

## **C7 SPECIAL FISH MANAGEMENT AREA**

### **GOAL**

**MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE WATER QUALITY AND PRODUCE HIGH LEVELS OF ANADROMOUS FISH HABITAT ON AN AREA-WIDE BASIS.**

### **DESCRIPTION**

The special fish management area includes all land within a watershed, subwatershed, or other manageable area. The management area applies to much of the Umatilla National Forest portion of the North Fork John Day drainage (referred to in Senate Report No. 98-465, dated May 18, 1984). The management area is located on the North Fork John Day District, as shown on management area maps.

### **DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION**

In riparian areas, a natural to near natural setting and vegetation development will predominate, with a variety of plant communities, sizes, and age classes. A high tree canopy layer will be present, and the forest will appear denser than surrounding areas. Forest canopy of conifers and hardwoods will provide desired levels of stream surface shading and long-term supply of large woody material for instream fish habitat and snags. Vegetation will contribute to stable streambanks and complex fish habitat along the banks. Dispersed recreation opportunities associated with stream and stream sides will be available for all Forest visitors.

In upland areas of the watersheds, the Forests will appear as a mosaic of even-aged and uneven-aged stands with highly dispersed created openings of 1 to 40 acres in size. Management activities of all types will be observable. Horizontal and vertical diversity in vegetation will be apparent; also, a discontinuity in forest age classes (noncontinuous and fewer age classes) will be noticeable within a watershed.

Emphasis placed on careful timber harvest and road construction and maintenance will be reflected in the high quality water being produced. Dispersed recreation opportunities of all types will be available, though some limitations in access may occur. As a result of management, anadromous fish recovery and long-term fish population goals will be met.

### **MANAGEMENT AREAS STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

#### **RECREATION**

A Roaded Modified and Roaded Natural social and physical setting (ROS) may result from meeting the goal. Dispersed recreation activities that meet the goal are permitted.

Recreation site modifications and facility development levels 1 and 2 (see Glossary) are permitted.

Provide the opportunity for road oriented, walk-in, and horseback activities. Motorized access may be limited to designated roads, trails, and areas.

Trail and associated facility construction, reconstruction, and maintenance are permitted as long as consistent with water quality and anadromous fish habitat objectives.

Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use is permitted and will be managed to meet management area goals and to prevent unacceptable damage to anadromous fish habitat and associated riparian soils and vegetation.

#### **VISUAL**

A range of visual quality objectives may apply-from Retention to Maximum Modification.

#### **CULTURAL**

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

## WILDLIFE

Wildlife habitat improvement and maintenance projects are permitted provided the activities meet the goal.

Dead and down tree habitat will be managed in the riparian areas to provide or maintain 100 percent of the potential population level and, in the upland areas, 60 percent of the potential population level for all primary cavity excavators, and maintained for other wildlife species.

An average of one unburned slash pile for every 2 acres should be retained for wildlife cover on even-aged regeneration harvest units.

Elk habitat will be managed to achieve a habitat effectiveness index of no less than 45, including discounts for open roads (see Thomas and others 1979). A minimum of 10 percent of an area will be managed as satisfactory cover (15-20 percent is desirable). A minimum of 30 percent of an area will be managed as total cover. Management activities will not create barriers to impede movement of big game.

## FISH

Anadromous fish habitat (includes streams and associated riparian areas) will be managed to produce at least 90 percent of potential smolt habitat capability index (SHCI). The standard should be achieved by meeting the following:

- Riparian vegetation will be managed to promote floodplain, bank, and channel stability, resiliency to disturbance, and aquatic diversity.
- Where natural conditions permit, streamside vegetation along the entire length of perennial streams will be managed to maintain an average shading of 80 percent of the entire stream surface shaded. Where existing shading is already below this level, retain all vegetation contributing to stream surface shading.
- Lands adjacent to perennial streams will be managed to provide for a continuous, well distributed supply of naturally occurring large woody material for instream fish and riparian habitat. At a minimum, these lands will include a zone within one tree height of the stream channel but may be extended to upland areas when the additional areas are determined to be critical to the provision of future large wood to downstream fish-bearing reaches.
- Streams will be managed to provide pools that are relatively large, frequent, well distributed, and persistent during low flows.
- Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for water temperature and instream flows will be met.
- The sediment budget will fall well within the range and frequency adapted to by indigenous aquatic communities.

Fish habitat enhancement, restoration, and maintenance practices (projects) will be used to increase smolt habitat capability.

## RANGE

Intensive range management including superior grazing systems, such as periodic rest, will be practiced to protect and improve riparian vegetation and anadromous fish habitat.

Grazing practices will normally involve complete or periodic rest.

Range management techniques that control livestock distribution and timing of use will be used to meet riparian goals. Range improvements (and their maintenance) will be permitted, and should be located to encourage livestock use away from the riparian areas.

Meet the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for forage utilization in riparian areas and uplands found in the Range portion of Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

## TIMBER

In the riparian areas, salvage timber harvest may be permitted where anadromous fish habitat can be protected and improved. Other types of scheduled timber harvest will not be permitted.

Outside of riparian areas, timber will be managed on a scheduled basis. For all lands within national forest boundaries, timber harvest will be scheduled so that no more than 25 percent of the forest land within a subwatershed will have timber stand age classes of 0-20 years at any one time, except where analysis documented in an environmental assessment indicates that watershed condition and anadromous fish habitat would not be impaired.

Silvicultural systems and harvest practices within 500 feet of Class I and II streams will emphasize prevention of induced sediment production. In this zone and beyond, a full range of silvicultural practices and intensities including both even-aged and uneven-aged management systems can occur when compatible with water quality and anadromous fish habitat objectives.

All timber management practices and intensities are permitted. The selected silvicultural systems applied to timber stands within suitable forest lands will be based on site-specific examination and analysis, and will be designed to achieve management goals. Harvest practices may include clearcutting, shelterwood, seed tree, salvage, removal, and commercial thinnings, as well as group or individual tree selection. Other cultural practices may be used including natural and artificial regeneration, planting genetic stock when available, release, precommercial thinning, and insect, disease, and animal damage protection or control.

All yarding and skidding systems are acceptable within ground-disturbing constraints.

## WATER

Meet Forest -wide Standards and Guidelines.

## SOIL

Within 250 feet of all streams and wet areas associated with streams, limit the mineral soil exposed by ground-disturbing activities to 10 percent of the project area.

## MINERALS AND ENERGY

Meet Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines while protecting fish habitat investments.

## LANDS

Acquiring private inholdings within riparian areas is a high priority for landownership adjustments.

Exchange of riparian areas will be undertaken only to improve overall national forest riparian management.

Meet the Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines for lands and land uses.

## TRANSPORTATION

Road construction, reconstruction, and maintenance are permitted as long as consistent with the objectives of water quality and anadromous fish habitat.

Road construction will rarely occur within 500 feet of Class I and II streams, within 250 feet of Class III and IV streams, or on slopes over 60 percent. Road location, design, construction, and maintenance techniques used will focus on minimizing soil loss impacts to water quality and fisheries habitat.

Water quality and fisheries habitat problems caused by roads will be corrected.

Roads may be closed to motorized use to meet water quality, fisheries, recreation, and/or big game objectives.

#### FIRE

For moderate to high intensity wildfires (average flame lengths over 2 feet), emphasis should be on the appropriate suppression response of control and/or contain.

Wildfire suppression efforts should utilize low-impact methods.

Use of heavy equipment may require restoration and/or other mitigation to maintain fish habitat quality.

#### FUELS

Fuels management activities will be designed and executed to maintain or enhance anadromous fish habitat.

Within the riparian constraints of 10 percent exposed mineral soils and 80 percent stream surface shading, prescribed burning may be utilized in riparian areas as long as consistent with strategy goals. Within fish and water goals, prescribed fire may be used on the remainder of the management area in order to meet resource objectives.

Fuels should not exceed an average of 9 tons per acre in the 0 to 3-inch size class, and an average residue depth of 6 inches as depicted in the Photo Series for Quantifying Forest Residues (Technical Report PNW 52, 1976) (USDA Forest Service 1976b):

3-PP-4-PC

4-PP-1 -TH

1-PP&ASSOC-4-PC

2-LP-3-PC

#### PESTS

Use integrated pest management (IPM) principles and strategies in managing insects and disease to meet management objectives. Monitoring and detection of pest conditions and populations will be done so that corrective treatments consistent with resource objectives can be prescribed at the earliest opportunity.

Consistent with resource objectives, protect forest stands (habitats) by practicing prevention activities. Emphasis will be on the prevention of stand and fuels conditions that favor pests increases above epidemic levels. Aggressively suppress insects and disease using the cost efficient strategies when outbreaks threaten resource objectives.

The use of pesticides must not conflict with riparian, fish, and water management objectives.