access.

The level of facility use and development would be moderate to low, with emphasis on developing projects identified in the Forest Plan, as well as potentially developing improved parking at the 1917-067 river access point (near Tolman Ranch), developing a few viewpoints along the 1376 Road above the Steel Bridge, and installing a fishing access trail from the 1917-063 Road. Hiking trails will cause additional permanent modifications in this area and will be developed commensurate with the demand for trail access and the desired semi-primitive nature of the area. The area would be managed to minimize on-site controls.

The Forest Service will recommend to Congress that the Scenic segment be extended about 2-miles downstream to the confluence of Eagle Creek to include areas that fit the description of Scenic river segments as per the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Sec. 2b).

*Recreational segment: River-oriented recreation, compatible with the natural landscape and relatively undeveloped character of the shoreline, will continue to occur and demand will very likely increase, possibly triggering some restrictions in use in all or portions of this river segment. This river segment focuses on a moderately high level of use and development, and a semi-social or scenic recreation experience (see Chetco River Recreation User Study). This is best characterized by the ROS description of a Roaded Natural setting.

A semi-social or scenic recreation experience includes the expectation of seeing other people much of the time. In the winter, angling user density is expected to be moderately high, where up to 50% of the users may feel crowded at certain times. The number of boats per fishing hole allowed would be about 1.6 (on the average), which equals a carrying capacity of 34 boats on the river at any one time.

Management of the boat users on the river would be implemented in two phases, as described in Chapter IV, Section B of this plan.

Motorized boat use, for any purpose other than emergency search and rescue, would not be allowed. The number of fishing derbies permitted would be no more than two, and education on the responsible use of anchors would be emphasized.

Summer recreation use would also be expected to reach moderately high user densities. Many people would use the river bars for camping, swimming, and other day uses. Motorized use along the river would occur only on one side of the river, with no crossing allowed except for historic private property access.

The level of facility use and development would be moderately high, with primary emphasis on developing the facilities identified in the Forest Plan, creating or improving dispersed recreation sites (South Fork Chetco and Steel Bridge) and creating some viewpoints and angler access points. Campgrounds, trailheads, trails, road improvements, access roads, parking areas, and boat launch sites will be the only permanent modifications in this area and will have been developed commensurate with the demand for these facilities and with a Roaded Natural recreational setting. The area would be managed in such a way that on-site regimentation and controls would be present in moderate amounts.

River System

*Scenic segment: The existing semi-primitive character of the Scenic segment of the Chetco River will be maintained overall. This section will appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human activities relatively unnoticeable. Natural processes including fire, erosion, plant succession, flood events, and natural stream morphological changes, will continue to be the primary forces affecting the condition of the Scenic river corridor. The river system will remain free-flowing and in a natural state, with a functioning ecosystem both above and below ground level.

*Recreational segment: The existing roaded-natural character of the Recreational segment of the Chetco River will be maintained overall. This section will appear to be affected both by the forces of nature and by human activities. Natural processes including erosion, plant succession, flood events, and natural stream morphological changes, will continue to be the primary natural forces affecting the condition of the Recreational river corridor. Roads, bridges, trails, boat launches, campgrounds, residences, and harvest activities to various degrees, will continue to be the primary human-caused forces affecting the condition of this river corridor segment. The river system will remain free-flowing and in a natural state, with a functioning ecosystem both above and below ground level.

C. Standards and Guidelines

The standards and guidelines (S&G) listed below state the bounds or constraints within which all practices will be carried out in achieving the planned goals and objectives for Management Area 2 (MA-2) - Wild River and Management Area 10 (MA-10) - Scenic/Recreational River. These S&G's were developed from ideas and concerns raised during public meetings and other scoping input. They may add to existing S&G's in the Forest Plan or they may be new S&G's entirely.

The Forest Plan (p. IV-20) describes the purpose of standards and guidelines and details that the intent of these S&G's is to help the manager stay within the constraints prescribed by law, as well as provide environmental safeguards for management activities. Specific project proposals will be planned and implemented within the bounds of the S&G's.

Forest-wide standards and guidelines provide the foundation from which more specific S&G's for the individual management areas are developed. These management area specific S&G's are additional restrictions for protection and enhancement of resources in those designated areas. For this River Management Plan (RMP), all S&G's will be identified similar to existing S&G's for MA-2 and MA-10, but will also include a letter "C" after the S&G number to designate that it pertains specifically to the Chetco River and not any other Wild and Scenic River on the Forest. In addition, all other Forest-wide S&G's apply to MA-2 and MA-10, unless specifically exempted or modified below. This includes Riparian Area (MA-11) and Designated Wildlife Habitat (MA-8) S&G's as well. References to Forest-wide S&G's below, may include a page number and assumes that the Forest Plan is the source of reference.

Specific terminology used in the S&G's identifies the type of direction and degree of compliance required. Correct interpretation of the terms is critical to understanding the intent of the direction.

The first intent is conveyed by the word "shall". With this degree of compliance, the action is mandatory in all cases.

The second intent is conveyed by the word "should." With this degree of restriction, action is required, unless justifiable reason exists for not taking action. Exceptions to "should" restrictions are expected to occur infrequently.

The third intent is conveyed by the word "practicable" and acknowledges that a given practice is not always feasible and practical in every situation. It is intended to encourage, but not require, a practice.

The fourth uses the word "may" and has to do with activities which may or may not be appropriate, depending on circumstances. This direction is intended to allow for taking advantage of compatible opportunities, or to provide for exceptions when objectives of a particular standard can be met through alternate methods.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR (MA-2) WILD RIVER

Fire Management

MA2-1C In addition to the standards in the Forest Plan for MA2-1, the following standards apply:

All wildfires within the Wild river corridor inside the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area shall follow guidelines in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Fire Plan.

Aerial delivery of retardant should avoid all streams in the river corridor.

No snag falling shall occur unless deemed absolutely necessary for hazard removal.

Facilities

MA2-2C Same S&G as in the Forest Plan.

Administration

MA2-3C Wild river segments in Wilderness designated areas shall follow Management Area - 1 standards and guidelines (See Appendix B).

Wild river segments outside of Wilderness shall follow Management Area - 1 standards and guidelines except where otherwise noted or clarified below.

Recreation

MA2-4C Motorized use (outside Wilderness) is not permitted except for trail maintenance needs, salvage of blowdown timber (MA2-7C), or wildlife enhancement projects (MA2-5C) such as meadow expansion.

Wildlife and Sensitive Plants

MA2-5C Meadows within the Wild river corridor, outside the Wilderness, shall be considered as MA 9 - Special Wildlife Sites and shall be managed under MA9-7 guidelines (Forest Plan p. IV-115).

Future proposed projects within the river corridor will require complete Biological Evaluations of the site specific project area to assess potential impacts to Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive plant and animal species by the proposed action.

Minerals

MA2-6C The Wild river segment inside the Kalmiopsis Wilderness was withdrawn from future mineral entry and location after December 31, 1983 by the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. Any additional designated Wild river areas shall be automatically withdrawn as well.

Mining activities on existing claims may be authorized, subject to valid existing rights, in an approved Plan of Operation (36 CFR 228, Subpart A). A proposed Plan of Operation shall be analyzed to determine the effects on the river's Outstandingly Remarkable Values and other resource values. All effects should be mitigated to prevent degradation of river values.

Provisions in an approved Plan of Operation shall satisfy the rights of the claimant to extract valuable minerals, while creating the least impact on river values. Disturbed lands should be reclaimed as soon as practicable during or after the mining activity. Site specific mitigation may be required seasonally for active mining operations. Reclamation of all disturbed surface areas shall be required upon completion of all mining activities, as detailed in the Plan of Operation.

Timber

MA2-7C Only tree removal for trail maintenance, wildlife enhancement, public safety, or salvage of blowdown will occur in Wild river segments outside of Wilderness.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR (MA-10) SCENIC/RECREATIONAL RIVER

Timber

MA10-1C In addition to existing MA10-1 S&G's, the following standards and guidelines apply:

Timber may be cut within the Scenic/Recreation river corridor. All timber harvest shall be designed to meet Retention visual quality objectives (VQO). Timber on National Forest lands outside the Scenic/Recreation boundary may be harvested subject to existing land allocation restrictions and VQO's. All timber harvest proposals will be designed to protect the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV) and other river resource values.

Harvest units shall be designed to minimize blowdown. Unit design shall consider: direction of prevailing storm winds, windfirm boundaries, cutting into the wind, leaving feathered edges, etc. Unit size and intensity of harvest removal should be reduced when windthrow is a concern.

All methods of slash disposal should be considered, including chip/disperse, hand pile/burn, spot burning or light broadcast burning.

Silvicultural activities, hazard tree removal, timber salvage and firewood cutting may be allowed if analysis shows these projects will protect the ORV's and other significant river values. Salvage of dead trees should be limited to those trees which are considered to be in excess of wildlife habitat needs or in excess of large woody material needs. Trees in established recreation sites which pose a threat to human safety may be removed.

Facilities

MA10-2C In addition to the existing MA10-2 S&G, the following standard and guidelines will apply:

Future utility corridor sitings should be excluded from the Scenic river segment.

Future utility corridor sitings may occur in the Recreational river segment based upon environmental analysis and mitigation measures to protect river values.

Fire Management

MA10-3C *Scenic segment: In addition to the existing MA10-3 S&G's for fire management, the following standards will apply:

Aerial delivery of retardant should avoid all streams in river corridor areas.

No snag falling shall occur unless deemed absolutely necessary for hazard removal.

Prescribed fire may be used for fuels treatment, wildlife habitat enhancement and other enhancement opportunities.

MA10-4C *Recreational segment: In addition to the existing MA10-4 S&G's for fire management, the following standards will apply:

Aerial delivery of retardant should avoid all streams in river corridor areas.

No snag falling shall occur unless deemed absolutely necessary for hazard removal.

Prescribed fire may be used for fuels treatment, wildlife habitat enhancement and other enhancement opportunities.

Recreation

MA10-5C *Scenic segment: Primitive campsites existing in the area should be maintained at a standard consistent with the Semi-primitive Non-motorized or Roaded Natural classification of the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the area. New primitive campsites may be constructed, but will also match the ROS classification and setting of the area.

Commercial boating use should be restricted to float parties of no more than 10 people per party and no more than 2 party-trips per day.

Motorized boat use shall not be allowed except for emergency search and rescue operations. Motorized vehicle use in and along

the river shall not be allowed except for historical private property access.

Trails may be constructed, maintained, and managed to protect or enhance the values for which the river was designated and to meet recreational demand.

The use of pack stock on trails may be permitted, depending on specific trail management objectives.

*Recreational segment: Dispersed campsites existing in the area should be maintained at a standard consistent with a Roaded Natural ROS classification. Developed campsites within the river segment should be maintained at standards consistent with a Roaded Natural ROS classification but may be upgraded to ROS standards of Rural.

Winter angling boat use should be managed for a total boat carrying capacity of 34, a total permitted guide capacity of 40, mandatory private boater registration, and monitored to determine if additional restrictions (Phase 2) are necessary. Specific criteria for this system will be followed as outlined in the Boat Use Allocation System in Chapter IV, Section B of this plan.

Motorized boat use shall not be allowed except for emergency search and rescue operations. Motorized vehicle use in and along the river shall only be allowed on one side of the river, with no crossing allowed, except for historical private property access or for emergency fire and law enforcement operations.

The number of fishing derbies allowed annually shall be two.

Education on the proper and responsible use of anchors should be emphasized to eliminate potential conflicts that may occur.

Trails may be constructed, maintained and managed to meet recreational demand, provided river values are protected.

The use of pack stock may be permitted, depending on specific trail management objectives.

Developed and dispersed facilities should, whenever practicable, be screened from view from the river.

Visual Resource

MA10-6C

All management activities within the Scenic/Recreation river corridor shall meet Retention VQO's (AG. Handbook #462), except in developed and dispersed recreation sites where management objectives and facilities focus on management of people.

*Scenic segment: Management activities occurring in land areas directly adjacent to the river corridor shall follow visual quality objectives for those areas.

*Recreational segment: Measures to prevent severe movement of the Chetco Slump, located on Forest Road #1376 at milepoint 7.6 in the Recreational segment, may be exempted from meeting full Retention guidelines. Any proposals for work on the slump shall be analyzed for the effects on the view from the river and shall be implemented with sensitivity to visual quality objectives (see also MA10-13C).

Cultural Resources

MA10-7C Management direction is to protect cultural resources. In addition, cultural resource enhancement and interpretation projects may be done provided that activities and structures protect ORV's and other significant river values. All ground disturbing management activities shall be field surveyed for cultural resource values and effects to the resource determined and mitigated.

All actions, direct or indirect, that will have an effect on cultural resources are subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and through its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Adverse effects to significant cultural resources (eligible and listed) shall be mitigated. Decisions to abandon a significant historical structure and allow it to deteriorate naturally, or to remove one, shall be preceded by the consultation process defined in 36 CFR 800, including agreement on appropriate mitigation measures.

Wildlife and Sensitive Plants

MA10-8C Management direction is to protect wildlife and sensitive plant habitats. Wildlife and sensitive plant habitat improvement work may be done, provided that activities and structures are analyzed as to their effects on the free-flowing character of the river and on other river values.

Designated Wildlife Habitat Areas (MA-8) within the corridor shall be managed under MA-8 standards and guidelines.

Meadows within the Scenic/Recreational corridor shall be considered as MA-9 Special Wildlife Sites and shall be managed under MA9-7 guidelines.

Future proposed projects within the river corridor will require Biological Evaluations of the site specific project area to assess potential impacts to Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive plant and animal species by the project action. Management activities will be designed to protect these resource values.

Fish

MA10-9C Management direction is to protect and enhance fish habitat. All management activities within the Wild and Scenic River corridor shall be analyzed for effects to fish and fish habitat. Final

alternatives shall not violate Forest-wide S&G 4-12, for fish habitat protection (p. IV-32 & 33).

Riparian management area (MA-11) and Supplemental Resource management area (MA-7) S&G's give special consideration to the protection and enhancement of salmonid fish spawning, rearing and migration habitat. This applies to all Class I, II, and III tributaries as well as the mainstem of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River. All proposed projects will be designed to meet these S&G's for fish and fish habitat protection. Specific projects for fish habitat enhancement may be added to the Management Actions and Schedule of Planned Activities in this plan at any time.

Fish habitat improvement work may be done, provided that activities and structures are analyzed as to the effects on the free-flowing character of the river and on other river values, and that these values will be protected.

*Recreational segment: Most trees that fall in the river will be left. Consideration for removal will be based on a balance between fish habitat needs and public safety needs.

*Scenic segment: All trees that fall in the river will be left as large woody material for fish habitat.

Range

MA10-10C New range allotments for livestock shall not be allowed.

Existing range allotment management plans shall address river resource values, and activities shall be planned to protect them.

Soil and Water

MA10-11C Management direction is to protect and enhance water quality. Water quality enhancement projects may be done, provided activities and structures do not affect the free-flowing character of the river, and that river resource values are protected.

All management activities within the Scenic and Recreational river corridors must be analyzed for effects to soil and water. Final alternatives shall not violate Forest-wide S&G's (p. IV-44) for soil and water protection. Forest-wide S&G 7-14 (p. IV-47) describes the process for complying with State requirements in accordance with the Clean Water Act for protection of the waters of the State of Oregon.

Water removal for incidental engineering, permanent fire management access sites, recreational, administrative, or other uses may be allowed after environmental analysis determines there will be no significant environmental impacts to any river-related value.

Minerals

MA10-12C The Scenic and Recreational river segments will remain open to future mineral entry. Mining activities, on mining claims properly located and recorded, may be authorized subject to regulations in 36 CFR 228, Subpart A. An approved Plan of Operation will provide for reclamation of areas disturbed by mining related activities and for protection of the surface resources consistent with the approved activities. Adequate bonding should be required to insure that provisions of the operating plan are accomplished.

All Plans of Operation shall be analyzed to determine the effects on the river's Outstandingly Remarkable Values and other resource values. All effects should be mitigated to prevent degradation of river values.

Provisions in an approved Plan of Operation shall satisfy the rights of the claimant to extract valuable minerals, while creating the least impact on river values. Following Forest-wide S&G's 10-1 thru 10-11 (p. IV-55), disturbed lands should be reclaimed as soon as practicable during or after the mining activity. Site specific mitigation may be required seasonally for active mining operations. Reclamation of all disturbed surface areas shall be required upon completion of all mining activities.

Removal of common rock and gravel shall only be allowed in the Recreational segment in areas where extraction would not conflict with other resource objectives.

Roads/Utilities

MA10-13C *Scenic segment: No new roads will be constructed within this segment. Existing roads may be maintained and reconstructed based upon need. All road reconstruction shall be analyzed for effects to river values and those river values shall be protected.

*Recreational segment: Road construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and expansion may occur based upon need. All transportation projects shall be analyzed for effects to river values and those river values should be protected whenever possible. New roads should be screened from view from the river wherever practicable.

Maintenance techniques to prevent severe movement of the Chetco Slump, located at milepoint 7.6 on the 1376 Road, are allowed. These include drilling, drainage measures, road reconstruction, paving, retaining walls, guard rails and other measures, so long as they do not impede the free-flowing character of the river. All maintenance will be done with sensitivity to visual quality objectives.

Use of the existing Red Rock Quarry, on the 1376 Road at milepoint 11.3, may continue provided the existing visual condition, as seen from the river and the road, is improved.

Low-water Bridge pilings may be removed to enhance the free-flowing character of the river.

Lands

MA10-14C Fee-title land acquisition by condemnation shall not occur as per the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, Section 6 (b).

Conservation or scenic easement purchase may occur as stated in Section 6 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. Acquisition of easements may be used where river values could be threatened, or to provide for access or better public service.

Port-Orford-cedar and Pacific yew

MA10-15C All proposed projects will be analyzed as to their potential effects on Port-Orford-Cedar (POC) and Pacific yew, and potential effects will be mitigated to protect these species. All projects will follow the latest management direction as outlined in the Inter-regional POC Management Plan and the Draft Region Pacific Yew Management Strategy.

D. Corridor Boundary Description

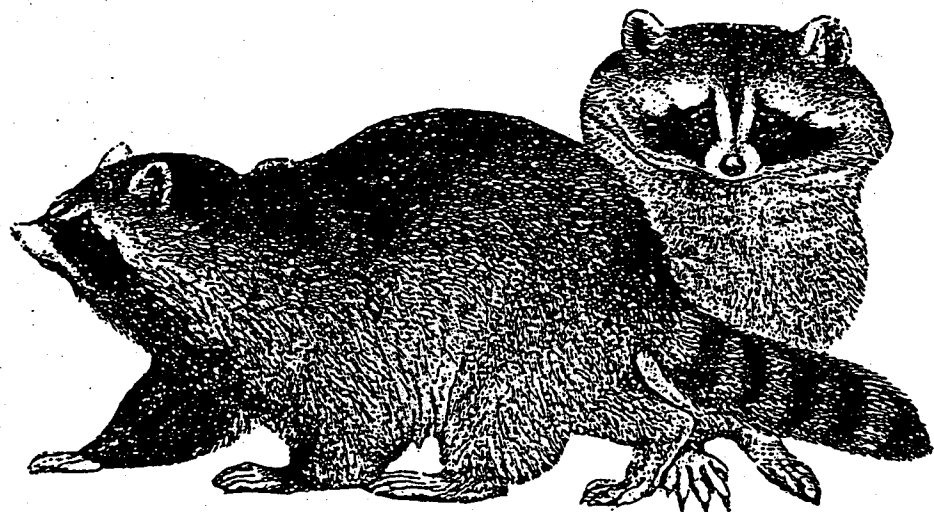
The Forest Plan established Management Areas 2 and 10, for the Wild and Scenic/Recreational segments of the Chetco River. The boundary for both management areas was based on the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988. The total interim Chetco Wild and Scenic River boundary consisted of an area of approximately 14,240 acres or approximately 320 acres per river mile.

The 1968 Wild and Scenic River Act restricts corridor areas for Wild and Scenic Rivers to not more than an average of 320 acres per river mile in the final management plan.

The final boundary for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River corridor is based on the interim (1/4-mile on each side) management boundary, but also includes legal land lines, identifiable created features such as roads and trails, and natural topographical features as well. One example of where legal land line boundaries were used is at the mouth of the South Fork Chetco River, where a recent land purchase from private interests secured 240 acres for public access and use. From this 240 acre unit, 100 acres extends to the east beyond the traditional 1/4 mile corridor and occupies the remaining portions of the SW 1/4 of Section 9, T39S, R12W.

Appendix E contains a detailed legal description of the final river corridor boundary.

CHAPTER IV
IMPLEMENTATION



A. Management Actions

The management program includes distinct actions designed to help attain the desired future condition for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River. The intent is that these actions be implemented as part of ongoing operations or when funding is secured through the agency's budgeting process. These are single-item decisions, developed from opportunities identified in integrated resource analysis and from ideas, concerns, and opportunities raised during the public scoping process, that affect specific areas or resources. Some of these actions can be merged into the Schedule of Planned Activities (Section C of this chapter) for capital investment funding, when costs and projected timeframes are known.

Visuals

A Forest Plan land allocation and mapping adjustment will be made to change identified land areas adjacent to the Scenic corridor from Modification VQO (MA14) to Partial Retention VQO (MA13), as per the Decision Notice for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River EA.

Recreation

A recommendation will be made to Congress to locate the Wild river segment terminus at Mislatah Creek and the Scenic river segment terminus at Eagle Creek.

Develop a river user's map and brochure for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River. It would show federal and private property boundaries; location of launch sites; developed campgrounds and picnic areas; sanitation facilities; roads and trails. It would also highlight river ethics, etiquette, and safety.

Change the ROS classification for the lower 2 miles of Wild river corridor and the Scenic river corridor down to Steel Bridge to Semi-primitive Non-motorized.

Change river guide permitting system so that only one guide operates under one permit and a river guide coordination meeting is established.

Improve signing to alert users to regulations concerning non-motorized areas, winter boating registration, National Forest boundaries, etc.

Improve toilet and trash facilities at Miller, Nook, Redwood, and South Fork Chetco river bars.

Complete Trail Management Objectives for existing and planned trails in the river corridors, including two proposed projects known as Upper and Lower Chetco Wild and Scenic River Trails (previously planned as "Chetco Gorge Trail Complex"), which would include construction of trails from the Forest boundary up to Mislatah Creek.

Put up "pack it in/pack it out" signs at river access points, developed campgrounds and dispersed campsites such as Low Water Bridge and Steel Bridge sites.

Access/Transportation

Address transportation needs within the river corridor to increase safety and to meet increasing demands for river use and access. Suggestions include widening Forest road 1375 in areas, paving Forest road 1376 in the Gardner Ranch area, open/improve access by existing roads, and improving curves along Forest road 1376 for safer passage. (Note: the "Opportunities Identified in the IRA" document in the project file identifies future needs for the 1376 Road).

Remove the remains of Low Water Bridge to facilitate free-flow and to improve safety.

Improve signing to facilitate public access and safety.

Fishing Derbies

Fishing derbies on the Chetco Wild and Scenic River will be subject to the requirement that derby requestors submit an application to the USFS, Chetco Ranger District, for a special use permit by July 1, for the upcoming fishing season.

Fishing derbies on the Chetco Wild and Scenic River will be considered according to the following criteria:

1. Derbies that directly benefit fish enhancement on the Chetco River will be given priority over those that do not.
2. Derbies will be given priority according to the amount of dollars they contribute to Chetco River fish enhancement projects.
3. Derbies that minimize impacts to other river users by scheduling on non-peak days, limiting the number of derby days, specifying time and location of activities on the river, and showing organization for parking, launches and shuttles, will be given priority over those that don't.
4. Derbies that use Chetco permitted guides will be given priority over those that do not, or that use few.
5. Derbies that promote and document catch and release methods will be given priority over those that don't.
6. Derbies that demonstrate benefit to the local Brockings-Harbor economy will be given priority.
7. Past performance for derby organization will be considered, if applicable. Those with the least amount of incident or disruption to other users or the river environment, will be given priority. Those with no prior history will be considered as being in good standing.

Fish

Create habitat in the South Fork Chetco River, upper Mislatah Creek and Panther Creek to improve salmonid rearing capability in those tributaries.

Improve fish passage into Big Redwood Creek.

Assist ODFW and Oregon Southcoast Fishermen Association in the analysis, design, and construction of an acclimation pond on Second Creek.

Seek opportunities to partner with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to monitor the condition of the fish resource and assure that populations are protected and enhanced wherever possible.

Develop opportunities to enhance fish habitat in on-going planning processes using information obtained in the integrated resource analysis process.

Water Quality

Complete further analysis and propose possible correction of stability problems in the Chetco drainage, which are identified in the Watershed Improvement Needs (WIN) database for the Chetco District. These include WIN sites 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 34, and 40.

Identify roads which need closing, rehabilitation, and/or increased maintenance in order to enhance water quality and fish habitat.

Develop a water-site location plan for future engineering and fire management purposes and for protection of water quality.

Seek opportunities to partner with Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, U.S. Geological Survey, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Division of State Lands, Oregon Water Resources Department, and other agencies to monitor water quality and develop instream flow baselines that will protect water quantity and quality on the Chetco River.

Develop opportunities to enhance water quality in on-going planning processes using the Watershed Improvement Needs (WIN) database and information obtained in the integrated resource analysis process.

Wildlife

Perform meadow enhancement within the river corridor to provide additional wildlife habitat, where needed.

Expand partnerships with groups for wildlife-related improvements and educational opportunities.

Invest in habitat enhancement projects such as installation of nest boxes, osprey platforms, and snag development in Scenic and Recreational River segments.

Interpretation

Seek opportunities to plan and implement interpretive projects that educate, entertain, and assist the public to understand and appreciate the Wild and Scenic River and the values for which it was designated.

Timber

Use ecosystem management techniques in the planning, preparation, and administration of any timber harvest, salvage, or wildlife enhancement projects affecting the Chetco Wild and Scenic River basin.

Timber outside the boundary but within the visual seen area should be managed and harvested in a manner which provides special emphasis on visual quality.

Land Acquisition

There are approximately 1,165 acres of privately-owned lands within the boundaries of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River corridor. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act specifically prohibits the use of condemnation in the fee title purchase of private lands if 50 percent or more of the land within the river boundary is already in public ownership. The Chetco River falls within this category. While the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides the Federal government with authority to purchase scenic, conservation or access easements through condemnation proceedings, this is considered a measure of last resort.

The basic objectives of Wild and Scenic River designation are to maintain or improve the river's existing condition, and to protect and enhance the river's Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's).

The following criteria will be used to determine easement/acquisition priorities:

- * Those lands that have a high potential for commercial development which, if developed, would degrade the river's ORV's and/or its other significant values.
- * Those lands that are adjacent to the river, have a gentle topography, and would provide public access to the river, especially in high-use recreation areas.

These criteria serve only to direct the development of acquisition and easement studies, and are not meant to be the sole criteria for consideration.

Private Property

Boundary information will be posted on the bulletin boards at boat launches. Commercial guides will be given materials showing the boundaries.

B. Boat Use Allocation System

This system for allocating and permitting winter boating use was developed from Alternative VII in the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. A detailed description of the recreation use, issues, carrying capacity, and various methods of allocation considered can be found in the Analysis of Public Use document in the EA (Appendix B). The selection of the alternative implementing this particular system by the decisionmaker is documented in the Decision Notice in Chapter VI of the EA.

Alternative VII was chosen to resolve the winter boating overcrowding issue. Following is a description of how the selected alternative, implemented in two phases, will work.

Implementation of Alternative VII

Phase I (Commercial)

1. Reduce guides to 40 (only one guide will operate under one permit).
2. No daily use limits would be placed on the permitted guides.
3. Monitor to determine if the total boat threshold (see page 43) is exceeded and if commercial use is exceeding 60% of the carrying capacity (CC), which is the percent of maximum use tolerable. If both of these occur, then Phase II-A will be implemented (see Monitoring Strategy for specific thresholds and methods).

Phase I (Non-commercial)

1. Mandatory requirement that all private users must register daily by filling out and submitting a registration card.
2. No daily use limits will be placed on private boaters.
3. Monitor to determine if total boat threshold is exceeded and if private use is exceeding the percent of maximum use tolerable (60% of the CC). If both thresholds (limits) are exceeded, then Phase II-B will be implemented.

Phase II-A (Commercial use)

1. Split allocation ratio will be set at 50:50.
2. Total number of guides will remain at 40.
3. Daily commercial use limit of 17 boats (50% CC) will be implemented.
4. Out of a 180-day total season (October - March), the available days per guide will be 76 use-days available/guide/season.
5. Specific calendar days will be selected by each guide by a method of draft called "Seize the Day." Specifically:
 - A. Guides will randomly draw a draft number.

- B. Guides will draft individual days, according to their number in line.
 - C. Each guide will be given 76 "draft picks" to be used in alternating fashion.
 - D. Any day of the season can be drafted until the daily use limit of 17 is filled for that day.
 - E. This process continues in alternating fashion until all available days are full.
 - F. Cards for each day will be issued to the guides according to which days they drafted. These cards may be traded among guides for preferred days, but the card must be dropped in the box on the day it is used and only used on the day identified, and the guide using the card must be identified on it.
6. Boats will be identified using 3" stick-on labels of the state guide license number.

Phase II-B (Non-commercial)

- 1. Split allocation ratio will be set at 50:50.
- 2. Daily use limit of 17 boats (50% CC) will be implemented.
- 3. Eight of the permits will be issued on a daily first-come/first-served basis, and the other nine will be issued by advanced reservation.
- 4. Daily permitted boats will be issued a temporary wooden number saddle that hangs over the gunwale of the boat. These numbers must be returned at the end of the day or the deposit to cover replacement will be kept.
- 5. A processing fee may be instituted to cover the cost of issuing the permit and provide for vendor incentive to develop and operate the system. The system must meet the following goals:
 - A. It must minimize USFS administration costs.
 - B. It must be fair and open to all non-commercial users.
 - C. It must allow equal access for local and out-of-town users.

Summary of Allocation System for Commercial and Non-commercial Users

Phase I:

- 1. Reduce guides to 40.
- 2. Mandatory private permit registration.
- 3. No use limits on either user type.
- 4. Monitor for total boat and ratio thresholds.

Phase II-A (commercial)

1. 50% Total boat limit (17/day).
2. Existing guides remain at 40.
3. Each guide selects 76 season-days.
4. "Sieze the Day" draft method.
5. Boat ID by state guide license #.

Phase II-B (non-commercial)

1. 50% Total boat limit (17/day).
2. Open to all non-commercial users.
3. Permits by reserved & 1st served.
4. Daily permit purchase price.
5. Boat ID by returnable number.

Boat Monitoring Strategy

Monitoring will be done to determine the number of total boats on the river at any one time and the actual ratio of commercial to non-commercial use.

Estimate Actual Ratio of Use (Commercial:Non-commercial)

1. Collecting and counting use registration cards from both user types will show the proportion of use among each group. The information will help determine whether to implement Phase II-A, Phase II-B, or both, should the thresholds for total boats at one time be exceeded.
2. Enforce card registration system by randomly stopping boats and verifying use with registration. Those who have not registered will receive a Notice of Violation. This requirement is enforceable under 36 CFR 261.58 (z).
3. The monitoring threshold (trigger) for ratio of use is: When commercial or non-commercial use exceeds 60%, more than 20% of the season sampled.

Estimate the Number of Total Boats on the River at One Time

1. This would be used to determine numerically if crowding was occurring on the river, based on the determination of carrying capacity.
2. This estimate is based on the following:

The sampling period = 15 min/hole x 21 holes = 5.25 hours.

Total Count for 5.25 hours = Total Boats on the River at One Time.

See Appendix B of the EA for more detailed information.

3. The monitoring threshold (trigger) for total boats is: When total boats on the river at one time exceed carrying capacity more than 20% of the season sampled.

Monitoring Example Matrix

Following is an example matrix of data from a hypothetical sample season during Phase I of this system. It shows how monitoring data would indicate when a threshold has been exceeded, how analysis of the data would direct when Phase II should be initiated, and whether commercial users, non-commercial users, or both would be affected.

It should be noted that a specific protocol will be followed in determining when Phase II will be implemented. First, only the threshold for total boats on the river at one time (as stated above) must be exceeded before Phase II will be implemented. When this occurs, some aspect of Phase II will be implemented. Second, monitoring data for ratio of use will determine whether Phase II-A, Phase II-B, or both will be used. If the total boat threshold is exceeded by both user types, even at a 50:50 ratio, both Phase II-A and B will be implemented.

The example below assumes that under Alternative VII: guides are reduced to 40, carrying capacity (CC) is 34 total boats on the river at one time, maximum tolerance ratio is 60%, and the monitoring thresholds identified above apply. That is, total boats and ratio of use cannot exceed limits more than 20% of the season sampled...

TABLE 1

Sample	Commercial # Boats (guides)	Non-commercial # Boats (private)	Total Boats at one time	C/NC Ratio	CC
					Exceed or Not Exceed
1	10	10	20	50:50	NE
2	30	2	32	68:12	NE
3	27	7	34	80:20	NE
4	14	20	34	41:59	NE
5	17	17	34	50:50	NE
6	18	17	35	51:49	E
7	17	18	35	49:51	E
8	18	18	36	50:50	E
9	30	10	40	75:25	E
10	20	25	45	44:56	E

Note: This assumes that each on-site sampling was done over a 5.25 hour period.

Analysis of this data indicates that:

1. The threshold for total boats on the river at one time (34) was exceeded 50% of the time, as indicated in samples 6 - 10.
2. Commercial maximum tolerance use ratio (60%) was exceeded 30% of the time, as indicated in samples 2, 3, and 9.
3. Non-commercial max. tolerance use ratio (60%) was not exceeded at all.

The result of this analysis is that Phase II-A would be implemented in the next season because both total boats and ratio amounts were exceeded beyond the 20% tolerance limits for commercial users. Commercial users would be restricted in use and monitored at 50% maximum tolerance use ratio and non-commercial users would continue to be monitored at 60% maximum tolerance use ratio.

If total boats and ratio amounts had been exceeded by the non-commercial users only, then Phase II-B would be implemented and the commercial users would continue to be monitored at 60% maximum use, while private maximum use ratio would be at 50%.

If both groups had exceeded thresholds, then Phase II-A and B would be implemented and both would be monitored at 50% maximum use ratio.

Guide Selection Criteria

In order to reduce guides down to 40, a system of rating them based on desirable attributes (criteria) was developed. Rating will be based on the application scoring criteria and documented on the application scoring sheet. Rating for the average annual quantity of documented trips will be for the 91/92, 90/91, and 89/90 permit seasons. Once selected, each guide will be rated and evaluated annually. Before each guide can be rated, they must meet the following pre-bid qualification requirements.

Pre-bid Qualification Requirements

To be eligible for scoring, each prospective bidder must:

1. Document that they have the following:
 - A. Oregon State Outfitter/Guide License.
 - B. Business License.
 - C. The proper equipment (including safety items) necessary to operate a safe guiding service.
2. Submit a properly completed guide application.
3. And will agree to:
 - A. Properly mark commercial guide vessels with their Oregon State Guide License Number;
 - B. Be aboard the guide vessel during all commercial operations;
 - C. Comply with other conditions of permit and law.

Application Scoring Criteria

After pre-qualifying, each applicant will then be scored for a maximum of 100 points based on the following weighted criteria:

47 POINTS MAXIMUM - PROFESSIONAL GUIDING EXPERIENCE ON THE CHETCO RIVER:

Points will be assigned to each applicant for commercial guiding experience on the Chetco River.

- 4 Points for each season of Chetco River guiding experience with documented OR permit history (8 years maximum).
- 4 Points for each season of documentable Chetco River commercial guiding experience by an employee of a permit holder (must be accompanied by a sworn and notarized affidavit by the employer guide).
- X Points for the average annual number of documented (by office records) guided trips taken over the 91/92, 90/91, & 89/90 permit seasons.

X = $\frac{0 \text{ points for } 0 \text{ average}}{5 \text{ points for } 1 - 10 \text{ trips average}} \text{ OR } \frac{10 \text{ points for } 11 - 25 \text{ trips average}}{15 \text{ points for } 26+ \text{ trips average.}}$ (CHOOSE ONLY ONE)

53 POINTS MAXIMUM - MISCELLANEOUS QUALIFICATIONS & PERFORMANCE FACTORS:

Qualifications: 20 Points Maximum

- a) 5 Points Current valid certification of passing a Boating or Marine Safety Training Program or Class recognized by the US Forest Service;
- b) 10 Points Currently valid certification for CardioPulmonary Resuscitation;
- c) 5 Points Currently valid certification for Advanced First Aid, ETT, EMT-1, or higher, or certification of training in treatment of Hypothermia and Cold Water Near-Drowning at a level above basic first aid;

Performance Factors: 33 Points Maximum

- a) 5 Points Timely and accurate submission of Annual Use Reports and Log Data for last season of use;
- b) 5 Points Complete and accurate submission of daily use-documentation cards for last season of use;
- c) 5 Points Payment by due date of Bill for Collection for last season of use;
- d) 5 Points Not more than one Notice of Violation within the past five years;
- e) 3 Points Not more than one Warning of Violation of permit stipulations within the past three years;
- f) 3 Points No Convictions for National Forest Violations within the past five years;
- g) 3 Points No History of reportable Boating Accidents within the past five years;
- h) 2 Points No Convictions of negligent or reckless or DWI operation of any vehicle or watercraft within the past five years;
- i) 2 Points No bounced or NSF checks to the US Forest Service during the past three permit periods.

Chetco River Fishing Guide Permit Applicant Scoring and Evaluation Sheet

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

OREGON STATE OUTFITTER/GUIDE LICENSE # _____

BUSINESS LICENSE # _____

PROFESSIONAL GUIDING EXPERIENCE ON THE CHETCO RIVER - 47 POINTS MAXIMUM:

* Seasons of Chetco River guiding experience with documented permit history. No. of Seasons X 4 points = _____

OR

Seasons of Chetco River guiding experience as an employee of permit holder (notarized statement). No. of Seasons X 4 points = _____

* Average annual number of documented, guided trips taken on the Chetco over the past three permit seasons = _____ Trips
(see "Application Scoring Criteria" for scoring). Score = _____

MISCELLANEOUS QUALIFICATIONS & PERFORMANCE FACTORS - 53 POINTS MAXIMUM:

Qualifications:

- b) Holder of Boating or Marine Safety Training Certification (5 points) _____
- c) Current Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Certification (10 points) _____
- d) Current Adv. First Aid, ETT, EMT-1 or higher Certification or Adv. Hypothermia & Cold Water Training (5 points) _____

Performance Factors:

- a) Timely and accurate submission of required reports (5 points) _____
- b) Complete and accurate submission of daily use-documentation cards (yellow cards) (5 points) _____
- c) Payment by due date of annual Bill for Collection (5 points) _____
- d) Not more than one Notice of Violation within the past five years (5 points) _____
- e) Not more than one Warning of Violation for permit stipulations within the past three years (3 points) _____
- f) No convictions for National Forest violations within the past five years (3 points) _____
- g) No history of reportable Boating Accidents within the past five years (3 points) _____
- h) No convictions of negligent or reckless or DWI operation of any vehicle or watercraft within the past five years (2 points) _____
- i) No bounced or NSF checks to the US Forest Service during the past three permit periods (2 points) _____

TOTAL POINTS _____

C. Schedule of Planned Activities

The projects and acquisition proposals contained in this plan will be translated into multi-year program budget proposals that identify needed expenditures. The budget proposals are submitted through normal Forest Service budget processes. A final budget for any fiscal year (October 1 of one calendar year through September 30 of the next calendar year) is the result of negotiation between the Congress of the United States and the Administration, as well as an allocation process among all the Forest Service units by the higher offices of the Forest Service. Since the actual amount of work which can be accomplished depends to a great degree on the final budget, and that may vary considerably from the budget proposal, it is not possible to say with assurance when or if the proposed projects in this plan will be fully carried out.

The federal actions identified in this management plan have been combined into three main categories for budgeting purposes. These categories include annual maintenance, annual operations and program management, and facilities development.

Following are cost estimates for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River management program based on fiscal year 1992 dollars.

Annual Maintenance

The Chetco Wild and Scenic River Management Areas include the following recreation facilities: one developed campground (Little Redwood); four undeveloped riverbar/launch areas (South Fork, Redwood, Hook and Miller); one trail access/dispersed launch area (Low Water Bridge); one day-use site (Little Redwood); numerous undeveloped dispersed campsites; and the Chetco Gorge Trail.

Annual maintenance cost.....\$90,000

Annual Operations and Program Management

Funding for operations and program management includes development of education/information programs, development of maps and informational brochures, river patrols, special use permit administration for outfitter-guides, vehicle costs, equipment charges, and other general administrative overhead costs.

Administrative overhead.....\$115,000

Facilities Development

Following are the construction projects which are identified in the plan and which will play a key role in assuring that the desired future conditions will be achieved. As discussed in the introduction to this section, if budget allocations do not match requests, some of these projects may not be completed when scheduled.

The projects in this schedule will be reviewed on an annual basis. As more experience is gained in managing the Chetco Wild and Scenic River and as various conditions change, the priorities shown in this schedule may be altered, some projects may be deleted, or some new projects may be added. As this occurs, this management plan will be amended.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Fiscal Year	Description	Estimated Cost
'94	- Chetco River Road (Paving) 3.5 Miles	\$350,000
'94 '95	- Chetco River Road (Culverts) 3.5 Miles - Little Redwood Campground Rehabilitation (feasibility and preconstruction)	\$150,000 \$14,500
'95	- Low Water Bridge Trailhead (feasibility and preconstruction)	\$10,500
'95	- South Fork Chetco Site Development (feasibility)	\$3,000
'95	- Low Water Bridge Trailhead (construction)	\$61,000
'96	- South Fork Chetco Site Development (preconstruction)	\$8,000
Beyond 1995	- Low Water Bridge Site Improvement - Steel Bridge Camp/Road Development - Chetco River Toilet Rehabilitation - Upper Chetco Wild and Scenic River Trail - Lower Chetco Wild and Scenic River Trail - Chetco Gorge Trail - Chetco River Road Vista Points - Fishing Access Trails - Improved Parking at 1917-057 Road - Little Redwood Campground Rehabilitation	\$71,500 \$95,000 \$76,000 \$170,000 \$268,000 \$145,000 \$85,000 \$80,000 \$50,000 Unknown

D. Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring prescribed in this plan is in addition to the extensive Forest-wide monitoring already prescribed in the Siskiyou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Appendix D). It expands the Forest's monitoring program to address site-specific issues of the Chetco River Management Plan.

The monitoring and evaluation of this plan will be based, whenever possible, upon the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) concept. LAC is based on the premise that change to the ecological and social conditions of an area will occur as a result of natural and human factors. The goal of management is to keep the character and rate of change due to human factors within acceptable levels that are consistent with plan objectives and protection of the river's Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

The primary emphasis of the LAC system is on the desired resource condition, rather than on how much use or abuse an area can tolerate. The management challenge is not one of how to prevent any human-induced change in the planning area, but rather one of deciding what changes should occur, how much change will be allowed, what management actions are needed to guide and control it, and how managers will know when the established limits are being or have been reached.

Once in place and functioning, the mechanics of the monitoring system can alert Forest Service managers to unacceptable change in the Wild and Scenic River corridor before it is too late to react. For each river value to be monitored, one or more key indicators are selected which allow managers to keep attuned to changes in the ecosystem or social setting. For each key indicator, a standard is set. This is the threshold value which determines the amount of change that is either desired or will be accepted. The purpose of the indicators and standards is to provide managers with a tool to determine if the resource values and opportunities they are managing for are actually being provided. The standards serve as "triggers" which cause predetermined management actions to be implemented when the limit is being approached.

The LAC process is designed to be the foundation for the long-term protection and enhancement of the primary river-related values in the Wild and Scenic River corridor. The process must, however, be flexible enough to allow for unique site-specific situations, and to provide ample opportunity for public involvement and adjustment as our resource and social knowledge base increases.

The following section outlines the key indicators, management standards and monitoring that will be conducted within the Chetco Wild and Scenic River Corridor.

ISSUE OR VALUE	KEY INDICATOR	MANAGEMENT STANDARD	MANAGEMENT ACTION: IF STANDARDS ARE NOT MET	SAMPLING PROCEDURE AND FREQUENCY	ANNUAL COST
Graveling on the river by boat use	Total boats on the river at any one time.	Carrying Capacity of 34 total boats on the river at any one time will be met 80% of the time.	When total boats on the river at one time exceed the carrying capacity greater than 20% of the season completed, then Phase II will be implemented.	1. Check yellow cards for # users. 2. Count boats/15 min. Interval for a total of 5-25 hours. 3. Count boats/hour at various sites. 4. Count boats/hour at various sites. 5. Count boats launched/hour at various points.	\$4,000
Commercial & Non-Commercial Use	Proportion of commercial to non-commercial use.	60% Commercial 60% Non-commercial not 80% of the time.	When total boats on the river at one time is exceeded greater than 20% of the sample season, then data will be used to determine if Phase II-A or Phase II-B or both should be implemented.	1. Check yellow cards for use pattern. 2. Count number of commercial vs. non-commercial boats/hour at various sites.	\$2,400
Motorized Boat Use	Whether or not motorized boat use occurs on the river.	No motorized boat use is allowed on the river except for emergency skill.	Increase law enforcement on the river.	Conduct random field visits approximately 8 times/year.	\$1,600
Off-highway Vehicle Use in and Along the River	Whether or not motorized OHV's occur across the river.	No motorized OHV's allowed to cross the river.	Increase law enforcement on the river.	Conduct random field visits approximately 8 times/year.	\$1,600
Facility Condition	-Trash accumulation. -Trampled vegetation. -Excessive number of fire rings.	Same as in Forest Plan (pp. 1V-2) & (V-22).	Actions could include: 1. Increase trail & trash facilities. 2. Increase education on low-impact camping techniques. 3. Campfire ban.	Field surveys and spotchecks at campgrounds, river bars, launch sites, and picnic areas.	\$360
Trails	-Trail condition. -User complaints. -Trailhead & sign condition. -Trailside vegetation condition.	Trails meet Forest and Regional standards for the designated trail class.	1. Increase maintenance frequency. 2. Increase education to "Tread Lightly". 3. Review Trail Mgmt. Objectives	Annual trail inspections.	\$1,600
Traffic Use	Number of Entrances and Exits.	No standard set to date. Establish baseline data to monitor changes should problems occur.	N/A	Electronic counters set twice per year.	\$400

ISSUE OR VALUE	KEY INDICATION	MANAGEMENT STANDARD	MANAGEMENT ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN	SAMPLING PROCEDURES AND FREQUENCY	ANNUAL COST
Fishing Habitat	Disruptions to other non-derby users.	Any disruption or disturbance noticed or reported.	Used to rate previous performance for derby coordination. In the derby application process.	Field spot checks during derby events Public reports of disturbance.	\$1,120
Fish Habitat	Quantity & Quality of spawning gravel 50:50 pool to riffle ratio Presence of large in-stream woody material Water Temp below 60 degrees Fahrenheit	Use 1991 stream survey as a baseline.	Intensify survey and analyze data to identify cause.	1. Stream survey every 5 years, unless large storm or other catastrophic event changes the river channel. 2. Annual float trip during late spring to identify changes in habitat and/or channel.	\$4,000 per year (\$20,000 every 5 years)
Fish Populations	% of returning adults and recruitment levels	No less than those set in the OWP draft Choke Drain Plan.	Work with OWP to analyze data, identify cause(s), and develop alternatives for action.	Request annual creel census data from OWP and evaluate.	\$480
Water Quality	1. Fecal coliform 2. Temperature 3. Turbidity	1. Same as Brookings/Harbor Water District 2. Same as Forest Plan 3. Same as Forest Plan	1. Search to find source of effluent. All portable toilets and permanent sanitation facilities upstream of sample sites will be checked for leakage. 2. Establish baseline & collect subsequent data. Review mgmt. practices that may be contributing to temperature rise. 3. Establish baseline & collect subsequent data. Review management practices that may be contributing to excessive turbidity.	Use City of Brookings water quality monitoring data as part of the total water quality monitoring program. Follow new, updated Forest Plan water quality monitoring process.	Same as Forest Plan
Cultural Sites	Known Cultural Sites	Previous documented condition of sites.	Actions could include: 1. Increased law enforcement. 2. Increased education. 3. Site data recovery project.	Annual site inspection.	\$720
Scenic Quality	Number of new developments or activities visually evident from the river.	Visual Quality Objectives and Curry County Zoning Ordinances.	Actions could include: 1. Alleviate effects to acceptable levels. 2. Recommend changes to county zoning based on Goal 5 objectives. 3. Seek conservation (aesthetic) easements or fee-title purchase.	Field survey annually.	\$1,000

E. Roles and Responsibilities of Management Partners

Successful implementation of the Chetco River Management Plan will require close coordination and cooperation between numerous federal, state and local government agencies. The primary roles and responsibilities of these management partners are outlined below. Specific plans and policies that may affect the designated corridor are described under the agency responsible for that plan or policy.

1. Forest Service

The Forest Service manages and administers National Forest System lands. The Forest Service is responsible for administration of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River, and will take the lead in this administration through the Chetco Ranger District of the Siskiyou National Forest. In this administration, it will be necessary to coordinate closely with Curry County and several of the Oregon State agencies which have jurisdiction in the area.

Chetco Ranger District will be the primary public contact for issues relating to Wild and Scenic River management, including: safety, public information and education, special use permit compliance, resource protection, project planning and implementation, and monitoring of social and physical conditions on and along the river.

The federal government does not have authority to regulate what happens on private land within or adjacent to the Wild and Scenic River corridor. Land use controls on private lands are solely within the jurisdiction of state agencies and local county zoning, unless the Forest Service acquires conservation easements.

2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service administers the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973 (as amended). The Forest Service consults with that agency to obtain a biological opinion on appropriate courses of action when it is determined that a threatened or endangered species, or its critical habitat, may be affected by a proposed management action. Resulting decisions could mean the proposed action is modified or abandoned.

3. Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department (State Parks) is responsible for the acquisition, improvement, maintenance, and operation of Oregon's State Park system. State Parks is also responsible for giving technical assistance to local government agencies on park matters, develops and maintains the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), and administers the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund matching grant program in Oregon.

4. Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD)

Oregon's Water Resources Department (WRD) is responsible for the management and allocation of the State's water resources. The Water Resources Commission, a citizen body, develops policy. These policies are included in basin programs. Each of Oregon's 13 river basins has a basin program that is periodically updated. Basin programs generally classify the streams and lakes. The classifications include domestic, livestock, municipal, irrigation, power, industrial, mining, recreation, wildlife, and fish uses. The programs are adopted as administrative rules which reflect how water is currently used, and predict its future use and allocation.

5. Division of State Lands (DSL)

The Division of State Lands is the administrative arm of the State Land Board (the Board), composed of the Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer. Under constitutional and statutory guidelines, the Board is responsible for managing the assets of the Common School Fund as well as for administering the Oregon Removal-Fill Law. The School Fund's assets include the beds and banks of Oregon's navigable waterways, and are to be managed for the greatest benefit for the people of Oregon, consistent with the conservation of this resource under sound techniques of land management. Protection of public trust values of navigation, fisheries, and public recreation are of paramount importance, too.

DSL also administers the State's Removal-Fill Law, which protects Oregon's waterways from uncontrolled alteration. The law requires permit for fill or removal of more than 50 cubic yards of material within the State's waterway. The permit-review process involves coordination with the natural resource and land use agencies from the local through the federal levels.

6. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)

ODFW manages fish and wildlife resources in the state, regulates all commercial and recreational harvests of fish and game, and is responsible for habitat preservation. ODFW is authorized to request instream water rights to protect fish and wildlife resources. Agency technicians and biologists provide technical assistance for riparian habitat protection and maintenance, riverbed or riverbank alteration, water withdrawal, or any use of the water's surface. Direction for management of the upper Chetco River fish population is provided by ODFW's Chetco Subbasin Plan, completed in 1991. The plan's priorities include increasing natural production of fall chinook, increasing the survival of downstream migrating chinook, maintaining high numbers of wild trout, monitoring the production of wild fish, and reducing the impacts of habitat degradation on fish. The Chetco River Management Plan is consistent with that plan.

7. Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)

DLCD works with cities, counties, and state agencies to develop and maintain Oregon's comprehensive land use plans, and regulations. As part of these responsibilities, DLCD ensures that counties have included federal Wild and Scenic Rivers in their Goal 5 (natural resources) planning. In Goal 5 planning, counties must inventory the resource, identify conflicting uses which could impact the resource, and develop implementation strategies to resolve those conflicting uses. They should coordinate with the Wild and Scenic River's administering agency (Forest Service) of proposed changes in land use within the designated river corridors. Counties are required to protect identified resources through mandatory plans, policies, and zoning requirements.

8. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

As the regulator of air and water quality in the state, DEQ guards against the degradation of air and water quality in Oregon and along scenic waterways. DEQ implements the Statewide Water Quality Management Plan, which establishes standards of water quality for each of WRD's eighteen basins in Oregon. Beneficial uses of rivers and streams that are to be protected by DEQ are public, private, and industrial water supplies; irrigation; livestock watering; anadromous fish passage; salmonid rearing and spawning; resident fish and aquatic life; wildlife; hunting and fishing; boating; water contact recreation; and aesthetic quality.

The purpose of DEQ's antidegradation policy is to guide decisions that affect water quality such that unnecessary degradation from point and nonpoint sources of pollution is prevented, and to protect, maintain, and enhance existing surface water quality to protect all existing beneficial uses. The standards for DEQ's antidegradation policy are set forth in OAR 340-41-120 through 962.

The DEQ antidegradation policy states that high quality waters are to be protected from degradation, unless the Environmental Quality Commission finds it necessary to make an exception based on economic or social needs. DEQ has standards and procedures for on-site sewage systems, issues permits for dredge and fill of wetlands, and maintains water quality monitoring stations throughout Oregon. DEQ has the ability to apply for in-stream water rights to protect and maintain water quality standards (ORS 537.336(2)).

9. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)

Besides managing state-owned forests, ODF enforces the Forest Practices Act, which is designed to protect water quality, soil, fish, and wildlife from any adverse impacts of forestry activities, such as logging and road construction, which occur on privately-owned lands. The Forest Practices Act rules regulate reforestation, road construction and maintenance, harvesting, application of chemicals and disposal of slash. A forest operations permit from ODF is required for logging and other forestry activities.

The Forest Practices Act regulations do not include special requirements for operations within Wild and Scenic River corridors. However, there are rules to protect "riparian management areas." Under these rules, a proposed commercial forest operation within the riparian management area of a Class I stream must be described in a written plan. The plan must describe how the operation will meet the minimum standards prescribed by the Forest Practices Act, and must be submitted to ODF for approval.

10. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)

ODOT is responsible for the state highway system. They design, build, and maintain state highways. However, ODOT recognizes the need to plan any highway maintenance or improvements within designated river corridors with sensitivity toward the special status of these corridors.

11. State Marine Board

The State Marine Board registers motorized craft, establishes equipment and operating requirements, and regulates the use of boats on Oregon Waters. In accordance with OAR 250-30-030, the State Marine Board may establish permit systems for commercial and motorized noncommercial boating activities on Federal Wild and Scenic Rivers. The State Marine Board does not have a regulation prohibiting motorized boats on the Chetco River.

The Marine Board also has several other responsibilities. It provides training to County sheriffs and the Oregon State Police, who have the responsibility for patrolling Oregon's waterways to enforce boating laws. All outdoor hunting, fishing, and rafting guides must register with the Marine Board.

12. Local Governments

The local government involved with the Chetco Wild and Scenic River is Curry County. The county must include the Wild and Scenic River in their comprehensive land use planning and zoning under Goal 5 (natural resources). Chapter 15 of the Curry County Code regulates management and activities in the "riparian setback area" of Class I streams. The county also provides law enforcement and search and rescue.

13. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The Bureau of Land Management, under the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages public (BLM) lands in Curry and Coos Counties out of the Myrtlewood Resource Area Office in North Bend, Oregon. The amount of BLM land within the Chetco Wild and Scenic River corridor is very minor (approximately 10 acres) and is located about 1/4 mile up Panther Creek from its confluence with the Chetco River.

F. Coordination with Other Agencies

Successful implementation of the Chetco River Management Plan will require close coordination between numerous federal, state, and local government agencies as well as private groups and individuals. There are several issues that were identified in the public scoping period which are outside the ability of the Forest Service to directly control. This section identifies these issues and also which groups and agencies need to cooperate in order to work to resolve them.

1. Division of State Lands: Navigability of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River

State ownership to the beds of navigable waterbodies was granted to Oregon in 1859 as an incidence of statehood and is an inherent attribute of state sovereignty protected by the U.S. Constitution. The beds of non-navigable waterbodies remained in the ownership of the United States or its grantees. The navigability of the Chetco River from the Siskiyou National Forest boundary (approximately river mile 11.0) to its headwaters (approximately river mile 55.5) has not been established. Currently, both the State and Federal government, and in some instances private property owners, claim ownership of the river's bed and bank. This river plan does not propose to address the issue of navigability. Rather, this river plan is intended to provide a management philosophy for the above segment of the river.

Under state law, the Division of State Lands (DSL) is responsible for the management of the beds and banks of navigable waterbodies (ORS 274.005-274.590). DSL is the administrative arm of the State Land Board (the Board), composed of the Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer. Under constitutional and statutory guidelines, the Board is responsible for managing the assets of the Common School Fund. These assets include the beds and banks of Oregon's navigable waterways and are to be managed for the greatest benefit of the people of this state, consistent with the conservation of this resource under sound techniques of land management. Protection of public trust values of navigation, fisheries, and public recreation are of paramount importance, too.

The original federal test for determining navigability was established in The Daniel Ball case over 100 years ago. This U.S. Supreme Court admiralty case clarified that rivers "are navigable in fact when they are used, or susceptible of being used, in their ordinary condition, as highways of commerce . . ." Interpreting this requirement, subsequent court decisions have adopted this test for title purposes and have ruled that a waterbody is navigable if it was capable of use, at the time of statehood, as a public highway for transporting goods or for travel in the customary modes of trade and travel on water.

DSL has determined that there is sufficient evidence to support a claim of navigability and state ownership for the beds and banks of the Chetco River at least from the river's mouth (RM 0) to about Low-water Bridge (RM 18.5). The position of the Forest Service is that the navigability of the river has not been established.

For purposes of managing the above portion of this river (where navigability has not been established), any non-federal activities or land uses such as new utility or transportation corridors and boat ramps or similar facilities that impose into or cross a waterway below ordinary high water will require an easement from the State Land Board. Existing non-federal facilities will require an easement at such time as they undergo major structural alteration, replacement, or relocation. In addition, removal of sand and gravel in quantities above 50 cubic yards requires a royalty lease and any non-federal use that occupies any area of submerged or submersible land requires a waterway lease.

Further, the DSL also administers the State's Removal-Fill Law which protects Oregon's waterways from uncontrolled alteration. The law requires a permit for fill or removal of more than 50 cubic yards of material within the State's waterways. The permit-review process involves coordination with the natural resource and land use agencies from the local through the federal levels.

As with any jointly managed resource, jurisdiction is not as important as care for the resource. The DSL and the Forest Service will continue to work together to assure that the public trust interest and the purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are met.

2. County Planning Commission: County Ordinances Affecting the Chetco Wild and Scenic River

In 1993, the Curry County Planning Commission is due to review and update the County's comprehensive plan and zoning ordinances. The policies stated in Goal 5 of the county's plan address open space, scenic and historic areas and the natural resources of the County and, therefore, have the most direct effect on the resource values of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River.

During the upcoming review and revision, the County will officially recognize the federal status of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River. State direction requires that the County analyze existing ordinances, in light of the river's change in status, and that they make adjustments and/or additions to ordinances affecting adjacent lands, as necessary. The Forest Service will cooperate with the County during this process to help develop specific ordinances to ensure protection of the Chetco River's Outstandingly Remarkable Values -- fisheries, recreation, and water quality -- and of other important values, such as scenery.

Areas to be addressed should include: the role of riparian vegetation for both bank stability and visual screening along the river; the protection of water resources, both in quantity and quality, for the protection and enhancement of the fisheries and the municipal water supply; and development standards and zoning ordinances affecting lands adjacent to the river which could impact river resources.

While the Chetco is not included in the Oregon State Scenic Waterway Program, the "Landowner's Guide" for that program describes methods

for riparian zone protection and provides excellent examples for the County to follow in developing their own guidelines. In addition to the above mentioned, guidelines should address building setbacks, minimum lot sizes, septic setback and percolation rate standards, use zoning, maximum building heights, site plan requirements, floodplain protection, mitigation measures for restoration of indigenous vegetation within riparian areas, and erosion control.

Another area for clarification in the County Plan is that of the role of the Forest Service during County review of proposed projects and modifications on private lands along the river. Coordination between the County and the Forest Service is mentioned in the County's existing plan, but a process for that coordination is not yet defined. Until the County completes their plan update, the Forest Service hopes to establish a means of reviewing projects proposed on private lands which may affect the river (see letter in project file to County Planning Commission dated 8/24/92).

Should the county plan fail to adequately protect the values of the Chetco Wild and Scenic River, or should conflicting uses be identified during review of proposed projects, the Forest Service may acquire conservation easements to insure protection of Wild and Scenic River values.

3. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife: Concerns About Fishing Regulations and Fish Management.

Several comments were received at the Wild and Scenic River public meetings that relate to fish stocks, harvest, and fishing regulations. These issues are not directly in the management authority of the Forest Service and are related here for consideration by the ODFW and the State Fish and Wildlife Commission.

1. Some anglers and guides are interested in a catch-and-release policy or a one-fish limit being implemented on all or part of the river.
2. Some parts of the river should be off-limits to fishing so that fish spawning can occur without that pressure.
3. Restrictions on fish harvest activities should be tied to low flow periods when pressure on the fish increases, especially when the Smith River in California is closed.
4. Special restrictions should be placed on harvesting of wild stocks and protection of their habitat. Management should work to improve these stocks.
5. Downstream gravel extraction operations may be having a negative effect on fish and spawning habitat in the lower river (see #5 on next page, DSL: Method of Gravel Extraction).

The Forest Service will continue to coordinate with the ODFW to address these concerns. The Forest Service's primary role of habitat

protection and enhancement will remain especially important with regard to maintenance and/or improvement of wild fish stocks.

4. Multi-agency: Instream Flows for Anadromous Fish

The need to protect the flows of the lower non-designated portion of the Chetco River, for the outstanding fisheries value, is high. The domestic, municipal, and agricultural demands placed on the river during low flows and drought years could significantly impact anadromous fish. In addition, plans are underway for a golf course near Jack Creek and there are plans for a major destination resort development north of Brookings by Borax Corp. If these two projects required Chetco River water at low flow periods of the year, the impacts on the river and its important fisheries could be exacerbated. However, it appears at this time that specific plans have been agreed upon for the golf course to acquire and store irrigation water during high flow periods when the effects to fisheries will be lessened.

This lower section of river also significantly affects the entire population of fall Chinook salmon, and steelhead to a lesser extent, due to the timing of smolt migration downstream. Juvenile Chinook begin to migrate downstream soon after emergence from the gravel, and rearing occurs primarily in this lower section in mid-summer. Therefore, the condition of the lower river has a significant effect on the survival of smolt populations and ultimately on the number of returning adult salmon and steelhead.

Because of these potential problems, a need exists for the Forest Service to work with local city and county planners; state agencies such as the ODFW, the Division of State Lands, the Oregon Water Resources Department, and the Department of Environmental Quality; federal agencies like the EPA, USGS, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and private interests like the South Coast Fishermens Association and others to identify necessary instream needs for anadromous fish and work on securing them.

5. Division of State Lands: Method of Gravel Extraction

Below the Forest boundary and below the designated portion of the river, the Chetco River is known to have high summer temperatures, which is detrimental to fish production. Naturally low summer water flow is one of the contributing factors. Water diversions and withdrawals also add to the low flow problem. Another probable contributing factor is the method of gravel extraction used by gravel operators in this lower section of the river. Instead of digging deep holes to extract the gravel, many operations scalp the first few feet of gravel from a broad area of river, thereby maintaining a broad, shallow receptacle for solar radiation which increases the water temperature considerably. Because this problem is outside the Forest Service's jurisdiction to directly control, solutions will need to be sought by coordinating efforts with agencies such as the Division of State Lands, ODFW, the State Water Resources Department, Curry County, and the gravel operators themselves.

CHAPTER V
TRACKING ALTERNATIVES FROM THE E.A.



CHAPTER V. TRACKING ALTERNATIVES SELECTED IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Chetco Wild and Scenic River Management Plan (RMP), addressed the issues which surfaced during development of the Draft River Management Plan. Each issue was addressed in the EA by the development of a range of alternatives and, from those, specific alternatives were selected to resolve each of the issues. Below are references of where the selected alternatives for each issue were incorporated into this final River Management Plan.

Recreational segment

Issue 1: Overcrowding caused by too many boats.

*See DFC for Recreation on pages 26-27; S&G MA10-5C on page 32; and the Boat Use Allocation System section on pages 41-47.

Issue 2: Motorized boat use.

*See DFC for Recreation on pages 26-27; S&G MA10-5C on page 32; and Management Actions section for Recreation on page 37.

Issue 3: Off-highway vehicle use in and along the river.

*See DFC for Recreation on pages 26-27; S&G MA10-5C on page 32; and Management Actions section for Recreation on page 37.

Issue 4: Number of fishing derbies held.

*See DFC for Recreation on pages 26-27; S&G MA10-5C on page 32; and Management Actions section on Fishing Derbies on page 38.

Issue 5: Level of facility development.

*See DFC for Recreation on pages 26-27; S&G MA 10-5C on page 32; Management Actions section on Recreation on page 37-38; and Schedule of Planned Activities section on pages 48-49.

Issue 6: Mineral withdrawals.

*See DFC for Minerals on page 25 and S&G MA10-12C on page 35.

Scenic segment

Issue 1: Extending the Scenic segment terminus.

*See DFC for Recreation on page 26 and Management Actions section on Recreation on page 37.

Issue 2: Level of facility development.

*See DFC for Recreation on page 26; S&G MA 10-5C on page 31; Management Actions section for Recreation on page 37; and Schedule of Planned Activities section on pages 48-49.

Issue 3: Changing visual quality objectives adjacent to the Scenic segment.

*See DFC for Landscape View and Stand Level View on pages 23-24; S&G MA10-6C on pages 32-33; and Management Actions section for Visuals on page 37.

Issue 4: Motorized boat use.

*See DFC for Recreation on page 26; S&G MA10-5C on pages 31-32, and Management Actions section for Recreation on page 37.

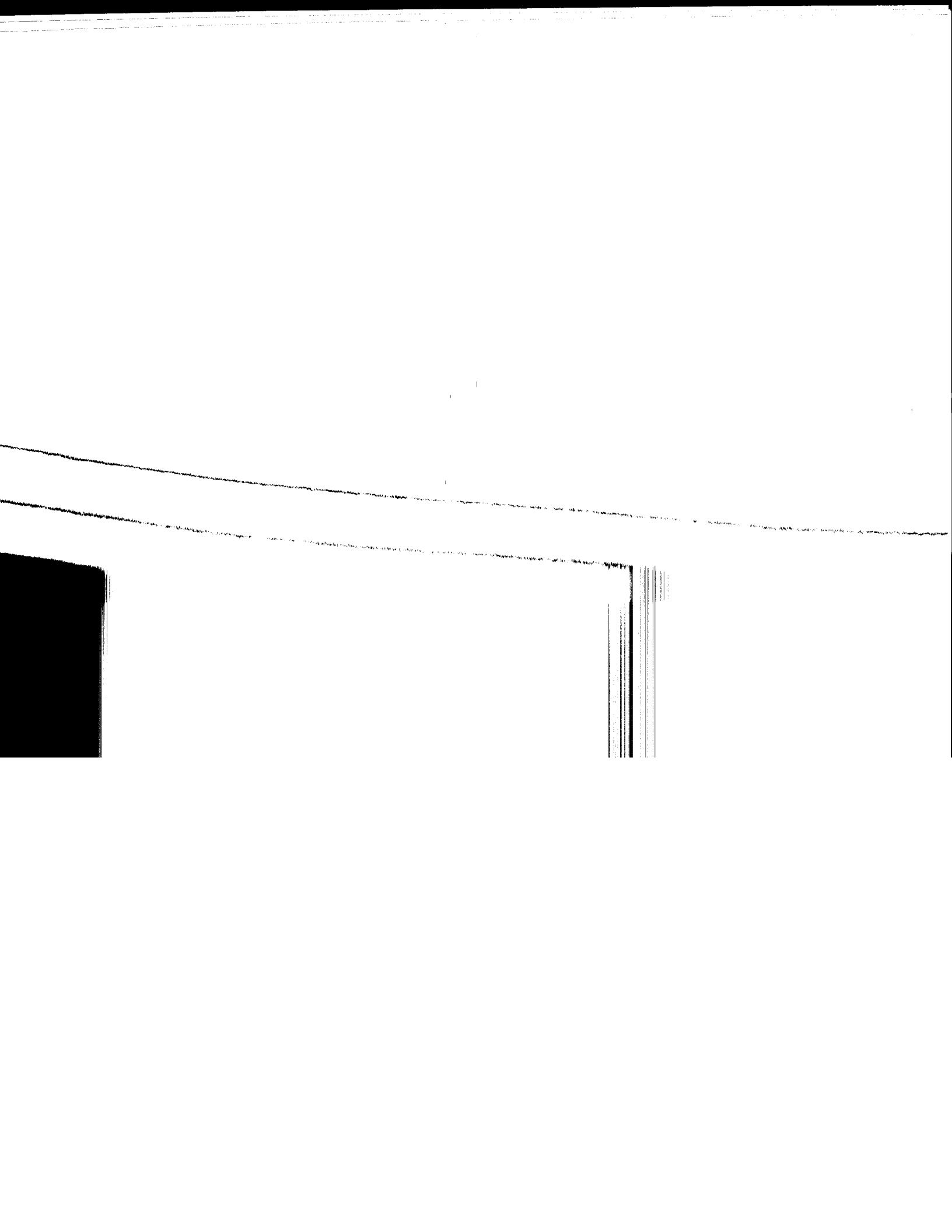
Issue 5: Mineral withdrawal.

*See DFC for Minerals on page 25 and S&G MA10-12C on page 35.

Wild segment

Issue 1: Extending the Wild segment terminus.

*See DFC for Recreation on page 23, Management Actions section on Recreation on page 37, and Wilderness S&G's in Appendix B.



LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A. Resource Assessment
- Appendix B. MA-1 Wilderness Standards and Guidelines
- Appendix C. Glossary
- Appendix D. Maps
- Appendix E. Boundary Description

APPENDIX A

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX A

RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

Chetco National Wild and Scenic River

USDA - Forest Service
Siskiyou National Forest

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
I. Executive Summary	2
II. Introduction	2
III. Resource Assessment Process	2
IV. River Description	3
V. Discussion of Values:	
Scenic	5
Recreational	6
Wildlife	8
Fisheries	10
Cultural, Prehistoric	14
Cultural, Historic	15
Cultural, Traditional Use	15
Geological/Hydrological	16
Botanical/Ecological	17
Water Quality	18
Wilderness	20

CHETCO RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a result of the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic River Act of 1988, a segment of the Chetco River was designated as a Wild and Scenic River. Under this Act the Forest Service is required to prepare a comprehensive management plan to provide protection of the river values associated with the Chetco River. This resource assessment is being done to identify the river related values that are outstandingly remarkable or contribute substantially to the river setting or to the functioning of the river ecosystem.

The preliminary findings of the Forest Service interdisciplinary team determined the following resources of the Chetco River to be outstandingly remarkable values: recreational, fisheries, and water quality.

II. INTRODUCTION

In 1968, Congress enacted the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and, for the first time, established a system for preserving outstanding free-flowing rivers. The Chetco River was added to this system in 1988 when it was designated as a Federal Wild and Scenic River by the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988. As defined in the Act, a National Wild and Scenic River must be free-flowing and have at least one outstandingly remarkable value. The "Outstandingly Remarkable Values" of the Chetco River identified by Congress in the Congressional Record include anadromous fisheries and water quality. Congress also recognized the on-site angling and other recreation opportunities as important.

Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Forest Service is required to prepare a comprehensive river plan to provide for the protection of the identified river values. This resource assessment is the start of that planning process. Planning steps will include identification of issues, concerns and opportunities associated with activities along the river which will then be translated to management objectives. From this, a range of management alternatives are developed, evaluated, and the preferred alternative chosen. The preferred alternative becomes the more detailed river management plan and includes provisions to monitor the effectiveness of management in meeting the objectives of the plan. Through each phase of the planning process, public involvement will be invited, and will be essential for the success of a sound management plan.

III. RESOURCE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

This resource assessment serves as the foundation of the river management planning process. The assessment documents the determination of which river related values or features are truly outstandingly remarkable or contribute substantially to the river setting or to the functioning of the river ecosystem. It is anticipated that the process will reaffirm the congressional record. In addition, other values not identified in the legislative process may be determined to be outstandingly remarkable if warranted.

The resource assessment process provides a standardized approach to evaluation of values of designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. This assessment will guide interim management, development of the management plan, and determination of the boundaries.

Although the determination of value significance is a matter of informed professional judgement and interpretation, this process includes the following steps or verification techniques:

- The use of an interdisciplinary team approach,
- Consideration of uniqueness and rarity at a regional and national level,*
- Values must be river related in that they owe their existence or contribute to the functioning of the river system and its immediate environs,
- The use of qualitative guidelines to help determine significance,
- Verification by other experts in the subject area.

The non inclusive list of resource value categories that have been considered include:

Scenic

Recreational

Wildlife

Fisheries

Cultural (historic and prehistoric)

Geological/Hydrological

Botanical/Ecological

Water Quality

* Based partially on the eight geographic regions described in the 1989 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan for Oregon. The Chetco River is in SCORP Region 6 - Oregon South Coast, and includes Coos, Curry, and the western tip of Douglas Counties. Values were also evaluated using naturally occurring physiographic regions.

IV. RIVER DESCRIPTION

The 44.5 mile segment of the Chetco River, designated as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, is located near the town of Brookings,

Oregon, and includes the river between the Siskiyou National Forest boundary approximately 9 miles upstream from Brookings, to its headwaters in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness area.

The Act designated 25.5 miles between its headwaters and Boulder Creek as wild river, 8 miles from Boulder Creek to the "Steel Bridge" as scenic river, and 11 miles from the "Steel Bridge" to the Siskiyou National Forest boundary as recreation river.

Of the 44.5 miles designated, approximately 41 miles are within the Siskiyou National Forest boundary (over half of this is also within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area), 3.5 miles (1,120 acres) is under private ownership, and a small 10 acre portion is under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management.

Boundaries and acreages, as identified, are subject to revision through the planning process.

NOTE: Although designated by Congress as Scenic, a two-mile segment of the Chetco River from Boulder Creek downstream to Mislatah Creek is eligible for designation as Wild. The Regional Forester in his 3/10/89 Record of Decision for the Siskiyou Forest Plan, directed that this segment be managed as Wild to preserve its values until the river management plan is completed.

V. DISCUSSION OF VALUES

SCENIC

Criteria for "Outstandingly Remarkable" Rating

The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions within the geographic region. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negetative intrusions are viewed may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment length and not common to other rivers in the geographic region.

Existing Condition

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<u>Legislative Designation</u>	<u>VQO</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Segment</u>
Wild	Preservation	25.5	Headwaters to Boulder Creek
Scenic	Retention	8.0	Boulder Creek to Steel Bridge
Recreational	Retention	11.0	Steel Bridge to Forest boundary

Definitions

-Wild/Preservation: Primitive setting with primary emphasis on protection of river resource values. Allows for ecological changes only.

-Scenic-Recreational/Retention: Near-natural setting with some degree of development and access and with increased types of land use. Allows for management activities that are not visually evident.

-VQO: Visual Quality Objective of the National Forest Landscape System.

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Part of the recreational portion of the river below the "Steel Bridge" (lower 11 miles) has been highly modified with the development of roads, houses, buildings and other structures. Other parts of this section are still relatively undisturbed including the gorge portion. The vast majority of the remainder of the river (Wild and Scenic sections) is highly scenic due to the following factors:

1. Landform - The river contains gorge areas with sheer walls, rugged terrain, high relief, and a strong sense of enclosure. There is also a high variety of stream structure with pools, riffles, gravel and boulders.
2. Vegetation - The river corridor has a high variety of vegetation in interesting patterns and textures due to good conifer/deciduous mixture which

contributes to vertical structural diversity, spatial distribution, and some color variation in the fall.

3. Water - The river is characterized by pristinely clear and deep pools with a constant variety of river width as well as depth.
4. Color - Fairly high color contrasts and variations exist including sky and cloud colors seen between corridor ridgelines, soil colors from brown to red-brown to bluish gray, mottling of metamorphic rocks including outstanding rock coloration in the gorge section, emerald hue of the water when viewed from a short distance, and deciduous/conifer light and dark greens as well as yellow and red highlights in the fall.
5. Distant Scenery - The river contains numerous "corridor" views where the river runs straight for a substantial distance (1/4 to 1/2 mile) and the view is one of looking straight down the corridor to a distant mountain (mostly forested) landscape.
6. Cultural Modification - Most reaches of the river under Wild and Scenic designation are free from aesthetically undesirable sights and influences, however some man-caused modifications (mostly timber harvests) are apparent in some places to the point of reducing scenic quality in those areas. Most of these intrusions are not permanent and in time, will blend into the surrounding landscape.
7. Wilderness - The entire 25.5 miles of the Wild segment is in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area, which contains unique and rugged landscapes and views that are protected by Wilderness designation.

Findings

The Chetco River offers a diversity of landscape elements and land that contains those visual qualities that contribute substantially to the river setting. However, when compared to other rivers in the region that contain scenic values that attract national attention (Smith River in California, the Illinois River and the Rogue River), the scenic value of the Chetco is not found to be outstandingly remarkable.

RECREATIONAL

Criteria for "Outstandingly Remarkable" Rating

Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, unique enough to attract visitors from outside of the geographic region. Visitors would be willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating.

Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional or or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the geographic region.

The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.

Existing Condition

As identified in the recently published Siskiyou National Forest Plan, the Chetco River as a whole (upper and lower basins) produce some 124,753 pounds of anadromous fish for commercial and sport use, providing over 9,000 user days of recreational fishing activity. Approximately 75 commercial fishing guides offer salmon and steelhead fishing trips for customers of regional, national, and international origin. A recent user study completed by Oregon State University on recreational use of the Chetco indicates that a majority of recreational anglers feel that the river is already overcrowded and that conflicts between different angling users (power boaters, drift fishermen and bank fishermen) demand some type of management attention. As the lower portion of the river becomes increasingly crowded, the middle section of the river provides opportunities for hike-in fishing, particularly for steelhead. The upper section also has opportunities for native trout fishing.

There are an increasing number of commercial guides applying for permits to conduct guided fishing trips on the Chetco. In the 1989-90 season 65 commercial guide permits were issued for the Chetco. At the beginning of the 1990-91 season, 13 new permits (guides who had never before requested permits for the Chetco) were issued, and 35 information packets for new permits had been sent out to prospective guides. Some outfitter businesses have two or three guides in their employ. Clearly, fishing pressure on the Chetco is on the rise.

The river is currently used about four times annually for local fishing derbies which attract fishing enthusiasts from all over the country. These derbies attract attention to the Chetco River's anadromous fishery and contribute some dollars to local fish improvement projects and hatcheries. These derbies however, also create concentrated pressure on the fishery resource, and competition and reduced fishing experience for the general fishing public.

Other recreation elements that are characteristic of the Chetco River include:

1. **Diversity** - The diversity of recreation opportunities include but are not limited to fishing, recreational boating, hiking, camping, hunting, picnicking, swimming, nature study, and photography.
2. **Quality** - The quality of experience in relation to other rivers in the geographic province is high. The previously mentioned fishing experience is recognized as well as the fact that many segments of the Chetco River have limited access (especially the wilderness and scenic sections) and therefore the recreation opportunities in these segments have the potential to offer a remote, primitive setting with limited intrusions by man.
3. **Character** - The river character is diverse and made up of various stages of development from pristine wilderness to remote primitive areas, non-motorized semi-primitive settings, motorized access areas, roaded areas, and even some semi-urban developments in private segments.
4. **Features** - The river features that may attract recreationists include the scenic qualities, wildlife diversity, vegetative diversity, water quality,

gorge area, wilderness area, world class anadromous fisheries, and boating opportunities.

5. Recreational/Whitewater Boating - The recreational and whitewater boating offered on the Chetco is restricted by its limited access, high use during fishing season, and availability of other good boating opportunities in the locality. None-the-less, portions of the river offer unique kayaking and low water floating opportunities at seasonally specific times of the year.

6. Recreation Sites/Facilities. - Recreation opportunities are offered to users seeking easier access and more development. The proximity of the river to the Brookings area, which has a very high percentage of retirees, has the potential for further development of day-use facilities, hiking trails and interpretive displays. The river is extremely important to the local residents who escape the frequent wind and fog of the coast by recreating near the more protected river. Examples of recreational developments already existing in the river corridor include Little Redwood Campground, Loeb State Park Campground (below Forest boundary), Chetco River Inn (Private); river access points at Nook Bar, Miller Bar, and Redwood Bar; Redwood Nature Trail, Riverview Nature Trail, Eagle Creek Trail, and Tincup Trail which parallels the river and accesses the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area.

Findings

The recreation opportunities available on and near the Chetco River, particularly the outstanding opportunity to catch large Chinook salmon and steelhead, attract visitors from outside the geographic region. Visitors travel long distances to use the river resources for this outstanding fishing value. The river also provides settings for competitive events such as the fishing derbies mentioned. These recreational values are considered to be outstandingly remarkable.

WILDLIFE

Criteria for "Outstandingly Remarkable" Rating

Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat or a combination of these conditions.

Populations. The river or area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique populations of federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species. A diversity of wildlife species exist along the river. These include a variety of resident and migratory birds and waterfowl, big game mammals and non-game birds.

Habitat. The river or area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federally listed or candidate threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Existing Condition

Populations. The Chetco River area supports between 150 and 200 different species of wildlife including Roosevelt elk, blacktail deer, black bear, cougar, river otter, and beaver, as well as a variety of small game and non-game birds. The river has known osprey nesting sites as well as four known northern spotted owl nesting sites (federally listed as threatened).

Six marbled murrelet (listed as sensitive by region and the Forest) potential nesting site locations have been identified. Marbled murrelet nests and locations are unique to coastal forests along the Pacific rim. Other potential nesting site locations have been identified on the Rogue, Elk, and Pistol Rivers.

The northern bald eagle (federally listed as threatened in Oregon) is occasionally seen along the Chetco River as well as are golden eagles. The river provides an important winter feeding area after spawned-out salmon die and are washed up on the gravel bars along the river. This also provides popular eagle viewing opportunities for the public.

There are documented occurrences of northwestern pond turtles (regional and Forest listed sensitive) in the lower portion of the river. Several other amphibian species which have restricted ranges and are regionally and nationally significant and may exist within the river corridor include the Siskiyou Mountain salamander and Del Norte salamander (both federally listed as sensitive species), Pacific giant salamander, California slender salamander, yellow-legged frog, red-legged frog (federally listed as sensitive species), and the tailed frog.

<u>Species:</u>	<u>Listing:</u>	<u>Comments:</u>
Bald Eagle	Federal: threatened State: threatened	two adults recorded in 1990 five adults recorded in 1989
Spotted Owl	Federal: threatened State: threatened	two pairs recorded in 1990 1 nest with two young in 1990 1 single in 1990 two pairs in 1989
Marbled Murrelet	Forest: sensitive	eight sightings in 1990
Northwestern Pond Turtle	Federal: sensitive	1 sighting of 3 in 1990
Del Norte salamander	Federal: sensitive	3 sightings in 1990

Habitat. A northern spotted owl Habitat Conservation Area (HCA) overlaps the river corridor for a two mile section of the river, from Big Redwood Creek to Loeb State Park. The diversity of habitats include old growth Douglas-fir, a variety of seral stages of Douglas-fir, hardwoods, and high and low elevation shrubs. The river system is characteristic of those along the southern Oregon

coast. Amphibian habitat, ranging from slow moving river and stream to moist talus slopes, is present within the river corridor.

Findings

Although the Chetco River corridor contains habitat for several river-dependent species, and sightings for listed sensitive and threatened species have occurred there, neither the habitat nor the species sighted are unique to the Chetco River in particular or to the region in general. Sightings of the marbled murrelet, spotted owl, and bald eagle have occurred on the Rogue, Pistol, Elk, Coquille, and other rivers in the region. The northwestern pond turtle has been seen frequently on the Rogue River and is commonly seen on the east side of the Siskiyou Mountains. The Del Norte salamander will frequent river habitat but is not river-dependent and is not outstandingly remarkable in and of itself. The wildlife value of the Chetco River is found to contribute significantly to the river setting and the functioning of the river ecosystem but is not outstandingly remarkable.

FISHERIES

Criteria for "Outstandingly Remarkable" Rating

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat or a combination of these river-related conditions.

Populations. The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or threatened and endangered species.

Habitat. The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.

Existing Condition

A. Fish Populations of the Chetco River

The Chetco River fish fauna, typical of Pacific coastal systems, is dominated by trout and salmon. Other species of fish live here, however, for this assessment their contribution to the social and economic importance of the Chetco is insignificant. Pacific lamprey, three-spined stickleback, and assorted sculpin are known to inhabit this system.

The Chetco River supports significant populations of anadromous winter steelhead, fall Chinook salmon, and sea-run cutthroat trout. Coho and Chum salmon are occasionally observed. Resident cutthroat and rainbow trout are abundant in upper stream reaches of the system. Wild populations of fall Chinook and winter steelhead are supplemented with hatchery fish from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Elk River Hatchery. Eggs for the hatchery stock are obtained from fish returning to the Chetco River.

1. Winter Steelhead

According to the "Chetco River Basin Anadromous Salmonid Habitat Overview" of February 1986, winter steelhead adult populations have averaged 7000 fish annually during the past decade. They are considered to be in a stable state.

Harvest records show the Chetco steelhead fishery to be one of the strongest wild fish populations on the Oregon coast. ODFW creel census data indicates the majority of adult steelhead harvested on the Chetco are wild fish (non-hatchery in origin).

Winter steelhead are currently utilizing all of the accessible habitat in the Chetco. Spawning and rearing occur primarily in the upper mainstem and lower tributaries to the mainstem of the river. Rearing habitat is believed to be a limiting factor for this population.

2. Fall Chinook salmon

The ODFW fall Chinook spawning ground counts and ocean and river harvest rates reveal a decrease in numbers of Chinook spawning adults in recent years. Annual Chinook spawning run size is estimated to be 6,000 fish.

In September, 1990, the ODFW listed the Chetco fall Chinook stock as sensitive. Sensitive stocks are those native stocks which are likely to become threatened or endangered. Factors influencing this listing were the potential for natural reproductive failure due to natural or man-made factors and the deterioration of habitat.

Limiting factors affecting Chetco fall Chinook populations include harvest rates, survival in gravel as embryos and fry, rearing habitat, and natural predation (birds and mammals).

3. Coho and Chum salmon

Coho and Chum exist only in remnant levels within the Chetco basin. The ODFW believes that some reported Coho catches are misidentified Chinook. Based on commercial catches from coastal Oregon streams, the Chetco historically was not a prime producer of Coho or Chum salmon.

4. Sea-run Cutthroat trout

Sea-run cutthroat utilize essentially the same habitat as steelhead. Their population is approximately 34% of the steelhead population, or 2400 adult fish. Knowledge of sea-run cutthroat distribution and habitat needs in the Chetco is very limited.

5. Resident Trout

Resident cutthroat and rainbow trout are found within the range of the anadromous species, but are more abundant in the upper reaches of the system, above anadromous fish influence.

B. Fish Habitat in the Chetco River

Salmonids vary in habitat needs according to species, age, and time of year. Indicators of habitat quality are conditions which benefit all salmonids and include the following:

Summer water temperatures below 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

Habitat diversity supporting a pool:riffle ratio of near 1:1.

Adequate instream cover in the form of large woody material.

1. Recreational Segment

The generally steep Chetco River valley opens onto wide gravel bars and flood plains in this segment. The lower half of this segment is notably wider than the upper half. Active gravel bars in the lower half average 100 feet in width. In the upper half, the average gravel bar width is nearer 50 feet, and sections of sheer-cliff gorges are found. The gradient is low throughout, averaging less than one percent. Accumulation of gravels and cobbles has resulted from a combination of natural and human related mass failures in the Chetco basin. The floods of 1964 and other flood occurrences have transported large volumes of sediment from the upper reaches of the watershed and deposited them in the lower reaches. As a result, pools are low in volume and number, and instream cover is lacking. Summer water temperatures have remained in the low 70s (Fahrenheit) in the lower Chetco in recent years. This is well above optimum for anadromous salmonids. The primary limiting factor in this segment is the lack of deep pools which provide structural diversity for summer and winter rearing juvenile fish.

Opportunities to increase the quality of trout and salmon habitat in this segment include improvement of juvenile salmonid rearing capability in tributaries to partially compensate for poor summer rearing habitat conditions in the main river. This can include creating pools and increasing riparian vegetation. Other improvements could include increased standards of road maintenance that include ditch cleaning, waterbar and culvert installation, and correction of gullies. The South Fork of the Chetco, Panther Creek and Eagle Creek have the greatest need for these types of enhancements. Project planning in these drainages will allow integrated resource analysis to specifically identify problem areas and projects to correct them.

Two other specific project needs in this segment are fish passage structures on Big Redwood Creek and an acclimation pond on Second Creek.

2. Scenic Segment

Below the mouth of Mislatah Creek, the Chetco has the same basic characteristics as in the Recreational segment described above. Above Mislatah Creek, the gradient (1-3 percent) is slightly steeper, and substrate is larger, predominantly rubble and boulder sized. Here the Chetco is limited by availability of spawning gravel and winter cover for juvenile salmonids. It is most likely that summer stream temperatures, while not as high as in the lower reaches, are high for optimum trout and salmon production.

The primary opportunity for habitat maintenance is the retention of large organic debris to provide cover and to trap additional spawning gravel.

3. Wild Segment

The 25 miles of fish habitat above Boulder Creek has had no significant disturbance by humans. Production may be limited by lack of spawning gravel, but fish habitat in this section is as pristine as any remaining on the southern Oregon coast.

C. Commercial/Sport Importance

The Chetco River has been a very productive sport fishery for fall Chinook, winter steelhead, and to a lesser degree, sea-run cutthroat. Anglers across the country have been drawn to the Chetco because of the size of the fish caught and the high angling success. Several fishing derbies are held on the Chetco each year. More detailed information about the recreational/sport importance is contained in the Recreational section of this document.

An intensive offshore commercial and sport salmon fishery is centered at Brookings/Harbor. Salmon produced in the Chetco River are subject to heavy fishing pressure both in the ocean and in the river. According to ODFW records for 1990, about 51,113 pounds or \$124,205 of Chinook salmon were taken commercially and recorded through the Port of Brookings/Harbor. The ODFW Draft Chetco Basin Plan identifies that about 2,070 Chinook individuals were taken from the river itself in 1988.

D. Management

The Siskiyou Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) has designated the Scenic and Recreational segments of the Chetco River as subject to Prescription C, which requires up to a two degree Fahrenheit decrease in summer water temperatures over the next three decades. This will be accomplished by protection of existing riparian shade, regrowth of previously lost riparian shade, and construction of stream enhancement structures where feasible and appropriate. Fish habitat will also be protected by regulating management activities to ensure that sedimentation is not accelerated, and that structural diversity is not lost.

The Wild segment of the Chetco is entirely within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. Restraints on activity within the Wilderness area will preclude almost all significant human related fisheries habitat degradation. One potential human caused negative impact on the fisheries may be future mining operations within the Wilderness. Currently, the only claim being actively mined in the mainstem Chetco River within the Kalmiopsis is located below Box Canyon Creek. Operations now consist of approximately one month of river dredging per year during low summer flows. This scale of operation, by itself, is not a significant impact on the fishery, and there is low probability that this mining operation will be expanded in the future.

However, another mining claim upstream of Box Canyon Creek may be expanded. A mining claimant may present the Forest Service with an operating plan which could increase activity at that site. The operating plan must meet State and

Federal water quality laws. These laws prohibit any significant negative impact on fish or fish habitat. Until such a plan is presented, it is not possible to evaluate potential impacts on fisheries.

The ODFW is currently writing a management plan for the Chetco River anadromous and resident stocks. The draft document has been available since January of 1991 and will be considered in the process of developing a management plan for the fish populations in the Wild, Scenic, and Recreational segments of the Chetco River.

Findings

The Chetco is a world class fishery which is frequently cited in outdoor publications and commercial outfitter/guide advertising. The habitat and river system is identified and rated by the ODFW as a special management area for anadromous fisheries and is one of the top five fisheries within the region. The quality and significance of the anadromous fisheries on the Chetco qualifies this resource to be considered an outstandingly remarkable value.

CULTURAL, PREHISTORIC

Criteria for "Outstandingly Remarkable" Rating

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by native Americans. Sites must be rare, one-of-a-kind, have unusual characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; or may have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes. Of particular value will be pristine sites that have not been disturbed and that are listed in, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places.

Existing Condition

The river corridor was used extensively by Athabaskan-speaking Chetco Indians as a transportation corridor and for the procurement of foods and other resources. Riverine sites in southwest Oregon play an important role in interpreting our region's prehistoric cultural dynamics, including lithic technologies and settlement and subsistence patterns. Sites were used on a semi-permanent basis for a variety of activities, however fishing was the major reason why early Native Americans settled along the banks of the Chetco River.

Findings

Based on the current limited information about cultural resource values in the river corridor, it is difficult to determine the relative level of significance when compared to other river corridors within the region. Other rivers in the region with similar values include the Rogue, Illinois, Coquille, Smith, Pistol, and the Winchuck. Cultural resource surveys will be completed before any management activities affecting cultural resources are initiated. In the meantime, sites are protected under existing laws, regulations, and policy.

CULTURAL, HISTORIC

Criteria for "Outstandingly Remarkable" Rating

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare, unusual, or one-of-a-kind in the region. A historic site(s) and/or feature(s) in most cases is 50 years old or older. Of particular significance are sites or features listed in, or are eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Existing Condition

The river corridor contains several historic sites both on public and private land and includes the Tolman homestead, Brim place, Bronson mining cabin, and Gardner ranch.

Findings

The historic value of the Chetco River corridor is not considered outstandingly remarkable. Even though it is known that there are historic remnants along the Chetco River, the sites are in a deteriorated condition, and are not related to any known significant events. However, cultural resource surveys will be completed before any management activities affecting cultural resources are initiated. If the significance of this value changes as a result of cultural resource surveys, this finding will be revised accordingly. In the meantime, sites are protected under existing laws, regulations, and policy.

CULTURAL, TRADITIONAL USE

Criteria for "Outstandingly Remarkable" Rating

The river or area within the river corridor contains regionally unique location(s) of importance to Indian tribes (religious activities, fishing, hunting, and/or gathering). Locations may have unusual characteristics or exceptional cultural value being integral to continued pursuit of such activities. Locations may have been associated with treaty rights on ceded lands or activities unprotected by treaty on ceded lands or in traditional territories outside ceded lands.

Existing Condition

The Chetco Indians are known to have inhabited the area. The Chetcos are not a federally recognized tribe and there are very few survivors of the group. Any areas which may have held importance to local Indian tribes were lost shortly following the period of contact with European immigrants.

Findings

The traditional use value of the Chetco River corridor is not considered outstandingly remarkable. There is no evidence to suggest that the area within this corridor is presently used for traditional activities by local Indian groups. However, if public involvement provides new information during the planning process, this assessment and finding will be revised accordingly.

GEOLOGICAL/HYDROLOGICAL

Criteria for "Outstandingly Remarkable" Rating

The river or the area within the river corridor contains an example(s) of a geologic feature, process, or phenomena that is rare, unusual, one-of-a-kind, or unique to the geographic region. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, and other geologic features.)

Existing Condition

The Chetco River flows through the Klamath Mountains Geomorphic Province from its headwaters to approximately Chetco Bar, and through the Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province from Chetco Bar to the ocean. The regional geology and erosional processes contribute a dramatic and diverse setting to the river corridor. The steep inner gorge streambanks are characteristic of recently uplifted (rejuvenated) terrain with relatively rapid erosion rates and abundant landslides.

The Chetco is one of a few rivers contained within the South Coast Region of Oregon which flows through both of these geomorphic provinces, exposing the edge of what is believed to be the location of a major subduction (downward movement) of a western tectonic (earth's crustal) plate. Other rivers, in northern California, also flow through both of these provinces.

The Klamath Mountain Province includes metamorphosed intrusive rocks and the Josephine peridotite, a large ultramafic (intrusive rocks composed of mostly olivine, pyroxine, and serpentine) body, which supports a distinctive flora (see ecological resources). The Dothan formation is the major rock type found within the Coast Ranges Province, and is equivalent to the Franciscan formation to the south in California. The Dothan formation consists of graywacke sandstone, with interbedded siltstone and shale, occasional pillow lavas, volcanic breccia, chert and conglomerate.

Between Tincup Creek and the Forest boundary, the river generally flows southward along the path of less resistant sheared siltstones. The channel narrows into a gorge as it crosses more resistant sandstones and volcanics along its shorter westerly path toward the ocean.

Sediment delivered from landslides is transported by the river and provides spawning gravels for anadromous fish.

Findings

The presence of two geomorphic provinces separated by a major thrust fault is distinctive to the South Coast of Oregon, but not on a national level or on a geologically regional level. The geology of the Chetco River corridor does contribute significantly to the overall value of the river ecosystem and setting but does not constitute an outstandingly remarkable value.

BOTANICAL/ECOLOGICAL

Criteria for "Outstandingly Remarkable" Value

The river or area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species. Of particular importance are species considered to be unique or populations of federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species. When analyzing vegetation, additional factors such as diversity of species, number of plant communities, and cultural importance of plants may be considered.

Existing Condition

The Chetco River headwater begins high in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area at an approximate elevation of 2800 feet and descends to sea level within the course of about 53 miles. Throughout this descent the river traverses many plant community zones providing a wide diversity of vegetation types within the river corridor.

The headwaters of the river flow through ultramafic parent material derived soils, which consist mainly of minerals such as olivine, pyroxene, and serpentine. These soil types support plant populations directly associated with ultramafic parent material. They are sparsely forested with a mosaic of knobcone pine, western white pine, incense cedar, Port-Orford-cedar, and Jeffrey pine with its associated grasslands. Tree cover diminishes in many areas and wooded stands give way to shrublands. Several prostrate and dwarf shrubs appear such as pinemat manzanita, dwarf ceanothus, and squaw carpet ceanothus. There are also fruit and nut bearing shrubs such as Sadler's oak, huckleberry oak, shrubby tanoak, and coffeeberry. Approximately thirty sensitive plant species (of which several are endemics) are found on serpentinite soils and have been sighted on habitat similar to that found in the upper portion of the river. One such species, Hastingsia bracteosa, large flowered rush lily, is currently proposed for federal listing as threatened or endangered. This plant is found in wet serpentine meadows and along streambanks. Four State listed plants have been seen within or near the river corridor: Arenaria howellii, Howell's sandwort (under review); Erigeron cervinus, Siskiyou daisy (sensitive); Erythronium revolutum, coast fawn lily (watch-currently stable but may become threatened); and Salix tracyi, Tracy's willow (sensitive). The Arenaria and Erigeron are found on serpentine sites while the Erythronium and Salix are riparian species.

From a vegetative standpoint, riparian areas are distinctive. They are moist habitats surrounded by moisture-limited systems. Plant populations along the water's edge are quite different from the surrounding area. There is often more structural and species diversity. The soils are mostly derived from the Dothan formation and are more densely forested with mature Douglas-fir. Some of the largest contiguous stands of mature Douglas-fir exist in the riparian corridor. The diversity of plant species has been maintained by natural successional processes as well as natural and man caused disturbances. Recurring wildfire has had visible influence on plant species distribution and seral stage development in the upland basin portions while erosional processes dominate the cause of vegetational change in the lower corridor areas.

In the lower reaches, the corridor is dominated by Douglas-fir, which is a late seral species of several plant associations. Although most of the corridor is climax to tanoak, there may be some areas climax to western hemlock as well. Perhaps the most common tanoak association in the river corridor is the tanoak-California laurel association. Red alder, common in the early seral stages of this association, provides significant competition and invades successfully on disturbed sites. Pacific madrone plays the same role as alder on the dryer, usually more upland sites. Maple and willow occur directly on the alluvial flats where the moisture gradient is high and the presence of tanoak is more limited. Coast Redwood, which reaches its northern-most range within the Chetco Ranger District, is found in and near the interim river corridor. Old-growth redwoods occur near the district's western boundary on the Redwood Nature Trail, above Loeb State Park; they also occur further upriver at the headwaters of Redwood Creek, a tributary stream. Other significant species occurring in the understory include California laurel, tanoak, and western hemlock. Important shrubs and herbaceous vegetation include salal, Pacific rhododendron, evergreen huckleberry, red huckleberry, dwarf Oregongrape, sword-fern, and bracken-fern.

Findings

The botanical/ecological value of the river and its corridor is high and contributes substantially to the river setting and to the functioning of the river ecosystem as a whole. There are sensitive plant species and unusual plant associations found within the river corridor but these species are also located in other riparian systems and within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area, and are protected by management area designations. The botanical/ecological value of the Chetco River is considered significant but not outstandingly remarkable.

WATER QUALITY

Criteria for "Outstandingly Remarkable" Rating

The river has exceptionally pure, clear, and/or clean water. The river is known for its water quality nationally or regionally. The river provides or has the potential to provide exceptionally high water quality for a variety of beneficial uses including but not limited to fish and wildlife, recreationists, and communities.

Existing Condition

The significance of several values associated with the river are supported in a large degree by excellent water quality:

1. **Scenic:** The striking blue-green color and crystalline water quality and clarity is an important part of the scenic value.
2. **Recreation:** The water quality is rated as having "no problem" for water contact recreation by the 1988 Oregon Statewide Assessment of Nonpoint Sources of Water Pollution.

The river clears relatively quickly following storms, which attracts sport anglers to the river. Appendix E of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

for the Siskiyou Forest Plan recognized this attribute by stating "During major winter storm flows, the river becomes turbid (poor clarity). However, the period of higher turbidity is short-lived, returning to pre-storm conditions within a few days post storm." Water clarity also attracts swimmers, campers, boaters, photographers, sightseers, and other recreationists.

3. Fisheries: The water quality affecting fish and aquatic habitat is rated as moderate by the above mentioned 1988 Oregon Statewide Assessment. This is due primarily to certain segments and tributaries (Eagle Ck., S. Fork Chetco River, and Tin Cup Ck.) of the Chetco having slope stability and sedimentation problems, both management related and natural non-point sources. Eagle Creek's erosion/sedimentation/bedload problems are major, and are primarily related to timber harvest and roads. Large natural landslides, however, are also sources of sediment within this watershed. Sedimentation problems in the South Fork Chetco River are minor in comparison, and are partially related to timber harvest and roads, and also to natural instability within the inner gorge areas of the stream. Large natural landslides along the inner gorge in the east side of Tin Cup Creek are minor, but existing, non-point sources of sediment within the watershed.

Appendix E of the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Siskiyou Forest Plan recognized that non-point sources of sediment in the Chetco exist, by stating "The eight miles of river between Steel Bridge and Tolman Ranch are marked by many large, active earth flows." Also recognized specifically is the inner gorge segment (approximately 1 mile), which has "poor slope stability and is a major source of sediment."

Another potential limiting factor for fisheries in certain parts of the river is water temperature. The fisheries section of this report identifies summer water temperature as a limiting factor in portions of the recreational and scenic segments. None-the-less, the fisheries value is recognized as outstandingly remarkable and the water quality of the whole Chetco River, including limiting segments, contributes substantially to this value.

4. Domestic: The Chetco River contains exceptionally pure and clean water and is the domestic water supply for the communities of Brookings and Harbor. The 1988 Oregon Statewide Assessment of Nonpoint Sources of Water Pollution rates the Chetco River water quality affecting drinking water supplies as having "no problem."

Findings

The overall high water quality of the Chetco River is recognized as being a critical component of several other related river values and is found to be an outstandingly remarkable value.

WILDERNESS

Although not evaluated for its contribution to the river system as an outstandingly remarkable value, the wilderness description is added to this assessment because of its substantial contribution to the river setting and for general informational purposes.

The Kalmiopsis Wilderness is located within Josephine County and Curry County, Oregon, approximately 30 air miles west of the inland community of Grants Pass and 17 air miles northeast of the coastal community of Brookings. The Wilderness is located entirely within the Siskiyou Mountains of southwestern Oregon. The northern portion of the Wilderness is bisected by the Illinois Wild and Scenic River. The southern portion of the Wilderness contains the headwaters for both the Chetco and North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The Kalmiopsis Wilderness is characterized by deep, rough canyons; sharp, rock ridges; and clear, rushing, mountain streams. Elevations range from 500 to 5,098 feet above sea level. The Kalmiopsis does not have the high elevation alpine settings that are found in the Cascades, but does have highly scenic values at ridgelines and peaks and in many of the stream canyons. The area is geologically and botanically unusual and contains plants that are found principally in this Wilderness. An endemic shrub, Kalmiopsis leachiana (commonly called kalmiopsis), first located near Gold Basin in 1930, gives the Wilderness its name. There are several notable topographic features located throughout the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. To the northwest, three major peaks known as the Big Craggies are located. The Big Craggies were first set aside as a Botanical Area to preserve several communities of Kalmiopsis. This area stands out as one of the landmarks in the Wilderness and is only accessible by the most rugged individuals. To the northeast lies another prominent landmark, Pearsoll Peak, which is also the highest point in the Wilderness at 5098 feet.

The wilderness character of the area is nearly intact, but is compromised in a few isolated locations by the presence of mines and access roads. The interior of the Wilderness is completely screened from the influence of management so that opportunities for solitude and self-reliance are readily available. The area is capable of providing a high quality, rugged wilderness experience.

APPENDIX B

WILDERNESS (MA-1) S&G's

APPENDIX B

MANAGEMENT AREA 1 - WILDERNESS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

DESCRIPTION

This prescription applies to the following wildernesses: Kalmiopsis, Wild Rogue, Grassy Knob, and those parts of Red Buttes and Siskiyou within the Siskiyou National Forest. These wildernesses are pristine, scenic landscapes that are preserved as "vestiges" of wild America, and provide an opportunity for solitude. The wilderness areas on the Siskiyou are characterized by deep, rugged canyons containing clear rushing streams. Refer to Figure IV-4 for a map displaying allocated acres within the management area.

Table IV-14. Acres Allocated to Wilderness

Name	Acres		
	Management Area 1	Overlap by Management Area	Total Area
Grassy Knob	17,200	0	17,200
Kalmiopsis	179,850	0	179,850
Red Buttes	3,414	0	3,414
Siskiyou	5,323	0	5,323
Wild Rogue	26,708	0	26,708
Total	232,495	0	232,495

These wildernesses must be managed according to the Wilderness Act of 1964, the Endangered American Wilderness Act of 1978, the Oregon Wilderness Act of 1984, the California Wilderness Act of 1984 and regulations pursuant to those acts. Refer to Figure IV-4 for a map displaying allocated acres within the management area.

MANAGEMENT GOALS

The goals of this management area are to:

Preserve the wilderness character and maintain the natural conditions of each wilderness (nondegradation policy);

Assure that changes which take place in the natural conditions are the result of natural rather than human processes; and

Provide Primitive and Semi-primitive Non-motorized recreational opportunities.

DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION

Each of the wildernesses will appear to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human activities substantially unnoticeable.

Natural processes, including fire, will continue to be the primary forces which are affecting the condition of these areas. The areas will have been managed so as not to have degraded the wilderness attributes for which they were designated. There will be some evidence of human influence due to the existence of valid mining claims; however, mitigation techniques will have been utilized to minimize the impact of these activities.

Foot-trails and camping spots will be the only permanent modifications in these areas; developed commensurate with the desired high level of primitiveness. Most of the area will be essentially unmodified, with large areas between the trails in which the probability of experiencing solitude will be very high. The Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) concept will have been implemented and monitoring of recreation use and its attendant impacts will be under way. Recreation use will still be relatively light compared to other Forests in the region.

Management plans in areas adjacent to the wildernesses will have been fully implemented so that all influences to the wilderness environment will have been felt. The overall character of the wilderness will have been maintained.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Administration

MA1-1 While seeking to achieve the stated goals for Wilderness, a nondegradation policy of management shall be followed. This policy recognizes that in Wilderness a range of natural and social settings exist from the most pristine to those where the natural feeling and opportunities for solitude have been diminished by established uses. It is the intent of this policy to assure that appropriate diversity and existing wilderness character are maintained. The most pristine areas should not be reduced to the minimum acceptable standard of natural state simply to disperse and accommodate more use.

Periodically, usually on an annual basis, meetings should be held between adjacent forests administering the same wilderness to:

Maintain continuity and consistency in Wilderness management decisions;

Review and set priorities for the use of available administrative resources;

Review trail maintenance schedules;

Review outfitter and guide permit administration.

Recreation

MA1-2 Pristine Wilderness Recreation Spectrum (WRS). This area is characterized by an extensive unmodified natural environment. The area should be managed so that the natural processes and conditions that currently exist will not be measurably affected by the actions of users. Access to these areas shall be limited to cross country travel. Use of motorized or mechanized equipment is prohibited unless authorized by the

Forest Supervisor or Regional Forester. Encounters with other users should be infrequent (one encounter per day or less).

Primitive WRS. This area is characterized by an essentially unmodified natural environment. This area should be managed so that it remains essentially free from human induced restrictions and controls. Access to these areas shall be limited to trails. Trails shall be planned to disperse use. No facilities for the comfort or convenience of wilderness users shall be provided. Use of motorized or mechanized equipment is prohibited unless authorized by the Forest Supervisor or Regional Forester. Encounters with other users should be infrequent (three to five encounters per day).

Semi-primitive WRS. This area is characterized by a predominately unmodified natural environment. The area should be managed so that natural processes and an unmodified character are maintained. Access is limited to trails and minimum controls, and restrictions may be present but are subtle. Facilities are only provided for the protection of wilderness resource values. Motorized or mechanized equipment is prohibited unless authorized by the Forest Supervisor or Regional Forester. Encounters with other users should be infrequent (five to seven encounters per day).

As use approaches calculated recreation visitor day (RVD) capacity levels, management policies should be reviewed and revised as needed to maintain the desired degree of recreation experience. The LAC concept should be used to accomplish this objective.

Signing within the wilderness shall be at the minimum level necessary to insure the safety of the public. Signs should be checked for accuracy throughout the year.

The wilderness trail map should be checked periodically for accuracy and updated when necessary to insure public safety and convenience.

Visitors should be advised and educated in waste disposal to assure sanitary conditions are maintained.

If wilderness use exceeds the degree of impact established through the LAC or the capacities identified for each, the corrective actions shall be taken:

Initiate public information and site restoration activities.

If the first action is unsuccessful, recreation activities should be restricted by regulation.

If the second action is unsuccessful, the level of use should be restricted.

If the first three actions are unsuccessful, a zone should be closed to all recreation use until the area is rehabilitated and restored to wilderness conditions.

Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The carrying capacity for recreation use is calculated to be 32,000 RVD's. Vegetative impacts that result from recreation use should be monitored and restrictions applied to areas where impacts are changing the natural characteristics of the area.

Visual

- MA1-3 All management activities within the wilderness shall meet the Preservation VQO (Agriculture Handbook #462, Visual Management System, and FSM 2320); except mineral entry as approved in operating and rehabilitation plans.

A visual analysis should be completed prior to construction of any new trail to insure the trail will not detract from the natural character of the landscape.

Cultural

- MA1-4 To date, no cultural sites within the wildernesses are listed on the National Register of Historic Places, however certain historic and/or prehistoric properties may be eligible for nomination. Due to the rugged nature of much of the wilderness acreage, there is limited potential for a high quantity of sites. However, those present are likely undisturbed except for the deterioration caused by natural weathering.

Further cultural resource inventory work should be conducted in the wildernesses in order to ascertain the nature, distribution and condition of cultural sites present. The survey work should be designed to provide an inventory of the high probability sites. Inventory priorities will be focused on finding and recording those sites threatened by loss or serious deterioration during the next decade.

Inventoried cultural resources in wilderness should be protected until evaluated. Priorities should be set for site evaluations. Those sites that are threatened with loss or deterioration should receive highest priority. Other evaluations may be conducted in order to gain data relevant to the past use of the National Forest. All evaluation work shall comply with the preservation of the wilderness resource.

All actions, direct or indirect, that will have an effect on a significant cultural resource are subject to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and through its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800. Adverse effects to significant cultural resources (eligible and listed) shall be mitigated. Decisions to abandon a significant historical structure and allow it to deteriorate naturally, or to remove one, shall be preceded by the consultation process defined in 36 CFR 800, including agreement on appropriate mitigation measures.

Cultural resource research within the wilderness shall meet the following criteria: (a) must be necessary to support the values set forth in Section 4(b) of the Wilderness Act, or (b) must be done in compliance with preservation ethic for the wilderness resource.

The works of human beings within wilderness should not be designated for protection as cultural resources unless they are (a) necessary to support the values set forth in Section 4(b) of the Wilderness Act, (b) serving administrative purposes as necessary for protection of the wilderness resource (Section 4(c)), or (c) essential to cultural resource management (FSM 2323.83). Thus we will nominate to the National Register of Historic Places only those sites deemed worthy of preservation and protection.

On-site interpretation of sites shall not be done. Interpretation may be done off-site through brochures and audio-visual programs.

Wildlife and Sensitive (Rare) Plants

- MA1-5 Wildlife and plant habitat will be subject to natural processes. Fire may play its natural ecological role in maintaining specific habitats. Fire may maintain meadows in grass cover and reduce encroachment of trees, or may maintain the habitat of rare plants such as the Kalmiopsis leachiana.

Fish

- MA1-6 Management direction is to maintain existing fish habitat subject to natural processes.

Range

- MA1-7 New allotments for livestock range shall not be allowed. The use of pack stock by wilderness users will be permitted. Users should be encouraged to carry feed for their stock.

Timber

- MA1-8 No timber management practices are allowed inside designated Wilderness areas.

Water and Soil

- MA1-9 Degraded sites created as a result of past human activities should be rehabilitated to a near natural condition. A rehabilitation site plan shall be prepared for each site prior to any on-the-ground rehabilitation. Revegetation efforts shall use only those plant species indigenous to the area.

Minerals

- MA1-10 Mineral entry was permissible as provided by the Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964. After December 31, 1983, mining only on valid claims is permitted, subject to approved operating plans. Provisions in operating plans shall satisfy the rights of the claimant while creating the least impact on wilderness values. Provide for restoration of the disturbed lands as near as practical to their natural condition as soon as possible during or after the mining activity. Site specific mitigation shall be required seasonally for active mining operations.

Rehabilitation of the surface area shall be required upon completion of all mining activities.

Facilities

MA1-11 Roads shall not be constructed or reconstructed within designated Wildernesses except those that are permitted within the constraints specified in approved operating plans for mineral development. Close any existing mining roads if they are abandoned or determined that the claim is invalid. Trails should be maintained to keep the trails passable and drainage structures functioning (Level 2). Fire protection facilities may be constructed, provided they meet the intent of the Wilderness Preservation Act of 1964. Future utility corridor siting shall be excluded from this Management Area.

Fire Management

MA1-12 Kalmiopsis Wilderness. A Wilderness Fire Management Plan shall be developed within 3 years following approval of this Land & Resource Management Plan. The plan will incorporate suppression strategies which reflect fire's role in the local ecosystems as follows:

For ecosystems in which fire plays a significant role (high intensity, stand replacement fire), the fire management plan should contain fires from unplanned ignitions (lightning only) in the area classified as primitive in the Wilderness Recreation Spectrum classification system (WRS). Human-caused fires shall receive an appropriate response as determined in the wilderness fire planning process.

For ecosystems in which fire plays only a minor role, (ground or surface fires), all wildfires should be evaluated using the fire management plan. The plan will provide specific decision criteria for determining the suppression strategy as well as the kinds and amounts of suppression action (tactics) to be taken on the fire.

In "nonfire" dependent ecosystems, all fires should be controlled in accordance with a Wilderness Fire Management Plan which provides criteria for determining the suppression tactics to be taken on the fire.

Prior to the development of the plan, all wildfires occurring at FIL 2 and above should be detected and controlled at 30 acres or less, 90 percent of the time. Safe and cost effective suppression tactics which adhere to Wilderness fire fighting principles will be used. Wildfires occurring at FIL 1 shall be handled as outlined in the basic fire management direction for the Forest.

A moderate level of prevention should be provided. Public contacts should be emphasized through the wilderness rangers. Emphasis should also be placed on prevention techniques that accomplish the fire prevention mission prior to the user entering the wilderness. Fuel Treatment may be used for hazard reduction at heavily-used sites.

A prescribed fire program as determined by the wilderness fire planning process, using both planned and unplanned ignitions, should be initiated to: (1) reduce the risks and consequences of wildfire within the Wilderness, or escaping from the Wilderness and (2) allow fire to play its natural ecological role. Planned ignitions could be used to maintain a fuels complex commensurate with levels of protection. Unplanned ignitions may be used, outside the "Primitive" WRS areas, at FIL 1 to supplement planned ignitions.

In a fire management situation where prescribed fires from unplanned ignitions are allowed in the Primitive WRS areas, an aggressive program of planned ignitions should be used to develop a fuels mosaic around the Primitive WRS areas.

APPENDIX C

GLOSSARY

APPENDIX C

Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

- Allocation system - See river use allocation system.
- Alternative - A comprehensive management strategy; when a federal agency is considering an action, NEPA requires the agency to develop and analyze a range of reasonable alternatives, including a "no action" or "no change" alternative. The alternatives must respond to the issues, and must show a reasonable range of actions.
- Anadromous fish - Those species of fish that mature in the ocean and migrate into freshwater rivers and streams to spawn; an example is salmon.
- Best Management Practice - The method, measure or practice selected by an agency to meet its nonpoint source pollution control needs. BMPs include, but are not limited to, structural controls, operations, and maintenance procedures. BMPs can be applied before, during, and after pollution-producing activities to reduce or eliminate the introduction of pollutants into receiving waters.
- Biological evaluation - A specific process required as part of an environmental assessment that evaluates the potential effects of a proposed project on proposed, endangered, threatened, and sensitive species and their habitats; done for both animals and plants.
- Carrying capacity - The maximum number of organisms that a particular habitat can support without causing deterioration of the ecosystem.
- Congressional record - In this case, the record of Congressional statements and decisions contained in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, including the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.
- Cultural resources - Buildings, sites, areas, architecture, memorials, and objects having scientific, prehistoric, historic, or social values.
- Cumulative effects - Effects on the environment resulting from actions that are individually minor, but that add up to greater total effect as they take place over a period of time.
- Developed recreation - Outdoor recreation requiring significant capital investment in facilities to handle a concentration of visitors on a relatively small area. Examples are fee-site campgrounds or paved boat launches.
- Dispersed recreation - Outdoor recreation in which visitors are diffused over relatively large areas. Where facilities or developments are provided, they are more for access and protection of the environment than for the comfort or convenience of people.
- Dispersed campsites - Campsites outside of developed campground areas.

Desired Future Condition - A vision of the desired future state of a specific area. Desired future condition gives managers goals for the area, but recognizes the dynamic state of the ecosystem, instead of listing future numerical outputs as goals.

DFC - See desired future condition.

EA - See Environmental Assessment.

Ecosystem - An interacting system of living organisms considered together with their environment; examples are a marsh ecosystem or a river ecosystem.

Environmental - Of, or relating to, the physical and biological environment; for example, the environmental effects of a proposed action are considered separately from the socio-economic effects.

Environmental Assessment - A concise public document that evaluates a proposal for the possibility of significant environmental impacts; the analysis required by NEPA laws. An environmental assessment results in either a FONSI (Finding of No Significant Impact) and decision notice; or, if impacts will be significant, the agency must then go on to prepare an environmental impact statement.

Erosion - Detachment or movement of soil or rock fragments by water, wind, ice, or gravity. Accelerated erosion is much more rapid than normal, natural, or geologic erosion, primarily as a result of the influence of activities of humans, animals, or natural catastrophies.

Fire intensity level - A relative measure of fire severity based on flame height, higher flames indicating a more intense fire.

Forest Plan - See Siskiyou National Forest 1989 Land and Resource Management Plan.

Habitat - The area where a plant or animal lives and grows under natural conditions. Habitat consists of living and non-living attributes, and provides all requirements for food and shelter.

Hyporheic zone - The underground ecosystem located directly beneath the river channel (possibly 15 feet or more deep) and extending laterally to unknown distances. An active and productive area where water and organic compounds are exchanged with those in the river channel above.

Instream flow - Streamflow required to support instream uses, with the flow required varying widely by type of channel, water quality, and time of distribution.

Issues - Unresolved conflicts regarding alternative uses of available resources; or, subjects of public interest relating to resource management.

LAC - See limits of acceptable change.

Land allocation - The assignment of a management emphasis to particular land areas with the purpose of achieving the goals and objectives of the alternative.

Large woody debris - Dead woody material greater than 16", in the ground or in a stream or river; may consist of logs, trees, or parts of trees. Large woody debris contributes to long-term site productivity and health in several ways: it supplies nutrients to the soil, supports symbiotic fungi that are beneficial to conifers, and provides habitat for beneficial rodents and insects.

Leasable minerals - Mineral deposits specifically excepted from the General Mining Law by Congress (principally through the Mineral Lands Leasing Act of 1920, the Mineral Leasing Act of Acquired Lands of 1947, the President's Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1946), and the Geothermal Act of 1970.

Limits of acceptable change - A concept for managing change in a natural area, based on the premise that ecological and social change will occur as a result of natural and human factors. With the LAC concept, management's goal is to keep the character and amount of change that results from human factors within acceptable levels that are consistent with objectives for the area.

Locatable minerals - Mineral deposits open to exploration, location, development, and purchase under the General Mining Law of 1972, as amended and interpreted. Minerals in sufficient quality and quantity to be a "valuable deposit" (FSM 2810).

Management Area (MA) 2 - Management areas are specific geographic areas defined by the Forest Plan; each management area has a set of objectives and a management prescription unique to it. MA-2 is the management area classification assigned to the designated Wild River segments on the Siskiyou National Forest. This includes those Wild segments on the Chetco, Elk, Illinois, North Fork Smith, and Rogue Rivers.

Management Area (MA) 10 - MA-10 is the management area classification assigned to the designated Scenic and Recreational segments on the Siskiyou National Forest. This includes those Scenic and Recreational segments on the Chetco, Elk, Illinois, North Fork Smith, and Rogue Rivers.

Management direction - A statement of multiple use and other goals and objectives, along with the associated management prescriptions and standards and guidelines to direct resource management.

Management plan - A plan guiding overall management of an area administered by a federal or state agency. A plan usually includes goals, objectives, standards and guidelines, management actions, and monitoring plans.

Mitigation - Actions to avoid, minimize, reduce, eliminate, compensate, or rectify the impact of a management practice.

Native species - A plant or animal species that occurs indigenously in an area.

National Environmental Policy Act - Commonly known as NEPA; became law in 1969. NEPA is the basic national charter for protection of the environment. The Act requires all federal agencies to consider and analyze all significant environmental impacts of any action proposed by those agencies; to inform and involve the public in the agency's decisionmaking process; and to consider the environmental impacts in the agency's decisionmaking process.

NEPA - See National Environmental Policy Act.

ODFW - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Off-highway vehicle - A vehicle of cross-country travel or travel on low-standard roads and trails, e.g., motorbikes, ATV's, 4-wheel-drive vehicles.

Old growth - Timber stands with the following characteristics: large mature and over-mature trees in the overstory, large standing dead trees (snags), dead and decaying logs on the ground, and a multi-layered canopy with trees of several age classes.

OHV - See off-highway vehicle.

Opportunities - Those resource uses and development possibilities suggested by both the public and the Forest Service.

ORV - See Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values - Term used in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968. To qualify as outstandingly remarkable, a resource value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a regional or national level.

Perennial streams - Streams which normally flow throughout the year.

Prescription - Specific written directions for management activities.

Rearing habitat - The river or stream areas where juvenile salmonids must find food and shelter to survive for a period of time.

Recreation opportunity spectrum - A framework for understanding and defining various classes of recreational settings, activities, and experiences. The classes are defined in terms of the opportunities to have various experiences.

Redd - A gravel nest in stream bottoms where fish deposit eggs.

Resident fish - Fish species that complete their entire life cycle in freshwater.

Resource assessment - An evaluation of the resources and values associated with a Wild and Scenic River and the river corridor; the evaluation determines the level of significance of river-related values.

Resource values - A resource, natural or social, that is found in an area. Resource values may have varying levels of significance.

Riparian - Pertaining to areas of land directly influenced by water or that influence water. Riparian areas usually have visible vegetative or physical characteristics reflecting the influence of water. River sides, lake borders, and marshes are riparian areas.

Riparian management zone - Site-specific boundaries established by the Forest Service for management practices within riparian areas.

River Management Plan - See management plan; management plan for a river area.

Boat-use allocation system - A system for controlling boating use that limits the total number of boaters on the river, and rations use among boaters.

RMP - See river management plan.

ROS - See recreation opportunity spectrum.

Salmonid - Member of the fish family salmonidae; includes salmon and trout.

Scoping - A first step in the NEPA process, and in the river planning process. Through scoping, issues and concerns are identified, and their significance is determined. Scoping is done within the agency, with the public, and with other agencies.

Sedimentation - A process where material carried in suspension by water flows into streams and rivers, increasing turbidity and eventually settling to the bottom.

Sensitive species - Those plant and animal species identified by the Regional Forester, for which population viability is a concern as evidenced by significant current or predicted downward trends in (a) population numbers or density, or (b) habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.

Siskiyou National Forest 1989 Land and Resource Management Plan - Forest Plan; the document that currently guides all management activities on the Siskiyou National Forest. It sets goals, objectives, desired future conditions, standards and guidelines, and overall programmatic direction for the Siskiyou National Forest. Preparation of the Forest Plan was required by the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

Smolt - Juvenile salmon or steelhead which live in freshwater before migrating to the ocean.

Social carrying capacity - The level of use that exceeds acceptable levels by the norm of river recreationists. The level of use that impairs or alters human experience.

Spawning gravel - Sorted, clean gravel patches of a size appropriate for the needs of resident or anadromous fish.

Standards and guidelines - Bounds or constraints within which all practices in a given area will be carried out, to achieve the goals and objectives for that area. Standards and guidelines provide environmental safeguards and also state constraints prescribed by law.

Stream class - Classification of streams based on the present and foreseeable uses made of the water, and the potential effects of on-site changes on downstream uses. Four classes are defined:

Class I - Perennial or intermittent streams that: provide a source of water for domestic use; are used by large numbers of anadromous fish or resident fish for spawning, rearing, or migration; and/or are major tributaries to other Class I streams.

Class II - Perennial or intermittent streams that: are used by fish for spawning, rearing, or migration; and/or may be tributaries to Class I or Class II streams.

Class III - All other perennial streams not meeting higher class criteria.

Class IV - All other intermittent streams not meeting higher class criteria.

Terminus - The beginning or ending point. In this case, the beginning or ending point of a legally designated corridor, such as the Wild, Scenic or Recreational segments of the Chetco River.

Turbidity - The relative clarity of the water, which may be affected by material suspended in the water.

Ultramafic - Intrusive rocks composed chiefly of mafic minerals such as olivine, pyroxene, and serpentine. Also called ultrabasic.

Unsuitable areas - Areas not appropriate for timber harvest. They may be unsuitable for a wide variety of reasons, including fragile or shallow soils, scenic values, special wildlife habitat areas, and riparian or wetland values, among other possible reasons.

USFS - United States Forest Service.

Valid existing rights - A valid existing right proves the discovery of a valuable mineral deposit within a mining claim.

Viewshed - A total landscape seen or potentially seen from specific points on a logical part of a travel route or water body.

Visual quality objective - Categories of acceptable landscape alteration in degrees of deviation from the natural-appearing landscape. The two categories used in the River Management Plan are:

Preservation - Provides for ecological changes only.

Retention - Activities are not evident to the casual forest visitor.

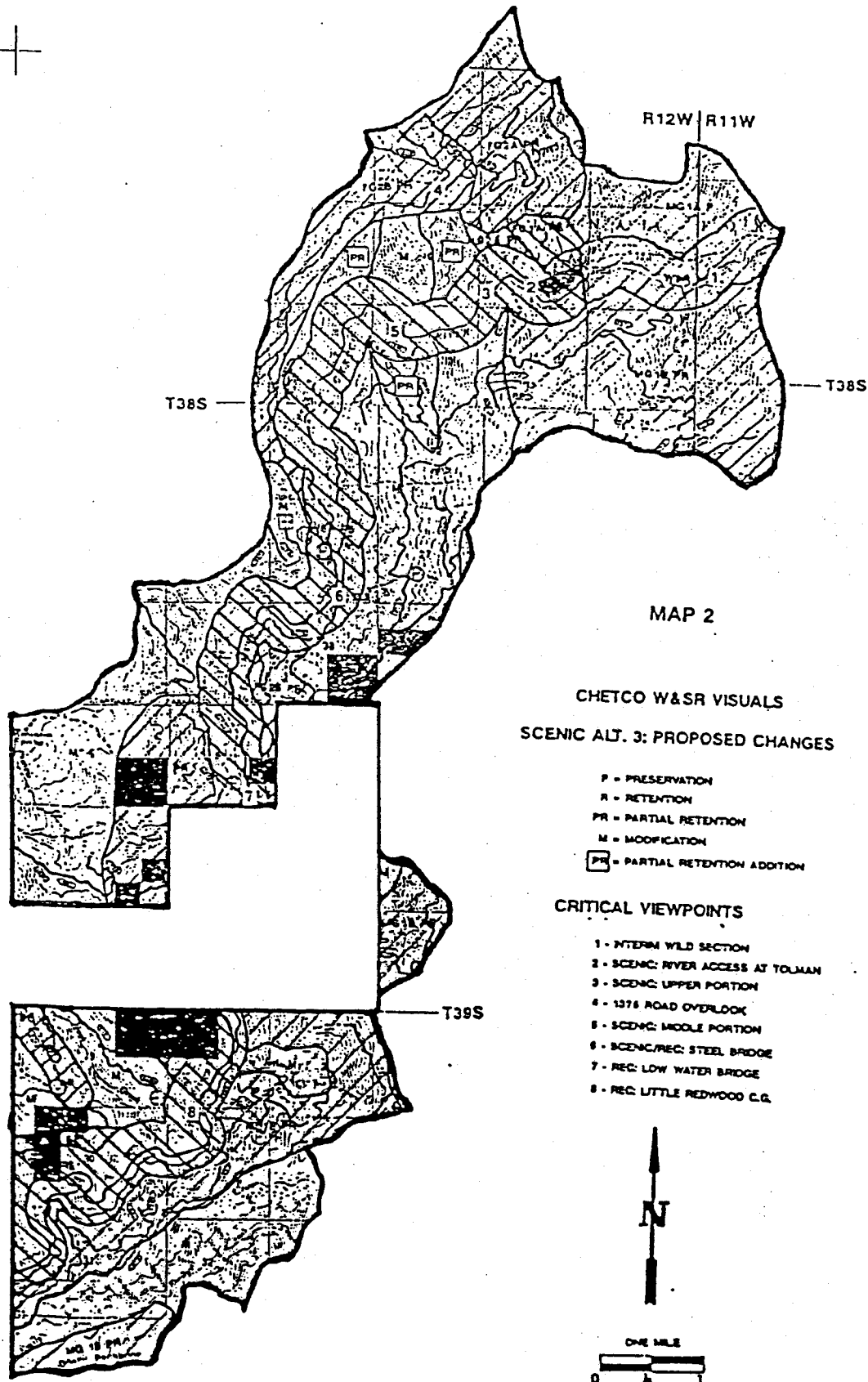
VQO - See visual quality objective.

Watershed - The land area drained by a river system.

Wild and Scenic River - Those rivers or sections of rivers designated as Wild and Scenic by Congressional action, either under the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, or under supplements and amendments to that act. Parts of the Chetco River were designated Wild and Scenic in the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic River Act of 1988.

APPENDIX D

MAPS



R12W R11W

T38S

T38S

MAP 2

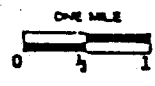
CHETCO W&SR VISUALS

SCENIC ALT. 3: PROPOSED CHANGES

- P - PRESERVATION
- R - RETENTION
- PR - PARTIAL RETENTION
- M - MODIFICATION
- PR - PARTIAL RETENTION ADDITION

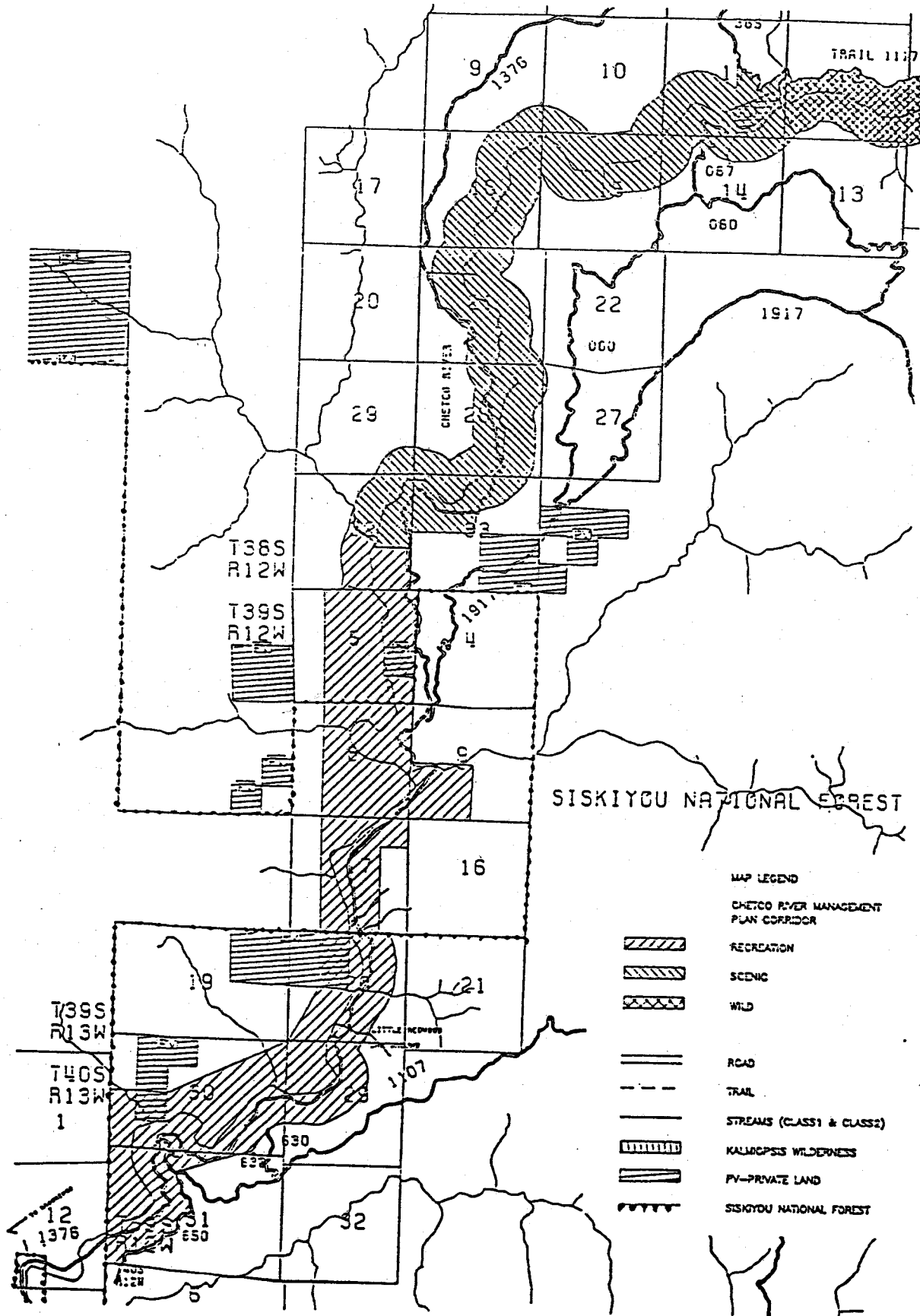
CRITICAL VIEWPOINTS

- 1 - INTERIM WILD SECTION
- 2 - SCENIC RIVER ACCESS AT TOLMAN
- 3 - SCENIC UPPER PORTION
- 4 - 1376 ROAD OVERLOOK
- 5 - SCENIC MIDDLE PORTION
- 6 - SCENIC/REC STEEL BRIDGE
- 7 - REC LOW WATER BRIDGE
- 8 - REC LITTLE REDWOOD C.G.



T39S

RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN CORRIDOR MAP

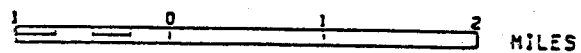


SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

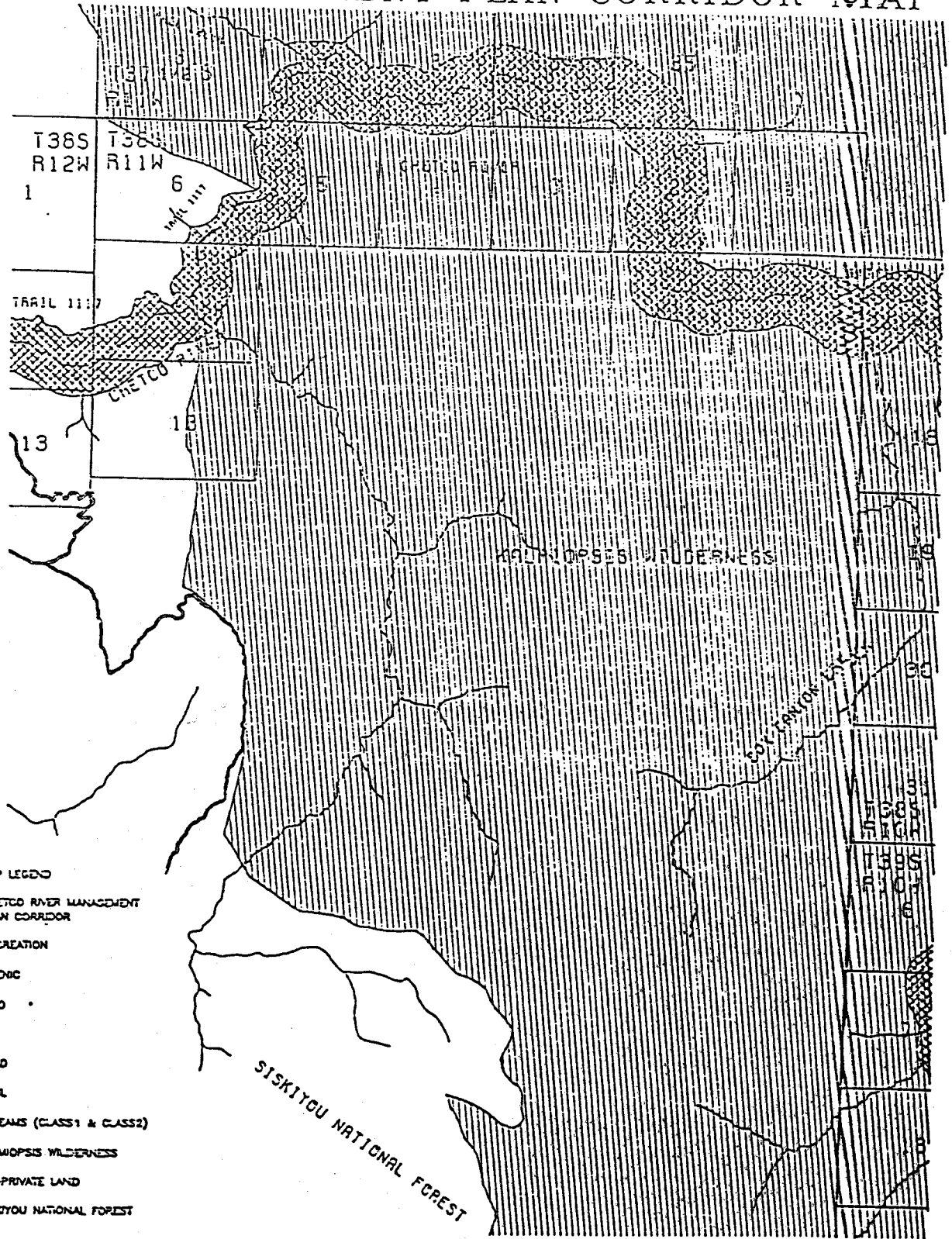
MAP LEGEND

- CHETCO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN CORRIDOR
- RECREATION
- SCENIC
- WILD
- ROAD
- TRAIL
- STREAMS (CLASS 1 & CLASS 2)
- KLAMATH WILDERNESS
- PV-PRIVATE LAND
- SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

SCALE 1" = 3360'



RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN CORRIDOR MAP



MAP LEGEND

CHETCO RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN CORRIDOR



RECREATION



SCENIC



WILD



ROAD



TRAIL



STREAMS (CLASS 1 & CLASS 2)



KALMIOPSIS WILDERNESS

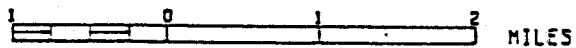


PV-PRIVATE LAND

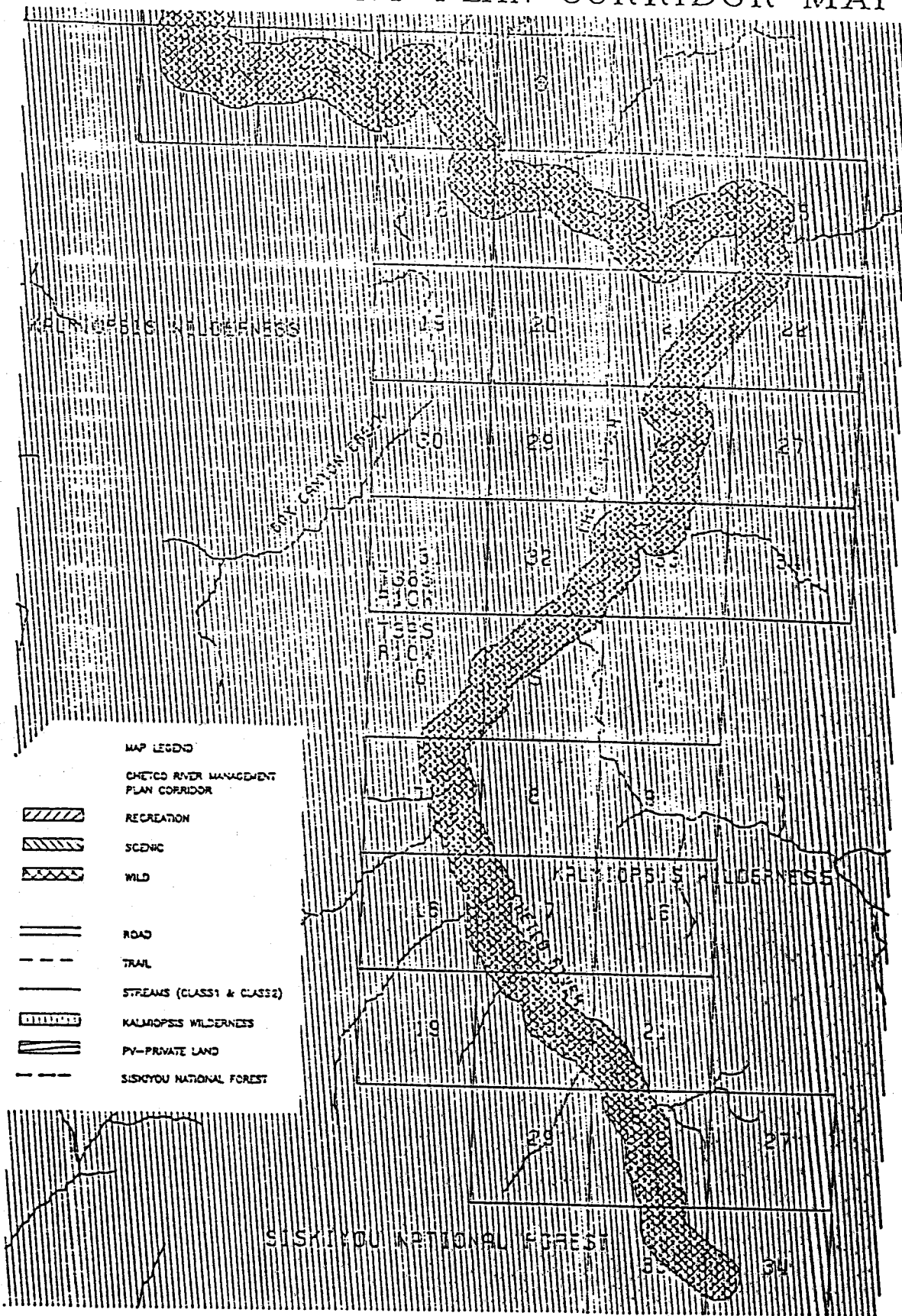


SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST

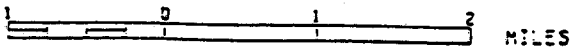
SCALE 1: 62380.



RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN CORRIDOR MAP



SCALE 1: 62360.



APPENDIX E

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

APPENDIX E - BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting on the National Forest boundary at the SW corner of Section 31, T39S, R12W, WM;

Thence east along the south boundary of Section 31, T39S, R12W, WM to a point 100 feet below road 1107-650.

Thence in a northeast direction parallel and 100 feet below road 1107-650 to the intersection with road 1107;

Thence easterly to a point near the end of road 1107-632 as shown on the River Management Plan Cooridor Map (RMPCM);

Thence northeasterly to a point near the end of road 1107-630 as shown on the RMPCM;

Thence northeast to a point on the east section line of Section 30, T39S, R12W, WM, that is 1/4 mile from the high water mark of the Chetco River.

Thence along lines east and approximately 1/4 mile from the high water mark of the Chetco River as shown on the RMPCM to the north section line of Section 20, T39S, R12W, WM;

Thence west along the north section line of Section 20, T39S, R12W, WM to the SW corner of the SE1/4, SE1/4, Section 17, T39S, R12W, WM;

Thence north and east through private lands following aliquot part lines as shown on the RMPCM to the SE corner of Section 5, T39S, R12W, WM;

Thence north along the boundary between Sections 4 and 5, T39S, R12W, WM, to the NE corner of Section 5, T39S, R12W, WM;

Thence west along the north boundary of Section 5, T39S, R12W, WM, to the SE corner of Section 32, T38S, R12W, WM;

Thence north between Sections 32 and 33, T38S, R12W, WM to the NE Corner of the SE1/4, Section 32, T38S, R12W, WM;

Thence east to the NE corner, SW1/4, Section 33, T38S, R12W, WM;

Thence north along the 1/2 section line to a point approximately 1/4 mile from the high water mark of the Chetco River.

Thence along lines east and approximately 1/4 mile from the high water mark of the Chetco River to a point near the end of road 1917-063 as shown on the RMPCM;

Thence staying along lines approximately 1/4 mile from the high water mark of the Chetco River as shown on the RMPCM to the intersection with Box Canyon Creek;

Thence down Box Canyon Creek to a point 1000 feet from the high water mark of the Chetco River;

Thence staying along lines approximately 1000 feet from the high water mark of the Chetco River as shown on the RMPCM, around the Chetco's headwaters and down the other side until Sluice Creek is intersected;

Thence up Sluice Creek until a point 1/4 mile from the high water mark of the Chetco River is reached;

Thence staying along lines approximately 1/4 mile from the high water mark of the Chetco River as shown on the RMPCM until Fall Creek is intersected;

Thence down Fall Creek to a point 50 feet above the Tin Cup trail, No. 1117;

Thence parallel and 50 feet above the Tincup Trail, No 1117 to the Tincup trailhead at the end of road 1376-365.

Thence south to the center of a ridge near the middle of Section 11, T38S, R12W, WM, as shown on the RMPCM;

Thence along lines approximately 1/4 mile from the high water mark of the Chetco River as shown on the RMPCM until the south boundary of T38S, R12W, WM is intersected.

Thence west to the north 1/16 corner of the NW1/4, Section 5, T39S, R12W, WM;

Thence south along aliquot lines to the south 1/4 corner of Section 5, T39S, R12W, WM;

Thence west to the north 1/16 corner of NW1/4, Section 8, T39S, R12W, WM.

Thence south through private lands following aliquot part lines as shown on the RMPCM to the south 1/16 corner of the NW1/4, Section 20, T39S, R12W, WM;

Thence southwesterly to the Section corner common to Sections 19, 20, 29 and 30, T39S, R12W, WM.

Thence southwesterly to the NE corner of lot 11, Section 30, T39S, R12W, WM.

Thence west to the west 1/4 corner of Section 30, T39S, R12W, WM;

Thence south along the Range line between R12W and R13W to the SW corner of Section 31, T39S, R12W, WM, the point of beginning.