

Ecosystem Analysis At The Watershed Scale

EAWS TEAM PROGRESS REPORT

JANUARY 2003

Red River core interdisciplinary EAWS Team Members:

Kara Chadwick – Team Leader
Carolyn Wren – Aquatics Specialist
Mike Hays – Botanist
Michelle Godawa – Wildlife Biologist
Pat Green – Ecologist
Steve Armstrong – Archaeologist
Becky Winkler – GIS/Computer Specialist

What's Happening?

Happy New Year! We are moving right along on the Red River EAWS. The team has been busy the last couple of months compiling the new data collected this last summer, along with the existing information collected in years past. Working with their sub-groups (ad hoc team members), they will analyze this information and begin developing functional recommendations. This work will continue through January.

We have also been working with representatives of the Nez Perce Tribe to identify tribal concerns in the watershed and document historical and current use by tribal members. The tribal representatives will help us form functional and integrated recommendations.

The Next Step – Integration

The Team has scheduled two weeks in February to develop integrated recommendations. There are several steps in this final stage of the watershed analysis. Each resource specialist will present their findings regarding existing conditions, human uses and special places in the watershed, and how the conditions and uses differ from historic. The specialist will then present the functional recommendations developed from this comparison. We will determine where recommendations are in conflict and discuss what treatment needs will have priority. With an understanding of the watershed treatment needs for each resource, we will then work as a group to develop integrated recommendations by meshing various resource concerns and needs to find the best possible approach to treating the watershed.

The integrated recommendations will be general in nature. The few exceptions may be some site-specific recommendations where sufficient data was available to support the more specific proposal(s). These would be independent projects that would be compatible with the integrated themes.

The Team is on schedule for completing a draft EAWS document in early spring 2003.

What Comes After Integration?

The EAWS team and other forest staff will use recommendations from the EAWS to develop proposed actions that will be subject to environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Again, the EAWS is not a decision document and will only provide general recommendations that will be further developed under the NEPA. The NEPA process will begin with scoping for public input on the proposed action(s). Upon completion of appropriate analysis and decision-making, projects covered by the process can be implemented.

For more information
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