

MONITORING PLAN

Monitoring will provide the public and Forest officials with information on the progress and results of implementing the Sycan Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. Activities will be compared with the River Plan direction and the actual effects resulting from these activities will be compared to the predicted effects. Where activities are congruent with direction, and effects are congruent with expectations, the determination will be documented and implementation will continue. Where activities and effects are not congruent with direction and expectations, further evaluation will occur and appropriate action will be taken to correct inadequacies or to modify the River Plan where necessary.

The overall objective of this river monitoring plan is to determine if programs and projects are maintaining and/or enhancing the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) of the river. In the Fremont's L&RMP, Table 32, "Summary of Monitoring and Evaluation Program" (p. FP 214) the monitoring objective for Wild and Scenic Rivers is stated as: maintenance of current attributes of the classified rivers. This statement serves to ensure protection of the ORVs found in the designated portions of the Sycan River. Many other monitoring objectives listed in both the Fremont's and the Winema's L&RMP monitoring plan address many of the same issues and prescribed activities that are the basis of the River Plan. Where monitoring objectives in these L&RMPs are not specific enough to ensure that activities prescribed are maintaining and/or enhancing this river's ORVs, additional monitoring objectives were developed in this plan. These objectives are listed below. The combination of this monitoring plan and the Fremont's and Winema's L&RMP monitoring plans will effectively evaluate implementation of the Sycan Wild and Scenic River Plan.

GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR MONITORING

Based on FSM 1922.71 (3), monitor to ensure that:

1. Management of the Sycan Wild and Scenic River complies with all applicable laws and regulations.
2. Cumulative effects of project implementation do not exceed standards and thresholds stated in the River Plan.
3. Planned mitigation actions are implemented and maintained as designed.
4. Local, state, and federal air, water, noise, and other legal requirements are met.

L&RMP OBJECTIVES FOR MONITORING AS RELATED TO SPECIFIC SECTIONS OF THE RIVER PLAN

Implement monitoring objectives described in the Fremont National Forest and Winema National Forest L&RMP Monitoring Plan (Chapter V and Chapter 5, respectively). Specific objectives to be implemented are those related to the following elements within the Sycan Wild and Scenic River corridor:

- Vegetation
- Riparian Areas
- Scenery
- Recreation
- Water Quality and Flow
- Wildlife
- Fisheries
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Access
- Fire/Prescribed Fire

ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES FOR MONITORING WITHIN THE SYCAN WILD & SCENIC RIVER CORRIDOR

The following objectives are in addition to those listed in the Fremont's and Winema's L&RMP. The objectives are described using a question and answer format.

VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

Action or Effect: forest and vegetation health

Data Needs:

1. What data is expected to be collected in the Fiscal year?

Condition of timber and vegetation in corridor.

2. Where is the data to be collected from?

Annual aerial detection flights specific to Sycan Wild and Scenic River corridor.

3. Who is expected to collect the data?

Supervisor's Office: Timber management

4. How is the data to be collected?

Data will be collected via a review of the yearly aerial insect and disease mapping specific to the Sycan Wild and Scenic River corridor, and by visual inspections of maps and photos.

5. How frequently is data to be collected?

Annually.

6. When is the data to be reported?

Annually.

7. Why is the data collected?

To monitor the condition of the vegetation and timber resources in the corridor to provide management information on possible treatment. To prevent the characteristics of

the corridor from being lost to insect or disease attack.

RIPARIAN AREA MANAGEMENT

Action or Effect: riparian area health

Data Needs:

1. What data is expected to be collected in the Fiscal year?

Vegetative composition and condition from within and outside riparian area exclosures.

2. Where is the data to be collected from?

Riparian areas within the Sycan Wild and Scenic River corridor.

3. Who is expected to collect the data?

Supervisor's Office: Watershed/Range staff.

4. How is the data to be collected?

Exclosures will be used to monitor the progress of vegetation establishment and recovery within the river corridor.

5. How frequently is data to be collected?

Annually.

6. When is the data to be reported?

Every five years.

7. Why is the data collected?

To monitor the condition of riparian area health within the Sycan Wild and Scenic River corridor.

SCENIC RESOURCES

Action or Effect: maintenance of scenic resources

Data Needs:

1. What data is expected to be collected in the Fiscal year?

Photographic records of compliance and non-compliance with Scenic Resources S&Gs within the Sycan W&S River corridor. Non-compliance of activities with S&Gs shall be reported to the Recreation staff officer and necessary actions taken to bring the activities into compliance, or to eliminate them.

2. Where is the data to be collected from?

Within the viewshed of the Sycan Wild and Scenic River.

3. Who is expected to collect the data?

Forest Landscape Architect or other similarly qualified staff person.

4. How is the data to be collected?

Data will be collected through photography and written observations of the scenic resources within the Sycan W&S River viewshed.

5. How frequently is data to be collected?

A minimum of one time per year.

6. When is the data to be reported?

Annually.

7. Why is the data collected?

To monitor the condition of the scenic resources within the Sycan Wild and Scenic River viewshed and to determine whether or not scenic outstandingly remarkable values are being protected and enhanced.

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Action or Effect: visitor safety

Data Needs:

1. What data is expected to be collected in the Fiscal year?

Visitor safety conditions at river access points.

2. Where is the data to be collected from?

Access points along the Sycan Wild and Scenic River. Access points are defined as those points at which a road or trail intersects with the river.

3. Who is expected to collect the data?

Recreation staff and/or other Forest Service employees whose work activities occur in the vicinity of the river access points.

4. How is the data to be collected?

Visual inspections at river access points.

5. How frequently is data to be collected?

On a continuing basis.

6. When is the data to be reported?

Annually.

7. Why is the data collected?

To ensure the safety of visitors to the river corridor. Hazard trees within a distance of 200 feet from access points will be removed, and any other safety hazards shall be eliminated.

WATER QUALITY AND FLOW

Action or Effect: ensure protection of water quality and free-flowing conditions

Data Needs: Refer to: The Fremont National Forest's "Wild and Scenic River Water Monitoring Plan: The North Fork of the Sprague River and the Sycan River". (Appendix D)

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Action or Effect: monitoring of projects for compliance with S&Gs; and carrying out habitat inventories

Data Needs:

1. What data is expected to be collected in the Fiscal year?

1) Monitoring: Pre- and post-project survey of the Standards:

Standards will be monitored for at least one of the following types of projects: timber sales, cattle allotments, road construction and maintenance, wildlife habitat improvements, watershed restoration, recreation, and prescribed fire management.

Minimum standards to be monitored for each project (pre- and post-) are:

Big Game Habitat Effectiveness/Habitat Suitability: for any activity that alters vegetative composition, road density, water distribution, or livestock grazing.

Biological Potential: for any activity that affects snag densities.

Condition and structure of aspen stands: for any activity that affects aspen stands.

2) Habitat inventory:

Data on the condition of big game ranges.

Pre- and post-project snag densities.

Stand exam data on condition and structure of aspen stands.

2. Where is the data to be collected from?

Sycan Watershed.

3. Who is expected to collect the data?

Ideally, data will be collected by the Staff Officer or District Ranger.

4. How is the data to be collected?

1) Monitoring: site monitoring.

2) Habitat inventory:

Big game ranges: a combination of walk through exams, paced transects, and formal stand exams will be used. Additionally, the interagency mule deer model will be used to compare pre- and post-project habitat suitability/habitat effectiveness.

Snag density: paced transects and formal stand exams will be used to determine snag densities and, in turn, determine biological potential percentages.

Aspen stands: stand exam data will be used.

5. How frequently is data to be collected?

1) Monitoring: at least one project annually.

2) Habitat inventory:

Big game ranges: every 5 years.

Snag density: annually.

Aspen stands: every 5 years.

6. When is the data to be reported?

1) Monitoring: annually.

2) Habitat inventory:

Big game ranges: every 5 years.

Snag density: annually.

Aspen stands: every 5 years.

7. Why is the data collected?

1) Monitoring: to ensure standards are being met for wildlife.

2) Habitat inventory:

Big game range: collect information to be used to determine silvicultural condition for modeling.

Snag density: to determine biological potential percentages.

Aspen stands: to determine condition and structure of aspen stands.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Action or Effect: monitoring of projects for compliance with S&Gs; and performing habitat inventories

Data Needs:

1. What data is expected to be collected in the Fiscal year?

1) Monitoring: Pre- and post-project survey of the Standards:

Standards will be monitored for at least one of the following types of projects: timber sales, cattle allotments, road construction and maintenance, fish habitat improvements, watershed restoration, and recreation.

Minimum standards to be monitored for each project (pre- and post-) are:

Water Quality/Quantity: water temperature for any activity which alters stream-side vegetation.

Channel Morphology: large woody debris (LWD) for any activity affecting LWD composition.

Floodplain/Riparian Vegetation Management: (1) vegetation composition and condition; (2) LWD in the floodplain for projects within or adjacent to floodplains; and (3) meadow ecosystems for projects in or adjacent to meadows.

2) Habitat inventory

2. Where is the data to be collected from?

1) Monitoring: Sycan River Watershed.

2) Habitat inventory: a) all fish-bearing streams in Sycan River Watershed; and b) perennial, non-fish-bearing streams which represent other upper watershed streams.

3. Who is expected to collect the data?

Ideally, data will be collected by the Staff Officer or District Ranger.

4. How is the data to be collected?

1) Monitoring: site monitoring.

2) Habitat inventory:

Hankin and Reeves (1988) methodology and the Region 6 Stream Inventory and ODFW Aquatic Inventory parameters will both be used.

5. How frequently is data to be collected?

1) Monitoring: at least one project annually.

2) Habitat inventory:

Surveys of all fish-bearing streams shall occur at 5 year intervals.

Surveys of the perennial, non-fish-bearing streams shall occur at 10 year intervals.

6. When is the data to be reported?

1) Monitoring:

Water Quality/Quantity: annually.

Channel Morphology: next planning period.

Floodplain/Riparian Vegetation Management: every two years.

2) Habitat inventory: every five years.

Sycan River Monitoring Plan

7. Why is the data collected?

1) **Monitoring:** to ensure standards are being met for fisheries.

2) **Habitat inventory:**

Fish-bearing streams: to collect habitat data.

Non-fish-bearing streams: some perennial, non-fish-bearing streams supply water of varying quantity and quality to fish-bearing streams. Because of this, these streams will represent other upper watershed streams to determine riparian area conditions and composition and provide a baseline for trends over time.

PROPOSED, THREATENED, ENDANGERED & SENSITIVE SPECIES

Action or Effect: ensure S&Gs for PETS species are carried out

Data Needs:

1. What data is expected to be collected in the Fiscal year?

1) *Bald eagle: Record number of young present in nests, and the number of occupied suitable habitat areas.*

2) *Sensitive species: Sensitive species densities will be determined and monitored.*

2. Where is the data to be collected from?

Sycan Wild and Scenic River corridor.

3. Who is expected to collect the data?

1) *Bald eagle: The Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit will collect the data. The information will be reviewed by the Forest fish and wildlife Staff Officer. Bald eagle management areas will be evaluated for suitability by the District Ranger.*

2) *Sensitive species: Assessments of habitat protection will be conducted for all sensitive species by the District Ranger. Sensitive species densities will be determined and monitored by the Forest fish and wildlife Staff Officer.*

4. How is the data to be collected?

1) *Bald eagle: number of young and number of occupied suitable habitat area shall be monitored annually and this information shall be reviewed annually.*

2) *Sensitive species: assessments of habitat protection will be done annually.*

5. How frequently is data to be collected?

1) *Bald eagle: bald eagle management areas will be evaluated for suitability every 2 years.*

2) *Sensitive species: densities will be determined and monitored every 5 years.*

6. When is the data to be reported?

1) *Bald eagle: nest/roost use and success is to be reported annually. Habitat management monitoring is to be reported every two years.*

2) *Sensitive species: annually.*

7. Why is the data collected?

To ensure minimum standards for protection of bald eagle and sensitive species habitat and populations are met.

TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT

Action or Effect: ensure adequate access to river corridor and monitor condition of water chances

Data Needs:

1. What data is expected to be collected in the Fiscal year?

Information concerning maintenance of passenger car-accessible access to the river, and information concerning the condition water chances.

2. Where is the data to be collected from?

Sycan Wild and Scenic River corridor.

3. Who is expected to collect the data?

Forest Service personnel from the Winema and Fremont National Forests.

4. How is the data to be collected?

Visual inspections

5. How frequently is data to be collected?

On a continuing basis.

6. When is the data to be reported?

Annually.

7. Why is the data collected?

To assure adequate access to river corridor for passenger cars, and to assure that water chances are rehabilitated and meet the desired condition.

FIRE MANAGEMENT

Action or Effect: fuel survey

Data Needs:

1. What data is expected to be collected in the Fiscal year?

A fuel survey is to be done.

2. Where is the data to be collected from?

Within the Sycan Wild and Scenic River corridor.

3. Who is expected to collect the data?

District personnel.

4. How is the data to be collected?

The most appropriate methods will be used to carry out a fuel survey. The survey will note areas that have greater than natural fuel loadings.

5. How frequently is data to be collected?

The fuel survey shall be conducted every 5 years.

6. When is the data to be reported?

Every two years

7. Why is the data collected?

The fuel surveys are to be carried out to determine fuel loading within the Sycan Wild and Scenic River corridor. If the area surveyed is found to be large enough that efficient fuel treatment can be undertaken, and if funding is available, then treatment of these areas will be scheduled. Prescribed fire may be utilized for vegetation manipulation if it is in compliance with the Managing Competing and Unwanted Vegetation Final Environmental Impact Statement (USDA Forest Service, 1988)