

## SECTION IV

# IMPLEMENTATION

### SCHEDULES

The Forest Plan will be implemented through identification, selection, and scheduling of projects to meet the management goals and objectives provided by the Forest Plan. These projects are displayed in FOREST PLAN, APPENDIX A.

Project schedules will be available for review at the Ranger District Offices and Supervisor's Office. Schedules of possible projects will routinely change as projects are implemented or are removed from the listings for other reasons and as new projects take their place. Adjustments to the schedule may be made based on results of monitoring, budgets, and unforeseen events.

The Forest Plan provides direction in the form of goals and objectives, standards, monitoring requirements, and probable scheduling of management practices. It does not cover projects on specific sites except in a broad manner. Each proposed project will be subject to site-specific analysis and documentation in compliance with NEPA. Considerations revealed through this process may result in a decision not to proceed with the proposed project, even though the project may be permissible under the Forest Plan.

The Forest Plan's scheduled projects are translated into multi-year program budget proposals. The schedule is used for requesting and allocating the funds needed to carry out the planned management direction. Upon approval of a final budget for the Forest, the annual work program will be updated and carried out.

The Forest program of work will implement the management direction of the Forest Plan. Outputs and activities in individual years may vary from those shown in Forest Plan, Chapter IV, depending on final budgets, new information derived from updated inventories and monitoring, and any future amendments or revisions of the Forest Plan.

The Forest Plan incorporates the Pacific Northwest Region's FEIS for Managing Competing and Unwanted Vegetation. In implementing project activities, the Forest will comply with the Record of Decision issued by the Regional Forester December 8, 1988, and the mediated agreement of May 1989. Use of all vegetation management techniques is allowed, but the use of herbicides is allowed only when other methods are ineffective or will unreasonably increase project costs. Emphasis must be placed on prevention and early treatment of unwanted vegetation and public involvement in all aspects of project planning and implementation. Information about the vegetation management EIS, its Record of Decision, and the mediated agreement is available for review at Forest Service offices throughout Washington and Oregon.

Upon implementation of the Forest Plan, all projects, including timber sales to be offered, will be in compliance with direction contained in the Forest Plan. In addition, all new permits, contracts, and other instruments for the use and occupancy of National Forest system land and resource uses must also be in conformance with the Forest Plan. Permits, contracts and other instruments which were in existence prior to Forest Plan implementation will be revised (if needed) subject to valid existing rights. This updating will generally be done within three years.

Consistent with the paragraph above, existing term grazing permits, together with Allotment Management Plans, will be in conformance with the Forest Plan when reissued. Temporary grazing permits and livestock use permits, which are issued for 1 year or less, will comply with Forest Plan direction when issued. Just like all other existing permits, contracts and instruments (see paragraph above), grazing permits which were in

existence prior to Forest Plan implementation will be revised and updated as soon as practical, generally within three years

Since a number of the decisions described herein reflect recent changes in the planning process, some planned timber sale projects for fiscal year 1990 are at variance with the specific requirements dealing with timber management adjacent to non-anadromous Class I and II streams, utilization standards to a 7-inch diameter tree and area basis for calculating HEI. I have decided not to ask the Forest Supervisor to revise these projects. All requirements will be met for projects planned for fiscal year 1991 and succeeding years.

The Forest Plan will be implemented 30 days after the Notice of Availability of the Forest Plan, EIS, and Record of Decision appears in the Federal Register.

## **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

I have a strong personal commitment to this program. A Forest Plan is not cast in stone, it must adapt to best meet the management needs of the Forest. Throughout the life of the Plan, monitoring and evaluation is the management control system for the Forest Plan. It will be used to provide information on the progress and results of implementation. One of the results of monitoring will be an assessment of the need for amending or revising the Plan. Monitoring and Evaluation are discussed in more detail in the FOREST PLAN CHAPTER V.

Monitoring is intended to help keep the Forest Plan current and responsive to changes. Monitoring and evaluation each have a distinctly different purpose and scope. Monitoring consists of gathering data, observations, and information. During evaluation, the data and information are analyzed and interpreted. This process provides the information necessary to determine if conditions are within the bounds and intent of the Plan direction. Forest Plan monitoring does not replace or substitute for other Forest monitoring activities. Many activities are currently being monitored on the Forest to comply with administrative and legal responsibilities (FSM - Admin. Review Procedures)

Monitoring and evaluation will provide information to:

- Compare planned versus applied management standards and guidelines to determine if objectives are achieved [36 CFR 219.12(k)]
- Quantitatively compare planned versus actual outputs and services [36 CFR 219.12(k)(1)].
- Measure effects of prescriptions, including significant changes in land productivity [36 CFR 219.12(k)(2)]
- Determine planned costs versus actual costs associated with carrying out prescriptions [36 CFR 219.12(k)(3)].
- Determine population trends of the management indicator species and relationship to habitat changes [36 CFR 219.19(a)(6)].
- Evaluate effects of National Forest management on adjacent land, resources, and communities [36 CFR 219.7(f)].
- Identify research needs to support or improve National Forest management [36 CFR 219.28]
- Determine if lands are adequately restocked [36 CFR 219.12(k)(5)(i)].

- Determine, at least every ten years, if lands identified as unsuitable for timber production have become suitable [36 CFR 219.12(k)(5)(ii)].
- Determine whether maximum size limits for harvest areas should be continued [36 CFR 219.12(k)(5)(iii)]
- Ensure that destructive insects and disease organisms do not increase to potentially damaging levels following management activities [36 CFR 219 12(k)(5)(iv)]

Results of the evaluation will lead to decisions of the following types.

- Continue practice, no change necessary.
- Refer the problem to the appropriate Forest officer for corrective action
- Modify the management practice through Plan amendments
- Modify land designation through Plan amendments.
- Revise output schedules.
- Revise unit output costs.
- Revise the Plan

Three types of monitoring and evaluation will be conducted

- IMPLEMENTATION MONITORING - Implementation monitoring will determine if plans, prescriptions, projects, and activities are implemented as designed and in compliance with Forest Plan objectives and Standards and Guidelines
- EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING - Effectiveness monitoring will determine if plans, prescriptions, projects, and activities are effective in meeting management direction, objectives, and the standards and guidelines.
- VALIDATION MONITORING - Validation monitoring will determine whether the initial data, assumptions, and coefficients used in development of the Plan are correct, or if there is a better way to meet forest planning regulations, policies, goals, and objectives

Evaluation of the results of the site-specific monitoring program will be documented in an annual evaluation by the Forest Interdisciplinary Team. Based on the evaluation any need for further action is recommended to the Forest Supervisor

Actions directed by the Forest Supervisor could include one or several of the following:

- A determination that no action is needed
- District Ranger(s) may be directed to improve application of management direction
- Management direction for a particular piece of land may be modified as a Forest Plan amendment.
- The standards and guidelines may be modified as a Forest Plan amendment
- The projected schedule of outputs may be modified as a Forest Plan amendment
- The needed action may singly or cumulatively be so significant as to cause the Forest Supervisor to initiate revision of the Forest Plan.

## MITIGATION

Mitigation means to make less harsh or severe. In Forest management, it means to soften or mollify the effects of a management activity on other resources, for example to reduce the effects of timber harvest on soils or wildlife. Mitigation measures have been developed through interdisciplinary efforts and incorporated into the Forest Plan.

Mitigation measures are an integral part of the Standards and Guidelines and Management Area direction described in Chapter IV of the Forest Plan. They include Best Management Practices (BMPs) which are measures that have been proven over time to be effective in protecting water quality.

I believe all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the alternative selected have been adopted. Site-specific mitigation measures will be developed at the project planning level.

## AMENDMENT AND REVISION PROCESS

This Forest Plan may be changed either by an amendment or a revision. Such changes may come about as a result of the monitoring process or project analysis (see FOREST PLAN, CHAPTER 5). An amendment may become necessary as a result of different situations. They could include, for example:

- Recommendations of the Interdisciplinary Team based on their review of monitoring results
- The determination that an existing or proposed permit, contract, cooperative agreement, or other instrument authorizing occupancy and use is not consistent with the Forest Plan, but should be approved, based on project level analysis
- Adjustment of management area boundaries or prescriptions
- Changes necessitated by resolution of administrative appeals
- Changes needed to improve monitoring plans or information and assumptions used in the Forest Plan.
- Changes made necessary by altered physical, biological, social, or economic conditions

Based on an analysis of the objectives, guidelines, and other aspects of the Forest Plan, the Malheur National Forest Supervisor shall determine whether a proposed amendment will result in a significant change to the Forest Plan. If the change is determined to be significant, the Forest Supervisor shall follow the same procedure as that required for development and approval of the Forest Plan. If the change is determined not to be significant, the Forest Supervisor may implement the amendment after the appropriate public notice and compliance with NEPA. The procedure is described by 36 CFR 219.10(e) and (f), 36 CFR 219.12(k), FSM 1922 51-52 and FSH 1909 12.

As Regional Forester, I will approve significant amendments and the Forest Supervisor "nonsignificant" amendments. The determination of significance must be documented in a decision notice and will be appealable under 36 CFR 217. A mailing list will be maintained to provide notification and invitation to comment on proposed amendments.

The amendment documentation will include as a minimum:

- A statement of why the Forest Plan is being amended (some possible reasons are mentioned above).
- The actual amendment will be described.
- Rationale for the amendment.
- A statement of significance related to FSM 1922.51 This is the NFMA significance and relates to changes to the Forest Plan
- A statement regarding NEPA compliance (40 CFR 1500-1508, FSM 1950, and FSH 1909.15) regarding effects on the environment and how the effects disclosed in the Plan EIS may change as a result of the amendment.
- A statement of the appeal rights.

The NFMA requires revision of the Forest Plan at least every 15 years. However, it may be revised sooner if physical conditions or demands on the land and resources have changed sufficiently to affect overall goals or uses for the entire Forest. If a revision becomes necessary, the procedures described in 36 CFR 219.12 will be followed.