

Mt Hood Nat'l Forest BMP Monitoring -- FY2014

Executive Summary

Introduction

In FY2014, the Mt. Hood National Forest (MTH) monitored Best Management Practices (BMPs) on 7 Forest project sites as part of the USFS National BMP Program (USDA 2012). Monitoring was conducted to evaluate the *implementation* and *effectiveness* of BMPs applied to MTH projects and activities. This report summarizes results of BMP monitoring conducted on the Forest in FY2014 following regional and national direction.

Monitoring Approach

Monitoring described in this report was conducted using protocols developed under the USFS National BMP Program.

Specific sites monitored on the GPNF were selected based on Regional Office guidance and criteria provided in the National BMP Program.



2014 Monitoring

MTHF sites monitored in 2014 were from the following project types:

- Aquatic Restoration
- Fire Suppression & Rehab
- Road Decommissioning
- Snow Storage
- Vegetation
- Water Diversions

Projects were located in 6 separate subwatersheds across 4 Ranger Districts on the Forest.

2014 Results

1) Implementation of BMPs: Implementation ratings summarize the percentage of required BMPs from project NEPA documents were actually implemented on the ground at the site monitored.

Implementation Ratings for 2014

- *BMPs Fully implemented* 2 of 7 (Veg)
- *BMPs Mostly implemented* 4 of 7 (Aquatic, Fire, Roads, Water Use)
- *BMPs Marginally implemented*
- *No BMPs and/or Not implemented* 1 of 7 (Snow removal)

2) Effectiveness of BMPs: Effectiveness ratings indicate to what level BMPs were effective at protecting water quality. In 2014, this rating was determined through national rating rule sets which address the practices intended to prevent or minimize erosion and/or release of pollutants, and delivery to waterbodies at the site monitored.

Effectiveness Ratings for 2014

- *BMPs Fully effective* 2 of 7 (Veg)
- *BMPs Mostly effective* 4 of 7 (Aquatic, Fire, Road, Water Use)
- *BMPs Marginally effective*
- *BMPs Not effective* 1 of 7 (Snow removal)

3) Corrective Action Recommendations:

- Road F – Closer contract administration to insure finish grade is accomplished as planned.
- Road G – Develop, plan, and implement site-specific BMPs to minimize pollution to headwater stream resulting from snow removal/storage, road sanding, and de-icing.
- Water Use E – Installation of a better fish ladder to improve passage around the water diversion structure is tentatively scheduled for 2016 depending on the availability of funds.

4) Adaptive Management Recommendations:

- Road F – Ensure that finish grade specifications are stipulated in the contract. Emphasize more clearly to contractors the design plan and contract requirements of the finish grade on sideslopes of excavated stream crossings and reconstructed channels. Plan better to have designated inspector or COR present on location when critical work is occurring to guide the contractor.
- Road G – A plan that includes site-specific BMPs to minimize unwanted impacts to the upper headwaters of the West Fork of the Salmon River needs to be developed in cooperation with ODOT, RLK Corp., and the FS. Efforts to coordinate such an endeavor have never been undertaken, and will necessitate time, planning, and a top-down approach to agreement and implementation.