Appendix O
Analysis Gaps and Additional Monitoring and Information Needs

Aquatics

- The sections pertaining to hydrology and water quality focused on physical channel conditions, water yield, sediment yield, and water temperature. There are a number of other water quality parameters or indicators that were not analyzed. Some of these have criteria within the State Water Quality Standards and others are used as indices of water quality. Limited data are available within Slate Creek for most of these parameters. Some of the more commonly used parameters or indicators that were not discussed include total and fecal coliform, heavy metals, dissolved oxygen, and macroinvertebrates.
- The Little Slate Creek stream gage has been in operation since 1972. In addition to streamflow, suspended and bedload sediment have been sampled at the station since 1986. Considerable analysis of these data has been completed, but was not summarized in this EAWS. Evaluation of the suspended sediment data would be valuable in interpreting this particular parameter's effects on fish. Evaluation of the bedload data would be useful as an aid to understanding current channel and substrate conditions.

Vegetation

- An accurate and comprehensive existing vegetation coverage including private lands within a subbasin or watershed will remain a recurring need in a dynamic landscape. The recommended protocol for classification is the fiscal year 2000 Region 1 forest scale classification. It may be additionally stratified by potential vegetation to better predict composition of mixed cover types. It may also be refined for watershed and projects scales using canopy layers.
- More reference data to describe the range of historic vegetation: landscape composition, pattern, and internal structure, are needed to better define objectives for landscape management. The Salmon River landscape assessment will provide two additional areas in the Salmon River subbasin.
- Historic snag data, or simulation to better understand patterns of snag production, fall and decay are important references for developing snag and down wood standards in Forest Plan revision and project design. In the interim, the snag and down wood guidelines presented in Appendix D of the South Fork Clearwater Landscape Assessment are recommended for use. Spatially explicit disturbance modeling may provide some mechanisms to better describe the flux of snags and down wood over time. This is underway in the Selway subbasin.
- Monitoring of weed response to prescribed fire, by season of fire and fire severity is needed to better design fire use practices that do not result in expanded weed populations. One monitoring project is underway in the Selway subbasin. The Salmon River Fire EIS may provide for additional monitoring opportunities.

- Numerous sites are thought to exist in the Little Slate area where revegetation of road cuts and fills, mined areas, and streambanks is needed. A comprehensive inventory and project design coordinated with structural restoration measures is needed.
- Numerous fine scale inventories to identify and assess populations of rare plants are referenced in the subbasin discussions. See Chapter 7.

Recreation

- Watershed-wide inventories are needed to compile accurate recreation picture, including types of recreation, quantification of use, identification of areas of use, condition and maintenance needs of recreation improvements. Reliable data exists for only about 20 percent of the improvements within the Slate Creek Watershed.
- Within the watershed, data is needed on numbers of dispersed recreation sites, amount of use, and types of recreation activities that would be made inaccessible by road decommissioning actions, and displaced to other areas, or concentrated on other remaining sites.
- Basin-wide recreation data is needed in order to

  a) Stratify the entire Forest spectrum of recreation opportunity and to rate the significance of those recreation opportunities supplied from individual watersheds such as Slate Creek.

  b) Identify and maximize recreation opportunity from existing developed areas of the Forest since current direction will curtail most opportunities to develop additional area on a Forest that is almost two-thirds roadless/ unroaded and classified wilderness.
- Comprehensive basinwide and Forestwide recreation recommendations and directions are needed to coordinate recreation uses and to provide consistency and connectivity between and across watersheds.

Socio-Economics

- Basin-wide information on user demographics is needed to estimate future access and recreation needs within watersheds. Additional data on fuelwood dependency within the local Forest/ watershed area is needed.
- Additional information on cultural resources and archeological sites is needed to supplement existing knowledge.
- Continued contact with the Nez Perce Tribe is needed to refine recommended actions that affect tribal interest sites.

Facilities

- Existing recreation facilities and sites need to be reviewed for improvement, expansion, or replacement needs and to determine use and capacity capabilities and limitations.
- Reconnaissance is needed to identify potential recreation sites and facilities to meet emerging and future recreation use needs, and to replace sites and facilities foregone to road decommissioning actions.

Wildife

- Inventories to identify presence/ absence of various wildlife species and assess old growth and snag conditions are needed within in the watershed and are referenced in the subwatershed discussions. See Chapter 7. Wildlife habitat for the various threatened, endangered, sensitive, and old growth indicator species should be mapped to get a better understanding of changes between historic and current conditions.