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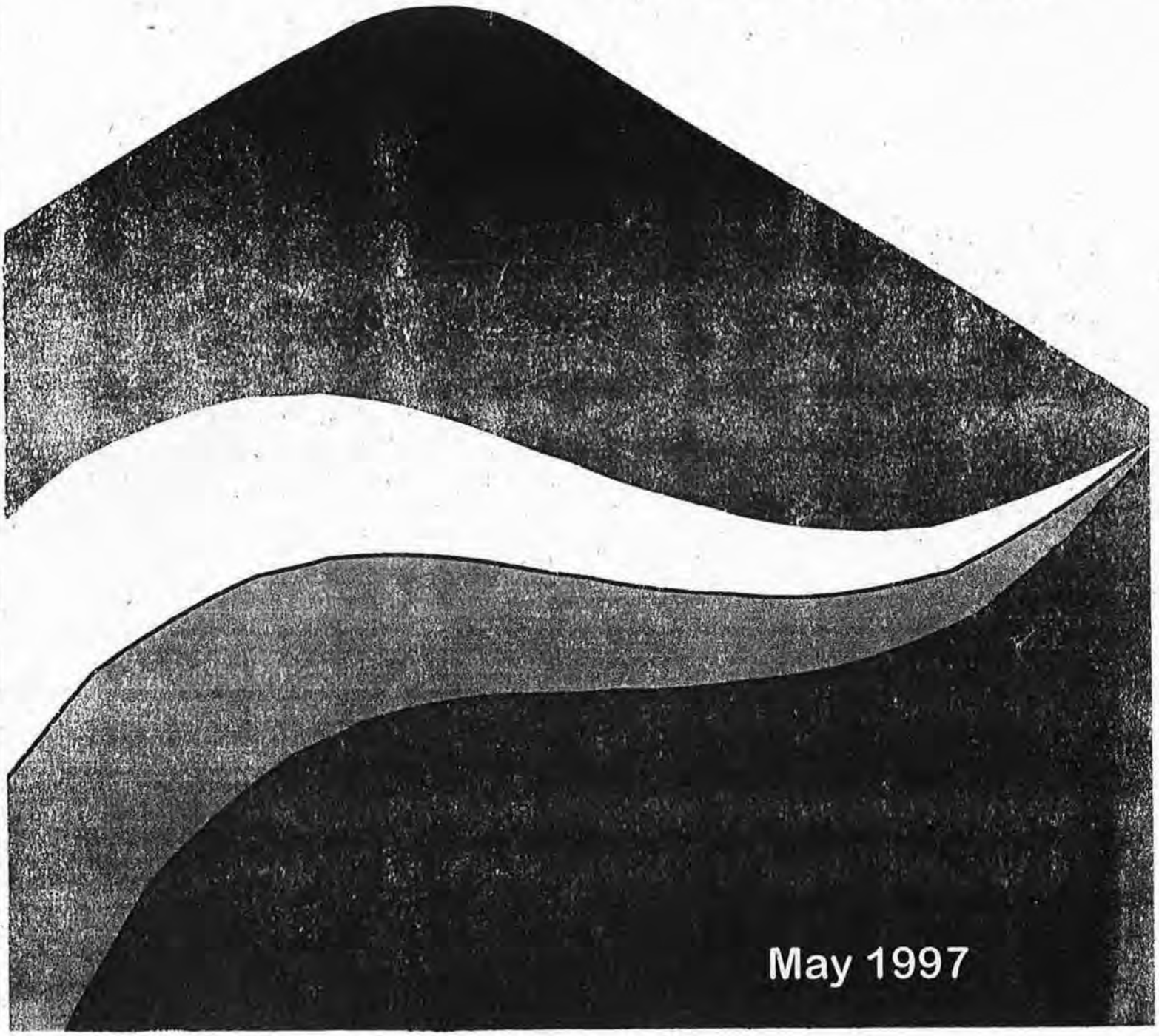
Forest Service

Pacific
Northwest
Region

Deschutes
National Forest

Metolius

Wild and Scenic River Management Plan Record of Decision



May 1997

Record of Decision

Metolius Wild and Scenic River



USDA Forest Service, Deschutes National Forest
Sisters Ranger District, Jefferson County, Oregon

Record of Decision

Metolius Wild and Scenic River Management Plan

Amendment #17 to the Deschutes National Forest
Land and Resource Management Plan

Introduction

The Metolius River is located on the east side of the Cascade Mountain range in central Oregon. It is a major tributary of the Deschutes River which it joins approximately 100 river miles upstream from its confluence with the mighty Columbia River. The Metolius watershed drains about 240,000 acres of which 149,000 are on the Sisters Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. About 90,000 acres of the watershed are within the Warm Springs Indian Reservation. The Wild and Scenic River corridor stretches from near the headwater springs to the slack water impoundment of Lake Billy Chinook (28.7 miles). There are 8560 acres, primarily national forest, within the corridor.

The Metolius River was added to the federal system by the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988. Section 3 of that Act requires that a comprehensive management plan be developed for the Metolius River. Segment 1, from the south Deschutes National Forest boundary near the headwater springs to Bridge 99, is designated as a Recreational river to be managed by the Secretary of Agriculture. Segment 2, from Bridge 99 to Lake Billy Chinook, is designated as a Scenic river and is to be managed by the Secretary of Agriculture through a joint management agreement with the Secretary of Interior and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation where treaty lands exist in association with lands included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers system. (See section 10{e} of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 and section 105 of the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988.)

This Record of Decision establishes the Metolius River Management by amending the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) and replacing the interim direction provided in that plan for Management Area MA-28, Metolius Wild and Scenic River. Portions of the plan will affect other agencies and landowners, however the actions in this decision apply only to lands under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

Authority

As the federal agency designated by Congress to administer the Metolius Wild and Scenic River, the Forest Service is required to set resource management goals necessary to protect and enhance the Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the river and adjacent Federal lands.

The Forest Supervisor is delegated the authority to recommend to Congress a boundary for the Wild and Scenic River corridor, and to select an alternative for managing the resources and activities which fall under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act specifies that the Metolius River Management Plan shall be coordinated with resource planning on adjacent federal lands. The 1990 Deschutes LRMP, as amended by the Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (The Northwest Forest Plan) has served as interim direction for the Metolius River corridor. This Record of Decision for the Metolius Wild and Scenic River amends the Deschutes LRMP and establishes a new management allocation - Management Area 28A. The management direction for this new allocation is based on the analysis documented in the Final EIS for the Metolius Wild and Scenic River (October 1996).

The new management area direction will continue all current management direction and forest-wide standards and guidelines (see Chapter 4 of the LRMP) except where specifically amended by the plan. The new standards and guidelines will replace those for portions of other management areas that have been incorporated into the new management area.

The Metolius River Management Plan complies with the National Environmental Policy Act. A draft environmental impact statement and management plan (DEIS) was released for public review in October 1995. The Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register on October 27, 1995 (60 FR, pg. 55021). Comments were received on the DEIS through February 16, 1996 (see FEIS, Appendix A). The DEIS considered six different management strategies, including a Preferred Alternative, and analyzed the environmental and social effects of those actions. Based on public comment and additional analysis, the Preferred Alternative was modified as summarized below. These changes are reflected in this decision and the Final EIS on which it is based.

Summary of Decision and Reasons

My decision is to approve, adopt, and implement the Metolius Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. This decision is referred to as the Proposed Action , and is a modification of the Preferred Alternative of the DEIS. The Preferred Alternative was changed in response to public comments and updated information.

Major Changes to the Preferred Alternative

Water Quality

Water quality is monitored to establish baseline standards and thresholds for action which meet or exceed (in cases where baseline monitoring indicates improvement is possible/necessary) the existing high water quality.

Upland Vegetation

Specific desired vegetative conditions are provided to indicate where/how commercial harvest could be applied to meet Wild and Scenic River goals and objectives.

Grazing

Grazing is authorized only under temporary crossing permits or the existing special use pasture permit and is managed according to existing management guidelines for resource protection.

Transportation Management

Conversion of 1419-900 to a one-way travel route will be considered as part of a Camp Sherman core traffic analysis and plan to improve safety (for both motorized and non-motorized users), reduce congestion, provide better traffic flow, and move parking away from the river. Camp Sherman core includes Rd 1419, Rd 1419-700, 800, 900, Rd 1420 and Rd 1400.

Forest roads to remain open are identified: Rd 1200, 1217, 1270, 1290-800, 1400, 1419, 1419-200, 1419-800, 1419-900, 1420, 1490, and roads which access campgrounds and recreation residence tracts. Management of all others are subject to case-by-case analysis.

Rd 1298 is closed on a trial basis to evaluate non-motorized use and resource effects.

A portion of Road 1419-700 will be obliterated and the remainder will be used as a high standard, bicycle & pedestrian trail. Local residents will be involved in choosing the best location for the gate. The river trail in this area will be rerouted onto the new trail wherever logical. Some segments of the foot-only river trail will remain.

Public motorized access is closed on Rd 1499 shortly below Bridge 99. The area between Lower Bridge Camp Ground and the debris slide one mile downstream is closed to motor vehicles on a trial basis to rest dispersed campsites from vehicle impacts and to evaluate the desired recreation experience.

Prehistoric and Historic Resources

Determination of cultural significance of prehistoric resources is coordinated with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Determination of eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (historic or prehistoric significance) is conducted in accordance with current laws, regulations, and Forest Plan direction.

Developed Campgrounds

Vegetation Management Plans are developed for each campground with the objectives of reducing the amount of developed area within 100' of the river and so that not more than

25% of that area is in a developed condition. Unacceptable resource impacts are now identified as areas with devegetation beyond the designated site, loss of soil stability, or point source erosion or siltation into the river. The trigger for a reservation system or overflow campground outside the corridor is when 20% or more of existing capacity is lost due to rest/rotation or closure of sites.

Pine Rest campground is managed to provide tent camping, rather than converted to day use only.

Day Use Facilities

The upstream portion of Smiling River Camp Ground is converted to a day-use area and designated parking for Allingham Bridge.

Boating

Downstream from Bridge 99, boater numbers and season of use are not limited. A registration system will be used to determine use patterns and thresholds of use that maintain the desired primitive recreation experience for both land and water-based visitors. There is no longer provision for agency closure of the river for safety reasons.

Special Uses

Applications for non-developmental special uses are considered if they have a negligible impact, can be contained within existing facilities, do not displace general public use, do not advertise or promote (directly or indirectly) the area, and are non-recurring.

Applications for commercial, non-developmental special uses must respond to both the demonstrated need criteria and the negligible impact criteria.

The distinction between commercial and non-commercial is made based on whether a fee is charged, regardless of intent to make a profit. Donations or pooling money to cover the direct costs of the use are not considered a fee.

Recreation Residences

Structures are not expanded toward the river and the river facing elevation of a structure is not widened so that the scenic presence of structures as viewed from the river is not increased.

Residence lots are managed to increase riparian function within 100' of the river or the riparian area (whichever is a greater distance from the river). Riparian function is determined based on the amount of filtering vegetation, presence of native plant species, shrubs, shade/cover, trees for future instream wood contribution, and permeable soil.

On-lot areas which show unacceptable loss of riparian function will be rehabilitated. Unacceptable sites show conditions such as devegetation beyond the confines of developed areas, more than one pathway to the river trail, lack of stability, or evident erosion and run-off problems.

Septic and Water Systems

Water testing will be conducted annually by the homeowners.

Upon reissuance of a special use permit or remodeling/expansion, septic systems will be inspected for proper function and upgraded if necessary.

Other

Minor changes were made to reduce total acreage to be within the 320 acres per river mile average.

The termini between the Recreation and Scenic segments will remain at Bridge 99

Response to Significant Issues

Boundary

The Metolius Wild and Scenic River corridor is 8560 acres in size. The boundary for the Recreational segment of the river is Rd 1400 to the east and Rd 1419, Rd 1420, and Rd 1270 to the west. This boundary was placed on main roads to be easily administered and clearly defined for river users. In the Scenic segment the boundary follows existing roads, section lines, and the high water mark of Jefferson Creek and the Metolius River. The topography and similarity in management direction of the adjacent Metolius Wildlife Primitive Management Area reduce the need for a wide corridor, and boundary placement was largely determined by ease of survey. No lands were included beyond the high water mark of the river on the Reservation side because these lands will be managed under the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation Wild and Scenic River Act.

Issue #1: What should be done to protect and manage the hydrologic and geologic values of the Metolius?

The cold, clear waters and stable flows of the Metolius are the cornerstone of the area's ecology and recreational appeal. I am committed to managing for the highest possible water quality throughout the corridor. Currently, water quality in the Metolius and its tributaries is very high. Monitoring and management to protect this quality is extremely important. Because most water quality indicators exceed existing state standards, I am establishing higher monitoring thresholds that will detect degradation of the existing water quality. Developing baseline data will be the first step towards establishing the need for higher standards and identifying any actions I need to take to ensure that water quality meets these standards. I am also open to exploring the designation of the Metolius as a Outstanding Water Resource by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, as an additional, interagency means of ensuring no water quality degradation will be allowed.

Issue #2: What should be done to protect and manage the river's ecological values?

Management actions which perpetuate healthy forests with old growth characteristics are important to the river's ecological values and the character of the area. Active management will be necessary because fire exclusion has and will continue to disrupt the natural disturbance role played by fire in the corridor.

The vegetation management direction I put in the Plan emphasizes reintroduction of fire where appropriate as a natural disturbance and the use of prescribed fire as the primary means of restoring and maintaining desired vegetative conditions. Additional vegetation management activities, such as pretreatment thinning and removal of dead trees, may be necessary to enable the safe and efficient use of prescribed fire. The vegetation management performed in the lower river will be more limited than that in the upper river for consistency with the primitive character of the Scenic segment of the river, with a strong emphasis on natural processes. However, I remain committed to protecting the adjacent private and Tribal lands from catastrophic fire and will take whatever actions necessary to prevent fires from crossing the river onto Tribal lands.

In response to public concern, I strongly emphasize that the economic value of timber will be used as a means and not an end for vegetation management in the corridor. The area's vegetation is not being managed for timber production objectives, though the commercial value of timber enables me to perform important forest management and restoration work that I may not be able to otherwise fund. The public will be closely involved in the planning of and decisions made about such projects in the corridor.

Grazing is not an essential tool for managing vegetation in the corridor. Due to public reaction, I have decided it is not an appropriate tool to be included in the Plan. A very limited amount of existing grazing will be permitted to continue, but not to the detriment of water quality, riparian function, or other natural resources.

Riparian areas are critical to the health of the river and protection of water quality, and are important habitats for a wide diversity of wildlife and plant species. I feel very fortunate to be managing a recreational river such as the Metolius where the riparian areas, for the most part, are in excellent condition. The excellence in overall conditions makes the need to address the locally-serious damage that has occurred very apparent. I have established standards for managing these unacceptably impacted areas within the context of trail, campground, and developed area management.

Issue #3: What should be done to protect and manage the river's fish populations and habitat?

On the Metolius River, the fishery resource was identified as an Outstandingly Remarkable Value, thus requiring me to ensure its protection or enhancement. I will accomplish this by providing sustainable fish habitat and seeing that populations are managed according to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wild Fish Management Policy.

Large logs, overhanging vegetation, and undercut banks are very important habitat elements in the Metolius. Protection of banks and vegetation is a focus of my direction for riparian and trail management and restoration work.

Large logs and wood recruitment have been affected in the past and will continue to be affected by the need for public safety. In developed areas, hazard tree removal will continue to decrease the amount of wood available for natural recruitment. Habitat restoration projects will aid in addressing this loss.

Instream wood manipulation in the upper river is limited to minor manipulations of imminent hazards upstream from Gorge Campground and minimum adjustments for safe boating passage between Gorge Campground and Bridge 99. These activities will take place without losing all of the habitat value of the wood.

There will be no instream wood manipulation below Bridge 99. I do not believe that wood manipulation is consistent with my mandate to manage the Scenic river segment for its primitive character. Also, limited access would make wood manipulation difficult, dangerous, and potentially damaging to riparian resources.

Managing resident fish populations in the Metolius River is the responsibility of ODFW in cooperation with the Confederated Tribes and the Forest Service. The State Fish and Wildlife Commission has recently adopted management objectives for the Metolius that meet our intent to protect the ORV by managing under the Wild Fish Policy. The objectives are designed to maximize the protection of genetic diversity, adaptiveness, and abundance of wild fish. No hatchery fish will be released in the Metolius or tributaries. The authority to adjust or amend these rules rests solely with the State Fish and Wildlife Commission, and any future changes are outside the scope of this decision.

Issue #4: What should be done to manage and protect wildlife values in the river corridor?

Many actions that I have included in the Plan will have benefits to wildlife. Habitat restoration and road closures will help protect the health and vigor of wildlife populations. Vegetation management and the reintroduction of fire will favor those species adapted to the ecological conditions historically present in the Metolius area. Committing to the use of prescribed fire as the primary tool for vegetation management and restoration lessens my control over and ability to guarantee attainment of rigid habitat standards, especially those for snag and log retention.

Snags and down logs provide important habitat for many wildlife and invertebrate species. I believe that natural processes should determine snag and down log levels outside of developed areas. Inside developed areas, I have established standards which will guide the felling or removal of snags and logs. Public safety and the continuation of existing uses will take precedence over the habitat value of snags which have become hazard trees and obstructive down logs. The affected areas amount to a small percentage of the corridor and disturbances in developed areas have already compromised some of the habitat value of the snags and down logs they contain, so the removal of hazard trees and obstructive down logs will not result in significant impacts to the viability of wildlife populations.

Issue #5: What should be done to protect and manage aesthetic qualities and retain the existing character of the river corridor?

I believe that all of us who care about the Metolius share a sense that the scenic character of the basin has changed relatively little within the timeframe of our personal experience. I think we also have an expectation that change will continue at a much slower pace than in the rest of our world - that is a major part of the attraction of the Metolius. Accordingly, I have set Scenic Integrity Objectives for the river that maintain appearances essentially as they are today: the only changes being to improve or remove discordant elements where necessary. The river corridor above Gorge Campground will maintain its rustic rural character within a highly intact natural landscape, dominated by the river and large ponderosa pine trees. Below Gorge, and especially below Bridge 99, the objective is to maintain high or very high scenic integrity dominated by fully intact natural landscapes where elements such as roads, trails or facilities do not affect the overall landscape character.

Jefferson County and the State of Oregon through the State Scenic Waterway Rules have jurisdiction for managing uses on private lands. My objectives are to ensure that private, state, and federal land uses are compatible and complementary to protecting the Metolius River ORVs. Because the overlying objectives and regulations for land use may differ on Federal lands and private lands within and outside the State Scenic Waterway, my long-term goal is to reduce confusion for property owners and permit holders by seeking for as much consistency as possible between agencies.

Safety and water quality are my highest considerations in transportation planning and maintenance in the Corridor. I am managing motorized vehicles in a confined and designated manner to protect the natural setting, recreational experience, and river resources. Motorized travel is prohibited except on open roads. Parking outside of developed recreation sites is allowed only in designated parking areas. Centralized parking is established in areas which receive the most use and impacts from parking. Some road-side pullouts are hardened or relocated back from the river to be used as designated parking.

Safety is of particular concern to me around the Camp Sherman core. The Preferred Alternative of the DEIS suggested conversion of Rd 1419-900 to a one-way route with safety for bicyclists and motorists. I retain this intent, but have decided not to make this change until a comprehensive plan to improve safety on the roads around the Camp Sherman core area is developed in coordination with Jefferson County. This planning will consider methods to reduce congestion, provide better traffic flow, and move parking back from the river.

I have taken a management approach to road closures which first identifies the major roads to remain open for recreational access. Then I identified roads which should be closed for various resource reasons. The remaining roads are managed on a case-by-case basis, and may be subject to closure in the future.

The roads that I intend to close as a part of this plan are Rd 1419-700, Rd 1298, Rd 1499, and Rd 64. The closure, rehabilitation, or restoration of these roads reduces run-off,

erosion, and associated water quality impacts. In the case of Rd 700. conversion to a non-motorized trail will allow for the elimination and rehabilitation of the river trail in some areas, which will provide additional riparian and water quality benefits.

Motorized use is an expected and important part of the Recreational river segment, but not the Scenic segment. In the Scenic segment of the river corridor, road closures and the accompanying change in recreation use are necessary to promote the primitive recreation experience mandated in the Wild and Scenic River Act. Where access must be provided to private land, roads may be closed to public motorized use but remain as non-motorized trails to provide a different and desirable recreation opportunity.

I know that by closing some roads to motorized use I will have limited access to visitors that may have used these areas for many years. I am taking action to assess that impact and to provide for a reasonable transition from a motorized to a non-motorized recreation experience for the areas accessed by Roads 1499 and 1298. First, I will not close off access until the season after installation of the gates. Signs will be placed at the gates explaining why the roads are to be closed and suggesting alternative sites for motorized recreation. Secondly, a voluntary visitor registration system will be used to assess the effects of the closure on the condition of dispersed campsites, to determine the desired recreation experience, and to determine what areas are being used for motorized recreation in place of the closed areas.

Limiting seasonal access on Rd 64 is aimed at reducing vandalism of facilities and inappropriate recreation uses when a management presence is not provided at Monty campground. This closure will also limit disturbance during the early portion of the bald eagle nesting season.

Issue #6: How should the river's cultural values, including prehistoric sites, historic sites, and traditional uses, be protected and managed?

I recognize the non-renewable and generally fragile nature of prehistoric and historic resources. There is currently a sufficient body of law and regulations which provide protection for these resources. I am committed to involving the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in the determination of cultural significance, data collection, and protection of prehistoric resources. Their traditional use of this area is a value and right that will be honored and protected.

Historic features of the Metolius will be managed to avoid damage or detrimental change. My management direction for the Recreational river segment embraces the historic character and values of the Metolius. Many potentially historic features are privately owned, as in the case of the recreation residences, and so I have set forth objectives to work in partnership with special use permittees to protect the historic values and character of these features.

Issue #7: What types of recreational activities and experiences should be managed for in the river corridor, and how can these activities and experiences be provided without degrading the natural resources on which they depend?

I have approached recreation management with these overall objectives:

- Manage for existing uses to continue in a way that does not further impact or reduces impacts to resources, especially those that are riparian related.
- Some reductions in recreation capacity may result from resource protection measures, but I will try to minimize these reductions or mitigate their impacts on users.
- Managing impacts is more important and feasible than managing numbers of users.

Within campgrounds, vegetation is to be protected because it is important to maintaining privacy and a high quality natural setting for campers. I have placed a very high value on the protection and restoration of riparian vegetation and have established the objective of reducing the amount of developed area within 100' of the river in campgrounds.

Minor reductions in camping capacity and changes to site management are appropriate to protect resources, especially water quality and riparian vegetation. When resource protection measures reduce capacity in the campgrounds by more than 20%, I intend to look at options that will address the impact on overnight campers.

There is notable demand for day use facilities in the corridor. Converting the upstream portion of Smiling River campground into a day use facility will provide parking near Allingham Bridge and a very suitable and accessible location for day use. I believe this is an appropriate way to address the resource concerns generated by impacts of parking near the bridge and provide additional day use space. In response to comments, I have decided to maintain Pine Rest as a tent campground.

Streamside access is expected by Metolius River visitors. I have decided that committing some riparian area to this use by hardening and defining portions of the trail and some fishing access points is the most appropriate and realistic way to limit impacts. Options to eliminate or relocate the river trail would merely be working against the constant pressure of users seeking a riverside experience. My concern for limiting riparian development prevent me from maintaining a trail along the riverside that is safe and suitable for all types of trail uses. The Metolius River trail will remain a hiker only trail. Closed roads will provide some new opportunities for other trail users and help to alleviate the pressure for these uses on the river trail.

Just as parking places will be designated to confine the impacts of motorized vehicles on soils and vegetation, dispersed camping will only be allowed in designated sites. Some sites will be designated in the Recreational river segment, though dispersed camping is not an integral part of the upper river recreation experience. In the lower river, dispersed camping is an important component of the primitive recreation experience because it allows access to the more distant portions of the area. Sites will be designated to offer

privacy and protect resources. Those which have unacceptable impacts will be rehabilitated.

Boating

A comprehensive, interagency boating management strategy has been elusive largely because the managing agencies have not come to a common understanding about jurisdictions and authorities regarding boating management. The various agency positions are summarized as follows:

The Position of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation:

For countless generations, members of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and their ancestors have viewed the life giving waters of the Metolius River as a sacred gift from Creator. As is evidenced by the pristine condition of the land adjacent to the river on the Warm Springs Reservation, it is treated with not only respect but reverence by tribal members.

In the Treaty of June 25, 1855, between the United States and the Tribes and Bands of Middle Oregon, the Tribes ceded title to 10 million acres in Central Oregon to the United States while reserving title to lands comprising the Reservation. The United States agreed that the Tribes would have the exclusive use of their Reservation lands. The Tribes also reserved and were guaranteed the exclusive right to take fish in rivers and streams running through and bordering the Reservation. The Reservation boundary in the treaty is defined as:

> "commencing in the middle of the channel of the De Chutes River opposite the eastern termination of a range of high lands usually known as the Mutton Mountains; thence westerly to the summit of said range, along the divide to its connection with the Cascade Mountains; thence to the summit of said mountains; thence southerly to Mount Jefferson; thence down the main branch of De Chutes River: heading in this peak, to its junction with De Chutes River; and thence down the middle of the channel of said river to the place of beginning."

Historically, the Metolius River was considered the "main branch of the Deschutes River." The Tribes believe that the intent and language of the Treaty provided that the Tribes had complete jurisdiction over the Metolius and its waters where they adjoin the Reservation.

The Tribes believe that boating in the vicinity of the Reservation on the Metolius should be eliminated for a number of reasons:

1. The sacred nature of the Metolius River.
2. The need to restore fish habitat, primarily large down woody debris, and increase fish populations to maintain the culture of tribal members.
3. Continued boating in light of the tribal ban is an infringement on the sovereignty of the Tribe and their Treaty right to the exclusive use of lands and waters within the Reservation.

4. The danger to the members of the public and those that must rescue them or recover their bodies when boaters encounter problems on this very hazardous section of the river along the Reservation.
5. The desire of the Tribes to maintain the primitive nature of the lower Metolius.

The Tribes firmly believe that through the Treaty of 1855 they retain title to the bed and banks of the Metolius River and that banning boating on the lower Metolius is in both the public and the Tribal interest.

The Position of the State of Oregon:

Every state, upon admission to the Union, receives from the federal government all lands beneath "navigable" waterways. Thus, since 1859, Oregon has owned the bed and banks of all waterways that meet the federal navigability test. This was confirmed in the 1994 case of Oregon V. Tidewater Contractors in the U.S. District Court for Oregon, where Judge Hogan ruled that the Chetco River was navigable, and that therefore the state held its bed and banks in trust for the public.

Over the years, the Oregon Division of State Lands has gathered a considerable amount of evidence concerning the navigability of the Metolius River. The 1995 Legislative Assembly enacted HB 2697. which prohibits the state from asserting new navigability claims until rules establishing a new, more formalized navigability study process (including public hearings and public notice) are in place and particular waterways are studied through that process. Those rules were adopted by the State Land Board in 1996. Accordingly, at this point the state can neither assert nor waive a claim to the bed and banks of the Metolius River.

Also potentially relevant to the Metolius River is another, entirely separate, body of law typically known as the "floatage easement." This is a common law right that guarantees the public the right to float waterways regardless of who may own the underlying bed and banks. The Oregon floatage easement cases indicate that this right to float also includes the right to make reasonable. incidental use of the waterway's bed and banks. Because there are no Oregon cases in the context of modern recreational use, it is unclear whether the floatage easement includes the right to anchor on or wade in the river bed or to cast, picnic, camp or portage on the river bank. Moreover, no Oregon case addresses the floatage easement interaction with Indian treaty rights.

The Position of the USDA Forest Service:

The Forest Service cannot recognize the Metolius River as either a navigable waterway or submerged lands included within the reservation until these claims have been adjudicated in a court of law. Regardless of these claims, the Secretary of Agriculture through the Forest Service is charged, in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, with the authority to manage the surface of the Metolius River and the boating use which takes place thereon where

forest conditions indicate that boating would impair the purposes or administration of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Congress intended that the Scenic river segment and its adjacent land area be managed to provide a "primitive recreation experience" as defined in the ROS user guide.

Unrestricted boating would impair the attainment of this purpose of the Act. Prohibiting motorized boating and regulating non-motorized boating use is necessary to provide this primitive experience.

Protection or enhancement of Outstandingly Remarkable Values of the Metolius River is one the primary objectives of the river management plan and one of the purposes of the Act.

Pursuant to our authority, the Forest Service can eliminate or manage boating if local conditions indicate that boating is impairing the protection of instream and riparian resources which are essential elements of the Hydrology, Fisheries, and Vegetation/Ecology ORVs. Current conditions suggest the need for regulations, but do not warrant the removal of all boating use.

Whitewater boating is part of the Recreation ORV for the Metolius, and, therefore, must also be protected. Protection of an ORV is measured relative to its condition at the time of the river's designation; however, protection does not preclude regulations to protect other river values or to meet other purposes of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The Forest Service, as a neighbor and holder of tribal trust responsibilities, respects the Tribal values associated with the Metolius River and the Tribes' efforts to protect those values. We do not have the discretion to impose or enforce a ban on boating the Metolius based solely on these values. We are committed to educating river users about tribal values and encouraging boaters to respect these values.

The Metolius River provides a unique non-motorized boating experience. In low water seasons, it is often the only river available to northwest boaters that provides an experience which is remote and primitive. Boating has resulted in riparian impacts at launches and some loss of instream habitat where wood has been manipulated to provide passage. Boating has the potential for disturbing wildlife, and of particular concern are effects on nesting and foraging osprey and eagles in the Scenic segment. Though some limitation may be appropriate, there is no evidence that these impacts warrant a total ban on boating.

Until the differing claims and interests of the managing agencies can be resolved through continued negotiations or legal adjudication, the Forest Service has the responsibility to manage boating under the authority of the Wild and Scenic River Act.

Boating will be managed to accomplish these primary objectives:

- to emphasize safety,

- to preserve riparian and instream resources and habitat,
- to protect the primitive recreation experience in the lower river,
- to avoid trespass on tribal and private lands,
- to respect tribal values regarding the river,
- to manage use consistent with public trust doctrine, and
- to minimize administration and enforcement.

Until the issues of jurisdiction, ownership, and authority can be resolved, the following direction will guide the management of boating:

Upstream from Gorge Campground, wood is not managed to provide boating passage. Minimal manipulation of instream wood is allowed.

From Gorge Campground to Bridge 99, minimum safe boating passage is maintained when wood manipulation does not adversely impact riparian or instream habitat. Use is not limited, but registration may be required to establish a future threshold.

Downstream from Bridge 99, a registration system for boaters is used to determine use patterns and thresholds of use that maintain the desired, primitive recreation experience. Social setting objectives described for the Scenic river segment apply to water-based as well as land-based recreation. Modest boat landings are provided at Bridge 99 and Monty campground to minimize erosion and riparian impacts. Monty campground is closed seasonally and not available for boating take-out when the campground is closed. Wood is not manipulated for boating passage.

Boater education is emphasized in the registration system and at access points. Key messages are respect for Tribal land, values, and rights; protection of the resource, especially instream wood; and boater safety and need for competence. Hazard surveys are not done and comprehensive information on boating conditions is not guaranteed.

Motorized boating is prohibited on the river.

In order to resolve this issue, I remain open and committed to further discussion with the Tribes and the State of Oregon. A common understanding and agreement on the respective rights of the Tribes and the public is essential to the interests of all.

Issue #8: How should the lower river be managed to provide a primitive recreation experience?

In the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Congress directed the Secretary of Agriculture to manage the Scenic segment of the river to provide a primitive recreation experience. I consider the "primitive" and "recreation" facets of this direction to be equal in importance. My objectives are to maintain and protect a natural environment, predominately unmodified except for natural disturbance processes and the existing roads necessary for providing administrative access or access to private lands. This creates an essentially unique opportunity for a low elevation primitive non-motorized recreation experience.

Many of the specific actions I will implement here have been discussed above, such as trail and fishing access rehabilitation and designated dispersed camping. As mentioned in the discussion of road closures, I intend to place gates on Rd 1499 and Rd 64 to restrict motorized access except to the private land owners. I will use a registration system similar to that used in our Wilderness Areas to determine actual use levels. The primitive recreation experience we are directed by the Act to provide is based on limited contact and interaction amongst visitors. I recognize that solitude and interaction are relative terms and perceptions may vary between individuals. For example, a raft passing an occupied campsite may constitute an encounter for the camper, but not the boater. Because the recreation experience objectives are based on number of encounters, the registration system will be designed to allow the users latitude in defining what they consider interaction with other visitors. I may take other actions in the future if necessary to reduce recreational impacts to either natural resources or the desired primitive experience.

Issue #9: What is the appropriate role of commercial and other special uses in the river corridor?

The non-commercial character of the river is a part of the Metolius recreation experience. Protection of this recreation experience as well as the river's natural resources and availability of recreation space for general public use were the primary considerations in my decision regarding the management of special uses. I will consider permitting commercial special uses and special uses which involve development only when they respond to a demonstrated need. Special uses which do not involve development may be appropriate in the corridor as long as they have a negligible impact on natural resources and existing recreation uses. I have established criteria which will be used to evaluate proposals for their consistency with this intent.

I will no longer approve the use of National Forest lands for new septic systems which service facilities on private land because I feel strongly that this category of special use is not appropriate in a Wild and Scenic River corridor. I am denying this use because private land uses are appropriately limited by the ability of private land to support them.

Issue #10: How should the 108 recreation residences be managed in a manner compatible with Wild and Scenic designation?

Recreation residence structures and on-lot landscapes are an existing use that will continue. I will manage this use to protect key riparian components, the historic character of the structures, and the dominance of the river in the landscape character of the area. The guidelines established for structural remodeling and expansion recognize that some new ground disturbance is an acceptable part of the continuation of this existing use, though designs should minimize this impact and not result in a visible increase in the presence of structures as viewed from the river.

Recreation residence tracts are managed with the goal of increasing riparian function. It is my intention to provide education and incentives for recreation residents to achieve this goal. Unacceptable impacts to riparian vegetation are defined in the Plan, and rehabilitation of these areas is expected.

Septic systems which service recreation residences are to be inventoried and inspected with the intention of preventing or detecting any contamination of ground or surface water. Annual water system testing will complement water quality monitoring programs by providing additional data. These tests will also guard the health of recreation residents and their guests.

I am in a partnership with the recreation residents, and accordingly, I have taken an approach to the management of their residences which empowers them to fill a role as leaders in the conservation and protection of the unique values of the Metolius. I have chosen not to take a heavily regulatory tone in the management plan, and look to the process of revising the Metolius Tract Objectives as the means of implementing, in more detail, the intent of the plan.

Issue #11: How should the unique qualities and the management policies of the Metolius be shared with the public through education and interpretation?

I consider education and interpretation of the values and sensitivity of the Metolius to be one of the most important parts of the Plan. If we can reach visitors and residents with messages that stress resource respect and protection, stewardship and responsibility, then the Plan will be a success and the river will go on as we envision. If we don't reach the users, and help them learn to respect the resources and behave appropriately, then no amount of regulations, closures, rehabilitation will be sufficient to protect the river.

It is also important that interpretation and education methods be consistent and compatible with the character of the river corridor. Accordingly, I have not proposed permanent facilities such as large signboards, kiosks, and visitor centers, except for a campfire circle at Allingham Guard Station. Large signs will be limited to existing facilities such as campground signboards; smaller temporary signs may used in association with rehabilitation projects or designated areas such as parking and dispersed campsites. Education and interpretive programs will be small, and will not be promoted outside the local area. Residents of the local community will play an important role in getting our message out, and can be our strongest partners in an effective education program.

Public Involvement

Public Involvement for the Metolius River began in 1989 when the Deschutes held a series of public meetings to identify issues associated with all of the proposed Wild and Scenic Rivers on the forest. In this first planning effort, additional public involvement occurred during the development and review of the Resource Assessment.

In 1991, the Forest Service contracted with Land and Water Associates to complete the planning process. Land and Water initiated a series of well attended public meetings in Camp Sherman, Bend, and Salem. These meetings were used to introduce the planning process and to define issues.

In February. 1992. the Public Work Group was formed. consisting of members of the public interested in actively participating in the planning process. This group met nine times through 1992.

Land and Water presented issues and preliminary alternatives to the public in June, 1992. Public meetings were held in Camp Sherman, Bend, Warm Springs, and Portland; significant changes were proposed.

In December. 1992, the contract with Land and Water ended, and a new Interagency planning effort began. The Metolius Coordination Group was formed from representatives of the Deschutes National Forest, The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, state of Oregon, and Jefferson County. This group sets direction and coordinates agency interests for the planning process. The Interagency Interdisciplinary Team was formed with resource specialists from all of the interested agencies. This ID Team developed the alternatives and determined the environmental consequences.

In 1993 through 1994, two additional packages of alternatives were developed and reviewed by the Coordination Group, the Public Work Group, and the general public. Several public meetings were held to discuss the alternatives. Working meetings of the Interagency ID Team have been open to the public with opportunities to comment and ask questions.

A planning update, in newsletter form, was distributed to all parties on the Metolius Wild and Scenic river mailing list in early 1995. The newsletter announced a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that was made available to anyone interested. Several public meetings were held to discuss the Alternatives and other material presented in the "draft" DEIS. These meetings were also used as an opportunity for the public to express interests to be shared with the Metolius Coordination Group prior to the selection of the Preferred Alternative. This was billed as the last formal opportunity for public participation prior to the printing and distribution of the actual DEIS.

A ninety-day public comment period followed the release of the DEIS in November of 1995. Over 700 copies of the DEIS were distributed for public and agency review. From December 1995 through February 1996, public meetings were held in Sisters, Wilsonville, Camp Sherman, Bend, and Warm Springs. Opportunities for oral comments were given at most meetings. Written comments could be submitted by mail, FAX, or on-line until the close of the comment period on February 16, 1996.

The substantive comments received on the DEIS are displayed in Appendix A of the FEIS, along with responses. These comments were used to correct and amend the DEIS as well as develop the final proposed action for management of the Metolius River.

Comment Summary

The Sisters Ranger District received a total of 104 responses to the Metolius Wild and Scenic River Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Of those, the majority (60%) came from Oregon, outside of central Oregon, and Washington. Thirty-four percent of the comments came from residents of Central Oregon, concentrated in Bend, Sisters and Camp Sherman. Six percent were respondents from other areas in the U.S. including non-resident owners at Black Butte Ranch, national rafting interest groups, and visitors from out of state.

Type of Respondent	Number
Individuals	68
Interest Groups	17
Government	2
Commercial Business	4
Recreation Residents	11

The largest group of respondents were individuals (64%), with many of them having ties to interest groups. In the analysis, those who indicated that they were recreation residence owners were tallied separately. Interest groups included home owners associations, fishing, boating and environmental groups. Government respondents included Environmental Protection Agency and a coordinated input from the state of Oregon through Governor Kitzhaber's office.

Alternatives Considered

In October, 1995, The Metolius Wild and Scenic River Management Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement was released to the public. The purpose of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was to analyze and disclose the impacts of implementing different management alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative, which addressed the issues and protected the resource values of the Metolius River. The planning team proposed the Preferred Alternative as the best response to the issues and the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

In the DEIS, six Alternatives (Chapter 2 of the DEIS) for cooperatively managing the natural and recreational resources of the Metolius River and adjacent lands were described. The Alternatives responded to eleven major issues identified in the planning process by the public and the interested agencies. The Alternatives present a range of reasonable options for managing the resources of the Metolius River. The Environmental Consequences (Chapter 4 of the DEIS) then discussed the implication or effects of implementing each alternative. The effects of each alternative are discussed relative to the existing resource condition or the Affected Environment (Chapter 3 of the DEIS).

Alternative 1

Alternative 1 is the "No Action" alternative. The existing management as directed by the 1990 Deschutes Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) would continue, although

some further analysis and decisions would be necessary to address issues and activities that have been administratively deferred until completion of this plan. Resource protection and rehabilitation would be on a limited, case-by-case basis. Resource impacts from recreational use would continue to occur. Recreational capacity and the range of available activities would be unchanged. Most existing facilities would be managed as they are now, thereby maintaining the current recreational experience. The Scenic river segment would continue to provide a primitive, motorized experience. The status of legal access for boaters would continue to be uncertain.

Alternative 2

Alternative 2 actively manages the area to maintain the existing conditions. The changes to existing management focus on preventing impacts or degradation. There is a low investment in regulation, protection, or rehabilitation. Where impacts to natural resources are determined to be significant, the impacting activity or facility is managed in the simplest, least cost way that provides necessary protections. Recreational capacity, the range of activities, and the type of recreational experience are little altered, except where significant resource impacts or management issues necessitate change. The Scenic river segment provides a primitive, motorized experience. Boating is not permitted downstream from Bridge 99.

Alternative 3

Alternative 3 accommodates existing activities and facilities when natural resources can be protected or impacts can be mitigated. There is a moderate investment in resource protection and rehabilitation. Some site controls and administrative regulations manage use and protect natural resources. Where resources cannot be protected or impacts mitigated, the activity or facility may be removed. No new facilities are proposed. Recreation capacity is maintained at a slightly lower level than exists today, particularly in developed and dispersed campsites. Some recreation facilities would be managed to provide a more primitive experience. The Scenic river segment provides a non-motorized primitive experience between the private property on Rd 1499 and Monty campground. Boating is permitted on a limited, year round basis.

Alternative 4

Alternative 4 accommodates existing activities and facilities only where natural resources are thoroughly protected. There is a very high emphasis on resource protection. Rehabilitation is primarily achieved over long time frames using natural processes. Most of the river corridor is in a primitive or undeveloped condition. Facilities or activities that have impacts to natural resources are generally removed rather than mitigated. Recreational capacity is much less than currently exists, especially for developed campsites. The recreational experience is much more primitive, and day use is encouraged more than overnight use. The Scenic river segment provides an entirely non-motorized experience. Boating is not permitted anywhere on the river.

Alternative 5

Alternative 5 provides new and improved facilities and a wider range of activities which are designed to protect the river's natural resources. There is a high investment in resource protection and rehabilitation. Site controls and administrative regulations are used extensively. Where resources are unacceptably impacted, mitigation or hardening accommodates the use. Additional facilities are proposed in this alternative, inside and outside the corridor. These facilities are designed to draw visitors away from heavily used, highly impacted, or sensitive areas. The recreational experience is similar to what exists now. The Scenic river segment provides a primitive, motorized experience as exists today. Boating is permitted on a limited, seasonal basis.

The Preferred Alternative

The Preferred Alternative is a combination of management actions selected by the Metolius River Interagency Coordination Group, primarily from options presented in the other five alternatives. The management objectives place a high emphasis on protection and rehabilitation of the natural resources. There is a moderate to high investment in physical traffic and site controls and/or administrative rules and limited entry permit systems. Recreational capacity is maintained at or slightly below the current level for most user groups. New facility development is limited to that which would protect or improve conditions for natural resources. Many existing recreational facilities would be modified or managed to provide a more primitive experience. In the Scenic river segment, motorized access is restricted between Candle Creek and Monty campgrounds. Boating is permitted on a limited, seasonal basis.

Environmentally Preferable Alternative

Previously in the Record of Decision, I have described the selected alternative and provided reasons for its selection. NEPA regulations also require that one or more environmentally preferable alternatives be identified. "The environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in NEPA's Section 101. Ordinarily, this means the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it also means the alternative which best preserves and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources." (Council on Environmental Quality, "Forty Most Asked Questions Concerning CEQ's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations, Question 6a" {40 CFR 1500-1508}, Federal Register Vol. 46, No. 55, 18026-18038, March 23, 1981.)

Any of the alternatives would provide the protection to the environment required by the Wild and Scenic rivers Act. Based on that criteria and knowledge of the activities which have the greatest impact on the historic, cultural, and natural resources within the river corridor, Alternative 4 would be the environmentally preferable alternative. This alternative removes some existing facilities and activities, places the highest emphasis on rehabilitation using natural processes, and provides a recreational capacity lower than what exists today. However, this alternative would not, in my opinion, best meet the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, nor does it best promote the national environmental policy. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires the Forest Service to protect and enhance the Outstandingly remarkable Values. Alternative 4 would unduly limit access to the river for boaters and other visitors, particularly overnight campers and

recreational residences. This would not enhance the recreational values found to be Outstandingly Remarkable. Additionally, the focus on natural recovery processes rather than active rehabilitation means that some adverse resource conditions will continue for long into the future.

Implementation

Schedules and Budgets

A Cooperative Management Agreement with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the state of Oregon will be the next step in this planning process. This agreement will provide consistency between federal Wild and Scenic River designation and tribal Wild and Scenic River designation under their Integrated Resource Management Plan.

The Metolius River Management Plan will be implemented based on the priorities for action discussed therein. Most individual projects or actions will be subject to additional site-specific analysis and public disclosure in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. This may result in a decision not to proceed with the proposed action even if it is compatible with the Metolius River Management Plan. Other adjustments to the implementation schedule and priorities may occur based on the results of budgeting, monitoring , or unforeseen events.

Upon implementation of the Metolius River Management Plan, all projects and activities will be in compliance with Plan direction. Subject to valid existing rights, all permits, contracts, cooperative agreements, and other instruments for use and occupancy of the National Forest System lands within the Metolius Wild and Scenic River corridor are to be consistent with management direction adopted by this Record of Decision.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring provides information on the progress and results of implementation. The data that is gathered is evaluated to determine whether projects or activities are being implemented as planned. Monitoring is also used to set or determine baselines or thresholds for future action. It is also used to assess the effectiveness of projects and activities in meeting the intent of the Management Plan and the Wild and Scenic rivers Act. The monitoring program adopted as part of my decision is based wherever possible on the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process. This process emphasizes the measuring of change to a desired condition or experience, rather than determining the level of use or capacity an area or resource can tolerate. In an area as socially influenced as the Metolius, the process is not used to prevent human-induced change, which would be nearly impossible. Instead, LAC is used to determine what changes should occur, how much change should be allowed, what actions should be taken to control or limit change, and how to identify when the limits or thresholds have been reached.

Findings Required by Other Laws or Regulations

Consultation Required by the Endangered Species Act

Consultation on the Preferred Alternative was conducted with the US Fish and wildlife Service in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. The biological evaluations done for threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and animal species found no effect on any listed species. The Fish and Wild life Service concurred with this evaluation.

Review by the Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviewed the Draft EIS and responded in a letter that raised "no environmental objections to the proposed project."

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and State Scenic Waterways Legislation

This Plan meets the intent and direction provided in the designating legislation.

Other Laws, Regulations, and Guiding Documentation

The Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) identifies the Metolius Wild and Scenic River as a land management area. This Record of Decision amends the plan to provide direction for managing this Management Area. The river corridor falls within the Metolius Conservation Area which is a portion of the Deschutes National Forest set apart to be managed differently than other lands. My decision supports the goals and themes of the Metolius Conservation Area. It also incorporates forest-wide Standards and Guidelines which result in consistency with the LRMP.

My decision is consistent with Northwest Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines for Late Successional Reserves and the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives. These elements of the plan provide for the protection of riparian resources and late-successional habitat.

The State of Oregon's Wild Fish Management Policy and Upper Deschutes River Basin Fish Management Plan apply to the Metolius River. Management actions in this decision are fully consistent with the State's fisheries management.

The Metolius River from the headwaters to Candle Creek is a designated State Scenic Waterway. This Plan is consistent with the State Scenic Waterway Rules.

Jefferson County's Camp Sherman Comprehensive Plan is currently being reviewed and revised. My decision is consistent with the current comprehensive plan.

The Metolius River Management Plan complies with the Record of Decision for the Final EIS for Managing Competing and Unwanted Vegetation, (December 1988) and the Mediated Agreement of May 1989. Unwanted vegetation will be treated using a variety of methods, including manual, mechanical, biological, prescribed burning, and herbicides. Projects will comply with the Mediated Agreement by following direction provided in the Region 6 Guide to Conducting Vegetation Management Projects in the Pacific Northwest Region.

I have considered relevant laws and regulations including: the Clean Air Act as amended; the Clean Water Act; Protection of Wetlands Executive Order 11990; the Safe Drinking Water Act; the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended; the Archeological Resources Act of 1979; the Native American Religious Freedom Act ; and the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Furthermore, I have considered the effects disclosed in the FEIS and the comments received during the public involvement process. I have concluded that my decision, with the required mitigation measures discussed above, meets all applicable laws, regulations, and policies and is consistent with the purposes for which the Metolius Wild and Scenic River was designated.

Amendment and Revision Process

The Deschutes LRMP, including the direction contained herein, may be changed either by an amendment or a revision. Such changes may be made as a result of monitoring or project analysis (see Deschutes LRMP, Chapter 5). An amendment may become necessary as a result of situations such as:

- Recommendations based on the review of monitoring results.
- 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, litigation, or legislation.
- 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 Forest Supervisor shall determine whether a proposed amendment would 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 not determined to be significant, the Forest Supervisor may implement the amendment after appropriate public notice and compliance with NEPA. The procedure is described by 36 CFR 219.10(e) and 36 CFR 219.12(k), FSM 1922.51-52 and FSH 1909.12.

The Regional Forester will approve significant amendments and the Forest Supervisor will approve 'nonsignificant' amendments. The determination of significance must be documented in a decision notice and would 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).

- A description of the amendment.
- Rationale for the amendment.
- A statement of NFMA significance relating to changes to the Forest Plan. (36 CFR 219.18f)
- A statement of NEPA compliance (40 CFR 1500-1508, FSM 1950, FSH 1909.15) regarding effects on the environment and how effects disclosed in the Forest Plan EIS may change as a result of the amendment.
- A statement of appeal rights.

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, procedures described in 36 CFR 219.12 will be followed.

Effective Date and Implementation

This decision will be implemented no sooner than 30 days after the Notice of Availability appears in the Federal Register.

For More Information

If you would like more information about the Metolius Wild and Scenic River Management Plan or Environmental Impact Statement or would like to review planning records, please contact Rod Bonacker, Sisters Ranger District, P.O. Box 249, Sisters, Oregon 97759 (541)549-2111.

Right to Administrative Review

I encourage anyone concerned about the Metolius Wild and Scenic River Management Plan or Environmental Impact Statement to contact the Sisters District Ranger before submitting an appeal. It may be possible to resolve the concern or misunderstanding in a less formal manner.

This decision is appealable under two different appeal regulations. Because an appeal filed under the wrong regulations cannot be considered, it is important that potential appellants be sure that they are following the proper procedure for the appropriate regulations. Questions can be addressed to: NEPA Coordinator, Sisters Ranger District.

The road closure portion of this decision (see page nine above) is subject to administrative review (appeal) pursuant to **36 CFR 215.7**. Any written notice of appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with **36 CFR 215.14**, providing sufficient evidence and rationale to show why the decision should be remanded or reversed.

The remainder of this decision may be appealed in accordance with the provisions **of 36 CFR 217**. Any written notice of appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with **36 CFR 217.9.** For a period not to exceed 20 days following the filing of a first level Notice of Appeal, the Reviewing Officer (Regional Forester) shall accept requests to intervene in the appeal from any interested or potentially affected person or organization (36 CFR 217.14(a)).

A written notice of appeal must be filed with the Regional Forester within 45 days of the date legal notice of this decision appears in the Bend Bulletin (Bend Oregon). Mail written notice of appeal to:

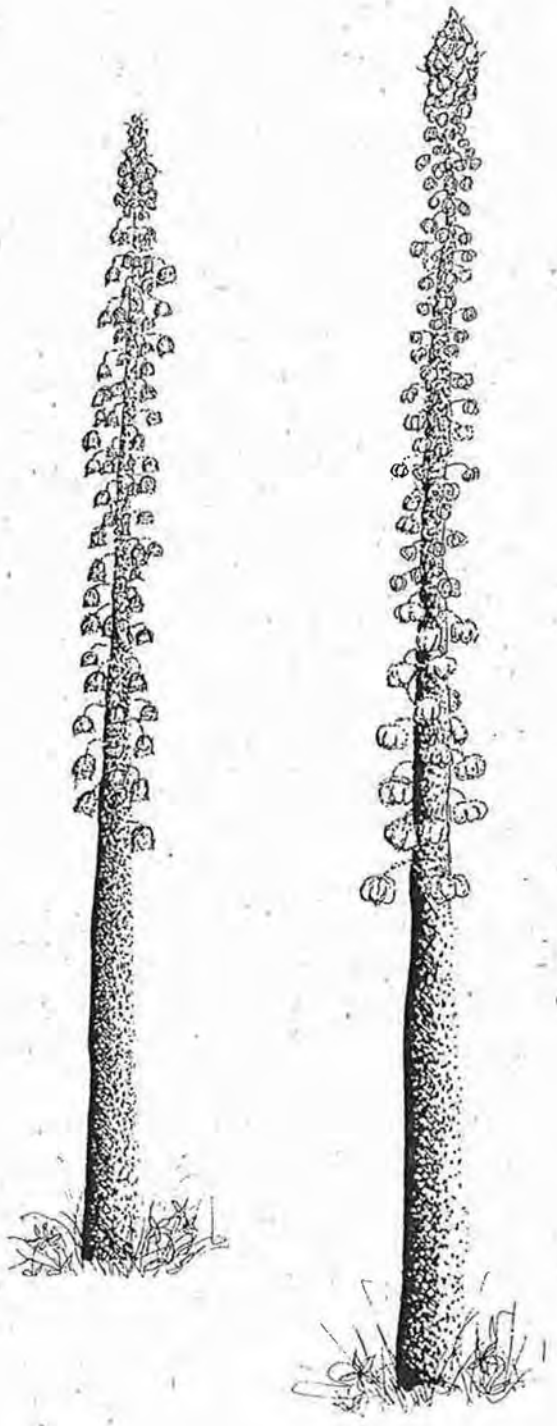
Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Region
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623
Attention: 1570 Appeals

Sally Collins — May 27, 1997

Sally Collins
Forest Supervisor

Management Plan

Metolius Wild and Scenic River



USDA Forest Service, Deschutes National Forest
Sisters Ranger District, Jefferson County, Oregon

Management Plan

Metolius Wild and Scenic River

The Metolius Wild and Scenic River Plan provides the goals, objectives, and standards and guidelines for the management of the river corridor. The management goals differ for the Recreation and the Scenic river segments. Objectives are described for each resource to be managed. The standards and guidelines provide direction which is intended to guide accomplishment of the objectives.

The standards and guidelines define the framework within which all planning and implementation of practices and projects will be carried out in the Metolius Wild and Scenic River corridor. There are several sources for standards and guidelines which apply to the Metolius Wild and Scenic River corridor: the 1990 Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP), the Northwest Forest Plan, and the Wild and Scenic River Plan.

The Metolius Wild and Scenic River Management Area falls within the Metolius Conservation Area of the LRMP (MA-28A). The goals of the Wild and Scenic River Management Area are designed to support and tier to the overall goals of the Conservation Area. In so doing, the river corridor is managed as an integral and connected portion of the Metolius Basin landscape.

Metolius Wild and Scenic River Management Goals

Recreation River Segment	The area is managed to protect and perpetuate a recreation experience in a historic setting amidst the beauty of the Metolius River and its surrounding ponderosa pine forest. The highly intact natural surroundings and historic character of the human alterations provides the setting for recreation which emphasizes enduring traditional activities (camping, fishing, and hiking). Social encounters and concentrated use are expected and accommodated to the extent that they do not noticeably impact resources outside of designated areas. Away from developed areas and the immediate river environs, the opportunity for solitude still exists. Along the river, visitors will see abundant diversity of species and structure. Riparian areas provide scenic beauty and natural functions which protect the cold, clean waters of the river. Majestic, mature forests with large trees, snags, and downed material are dominant along the river and in the uplands. Stands with two or more canopy levels may be seen, but will be highlighted by the largest trees in the stand. Understories are dominated by grasses and wildflowers with shrubs most prevalent in riparian areas. Corridor users are stewards. Interpretation, education, and volunteer efforts engender understanding and respect for the area's natural values and other visitors. Residents and long-time users take a leadership role in handing-down their love for the Metolius to new visitors and future generations.

Scenic River Segment	The area is managed to protect and perpetuate a predominantly unmodified environment where natural ecological processes can continue. The diversity of habitat provides for a wide variety of wildlife, especially riparian-dependent and riverine species. This setting provides an opportunity for non-motorized recreation in a unique setting of a large, low elevation, undeveloped area. Limited social contact and interactions are expected. Visitors have a feeling of remoteness and solitude, though visitor controls and restrictions which limit impacts and protect the experience are present. The termini of the Scenic river segment will provide a transition between this experience and that provided in the Recreation river segment and Lake Billy Chinook.

Management Objectives, Standards, and Guidelines

For Managing Water Quality And Quantity:

The cold, clear waters and stable flows of the Metolius are the cornerstone of the area's ecology and recreational appeal. Water quality throughout the corridor is managed for the highest quality possible, and degradation is detected and addressed. Water level stability and high instream flows are desired.

- Water quality standards are established to maintain or improve existing water quality. (MTWQ-1)
- Instream flows are protected when considering proposed water uses, diversions, and renewal of permits. (MTWQ-2)
- Instream flows are established with the appropriate state agencies and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. New instream water rights or transfers of existing rights from willing holders are pursued if needed to protect ORVs. (MTWQ-3)
- Applications of chemical agents in streams and riparian areas are restricted to actions such as tracing movement of flows, or detection and control of water pollution. (MTWQ-4)
- Mixing and loading operations for any chemical or biological application will take place in an area where an accidental spill will not flow into natural surface water bodies. (MTWQ-5)
- Suction hoses or pumps used for chemical or biological applications will not be used to draw water from natural surface water bodies. (MTWQ-6)
- All water supply dams and major diversion structures are prohibited in the lower river, new ones are prohibited in the upper river. (MTWQ-7)
- Flood control dams and levees are prohibited. (MTWQ-8)
- Maintenance of existing road and bridge riprap and support structures is subject to analysis of effects to the free-flowing nature of the river as defined by Section 7 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. (MTWQ-9)
- Response to hazardous material spills is coordinated between agencies. (MTWQ-10)

For Managing Ecological Values:

Biodiversity

Coarse filter and fine filter conservation strategies are used as aids in the prediction and prevention of significant downward trends and irretrievable loss of genetic diversity, population numbers or densities, and habitat capability.

Upland Vegetation

The desired forest conditions are: 1) healthy as defined by the ability to tolerate stress and recover from disturbance; 2) dominated by open stands of large trees, usually Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine, or western larch; 3) have understories of appropriate densities necessary to supply future replacement trees as well as structural and habitat diversity; 4) have numbers of snags and large down logs sufficient to provide viability for dependent species; 5) have forest canopies adjacent to the river of sufficient density to maintain the stream temperature requirements of the benefiting resources.

- Restore upland vegetation in areas that are outside the range of desired conditions as defined by the Limits of Acceptable Change. (MTEV-1)

Riparian Vegetation

The desired riparian conditions are: 1) vegetation communities dominated by shrubs and trees that overhang the stream and provide shade sufficient to maintain stream temperatures, 2) forbs and grasses are predominately native species, 3) islands, meadows, and small patches of early seral vegetation are present, 4) large logs and other woody material are in or directly adjacent to the stream.

- Restore riparian vegetation in areas that are outside the range of desired conditions as defined by the Limits of Acceptable Change. (MTEV-2)

Vegetation Management

Upland vegetation restoration outside of the developed areas is achieved primarily through natural succession and disturbance processes, supplemented by prescribed fire. Other tools may be used to attain desired vegetation conditions where natural process have been altered or to enable the safe and efficient use of prescribed fire. There is no programmed timber harvest in the corridor.

In the Scenic segment, vegetation management is performed only when it is consistent with the primitive character of the river. Prescribed natural fire is the primary method of vegetation management, but small scale, low intensity prescribed burning and understory thinning may be used to reduce understory densities.

- Prescribed fire is the preferred means of restoring desired vegetative conditions. (MTEV-3)
- Prescribed natural fire is used under the direction of an approved Fire Management Plan in the Scenic river segment. This plan also establishes wildfire suppression strategies that are

consistent with the primitive character of the area, but that continue to place primary priority on preventing escape to private or Tribal lands. (MTEV-4)

- Timber harvest, salvage, harvest of commercial forest products, and firewood cutting are only used to restore desired vegetation conditions, enable the safe and efficient use of prescribed fire, or protect surrounding stands which are at risk from high intensity disturbance. (MTEV-5)
- Reduce fuel loads in riparian areas only when necessary to protect life and property. Handpiling or low intensity burns are the preferred treatment methods. Woody material larger than 15 inches in diameter will be protected or redistributed to the greatest extent possible. (MTEV-6)
- Heavy equipment may only be used in riparian areas for restoration of riparian resources provided impacts to soils, water, or vegetation can be mitigated and immediately restored. (MTEV-7)
- Plantings should be predominantly of native stock, preferably from within the watershed, or short-lived non-native stock. (MTEV-8)
- Firewood cutting and commercial harvest of special forest products are permitted only in designated areas to meet vegetation management goals or other resource needs. (MTEV-9)

Grazing

Grazing is not an essential or appropriate tool for managing vegetation in the corridor. To the very limited extent that it is an enduring traditional or historic use, it will be permitted. When necessary for the utilization of out-of-the-corridor grazing allotments, crossing may be permitted. These uses will be administered to protect corridor resources, especially those that are riparian related.

- Grazing is only permitted under Crossing Permits and the existing special use pasture permit. (MTEV-10)

Weeds

Weed prevention and early detection efforts are emphasized. Herbicide application is selective, site-specific, and in accordance with an Integrated Weed Management Plan (scheduled to be developed for the Deschutes National Forest), and the Region 6 Mediated Agreement for Managing Unwanted Vegetation. Weed control is coordinated between agencies. Weed awareness is pursued through education.

- Chemical herbicides are used only where biological or manual control is impractical or ineffective in preventing degradation of native plant habitat (MTEV-11)

For Managing Fish Populations And Habitat:

Fish Populations

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) manages fish populations in the river cooperatively with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. Through the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Forest Service must ensure the protection and enhancement of native fish populations as an Outstandingly Remarkable Value. The wild fish populations of the Metolius are protected through ODFW's Wild Fish Policy.

- Wild fish populations are managed under the direction of the Upper Deschutes Basin Fish Management Plan. (MTFP-1)

Fish Habitat

The abundance of instream habitat, particularly instream wood, undercut banks, and overhanging vegetation on the Metolius is primarily the product of a very stable, natural system. Natural processes of wood recruitment will be affected by some adjustment for public safety. Active restoration may augment wood recruitment or increase instream structure where natural processes have been altered. Protection of instream and riparian resources and visual integrity is a requisite of habitat restoration and wood manipulation.

- Restoration of fish habitat is primarily through natural processes of infall and distribution. (MTFH-1)
- Active habitat restoration may be performed in areas where hazard tree management or wood adjustment for boating have altered natural processes, or the availability of large woody material has been altered. (MTFH-2)
- Active habitat restoration will appear comparable to habitat formed from natural processes. (MTFH-3)
- Instream work including fish habitat restoration is performed only between May 1 and August 1 of any year to protect rearing and spawning fish. (MTFH-4)
- Upstream from Gorge Campground, instream wood that poses an imminent hazard may undergo minor manipulation for safety, but not to provide boating passage. Hazards brought to the attention of the managing agencies may be trimmed, limbed, or otherwise rendered safe with a minimum reduction in the habitat value. Imminent hazards are defined as those which are located in such a way that they cannot be detected in time to avoid by standing up or portaging around them. (MTFH-5)
- Between Gorge Campground and Bridge 99, minimum safe boating passage is maintained in a manner that minimizes riparian impact and rertains the most benefit to instream habitat. (MTFH-6)
- Downstream from Bridge 99, there is no wood manipulation. (MTFH-7)

For Managing Wildlife And Habitat:

Snags

Snags are an important habitat component and appear in rich abundance throughout the corridor as a result of natural processes. In developed areas, public safety takes precedence over the habitat value of snags which have become hazard trees. Hazard tree operations may provide opportunities for retention or creation of some fish or wildlife habitat. In the uplands where prescribed fire is used, it is possible that snag objectives will not be met in the short-term and snag levels will be commensurate to those resulting from fire disturbance.

- Inside developed areas (campgrounds, special use areas, utility corridors, roadways), hazard trees or snags over 14" dbh are generally felled or topped to reduce risk to the associated use. Hazard trees less than 14" dbh are generally felled. (MTWH-1)
- Outside of developed areas, snag levels are determined by natural processes. (MTWH-2)
- Where snag levels may be affected by vegetation management, snags are managed to provide 100% maximum population potential for dependent species. Where such quantities do not exist, existing levels will be maintained or increased where possible. (MTWH-3)

Down Logs

Down logs are an important habitat component and source of soil nutrients which appear in rich abundance throughout the corridor as a result of natural processes. In developed areas the habitat value of down logs in areas of established use is not significant, and the use may be accommodated. With the use of prescribed fire, it is possible that down log objectives will not be met in the short-term and down log levels will be commensurate to those resulting from fire disturbance.

- In developed areas, down logs are retained whenever possible. Retention is not expected if the log poses an immediate safety hazard or it falls on or across an existing improvement or area of established use. When removing segments of a log addresses the safety hazard or clears the area of established use, this is preferable to removing the entire log. (MTWH-4)
- In areas where down logs may be affected by vegetation treatments, a minimum of 120 linear feet per acre of logs will be maintained where such quantities exists. Where such quantities do not exist, existing levels will be maintained or increased. (MTWH-5)
- Down logs managed for habitat are a minimum of 15" in diameter and 12 ft long. (MTWH-6)

For Managing Aesthetic Qualities And Scenic Character:

The desired appearance of the Metolius corridor is that of a natural-appearing landscape which is characterized by the dominance of the river and the desired vegetative conditions and objectives set forth in this plan. Upstream from Gorge Campground, the area is a "cultural" rural class landscape characterized by rustic, historic-appearing structures amid, but not dominant in, a highly-intact, natural setting. Vegetation outside the corridor boundary but within the seen area of the lower river is managed in a manner which retains its scenic integrity.

For the purposes of this plan, visual objectives are defined by the Scenery Management System as described in Agriculture Handbook 701, Landscape Aesthetics (December, 1995).

- The Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO) for the Recreational river segment is High. In the Scenic river segment, the SIO is Very High. (MTSQ -1)
- The corridor upstream from Gorge Campground is managed as a "cultural" rural class landscape. Structures in this area maintain a rustic, historic appearance and remain subordinate in the middle ground and background. (MTSQ-2)
- Scenic easements on private lands that are important to meet SIOs are pursued from willing sellers. (MTSQ-3)
- All structures on National Forest land have scenic composition representing the appropriate landscape character or are screened from view. (MTSQ -4)

For Managing Land Uses:

The river corridor is managed for the greatest consistency across public and private ownership as is possible in the application of all objectives of this plan.

For Managing Transportation And Roads:

Motorized use is an expected and important part of the Recreational river segment, but not the Scenic river segment. In the upper river, motorized vehicles are managed with controls and limitations designed to protect the natural setting and river resources. Safety and water quality are the highest considerations in transportation planning and maintenance. Opportunities to minimize traffic and road impacts on riparian areas, visual quality, and recreation experiences are pursued.

- New road construction, reconstruction, and maintenance is designed to the minimum standard necessary to meet the objectives of this plan. (MTTP-1)
- Private access across NFS lands is managed to reduce road density. No rights-of-way or easements are granted for new road construction on NFS lands unless there is no other reasonable access to private lands or the construction has a substantial resource benefit. (MTTP-2)
- Existing road bridges are consolidated when possible and maintained to the appropriate standards for safety, appearance, and protection of resources and free-flowing character of the river. Maintenance is performed so that it protects riparian vegetation, streambanks, instream habitat, and water quality. (MTTP-3)
- No new road bridges are constructed, except to replace existing structures. (MTTP-4)
- Reconstruction of private bridges on NFS land is permitted if it is the only reasonable means of access. (MTTP-5)
- Motorized vehicle use is prohibited, except on open roads. (MTTP-6)

- Parking areas are designated. Some road-side pullouts are hardened or relocated and set back from the river to be used as designated parking. Centralized parking is established and setback from the river at Camp Sherman. Allingham. Wizard Falls. and Bridge 99. (MTTP-7)
- Traffic in the Camp Sherman core is managed in coordination with Jefferson County to improve safety (for both motorized and non-motorized uses). reduce congestion. provide better traffic flow. and move parking away from the river. The Camp Sherman core includes Roads 1400. 1419. 1419-700. 1419-800. 1419-900. and 1420. (MTTP-8)
- Signs are managed in coordination with Jefferson County for consistency in theme. to consolidate. to minimize visual impact. and to perpetuate a historic character. (MTTP-9)
- Forest roads to remain open for public use are: Rd 1200. 1217. 1270. 1290-800. 1400. 1419. 1419-200. 1419-800. 1419-900. 1420. 1490. as well as roads which access campgrounds and recreation residence tracts. Decisions on all other roads regarding access. closure. or rehabilitation will be made on a case-by-case basis. (MTTP-10)
- Public motorized access is closed in the following areas (Emergency, administrative. and private land access remains where noted with an "*") (MTTP-11):

  Rd 64 upstream from Monty Campground*

  Rd 1419-700 between Tract C bridge and Tract F

  Rd 1499 downstream from Candle Creek*

- Public motorized access is closed on a trial basis in the following areas for the following reasons. (Emergency. administrative. and private land access remains.) (MTTP-12):

  Rd 1298 to evaluate non-motorized use and resource effects

  Rd 1499 between Bridge 99 and Candle Creek to rest dispersed campsites from vehicular impacts and evaluate the amount or level of dispersed camping use received/displaced

- Public motorized access is closed seasonally on Rd 64 at or near the SE boundary of the Eyerly property in Sec 19 SE SE. T11S. R11E when Monty Campground is closed. (MTTP-13)
- Closed roads are rehabilitated unless access is maintained for private land or administrative use. (MTTP-14)

For Managing Utilities and Energy Resources:

- New transmission lines. gas lines. water lines. etc. which are not primarily for servicing uses within the corridor are not permitted. (MTUU-1)
- New utilities determined necessary to service the corridor are constructed to minimize visual impacts to the greatest extent possible while protecting other resources. New utilities are located underground and in existing transportation rights-of-way to the greatest extent possible. (MTUU-2)
- Geothermal leasing is not permitted. (MTUU-3)

For Managing Heritage Values:

The non-renewable and generally fragile nature of prehistoric and historic resources is recognized, and they are managed accordingly for the greatest scientific and public good.

- Significant prehistoric and historic resources are managed to avoid damage or detrimental change. Where damage or change cannot be mitigated, rehabilitated, or avoided, data recovery and recording is undertaken. (MTCV-1)
- Determination of cultural significance, data recovery, and inventory of prehistoric resources is coordinated with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. (MTCV-2)
- Gathering of traditional use plant resources by local tribal members on ceded lands within the corridor is managed according to practices of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. (MTCV-3)

For Managing Recreation:

Developed Campgrounds

Campgrounds are a historic use of the Metolius, and are managed to provide protection for a high quality recreational experience and natural setting. Minor reductions in camping capacity and changes to site management are appropriate to protect resources, especially water quality and riparian vegetation. Recreational Vehicles (trailer-campers and self-contained motorized campers longer than 20 feet) are most compatible with the expected visual and recreational experience near Camp Sherman. Social encounters, regulations, and fees are to be expected in all campgrounds.

- In developed campgrounds and day use areas, the objective for managing the natural setting is that the amount of developed area within 100' of the river will be reduced. No more than 25% of this area is managed in a developed condition (campsite, pathway, road, trail, etc.). (MTDC-1)
- Campground layout and landscape design are managed to improve the visual appearance and protect vegetation by consolidating and redirecting traffic patterns, defining or relocating campsites, planting, and repairing sources of erosion. (MTDC-2)
- Lower Bridge, Candle Creek, and Monty campgrounds are managed to provide a transition to the primitive recreation experience of the lower river. Monty is open only when a management presence is provided sufficient to ensure a quality camping experience and protect facilities from vandalism. Candle Creek is designated and designed for tent camping only; and Lower Bridge is designed to emphasize tent and car camping (self-contained motorized campers less than 20 feet long). (MTDC-3)
- Campsites which have unacceptable resource impacts are rehabilitated, rested, relocated, or closed (in order of preference). Unacceptable sites are identified by devegetation beyond the confines of the designated site, lack soil stability (soils are raveling), foot traffic impacts that cannot be limited by trail maintenance strategies, or evident siltation into the streambed. (MTDC-4)

- When 20% or more reduction in campground capacity results from resting or closure of sites, the options considered to address the impacts on campsite availability will include the following (in order of preference): a reservation system, or a new campground outside of the corridor. (MTDC-5)

Day-Use

Day-use facilities are found throughout the Recreational portion of the river and are easily located by visitors. Day-users do not impede the use of overnight campsites.

- The upstream portion of Smiling River Campground is managed for day-use and provides some designated parking for the Allingham area. (MTDU-1)
- Information and signing are provided within the corridor so that day-use areas may be located by visitors. (MTDU-2)

Trails

The river trail lies lightly on the riverside to provide a high quality hiking experience that is protective of the river's riparian values and appearance. Bicycle and horse use may occur on roads, closed roads, or other trails designated for their use. Trails are managed to avoid user conflicts, especially those that result in safety hazards.

- The river trail, where it currently exists, from Riverside Campground to Candle Creek Campground on both sides of the river is designated and managed as a Forest Service system trail. Only foot traffic is allowed on the river trail. (MTTR-1)
- Opportunities for horse and bicycle uses are provided on closed roads or off-river trails where appropriate. (MTTR-2)
- Closed portions of Rd 1419-700 are managed as a high standard trail for bicycles and pedestrians. (MTTR-3)
- Closed portions of Rd 1499 and Rd 64 provide a trail for non-motorized uses which are limited in this area, with the exception of foot travel, to closed roads. (MTTR-4)
- The river trail and associated fishing access points are defined, hardened, replanted, rested, relocated or closed where there are unacceptable impacts to riparian vegetation, streambanks, or water quality. Unacceptable impacts are identified by devegetation beyond the normal tread width, loss of bank stability, exposed tree roots, loss of overhanging bank structure, lack of trail definition or multiple parallel trails, or point source erosion and siltation. (MTTR-5)
- Trail construction fits with the topography, retains as much vegetation as possible, and protects riparian functions. (MTTR-6)
- Trail maintenance work and structures blend with the natural setting to the greatest extent possible without compromising their function or resource benefit. (MTTR-7)

Boating

Boating will be managed to accomplish these primary objectives: to emphasize safety, to preserve riparian and instream resources and habitat, to protect the primitive recreation experience in the lower river, to avoid trespass on tribal and private lands, to respect tribal values regarding the river, to manage use consistent with public trust doctrine, and to minimize administration and enforcement.

- Between Gorge Campground and Bridge 99 and between Bridge 99 and Monty, a registration system may be used to determine use patterns and to determine the need for a future threshold of use that maintains the desired recreational experience. (MTBB-1)
- Motorized boating is not permitted. (MTBB-2)
- Boat launches at Bridge 99 and Monty are designed to protect the riparian vegetation and bank structure. (MTBB-3)
- Boater education and information emphasizes safety; instream wood and resource protection; and respect for tribal lands, values, and rights. (MTBB-4)

Dispersed Camping

Dispersed camping is an incidental and non-integral use in the Recreational river segment of the corridor. It plays a role in the Scenic river segment, because dispersed camping provides an opportunity for accessing the more distant portions of the lower river. The quantity and location of dispersed camping sites are regulated to protect river resources and the lower river's primitive recreation experience.

- Dispersed camping is allowed in designated sites only. No more than 10 sites in the Recreation river segment and 20 sites in the Scenic river segment are designated. (MTDS-1)
- Designated sites are selected from areas already impacted by dispersed use. Designated sites will not be developed on previously undisturbed areas. (MTDS-2)
- Where they result in unacceptable impacts to riparian vegetation, upland vegetation, or water quality, dispersed sites are rehabilitated, rested, relocated, or closed. Unacceptable impacts are identified by devegetation beyond the designated site, loss of soil stability, or evident point source erosion and siltation.(MTDS-3)
- Fires are allowed only in designated fire rings. (MTDS-4)

Scenic River Segment Primitive Recreation Experience

The primitive recreation experience is based on limited contact and interaction amongst visitors. A feeling of remoteness and solitude is present. The ends of this segment provide a transition into the more intensive and developed experience found in the Recreation river segment and Lake Billy Chinook.

- A registration system for all visitors is used to determine use patterns and to determine the need for future thresholds of use that protect resources and maintain the desired recreational experience. (MTPR-1)
- Social setting objectives for the area are:

Encounters with other parties are not more than 7 per day 80% of the summer season.
Group size is limited to no more than 12 people and 12 head of stock.
Camps are separated from other campsites so that no more than one other camp is visible.

For Managing Special Uses

The non-commercial character of the river is an important part of the recreation experience. Opportunities for new commercial uses are very limited. Protection of the natural resources, recreation experience, and availability of recreation space for general public use are primary considerations in managing special uses. Uses that would establish an expectation for or dependency on using the river are avoided.

- Commercial special uses and special uses which involve development (placement of fixed improvements) may be permitted if they respond to a *demonstrated need*: 1) are necessary for the health and safety of the public, 2) are necessary to accomplish a specific goal of this Plan, 3) fulfill an agency management and administrative role, or 4) involve the study or research of values unique to the Metolius. (MTSU-1)
- Non-commercial special uses that don't involve development may be permitted if they have a *negligible impact*: 1) can be contained within existing facilities, 2) do not displace general public use, 3) do not advertise or promote in a manner that is likely to draw visitors to the Metolius who are not managed under the special use permit, and 4) do not recur on a regular basis. (MTSU-2)
- The criteria in MTSU-1 and MTSU-2 apply to new uses and changes to existing uses. They are not applied to the reissuance of permits for existing uses or uses which do not require permits. (MTSU-3)
- No new septic systems which service facilities on private land shall be permitted on National Forest land within the corridor. (MTSU-4)

For Managing Recreation Residences:

In keeping with the unique and historic character of the community of Camp Sherman, recreation residences are maintained as rustic, simple, subdued cabins. Vegetation and structures are managed to protect key riparian components, the historic character of the structures, and the dominance of the river in the landscape character of the area. Septic systems are managed to protect the high water quality of the Metolius River.

- Structural footprints are not expanded further toward the river within 100' of the river. (MTRR-1)
- The river facing elevation of the residence is designed so that the structure, as viewed from the river and river trail, does not increase in dominance. The following factors are used in combination to evaluate dominance: distance from the river, size of the elevation, color, presence of shadow (eaves, corners, shade trees), segmentation of roofline and elevation, orientation of roof peak, and quantity and diversity of vegetation in the view. (MTRR-2)
- Trees which provide shade to the river or potential instream wood will not be removed for remodeling or expansion. (MTRR-3)

- Building plans are designed and construction performed to minimize new ground disturbance and the loss of native vegetation. (MTRR-4)
- Replacement of the primary residence on a new footprint is not permitted within 100' of the river. Beyond 100' replacement may be permitted when there is a benefit to riparian function, the old footprint is rehabilitated, and the new structure, as viewed from the river and river trail, does not increase in dominance relative to the old structure. (MTRR-5)
- On-lot areas which show unacceptable loss of riparian function are rehabilitated. Unacceptable sites show conditions such as devegetation beyond the confines of developed areas, lack of stability, or evident erosion and run-off problems. (MTRR-6)
- On-lot areas will be managed with the goal of increasing overall riparian function and the integrity of native, upland vegetation. Riparian function is determined based on the amount of filtering vegetation, native plant species, shrubs, stream shade/cover, trees for future instream wood contribution, and permeable soil. (MTRR-7)
- No new waterwheels, platforms, footbridges, or other off-lot improvements are permitted. (MTRR-8)
- Existing platforms, waterwheels, and footbridges are permitted and maintained for safety, historic value, and resource protection. Maintenance and reconstruction is permitted only when it does not adversely harm riparian vegetation, streambanks, aquatic habitat, or water quality. When maintenance is not possible, the improvement will be removed. (MTRR-9)
- Water testing for fecal coliform and nitrates is performed by owners on all domestic water systems and wells located on National Forest land at least once a year, and the results provided to the Forest Service. More tests may be required in areas that test positive for contamination. (MTRR-10)
- The location and type of all recreation residence septic systems are documented by owners within one year of the adoption of this plan. (MTRR-11)
- Pit toilets and dry well septic systems are not permitted and shall be removed or upgraded. Applications for this work are made within two years of the adoption of this plan. (MTRR-12)
- Upon permit reissuance or remodeling/expansion, septic systems will be tested for proper function and upgraded to current County and Forest Service standards if necessary. (MTRR-13)
- No new off-lot septic systems shall be permitted on national forest lands. (MTRR-14)
- Permit reissuance or remodeling/expansion are opportunities to minimize elements of recreation residences which are not consistent with the intent of current policies. (MTRR-15)

For Managing Interpretation:

Interpretation and education are integral in the resource management of the corridor. Interpretive themes stress resource protection, stewardship and visitor responsibility. Focus is on increasing visitor awareness of resources within the Metolius Basin and their sensitivity with the goal of promoting visitor stewardship. Interpretation and education are primary means of accomplishing

management objectives which relate to user impacts and behavior. Volunteers and the local community play an important role in implementing interpretation and education goals.

- Interpretation addresses themes, media, location, and timing in accordance with resource objectives in the Metolius Wild and Scenic River Plan. (MTIR-1)
- Interpretive mediums which do not require permanent facilities are emphasized. (MTIR-2)
- Signs and permanent structures are used primarily in existing developed sites or where continuous information is important for visitor safety or resource protection. (MTIR-3)

Implementation Priorities

Limited funding and staff will be available to the managing agencies to implement the decisions of this plan. Because the amounts and types of funds are not always predictable and because it will be necessary to await the event to determine which management actions are most urgently needed, it is not possible to set rigorous priorities for expenditures at this time.

The following general guidelines are established to help determine prioritization and allocation of funding and staff time:

Public Safety

Actions required by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act:

- **protection of the ORVs to maintain conditions consistent with those at the time of designation**: water quality, cultural resources, riparian vegetation, scenic quality, fisheries, recreation, upland vegetation, wildlife, geology. These are ranked by order of emphasis based on the need for attention and the potential risk to the resource.
- **management of the lower river as a primitive recreation opportunity**
- **enhancement (protection or restoration to create conditions which exceed those at the time of designation) of the ORVs**

Evaluation, site design, and modification of existing facilities or programs in accordance with the plan

New programs

Activities which receive outside or cooperative funding would likely be given a higher priority.

The following section displays a priority schedule of implementation for some specific management activities:

Immediate Actions

- Designate the river trail as a system trail. Post use restrictions.
- Transfer responsibility between the Forest Service and Jefferson County for roads affected by the plan (Roads 1419-700, 1419-800, and 64).
- Establish gates and road closures on Rd 64 and Rd 1499.
- Implement user registration at gates on Rd 64 and Rd 1499 and Lower Bridge boat launch and begin monitoring.

Activity Schedule

Very High Priority Actions

- Evaluate and monitor trail and fishing access conditions, and identify those areas in immediate need of restoration to protect river values; prioritize, define treatment objectives and begin restoration.
- Convert upstream portion of Smiling River to a day use and designated parking area. Rehabilitate old parking areas near Allingham Bridge.
- Establish designated parking areas at Lower Bridge.
- Develop vegetation and landscape designs for Camp Sherman, Lower Canyon Creek, Lower Bridge, Candle Creek, and Monty campgrounds.
- Build new road ties to Rd 1419-800 and close Road 1419-700.
- Assess inventories of recreation residence septic systems for acceptable systems. Begin permit process on applications for replacements and upgrades.

High Priority Actions

- Begin analysis for fire management plan, prescribed fire program, fuels treatment projects, and monitoring.
- Develop landscape and vegetation designs for Allingham, Smiling River, and Gorge campgrounds.
- Designate and harden roadside parking spots in upper river corridor.
- Designate and post dispersed sites. Remove fire rings at undesignated sites, post for no camping, begin monitoring.

Priority Actions

- Inventory upland vegetation to identify areas that are outside the range of desired conditions; prioritize, define treatment objectives, and begin restoration and monitoring.
- Establish designated parking areas at Camp Sherman and Wizard Falls.
- Begin implementation of prescribed fire and fuels reduction programs. Target is 100-300 acres per year.
- Develop landscape and vegetation designs for Allen Springs, Pioneer Ford, and Riverside, campgrounds.
- Develop firewood concession in campgrounds.

Activity Schedule

- Develop corridor interpretation program, including consistent signing brochures, and campfire facility and programs.
- Inventory fish habitat conditions, determine areas that will not meet habitat objectives through natural processes, begin restoration and effectiveness monitoring.
- Traffic planning for the Camp Sherman core area coordinated with Jefferson County.

Other Actions

- Begin weed inventory and eradication program.
- Close Rd 1298
- Begin charging fees in Lower Canyon Creek, Candle Creek, and Monty campgrounds. Upgrade services including tables, fireplaces, garbage, and parking.
- Implement boater registration at Gorge Campground and Wizard Falls, and begin monitoring use patterns.
- Survey recreation residences for attainment of riparian vegetation objectives. Develop an information and assistance program.
- Begin road obliteration and soil restoration projects.

Ongoing

- Perform road maintenance.
- Survey, assess, and remove hazard trees in developed areas.
- Perform trail maintenance.
- Assess recreation residence well testing results.
- Review land use development proposals.

Monitoring

This section identifies activities that will be conducted to assess the progress and results of implementing the Plan and the effects of projects on river values.

The monitoring and evaluation of this plan will be based, whenever possible, on the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process. LAC is based on the premise that change to ecological and social conditions will occur as a result of natural and human processes. The goal of management is to keep the character and rate of change due to human influences within acceptable levels that are consistent with plan objectives and protection of the river values.

The primary emphasis of the LAC process is on maintaining the desired resource condition, rather than in determining the level of use or impacts an area or resource can tolerate. In an area as socially influenced as the Metolius, the process is not used to prevent human-induced change, instead LAC is used to determine what changes should occur, how much change should be allowed, what actions should be taken to control or limit change, and how to identify when the limits or thresholds have been reached.

Generally, for each river value to be monitored, one or more key indicators are selected which allow managers to measure changes in the resource value or character. For each key indicator, a threshold value is set which determines the amount of change that will be accepted. Thresholds serve as triggers which caused pre-determined management actions to be implemented when the limit of acceptable change is approached.

Additional monitoring is identified in this section that provides resource inventories or baseline data that is necessary to establish thresholds.

Finally, this section identifies project level monitoring guidelines that will be used to ensure that implementation was carried out as planned, and to assess the effectiveness of projects in meeting the goals and objectives of the Plan.

Limits of Acceptable Change

Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
Water Quality	E.Coli	A log mean of no more than 60 E.Coli per 100 milliliters based on a minimum of one sample per 30-day period with no more than 10 percent of the samples in a one year period exceeding 200 per 100 ml (these standards are about 1/2 of the Oregon minimum standard for safe surface water - ORS 340-41-565(2)(e)(A) April, 96).	Identify possible sources of effluent. Work with county and DEQ to prepare plan for corrective action.	E. Coli grab samples analyzed by a State-Certified lab; samples taken quarterly at a minimum to capture seasonal differences. Sample at Metolius Spring, mouth of Lake Creek, Camp Sherman, and Gorge above First Creek.
	Temperature	Temperature equal to natural water temperature established through baseline monitoring.	Correct management practices that may be contributing to increase in water temperature.	Monitor summer temperatures with continuous recording temperature device. Sample at Bridge 99 and Gorge.
	Turbidity	No more than 10 percent increase in natural stream turbidity as established through baseline monitoring.	Correct management practices that may be contributing to increased turbidity.	Monitor turbidity with an automatic water sampler. Sample during flushing flows in winter and spring, and during low flows of summer and fall. Sample at Bridge 99 and in lower Canyon Creek.
	Nitrates and Nitrites	Levels equal to existing background levels as established through baseline monitoring.	Identify possible sources. Work with county and DEQ to prepare plan for corrective action.	Monitor nitrate via recreation residence water system tests. Additional river testing as needed to establish baseline levels. Sample as specified for E.Coli, above.

Limits of Acceptable Change

Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
	Phosphorus, total and ortho	Levels established through baseline monitoring. Establish natural background levels as present in tributary and headwater springs.	Identify possible sources. Work with county and DEQ to prepare plan for corrective action.	Monitor in July and August to capture period of highest potential for occurrence. Sample as specified for E.Coli, above.
Riparian Vegetation	Proper functioning ecological condition as indicated by vegetative and streambank condition.	Riparian vegetation is managed to maintain or enhance vegetative diversity, biomass, and percent cover at desired level determined during baseline monitoring. Obtain 100 percent of shade potential and reduce amount of devegetated banks to naturally low levels as established during baseline monitoring.	Remove/eliminate source of impact (i.e. close campsite, roads, trails, etc). After inventory assesses the extent of impact.	Conduct riparian resource inventory and photo inventory (infra-red) as necessary to identify areas that need rehabilitation and/or restoration.
Upland vegetation	Proper functioning ecological condition as indicated by forest structure and species composition.	Ponderosa Pine PAG predominately fire-climax late-successional habitat, and Mixed Conifer PAGs predominately a mosaic of fire-climax and climatic climax late-successional habitats. In fire climax stands, manage for late-successional habitat that allows for low-intensity prescribed or natural fires.	See specific PAGs and structural stage treatment strategies below. Promote late-successional habitat by managing stand densities that develop and maintain med/large trees (21" dbh and greater). Use treatments such as commercial thinning, precommercial thinning, salvage, pruning, release and/or prescribed fire to develop late-successional habitats and large tree characteristics. In undeveloped areas, retain all down	Measure selected stands for gross basal area to determine site potentials and set baselines for site-specific upper management zone indices. Conduct stand exams every ten years or as necessary to determine when stands are approaching the upper management zone that may require density management.

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
			log and snag habitat components necessary to promote sustainable late-successional habitat conditions. In the long term, snags retained should have the diversity of tree species and sizes representative of the site. Maintain a variety of down wood sizes. Numbers of snags and amounts of coarse woody material necessary to provide 100% MPP will be determined at the project analysis level and should be consistent with the current peer reviewed literature discussed in Appendix 2 of the Metolius LSRA (1996).	
Ponderosa Pine PAG (5,130 acres)	**LANDSCAPE DESIRED CONDITION** Range of Structural Classes (percentages based on desired condition for entire watershed): grass/shrub/forb - 5-30% seed/sapling - 3-21% pole - 3-21% small - 20-50% medium/large - 30-	Generally homogenous landscape of scattered large trees, reproduction in even-aged clumps up to several acres in size, scattered grass/shrub/forb openings, 1/10 to 1/4 acre in size with a few larger. Stands are denser in riparian bottomlands and other moist ecotones, sparser on steep south facing slopes. Other species present include Douglas-fir and western larch in moist ecotones, juniper and incense cedar on drier ecotones. Understories are primarily shrub and grass. Large snags and down logs are evenly distributed, and only rarely concentrated where openings result from root rot, bark beetle mortality, or localized high intensity fire. Low intensity fire is the		

Limits of Acceptable Change				
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	70%	primary disturbance agent, with fire return intervals ranging from 8 to 20 years. Windthrow is locally a factor.		
New Regeneration (2% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is within the historic and desired range of conditions for the watershed. Objective - Develop future late-successional stands quickly by taking advantage of the potential for regenerated stands to rapidly develop large healthy trees. Allow high stand densities to encourage the development of a dominant size class.	Threshold - usually none. Monitor for insect, disease, or predation that would remove enough young trees that an adequate stand could not develop without additional planting.	Base density prescriptions on adjacent stand health and the survival history of similar plantations.	
Seedling, Sapling, and Pole Plantations (2% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is within the range of historic or desired conditions for the watershed. Objective - Develop future late-successional stands	Threshold - The timing for precommercial-sized thinning is difficult to quantify. These stands are usually growing at rates that discourage insect and disease problems, and only develop basal areas that approach the upper management zones of the appropriate plant association when they reach sizes of approximately 4"- 6" dbh.	Thin plantations to favor and develop the larger dominant and co-dominant trees. Favor seral species such as ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and larch. Climax species such as white fir can be left for diversity, but should not comprise more than 5% of the resulting stand, and should be left in clumps rather than as individual trees.	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
	quickly by taking advantage of the potential for regenerated stands to rapidly develop large healthy trees.	Desired stocking levels are generally between the upper and low management zone boundaries for the appropriate plant association. Generally, plantations are thinned after stand densities have forced some individual trees to begin to express dominance, but before growth begins to slow down. The timing must be balanced between the desire to provide some cover via dense stands, and the need to thin before trees become so large that cover is reduced by self-pruning, growth rates slow down or stagnate, and/or the cut trees will produce an unmanageable fuel load.	Spacing should be as random as possible, using several spacing regimes or variable spacing within a plantation, e.g. untreated clumps, 16x16 average and 18x18 average. Where plantations are surrounded by existing mortality, consider falling dead trees into the plantation to increase coarse woody debris. Balance the increased fuel load with the decreased risk of fire in the surrounding stands. To the extent practical, thinning should be done to a stocking level that precludes the need for future entries. Generally, this would require a spacing of 35 to 50 feet. Higher stand densities may be maintained to provide short-term cover and require further thinning. Or stand densities may be lowered too much to the extent that future insect, disease, or fire mortality require interplanting to maintain desired stand structure.	
		Fuel treatment depends on the location of the plantation and the size and number of trees removed. Where they do not contribute significantly to the fuel profile, protect and retain shrubs, grasses, forbs, snags and large (>16"	Consider the following fuel treatments in descending order of preference for enhancing LS characteristics, but ascending order of risk reduction: 1. no fuel treatment. 2. partial treatment - treat	

Limits of Acceptable Change

Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
		dbh x 16' long) CWD. Resulting fuel profile should not increase the overall risk to the WSR.	patches sufficient to reduce overall risk; pull fuel back along road to create defensible fuelbreaks; pull fuel away from leave trees and clumps; lop or lop and scatter limbs. 3. prescribed underburn all or part of plantation. 4. hand pile all or part of plantation; burn all or part of the piles (piles can be left for wildlife cover). 5. machine pile and burn all or part of plantation.	
Small Size Class Stands (81% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is greater than the range of historic or desired conditions for the watershed. Objective - Protect remaining large trees by reducing stress and fire risk from fuel loading and arrangement. Protect private property and rural lands from fire as well as LS/OG stands next to rural development.	Threshold - Stand basal areas at or exceeding the upper management zones of SDI. Understories may exhibit increasing levels of pine beetle. Understory thickets may form ladder fuels that threaten large trees even in low intensity fires. In stands that have not been thinned or prescription burned, the combination of dense understory, decadent shrubs covering more than 50% of the area, and duff layers more than 2" to 4" deep, will lead to fires of moderate to high intensity. These fires can only be attacked by indirect methods that limit the amount of protection that can be provided to adjacent lands and resources.	Stand density reduction -- thin clumps and remove trees in the 9" to 21" range, especially those that surround large trees. Reduce competition for light, water, and nutrients; remove ladder fuels; promote development of future large trees. Tree culturing -- Thin understory thickets and/or remove sub-dominant trees larger than 9" dbh around large dominant and co-dominant pine, Douglas-fir and larch. This reduces stress on specific large trees desired for nesting, perching or roosting habitat, or can also be used where stand level treatments are not appropriate or	

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	Reduce risk of high intensity fire damaging core habitat areas for focal species or special and unique habitats. Reduce fuel loads and continuity. Promote the most desirable 9" to 21" individuals into the medium and large size class. Objective - Enhance habitat for PEPE and other fire-dependent flora associated with LS/OG stands.	Threshold - Less than 10% of the area has bare mineral soil, and /or average canopy closure greater than 60%. Grass and forb communities consist of only a few species or individuals, and species known to occur in this plant community under a low intensity fire regime are missing.	unfeasible. Fuel breaks -- combinations of understory thinning, reduction of ladder fuels, break up of fuel continuity, reducing amounts of fine and heavy ground fuels. Reduce fire intensity and increase likelihood of successful suppression. Maintain LS/OG stand conditions at the lower boundary of the management zone, with most of the basal area in the largest available trees. Prescribed fire -- Use low intensity fire for stand density reduction, fuel profile modification, and to provide conditions conducive to regeneration of grasses, shrubs and forbs. In stands that are deficit in snags and large down wood, use the prescription or low impact methods to protect the necessary amounts.	
Medium to Large Size Class Stands (15% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is less than the historic or desired range of conditions for the watershed. Objective - Maintain and protect existing	Threshold - Densities exceed the upper management zone of SDI. Stands are imminently susceptible to stand replacing insect, disease or fire mortality over areas larger than 10 acres.	Stand density reduction -- thin clumps and remove trees in the < 9" to 21" range, especially those that surround larger trees. Reduce competition for light, water, and nutrients; remove ladder fuels; promote development of future large trees.	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
	LS/OG habitats.		Prescribed fire -- Use low intensity fire for stand density reduction, fuel profile modification, and to provide conditions conducive to regeneration of grasses, shrubs and forbs. In stands that are deficit in snags and large down wood, use the prescription or low impact methods to protect the necessary amounts.	
Mixed Conifer Dry PAG (2860 acres)	**DESIRED LANDSCAPE CONDITION** Range of structural conditions (percentages based on desired range for entire watershed): Grass/Forb/Shrub -- 1 to 7 % Seed/Sapling -- 3 to 25 % Pole -- 8 to 40% Small -- 20 to 75% Med/Large -- 23 to 75%	Landscape is a mosaic of varying textures and seral stages, but predominately containing stands of small and med/large trees. Patch sizes are quite large -- 100 to 1000 acres. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are the dominant overstory species with sparse understories of shade tolerant species. Low intensity fire return intervals are longer, 15-30 years, than in the Pine PAG. Low intensity fire serves a role similar to that in pine, maintaining primarily seral species and preventing the dominance of climax species in most stands. Moderate to high intensity fire is the primary stand modifying disturbance agent at varying intervals. Insects and disease also play a role on a smaller scale. Scattered stands exist where disturbance intervals are longer and allow the development of climatic climax conditions. These stands are generally older and have a higher		

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
		density of the largest trees.		
New Regeneration (< 1% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is lower than the historic or desired range of conditions for the watershed. Objective - Develop future late-successional stands quickly by taking advantage of the potential for regenerated stands to rapidly develop large healthy trees. Allow high stand densities to encourage the development of a dominant size class.	Threshold -- usually none. Monitor for insect, disease, or predation that would remove enough young trees that an adequate stand could not develop without additional planting.	Base density prescriptions on adjacent stand health and the survival history of similar plantations.	
Seedling, Sapling, and Pole Plantations (1% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is less than the historic or desired range of conditions for the watershed. Objective - Develop future late-successional stands quickly by taking advantage of the	Threshold - The timing for precommercial-sized thinning is difficult to quantify. These stands are usually growing at rates that discourage insect and disease problems, and only develop basal areas that approach the upper management zones of the appropriate plant association when they reach sizes of approximately 5" to 7" dbh. Desired stocking levels are generally between the lower and upper	Thin plantations to favor and develop the larger dominant and co-dominant trees. Favor seral species such as ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and larch. Climax species such as white fir can be left for diversity, but should not comprise more than 20% of the resulting stand, and should be left in clumps rather than as individual trees. Spacing should be as random as possible, using several spacing regimes	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered If Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
	potential for regenerated stands to rapidly develop large healthy trees.	management zone for the appropriate plant association. Generally, plantations are thinned after stand densities have forced some individual trees to begin to express dominance, but before growth begins to slow. The timing must be balanced between the desire to provide some cover via dense stands, and the need to thin before trees become so large that cover is reduced by self-pruning, growth rates slow down or stagnate, and/or the cut trees will produce an unmanageable fuel load.	within a plantation or variable spacing, e.g., untreated clumps, 16x16 average and 18x18 average. Plantations in Dry Mixed Conifer afford the best opportunities to make long-term adjustments in the types of habitat to be provided in the LSR. Generally, plantations on sites with low productivity and drier ecotones such as south and west slopes, the tops of ridges and other flat areas in the eastern part of the PAG should be managed to provide fire climax stands maintained by low to medium fire regimes, and characterized by low density, open stands of seral species. Conversely, plantations in areas with higher productivity, on north aspects, midslopes and drainage bottoms, can be aimed towards climatic climax stands with longer disturbance intervals, and characterized by denser, more diverse stands. Where plantations are surrounded by existing mortality, consider falling dead trees into the plantation to increase coarse woody debris. Balance the increased fuel load with the decreased risk of fire in the surrounding stands. To the extent practical, thinning should be done to a stocking level that precludes the need for future entries.	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
			Generally, this would require a spacing of 35 to 50 feet. Higher stand densities may be maintained to provide short-term cover and require further thinning. Conversely, stand densities may be lowered too much to the extent that future insect, disease, or fire mortality require interplanting to maintain desired stand structure.	
		Fuel treatment depends on the location of the plantation and the size and number of trees removed. Where they do not contribute significantly to the fuel profile, protect and retain shrubs, grasses, forbs, snags and large (>16" dbh x 16' long) CWD. Resulting fuel profile should not increase the overall risk to the WSR.	Consider fuel treatments as described for the Ponderosa Pine PAG.	
Small Size Class Stands (87% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is just greater than the historic or desired range of conditions for the watershed. Objective - Protect remaining large trees, especially ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, by reducing stress and	Threshold - Stand basal areas in or exceeding the upper management zones of SDI. More than 20% of the understory contains shade-tolerant species such as white fir. Increasing levels of pine beetle, fir engraver, spruce budworm or other defoliators, especially in the understory, will result in significant change to or loss of late-successional characteristics, i.e., canopy cover, large trees or stand co-dominants. Root rot pockets are increasing in size and removing the few	Stand density reduction -- thin understories to reduce competition and ladder fuels, and promote development of additional and future large trees, especially ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Desired canopy closure is between 30% and 40% on drier sites, more than 40% on moister ecotones and higher site potentials. Thinning should favor seral species, with no more than 20% of the site stocked with white fir. Remove most dead and dying trees less than 21" dbh, but	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
	fire risk from fuel loading and arrangement. Protect private property and rural lands from fire as well as LS/OG stands next to rural development. Reduce risk of high intensity fire damaging core habitat areas for focal species or special and unique habitats. Reduce fuel loads and continuity. Develop and maintain stands that are predominately influenced by low intensity fire. Objective - Enhance habitat for PEPE and other fire-dependent flora associated with LS/OG stands.	remaining large overstory trees. Mortality from insects and disease is more than 10 to 15% of the stand. Understory thickets may form ladder fuels that threaten large trees even in low intensity fires. In stands that have not been thinned or prescription burned, the combination of dense understory and standing and down dead fuels (especially those less than 12" dbh), will lead to fires of moderate to high intensity. These fires can only be attacked by indirect methods that limit the amount of protection that can be provided to adjacent lands and resources. Threshold - Less than 10% of the area has bare mineral soil; and /or average canopy closure greater than 60%. Grass and forb communities consist of only a few species or individuals, and species known to occur in this plant community under a low intensity fire regime are missing.	maintain larger snags and green trees of low vigor. Stands with low mortality will still benefit from thinning, but may not need removal of dead material to reduce fire risk. Fuel breaks -- in areas where stand manipulation is not desirable (riparian reserves, owl activity circles, sensitive soils or remnants of climatic climax habitat), or to isolate areas that won't be entered, combinations of understory thinning, pruning, interruption of dead and down fuel continuity may be used to reduce fire intensity and rate of spread, and increase the likelihood of successful suppression. Link existing openings where feasible. Fuelbreaks should continue to exhibit some LS/OG components at the low end of the stocking range -- open stands of predominately medium to large trees, 20-40% canopy closure, and isolated clumps of younger trees. Widely distributed snags and large down logs will be present, but in limited numbers. Tree culturing -- Thin understory thickets and/or remove sub-dominant trees larger than 9" dbh around large dominant and co-dominant pine, Douglas-fir and larch. This reduces stress on specific large trees desired for	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
			nesting, perching or roosting habitat, or can also be used where stand level treatments are not appropriate or unfeasible. Small Group Treatments -- designed to reduce the spread of root rot and subsequent loss of late-successional conditions and natural diversity by removing susceptible tree species from small (2 to 9 acre) root rot pockets. Where they exist, leave all or most (thin from below if necessary) of the trees of resistant species, e.g. , pine and larch. If necessary to maintain some short term structure, consider leaving 10 to 15 per acre of the largest (>21" dbh) trees of root rot susceptible species, and interplant with seral, resistant species. Also, in order to create a mix of composition and structure across the landscape to benefit development and retention of late-successional conditions, small group treatments can be used to reestablish seral species where no seed source exists because of mortality or because of the dominance in the stand of climax species. Remove Mortality - in stands where mortality exceeds 10 to 15% and excessive standing and down fuels pose	

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Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
			a risk of fire at intensities that will threaten LS/OG habitat or other resources, remove most or all of the standing dead, especially those less than 12" dbh. Consider safety and feasibility when leaving larger snags, averaging up to 7 per acre. Large snags can be left for future down wood where less than desired amounts exist. Where no adequate seed sources exist or the remaining stand is not fully stocked with healthy seral species, consider interplanting. Prescribed fire - Use low intensity fire for stand density reduction, fuel profile modification, and to provide conditions conducive to regeneration of grasses, shrubs and forbs. In stands that are deficit in snags and large down wood, use the prescription or low impact methods to protect the necessary amounts.	
Medium to Large Size Class Stands (10% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is well below the historic or desired range of conditions for the watershed. Objective - Maintain and protect existing LS/OG habitats.	Threshold - Understory densities exceed the upper management zone of SDI. Stands are imminently susceptible to stand replacing insect, disease or fire mortality over areas larger than 10 acres.	Stand density reduction - thin clumps and remove trees less than 21", especially those that contain or surround large trees, especially ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Reduce competition for light, water, and nutrients; remove ladder fuels; promote development of future large trees.	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
			Remove Mortality - in stands where mortality exceeds 10 to 15% and excessive standing and down fuels pose a risk of fire at intensities that will threaten LS/OG habitat or other resources, remove most or all of the standing dead, especially those less than 12" dbh. Incorporate safety and feasibility when leaving the largest individual snags, averaging up to 7 per acre. Large snags can be left for future down wood where less than desired amounts exist. Where no adequate seed sources exist or the remaining stand is not fully stocked with healthy seral species, consider interplanting. Prescribed fire - Use low intensity fire for stand density reduction, fuel profile modification, and to provide conditions conducive to regeneration of grasses, shrubs and forbs. In stands that are deficit in snags and large down wood, use the prescription or low impact methods to protect the necessary amounts.	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
Mixed Conifer Wet PAG (340 acres)	**DESIRED LANDSCAPE CONDITION** Range of seral conditions: Grass/Forb/Shrub - 0 to 20% Seed/Sapling - 3 to 54 % Pole - 7 to 51% Small - 13 to 57% Med/Large - 11 to 53%	Landscape is a mosaic of varying textures and seral stages, but predominately containing stands of small and med/large trees. Patch sizes are quite large - 100 to 1000 acres in size. Ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir are the dominate overstory species with sparse understories of shade tolerant species. Moderate to high intensity fire is the primary disturbance agent at varying intervals. Insects and disease also play a role, on a smaller scale. In the WSR corridor, this PAG is primarily in the Scenic segment and in riparian areas on the west side of the river between Lake and Jack Creeks. Reducing risk of high intensity fire is still an objective because of the potential for wind-driven fires to spread east into the more developed areas, or in the Scenic segment, across the river onto Tribal lands		
New Regeneration (< 1% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is below the range of historic or desired conditions for the watershed, primarily because of fire	Threshold - usually none. Monitor for insect, disease, or predation that would remove enough young trees that an adequate stand could not develop without additional planting.	Base density prescriptions on adjacent stand health and the previous survival history of similar plantations.	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
	suppression and the resultant elimination of recent stand replacement fires. Objective - Develop future late-successional stands quickly by taking advantage of the potential for regenerated stands to rapidly develop large healthy trees. Allow high stand densities to encourage the development of a dominant size class.			
Seedling, Sapling, and Pole Plantations (< 1% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is within the range of historic or desired conditions for the watershed. Objective - Develop future late-successional stands quickly by taking advantage of the potential for regenerated stands to rapidly develop large	Threshold - The timing for precommercial-sized thinning is difficult to quantify. These stands are usually growing at rates that discourage insect and disease problems, and only develop basal areas that approach the upper management zones of the appropriate SDI at approximately 6" to 8" dbh. Desired stocking levels are generally between the upper and lower management zone for the appropriate plant association. Generally, plantations are thinned after stand densities have forced some individual trees to begin to express dominance, but	Thin plantations to favor and develop the larger dominant and co-dominant trees. Favor seral species such as ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, and larch. Climax species such as white fir can be left for diversity, but should not comprise more than 30% of the resulting stand, and should be left in clumps rather than as individual trees. Spacing should be as random as possible, using several spacing regimes within a plantation, or variable spacing, e.g. untreated clumps, 16x16 average and 18x18 average. Where plantations are surrounded by	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
	healthy trees.	before growth begins to slow down. The timing must be balanced between the desire to provide some cover via dense stands, and the need to thin before trees become so large that cover is reduced by self-pruning, growth rates slow down or stagnate, and/or the cut trees will produce an unmanageable fuel load. Fuel treatment depends on the location of the plantation and the size and number of trees removed. Where they do not contribute significantly to the fuel profile, protect and retain shrubs, grasses, forbs, snags and large (>16" dbh x 16' long) CWD. Resulting fuel profile should not increase the overall risk to the WSR	existing mortality, consider falling dead trees into the plantation to increase coarse woody debris. Balance the increased fuel load with the decreased risk of fire in the surrounding stands. To the extent practical, thinning should be done to a stocking level that precludes the need for future entries. Higher stand densities may need to be maintained to provide short-term cover, but will require further thinning if large trees are desired in the future. Or stand densities may be lowered too much to the extent that future insect, disease, or fire mortality require interplanting to maintain desired stand structure. Consider fuel treatments as described for the Ponderosa Pine PAG.	
Small Size Class Stands (81% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is greater than the range of historic or desired conditions	Threshold- Stand basal areas at or exceeding the upper management zones of SDI. More than 30% of the understory contains shade-tolerant species such as white fir. Increasing	Stand density reduction - thin understories to reduce competition and ladder fuels, and promote development of additional and future large trees. Desired canopy closure between 40%	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
	for the watershed. Objective - Protect remaining healthy large trees, especially ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, by reducing stress and fire risk. Reduce risk of high intensity fire damaging core habitat areas for focal species or special and unique habitats, as well as to adjacent rural and private property. Reduce fuel loads and continuity.	levels of pine beetle, fir engraver, spruce budworm or other defoliators, especially in the understory, will result in significant change to or loss of late-successional characteristics, i.e. canopy cover, large trees or stand co-dominants. Root rot pockets are increasing in size and removing the few remaining large overstory trees. Mortality from insects and disease is more than 20% of the stand. Understory thickets may form ladder fuels that threaten large trees even in low intensity fires. In stands that have not been thinned or prescription burned, the combination of dense understory and standing and down dead fuels (especially those less than 12" dbh), will lead to fires of moderate to high intensity. These fires can only be attacked by indirect methods which limit the amount of protection that can be provided to adjacent lands and resources.	and 60% must be balanced with the upper management zone for stocking density for the plant association. Thinning should favor seral species, with no more than 30% of the site stocked with white fir and other climax species (Douglas-fir may be climax in these associations). Remove most or all dead and dying trees less than 21" dbh; but maintain larger snags and green trees of low vigor for snag recruitment. Stands with low mortality will still benefit from thinning, but may not need removal of dead material to reduce fire risk. Fuel breaks - in areas where stand manipulation is not desirable (riparian reserves, owl activity circles, sensitive soils or remnants of climatic climax habitat), or to isolate areas that won't be entered, combinations of understory thinning, pruning, interruption of dead and down fuel continuity may be used to reduce fire intensity and rate of spread, and increase the likelihood of successful suppression. Fuelbreaks should continue to exhibit some LS/OG components at the low end of the stocking range - open stands of predominately medium and large trees, 40% canopy closure or less (crowns not touching except in small clumps of 3 to	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
			5 trees), with scattered or clumpy understory. Large, widely distributed snags and down logs are present, but usually less than 100% MPP. Tree culturing - Thin understory thickets and/or remove sub-dominant trees larger than 9" dbh around large dominant and co-dominant pine and Douglas fir. This reduces stress on specific large trees desired for nesting, perching or roosting habitat, or can also be used where stand level treatments are not appropriate or unfeasible. Small Group Treatments -- designed to reduce the spread of root rot and subsequent loss of late-successional conditions and natural diversity by removing susceptible tree species from small (2 to 9 acre) root rot pockets. Where they exist, leave all or most (thin from below if necessary) of the trees of resistant species, e.g. , pine and larch. If necessary to maintain some short term structure, consider leaving 10 to 15 per acre of the largest (>21" dbh) trees of root rot susceptible species, and interplant with seral, resistant species. Also, in order to create a mix of composition and structure across the landscape to	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
			benefit development and retention of late-successional conditions, small group treatments can be used to reestablish seral species where no seed source exists because of mortality or because of the dominance in the stand of climax species. Remove Mortality - in stands where mortality exceeds 15 to 25% and excessive standing and down fuels pose a risk of fire at intensities that will threaten LS/OG habitat or other resources, remove most or all of the standing dead especially those less than 12" dbh. Incorporate safety and feasibility when leaving the large individual snags averaging 9 to 17 per acre. Large snags can be left for future down wood where less than desired amounts exist. Where inadequate seed sources exist or the remaining stand is not fully stocked with healthy trees, consider interplanting. Prescribed fire - Use low intensity fire for stand density reduction and fuel profile modification. In stands that are deficit in snags and large down wood, use the prescription or low impact methods to protect the necessary amounts. In small areas (less than 10-15 acres) of high mortality or damage,	

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
			consider using higher intensity prescribed fire to remove heavy fuels and create small openings for regeneration. This should be approached with the same logistical and contingency considerations as for a broadcast burn in a regeneration unit with high fuel loadings.	
Medium to Large Size Class Stands (19% of PAG)	The amount of this structural class is within the low end of the range of historic or desired conditions for the watershed. Objective - Maintain and protect existing LS/OG habitats.	Threshold - Densities exceed the upper management zone of SDI. Stands are imminently susceptible to stand replacing insect, disease or fire mortality over areas larger than 10 acres.	Stand density reduction - thin clumps and remove trees less than 21", especially those that contain or surround large ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir. Reduce competition for light, water, and nutrients; remove ladder fuels; promote development of future large trees. Remove Mortality - in stands where mortality exceeds 25% and excessive standing and down fuels pose a risk of fire at intensities that will threaten LS/OG habitat or other resources, remove most or all of the standing dead especially those less than 12" dbh. Incorporate safety and feasibility when leaving large individual snags, averaging 9 to 17 per acre. Large snags can be left for future down wood where less than desired amounts exist. Where no adequate seed sources exist or the remaining stand is not fully stocked with healthy trees, consider	

Limits of Acceptable Change

Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
			interplanting. Prescribed fire - Use low intensity fire for stand density reduction and fuel profile modification. In stands that are deficit in snags and large down wood, use the prescription or low impact methods to protect the necessary amounts. In small areas (less than 10-15 acres) of high mortality or damage, consider using higher intensity prescribed fire to remove heavy fuels and create small openings for regeneration. This should be approached with the same logistical and contingency considerations as for a broadcast burn in a regeneration unit with high fuel loadings.	
Fish Habitat	Quality and Quantity of Spawning Gravel	Locate spawning areas and measure substrate size composition. Maintain desired quality and quantity of spawning gravel established during baseline monitoring.	Identify cause of degradation to quality and quantity of spawning gravel and mitigate impact.	Conduct periodic substrate sampling as necessary to detect increased sedimentation.
	Rearing Habitat	Maintain pools, side channels, wood, and habitat complexity at desired levels established during baseline monitoring.	Identify cause of degradation to rearing habitat and mitigate impact.	Conduct annual habitat survey.
	Fish Species Composition	Maintain appropriate indigenous fish species composition using baseline data from ODFW.	Coordinate with ODFW to identify actions that may degrade fish species composition and assist in mitigation.	Coordinate with ODFW to assist in annual fish census.

Limits of Acceptable Change

Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
Wildlife	River corridor use by bald eagle, osprey, goshawk, and spotted owl.	Maintain raptor occupancy rates within baseline established in 1971 raptor inventory. Population trends are not downward.	Consult with raptor experts and other agencies to re-evaluate river management practices Protect active nests from human disturbance until nesting, feeding, and fledging are completed. Provide additional protection of nest sites and nesting habitat sufficient for species involved.	Conduct raptor inventory to monitor population trends as needed. Monitor selected nest sites.
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plant Species	Number of flowering plants	Detect no more than 30 percent decrease in population numbers with a 90 percent confidence, OR if they have been developed, use population protection standards from the appropriate Species Conservation Strategy.	Correct or mitigate management practices that may be contributing to a decline in threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species.	Conduct plant population surveys of high probability sites during each specific species flowering period.
Cultural Resources	Cultural Site Integrity	No significant Cultural Resource is being irreparably damaged by human use or eroded by natural forces to the point that it is in danger of being lost.	Public information and education efforts through brochures, signs, kiosks, and visitor contact points will be implemented. Projects with ground-disturbing activities or sites experiencing natural degradation would be relocated or stabilized if possible. Project cancellation or mitigating measures would take place where relocating a planned project is not feasible. Conduct a comprehensive inventory to identify high probability sites.	Conduct an inventory to identify prehistoric and historic sites or features in areas proposed for surface disturbing projects as needed. Each managing agency would maintain a cultural resources database atlas for lands under their jurisdiction. Monitor high probability sites every 3 years for signs of looting or vandalism.

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	**Key Indicator**	**Management Standard to be Used**	**Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met**	**Sampling Procedure and Frequency**
Developed Campgrounds and Day Use Areas	Condition of vegetation and soil within 100 feet of a waterbody. Soil stability Loss of vegetation Tree damage	No more than 25% of the area within 100 feet of the river in a campground or day use area is in a developed condition (campsite, pathway, road, trail). Loss of soil stability or erosion that will result in sediment entering a waterbody. Upland areas with less than 45% effective ground cover (living, dead, herbaceous, or woody materials, including trees, shrubs, grass, forbs, or litter). Camp or picnic site exceeding designed size by more than 25%. Development of new or multiple trails within the facility. Tree wounding or root damage that will result in loss of the tree.	Redesign or reconstruct facility to meet developed area objectives. Replant vegetation, reduce soil compaction, control traffic, restrict access to impacted areas, seasonally rest or close sites or facilities. Replant bare or eroding areas with native species or sterile cover crops. Increase user education in "minimum impact" camping techniques.	Facility and vegetation condition surveys to determine if site controls and design is effective. Establish photo monitor points at high impact areas. Conduct user surveys after adoption to determine user acceptance of site controls, constraints and rehabilitation.
	Capacity and Site Availability	Clear trends of corridor-wide developed campground site capacity reduced more than 20% by rest and/or rehabilitation measures.	1)Reservation system 2) New campground outside corridor 3) Other	Annual site inventory

Limits of Acceptable Change

Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
Trails	Trail erosion and damage to trailside vegetation.	Maintain trails to established federal standards. Prevent trail braiding using indirect methods. Trail use and design will be in keeping with Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) experience level and visual management standards. Avoid: ♦ trail width increasing more than 50% of the designed tread width in any segment more than 100 feet long. ♦ loss of soil stability or erosion that will result in sediment entering a waterbody. ♦ tree roots exposed by tread that will result in damage or loss of the tree. ♦ breakdown or loss of overhanging bank in an area more than 2 feet long. ♦ development of new trails that parallel the established tread.	Increase trail maintenance frequency. Reconstruct/relocate trails to reduce trail braiding and design trail structures to encourage appropriate use. Keep trail maps current. Educate users in proper trail use and resource protection. Rehabilitate, harden, or relocate impacted sites. Define trails.	Monitor routine trail maintenance needs yearly. Utilize feedback from routine patrols on high use trails. Establish monitoring points along high use trails to measure trail depth, width, and drainage. Remeasure points as necessary to determine effectiveness of rehabilitation and/or relocation.
	User Conflicts	Maintain complaint or incident levels below five per year.	Sign trails and monitor use to ensure compliance.	

Limits of Acceptable Change

Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
Boating	Recreation experience and resource impacts.	Based on registration and survey data from 1996-1998 seasons, establish baselines and threshold levels of use for boating between Gorge and Bridge 99. Maintain party sizes and numbers of boating encounters that are consistent with the ROS objectives.	Limit boater numbers and/or season. Limit boat types to minimize passage requirements. Educate users at termini.	Gorge to Bridge 99: establish baseline levels from registration and survey data. Assess data yearly thereafter. Conduct user satisfaction surveys every 3 years.
Dispersed Campsites	Impacts to riparian vegetation and function.	Sites are exceeding designated area by more than 50%. New sites and/or fire rings are being pioneered. Loss or soil stability or erosion that will result in sediment entering a waterbody. Tree wounding or root damage that will result in loss of the tree.	Rehabilitate, relocate, or close sites. Rehabilitate soil and vegetation impacts. Use barriers to control traffic and site size Remove new fire rings.	Dispersed site condition surveys as necessary to determine effectiveness of site controls and rehabilitation.

Limits of Acceptable Change				
Value to be Maintained & Enhanced	Key Indicator	Management Standard to be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standard is Not Met	Sampling Procedure and Frequency
Lower River Primitive Recreation Experience	Recreation experience and resource impacts.	Registration system indicates user numbers for dispersed campsites are exceeding 50% of the seasonal capacity for 2 years in a row. User surveys for trails and day use visitors indicate dissatisfaction with number of other party encounters, or data indicates encounters exceeding 6 per day. Resource impacts are increasing beyond the capacity to recover or rehabilitate.	Limit capacity and/or season of use. Implement a reservation system. Close some sites or trails.	Assess registration data yearly. Conduct user survey after adoption to determine acceptance of controls and levels of use as indicated by encounters with other parties. User surveys in other areas of like recreational experience to determine amount of displaced use, and user satisfaction with replacement opportunities.

Baseline Inventory And Survey Needs

- Survey, identify, and inventory existing fish habitat, including instream structure, substrate condition, and overhanging banks.
- Survey and inventory habitat for key indicator species and TES species.
- Survey and inventory prehistoric and historic resources. Evaluate and record. Determine eligibility for National Register.
- Survey and inventory upland forest conditions. Identify areas outside the range of desired conditions and those that pose an immediate risk to river values or life and property.
- Survey and inventory dispersed campsites to determine baseline conditions and to identify those that will be designated for use, and those that will be closed.

Project-Level Monitoring Recommendations

Project level monitoring is developed during project analysis to identify objectives, methodology, responsible parties, frequency, timing, thresholds, required actions, funding sources, and estimated costs. Specific methodology should be identified by the appropriate resource specialist. If the activity contributes to a Wild and Scenic River Plan monitoring element, the methodology is identified in the LAC process. The recording and reporting processes, and the responsibilities, are based on the Sisters Ranger District Monitoring and Implementation Process Papers.

Roles and Interagency Relationships

Once adopted, the Metolius Wild and Scenic River Management Plan will implement the actions described in Chapter 5. The management plan will trigger amendments to the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan which currently contains interim direction for management of the Metolius Wild and Scenic River as Management Area 28.

Successful implementation of this plan will require close cooperation between the agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities on the lands within the WSR corridor. The primary roles of these agencies and departments are described in Chapter 1.

In general, each agency will be responsible for management and plan implementation for lands and resources under their jurisdiction. Collectively, the agencies will establish the specific groups, roles, and processes to ensure that:

- management actions are resulting in satisfactory progress toward achieving the objectives and intent of the management plan,
- original standards and assumptions in the plan were correctly applied and impacts correctly predicted,
- amendments to the plan are made where original standards and assumptions were not correct or where conditions have changed,
- the plan remains consistent with overriding plans and policies of tribal, federal, state, or local governments,
- agencies function in a consortium to capitalize on collective resources and jurisdictions to implement the actions and intent of the plan, and
- information about individual agency actions within the management area or which could have an effect on the management area is shared with all the managing agencies.

The Metolius Coordination Group, composed of representatives of the managing agencies, will continue to ensure consistency, monitor progress, assign and coordinate financial and personnel resources, and resolve questions of interpretation relating to planning and implementation.

The Metolius Coordination Group will maintain its existing format of one representative for each of the Cooperating agencies. The Coordination Group will meet as necessary, but at least once each year. The Coordination Group will be used by agencies to share information about proposed projects on their lands which will potentially affect the Wild and Scenic River. The Coordination Group will assign technical resource specialists or teams of specialists as necessary to implement or monitor the objectives of the Plan.

Coordination between the agencies will include, but is not limited to, the following key areas:

1. The parties shall endeavor to cross-deputize the law enforcement officers of the other parties to the extent practicable and legally permissible to facilitate the implementation and enforcement provisions of the plan.
2. Cooperate in fire suppression for fires that threaten the National Wild and Scenic River area. Develop agreements with affected private landowners and other managing agencies for fire suppression and activities.
3. Jointly collect data and conduct necessary monitoring of Outstandingly Remarkable Values.
4. Coordinate the maintenance and rehabilitation of camping and day-use areas, as well as roads, trails, parking areas, launch/landing sites, signs and other information education facilities on NFS land. The Forest Service will invite the participation of other managing agencies early in the planning stages of all proposed facility development.
5. Jointly monitor recreational use levels.
6. Cooperate with Department of Environmental Quality in establishing water quality standards and monitor water quality.
7. Establish State instream water right for fish, recreation, pollution abatement and protection and enhancement of other identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values after Tribal water right negotiations are complete.
8. Provide funding to Oregon State Police and county sheriffs to assist with enforcement.
9. Jointly develop and implement public information/education facilities and efforts.
10. Identify root digging and medicine gathering areas on other agency lands to ensure adequate protection.

The Cooperative Management Agreement includes, the United States through the Secretary of Agriculture, the State of Oregon, Jefferson County, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Plan Update and Revision Process

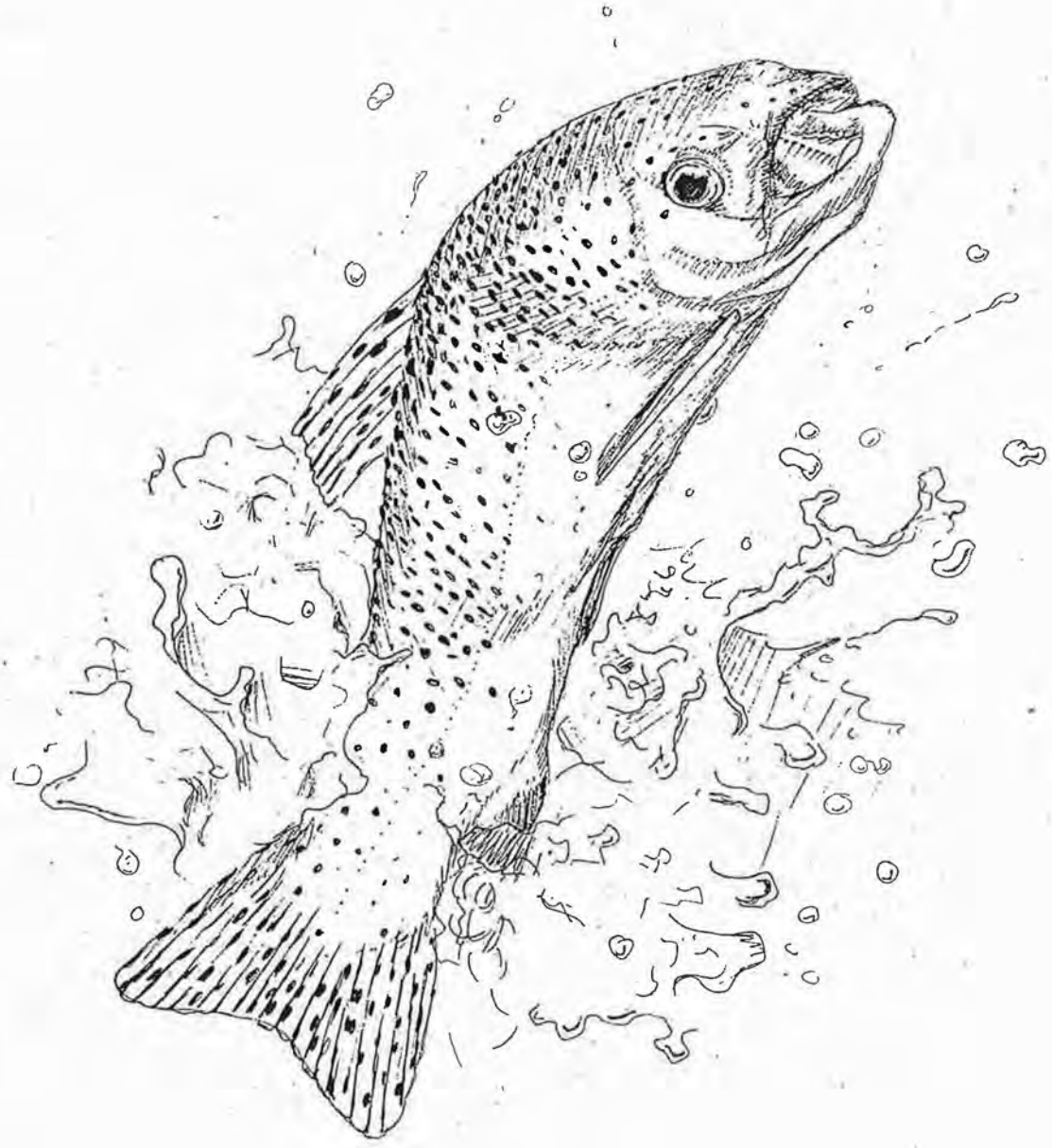
Plan amendments may be initiated because of the need to consider monitoring findings, new data, new or revised policies, changes in conditions, or proposed actions which may result in a change in the original language or intent of the plan.

Upon completion of a periodic evaluation or in the event that modification of the plan becomes necessary, all the managing agencies will cooperate in the amendment process. Collectively they will determine what, if any, changes are necessary to ensure that the plan and related management actions remain consistent with the original intent and objectives or with new, mutually agreeable intent or objectives.

If a plan amendment is necessary, the proponent will be the lead agency in analyzing, drafting, and notifying the public of the proposed change. This process will be conducted with ample opportunities for public and interagency review and comment. Approval by the managing agencies will be in the form of separate decision documents which are adopted under each agency's respective decision making policies.

State Scenic Waterway Rules

Metolius Wild and Scenic River



Background

The Oregon Scenic Waterway Act was established by a ballot initiative in 1970. The original Oregon Scenic Waterways system created by the Act included 496 free-flowing miles of six rivers.

Rivers can be added to the system through designation by the Governor or the legislature. Such actions have added significant mileage of five rivers, as well as Waldo Lake, to the Scenic Waterways system since passage of the original Act.

Rivers can also be added to the system by the citizens of Oregon. In 1988, Oregon voters passed the Oregon Rivers Initiative (Ballot Measure #7), which added 573 river miles to the system. These additions included the segment of the Metolius from the Headwaters to Candle Creek. There is now one lake and segments of 19 rivers (1,148 miles), in the State Scenic Waterways system.

Program Goals

The scenic waterway program promotes cooperative protection and wise use of rivers in the system by all agencies (federal, state and local), individual property owners and recreation users. Five general program goals include:

1. To protect the free-flowing character of designated rivers for fish, wildlife and recreation. No dams, reservoirs, impoundments or placer mining activities are allowed on scenic waterways.
2. To protect and enhance scenic, aesthetic, natural, recreation, scientific, fish and wildlife values along scenic waterways. New development or changes of existing uses proposed within a scenic waterway are reviewed before they may take place.
3. To protect private property rights. The Act discourages unsightly structures or inappropriate development that could be a nuisance to neighboring landowners and/or even depreciate property values. It prohibits pollution and the disturbance of adjacent surface lands by placer mining. It also prohibits public use of private property without explicit consent of the landowner.
4. To promote expansion of the scenic waterway system. The Act sets up a process for adding new rivers to the system and establishes criteria for candidate rivers.
5. To encourage other local, state and federal agencies to act consistently with the goals of the program. Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department reviews plans and decisions made by other agencies to ensure consistency with the scenic waterways program.

Administration

Scenic waterways are administered under the authority of the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Commission (ORS 390.805 to ORS 390.925). Administrative rules (OAR 736-40-005 to 736-40-095) have been adopted to govern the program. In addition to the general rules governing the program, specific rules are generated for management of each river segment in the system. These rules are created through the management planning process, and tailored to the actions necessary to maintain the existing character of the designated river corridor.

The Act and the Commission's rules require the evaluation of proposed land use changes within one-quarter mile from the ordinary high water line, on each side of the river, for potential impacts on the special attributes of the river. Property owners wanting to build roads or houses, extract minerals or aggregate, harvest timber, or other similar projects, must provide written notification to the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department. Parks evaluation of the project will be coordinated with other natural resource agencies (federal and state) having regulatory responsibility and with the local jurisdiction. Parks relies on its river classification and administrative rules for each segment of the scenic waterway to determine whether the proposed project is incompatible or inconsistent with the designated classification. State Parks will work with the landowner to reach a resolution of conflicts. Where such resolution cannot be reached, the Commission must decide within one year of the original notification whether to pay the property owner for the land or the development rights. If the Commission does not decide within one year to acquire the land or development rights, then the landowner may proceed in accordance with the original development proposal.

Other local, state, and federal agencies must comply with the scenic waterway law and rules. Parks coordinates the program with other state and federal agencies to assure their action are compatible with the scenic waterway Act, administrative rules, and resource management.

Scenic Waterway Classification

Under Oregon law (ORS 390.845 - Functions of the Department; use of adjacent lands), the scenic waterway program is administered by the State Parks and Recreation Commission, and staffed by the Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department. The Parks Department is required to protect the aesthetic, scenic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreation features based on special attributes of each river. The Parks Department strives to protect special attributes of the river while recognizing existing land uses and management practices on adjacent lands.

In order to define and achieve managment goals, the river is classified into one or more of six possible classifications according to the present level of land development, committed land uses, or landscape alterations. Once the classifications are set, appropriate guidelines for new development or landscape alterations are established as rules. The major aim of the program is to maintain the existing scenic condition of the river.

The following are existing land use and land alteration conditions usually associated with each of the six river classifications; and how each kind of classification should be administered (managed) in scenic waterways:

1. **Natural River Areas** are generally inaccessible except by trail or river, with primitive or minimally developed shorelands. Preservation and enhancement of the primitive character of these areas is the goal of this and the next two classifications.
2. **Accessible Natural River Areas** are relatively primitive, undeveloped areas with access by railroad or lightly traveled road.
3. **Natural Scenic View Areas** are designated where one riverbank is inaccessible, undeveloped or primitive in character while the opposite bank is accessible and developed.
4. **Scenic River Areas** may be accessible by roads, but are largely undeveloped and primitive except for agriculture and grazing. River segments considered "Scenic" are managed to maintain or enhance their high scenic quality, recreation value, fishery, and wildlife habitat. The intent is to preserve their largely undeveloped character while allowing continued agricultural land use.
5. **Recreational River Areas** are readily accessible by road or railroad, with some agricultural, commercial and/or residential development along the banks; the river may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. River segments considered "Recreation" are managed to allow continuance of compatible river-oriented public outdoor recreation opportunities, to the extent that these do not substantially impair the natural beauty of the scenic waterway or diminish its aesthetic, fish and wildlife, scientific and recreational values.
6. **River Community Areas** are river segments where the density (residential tract or platted subdivision) of existing structures or other developments precludes application of a more restrictive classification. River segments considered "Community Areas" are managed to allow development that is compatible with county zoning and blends into the natural character of the surrounding land-scape. This also means protecting riparian vegetation, and encouraging activities that enhance the landscape.

The rules established for each river classification generally allow some new construction and continued use of existing structures and improvements. Though some improvements require notification, review and approval, many others do not. For example, notification and approval is not generally needed for construction of new fences; maintenance of farm buildings, fences or outbuildings; laying of irrigation lines; crop rotation; removal of danger trees; construction of grain storage facilities under certain conditions; maintenance of existing residences and outbuildings; minor residential remodeling; construction of garage adjacent to existing homes; certain changes in homesite landscaping; maintenance of roads and bridges; and firewood cutting for personal use.

Mining, road building, construction of most new structures, placement of mobile homes, land clearing and timber harvest are examples of activities requiring approval. River classification and the associated rules or guidelines determine how the natural and scenic beauty of the river will be maintained.

Metolius River Scenic Waterway Land Management Program

Proposed Classifications

The Oregon State Parks and Recreation Department has applied two classifications to segments of the Metolius River Scenic Waterway. Classification locations and explanations for why each is applied to the river segments are provided below:

Recreational River Areas

A. The segment of the Scenic waterway from, and including, the Metolius Springs at approximately river mile 41.2 downstream to, and including, the confluence of the North Fork of Lake Creek at approximately river mile 39.4.

B. The segment of the scenic waterway beginning at the downstream edge of the Camp Sherman Bridge at approximately river mile 39.1 downstream to and including the confluence of Candle Creek at approximately river mile 29.

Explanation: These segments of the scenic waterway are primarily under federal ownership. The area is readily accessible by roads and there are summer homes along both sides of the river. These summer homes are privately owned, however they are on federal land and are under revokable permit by the Forest Service. The private properties in this area are developed but the developments are either limited or not visible from the river. There are numerous campgrounds and rereational trails throughout both of these segments. Recreational activity including camping, hiking, fishing, and boating is high in both of these segments.

Management Goal: Preserve the area's recreational quality and ensure that any new developments blend into the natural character of the surrounding landscape, are consistent with Jefferson county zoning ordinances and that USFS-permitted summer homes comply with USFS Recreation Residence regulations and the Metolius Tract Objectives.

River Community Area

The segment of scenic waterway from the confluence of the North Fork of Lake Creek at approximately river mile 39.4 downstream to, and including, the downstream edge of the Camp Sherman Bridge at approximately river mile 39.1

Explanation: This area is currently heavily developed with residential, vacation and commercial lodging facilities as well as stores, restaurants, and a gas station. The density and existence of structures precludes application of a more restrictive classification. On the west side of the river these developments are primarily on private property. The uses are allowed by county zoning ordinances. The facilities on the east side of the river are under permit by the Deschutes National Forest. They comply with county zoning but are under revokable permits.

Mangement Goal: Allowing development that is compatible with Jefferson County land use planning and zoning ordinances, USFS permitted summer homes will also comply with USFS Recreation Residence regulations and the Metolius Tract Objectives and ensure that all new developments are unobtrusive.

Metolius River Scenic Waterway
OAR 736-40-056 (1) Recreational River Areas:

(a) Two river segments are designated as Recreational River Areas:

(A) The segment of the scenic waterway beginning at Metolius Springs at approximately river mile 41.2 extending downstream to the confluence of North Fork of Lake Creek, also known locally as Spring Creek, at approximately river mile 39.4 is classified as a Recreational River Area;

(B) The segment of the scenic waterway beginning at the Camp Sherman Bridge at approximately river mile 39.1 extending downstream to the confluence of Candle Creek at approximately river mile 29 is classified as a Recreational River Area.

(b) Within these areas, all new structures, improvements and development will comply with the Land Management Rules as described in OAR 736-40-035, with the intent of the classification description in OAR 736-40-040(1)(c)(B), and be consistent with applicable Jefferson County land use and development regulations;

(c) New structures and improvements shall be set back a minimum of 100 feet from the ordinary high water line of the river and set back a minimum of 35 feet from the edge of the rim rock (where this feature exists). The exact distance for the above setbacks will be determined on a case-by-case basis and will be dependent on existing terrain, existing vegetation, and height of proposed structures. These setbacks shall not apply to additions to or replacement of residences existing on the effective date of these rules provided that such additions or replacement are not proposed to be built closer to the river than the closest point of the original structure;

(d) Not withstanding the provisions of any other subsection of this section, a 50 foot riparian area will be retained in its natural condition (no cutting, mowing or removal of natural vegetation), measured from the ordinary high water line in a horizontal direction away from the river;

(e) No building shall exceed 25 feet in height measured from the natural grade on the river side of the building to the tallest point of the structure;

(f) New structures shall be finished in colors and tones that blend with the surrounding landscape. For the purposes of this rule, landscape includes indigenous vegetation, soils, and rock material. All natural evergreen vegetation will be maintained between the structures and improvements and the river. The establishment of additional vegetative screening (native vegetation) may be required to further mitigate the visual impact of the structures and improvements as seen from the river;

(g) Roads, mines and similar forms of development shall be set back from the river consistent with Jefferson County land use and development regulations and be screened from view from the river by topography, or by existing or established evergreen vegetation;

(h) New bridges will not be permitted. Maintenance, repair and replacement of existing bridges shall be consistent with OAR 736-40-035(6) and (7), Jefferson County

land use and development regulations and Oregon Division of State Lands regulations;

(i) New utility facilities shall share land and air space with existing utilities, road rights-of-way and/or river crossings. Upgrades to existing utility facilities will be permitted. New river crossings for new utility facilities will not be permitted;

(j) Timber harvest activities, including thinning, shall be screened by topography or vegetation when seen from the river, developed recreation sites with the scenic waterway, and trails adjacent to the river. Riparian areas shall be protected. Stumps shall be kept low, slash removed promptly and remaining trees and brush protected from damage during harvest. Reforestation shall occur within one year of completion of harvest. The provisions of the Oregon Department of Forestry forest practices rules shall be strictly followed;

(k) Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection must be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.

(2) River Community Area:

(a) One river segment is designated as a River Community Area:

(b) The segment of scenic waterway beginning at the confluence of North Fork of Lake Creek, also known locally as Spring Creek, at approximately river mile 39.4 extending downstream to the Camp Sherman Bridge at approximately river mile 39.1 is classified as a River Community Area;

(c) Within these areas, all new structures, improvements and development must be in compliance with the Land Management Rules as described in OAR 736-40-035, with the intent of the classification description in OAR 736-40-040(1)(f), and be consistent with applicable Jefferson County land use and development regulations;

(d) No structure shall exceed 25 feet in height measured from the natural grade on the river side of the building to the tallest point of the structure;

(e) Not withstanding the provisions of any other subsection of this section, a 50 foot riparian area will be retained in its natural condition (no cutting, mowing or removal of natural vegetation), measured from the ordinary high water line in a horizontal direction away from the river;

(f) New utility facilities shall share land and air space with existing utilities, road rights-of-way and/or river crossings. Upgrades to existing utility facilities will be permitted. New river crossings for new utility facilities will not be permitted;

(g) Timber harvest activities, including thinning, shall be screened by topography or vegetation when seen from the river, developed recreation sites within scenic waterways, and trails adjacent to the river. Riparian vegetation shall be protected. Stumps shall be kept low, slash cleaned up promptly and remaining trees and brush protected from damage during harvest. Reforestation shall occur within one year of completion of harvest. The provisions of the Oregon Department of Forestry forest practices rules shall be strictly followed;

(h) Improvements needed for public recreation use or resource protection must be designed to blend with the natural character of the landscape.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 390.845 (2)

Stats. Implemented: ORS 390.826(1) and 390.845(2)

Rules of Land Management (OAR 736-40-035)

These rules and regulations governing the use of related adjacent lands and improvements made to these lands apply to all designated scenic waterways. Land management on scenic waterways includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

(1) Timber Harvest: The forest cover on related adjacent land is a part of the scenic beauty of the scenic waterway, and notification of planned timber harvest operations must be given to the Commission one year prior to commencement. The notification must include a plan specifying timber to be cut, road locations, logging methods, slash cleanup, soil stabilization, revegetation measures and any other details as the Commission may require.

(2) Tree Cutting: No person shall cut any living tree within a scenic waterway without prior written notice except as provided in these rules.

(3) Grazing and Farming: Existing use in the form of grazing or farming of the related adjacent land is a part of the scenic beauty of the waterway. Notification is not required for:

a) Construction of fences;
b) Maintenance of farm buildings, fences or appurtenances necessary to existing use;
c) Laying of irrigation lines;
d) Pumphouse construction, if not in violation of OAR 736-40-030(5);
e) Additions to farm buildings, if not in violation of OAR 736-40-030(5);
f) Crop rotation;
g) Variations in grazing land management;
h) Placing of grazing land under cultivation, except within classified natural river area named in OAR 736-40-045 through 736-40-075;
i) Construction of silos and grain storage facilities, and other structures or buildings as are needed in connection with the existing use of the related adjacent land, if not in violation of OAR 736-40-030(5), except within classified natural river areas named in OAR 736-40-045 through 736-40-075;
j) Cutting of danger trees. Notification is required for construction of new roads or improvement of existing roads.

(4) Suburban Housing: Notification is not required for:

a) Maintenance of existing homes in a manner compatible with these rules and regulations;
b) Modifications to existing single family dwellings, if not in violation of OAR 736-40-030(5);
c) Construction of garages necessary to the use of existing homes, if not in violation of OAR 736-40-030(5);
d) Changes in or additions to homesite landscaping which do not impair vegetation screening structures from view from the river;
e) Construction of protective fences necessary to use of the home;

f) Cutting of firewood for occupant's dwelling;
g) Cutting of danger trees. Notification is required for construction of new roads or improvement of existing roads.

(5) Prospecting, Mining, Dredging, and Quarrying:

a) All prospecting, mining, dredging, and quarrying operations, including removal or movement of gravel, rocks and sand within related adjacent lands, require notification to the Commission as prescribed herein;
b) Such notification shall include plans to insure that debris, silt, chemicals or other materials shall not be discharged into or allowed to reach the waters within a scenic waterway and that the natural beauty of the scenic waterway shall not be impaired substantially.

(6) Transportation Facilities and Utilities:

a) No roads, railroads or other facilities for transportation or utilities shall be constructed or improved within a scenic waterway without notification to the Commission as prescribed by the Act and herein;
b) The Commission, whenever practicable, will require the sharing of land and airspace by such facilities and utilities. All permissible transportation facilities and utilities shall be so located as to minimize impairment of the natural beauty of the scenic waterway. For example, it will be desirable to place electrical and telephone lines underground wherever reasonably practicable.

(7) Structures, Buildings, and Other Improvements: Except as provided in OAR 736-40-030(5), sections (3) and (4) of this rule and OAR 736-40-045 through 736-40-075, no structures, buildings, or other improvements shall be made, erected or placed on related adjacent lands without notification to the Commission as prescribed by the Act and herein. Permitted new structures, buildings, or other improvements on related adjacent lands which can be seen from the waters within a scenic waterway shall:

(a) Be of such design and be constructed of such materials as to be unobtrusive and compatible with the scenic qualities of the area. For example, the following shall apply:

A) All structures shall be finished in muted tones appropriate to their natural surroundings;
B) No large areas, including roofs, shall be finished with white or bright colors or reflective materials:
C) Except for large farm buildings such as barns, metal siding or roofing shall not be used;
D) No structures shall exceed 30 feet in height from natural grade on a side facing the river;
E) All structures shall be so designed and constructed that little or no soil is left exposed when construction is completed.

(b) Be located in such a way that topography and natural vegetation make them as inconspicuous as reasonably practicable, and in no case obtruding on the view from the river. The Commission may require that additional vegetative screening be established and maintained. In such event, it shall be evergreen, wherever practicable, and compatible with natural growth in the area.

(8) Mobile homes, modular residential structures, house trailers, campers and similar structures and vehicles: Mobile homes, modular residential structures, house trailers, campers, motor homes and the like shall not be established as dwellings, either permanent, (or) seasonal or temporary, within adjacent lands unless they are entirely concealed from view from the waters within a scenic waterway by topography, except that those mobile homes, modular residential structures and house trailers, that are at least 20 feet wide, with exterior dimensions, less hitch, of 800 square feet, may be permitted under these rules subject to the same requirements and standards set forth in the previous section relating to criteria for review for structures and improvements that are visible from the waters within a scenic waterway. Additionally, except when a mobile home, modular residential structure, house trailer or the like is not set on a ground-level foundation, full skirting shall be installed which in design, color and texture appears to be an integral part of the exterior of the structure:

(a) For the purposes of these rules, a structure is a mobile home, modular residential structure, house trailer, camper or motor home if it is used, designed or intended to house persons, and is transported to the site in a state of substantial prefabrication. Once a structure fulfills this test, it shall remain subject to the rule regardless of whether the wheels or other temporary assembly have been removed or detached, and regardless of whether the structure is subsequently relocated;
(b) Within public recreation sites and transient public trailer parks where travel trailers, campers, motor homes and similar vehicles are permitted by the public agency, firm or individual maintaining the facility, their transient short term use by travelers is allowed, but they shall not be left on the site during their user's absence of more than three (3) days duration.

(9) Maintenance of Structures and Improvements: Owners and users of existing structures and other improvements shall maintain them and their surroundings in a manner and condition in harmony with the environment, compatible with the objectives set forth in these rules and regulations for the classified river area in which they lie, and without impairing substantially the natural beauty of the scenic waterway. The existing color of such structures may be maintained.

(10) Replacement of Existing Structures and Improvements: Replacement of existing structures and improvements, including those lost by fire, flood or other casualty, will be permitted, provided the new structure or improvement is in compliance with the provisions of the Act and these rules and regulations. Notification procedures set forth in OAR 736-40-040 and Commission approval are required.

(11) Advertising: No signs or other forms of outdoor advertising that are visible from waters within a scenic waterway shall be constructed or maintained. Property protection signs (No Hunting, No Trespassing, et cetera) are exempted.

(12) Erosion Protection: The Commission recognizes that erosion protection work and maintenance may be necessary on riverbanks and related adjacent lands along the scenic waterways. Notification, which shall include plans to protect the natural beauty of the scenic waterway, and Commission approval are required.

(13) Submerged and Submersible Lands:
(a) No dam or reservoir or other water impoundment facility shall be constructed or placer mining permitted on waters within scenic waterways. No water diversion facility shall be constructed or used except by right previously established or as permitted by the State Engineer;
(b) No bank protection works or dredging facility shall be constructed or used on such waters, except as permitted by the Director of the Division of State Lands and approved by the State Land Board.

(14) Emergencies:
(a) The owner or his authorized agent may act in emergencies without prior notice when necessary in the interest of public safety of his own property, except that notice of any action taken shall be filed with the Commission not later than seven days following the commencement of the emergency procedures;
(b) The owner or his authorized agent must show that the emergency situation required immediate action to prevent immediate danger or damage. Such emergency procedures shall not be extended beyond the minimum necessary to accomplish the needed protection safely and shall be conducted throughout in such manner as to minimize impairment of the natural beauty of the scenic waterway. For example, car bodies and similar scrap or trash shall not be used as riprap.

(15) Solid Waste, Pollution and Sanitation: Owners, occupants and users of related adjacent land shall comply with the rules and regulations of the Department of Environmental Quality relating to solid waste control, water, air and noise pollution control and sewage disposal.