

Clackamas River Basin Action Plan

Appendix A: Summary of Recommendations from the Mt. Hood National Forest (and BLM) Watershed Assessments.

Introduction

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Federal watershed analysis is conducted as part of implementing the Northwest Forest Plan. Watershed analysis is not a decision making process. The purpose of watershed analysis is to develop and document a scientifically based understanding of the ecological structures, functions, and processes occurring within a watershed and to identify trends, conditions, and restoration opportunities.

Federal watershed analysis is ecosystem analysis at the watershed scale, and therefore tends to emphasize landscape patterns and vegetation management versus the focus on water related issues emphasized in the Oregon Watershed Assessment Manual (OWEB manual) used by the Clackamas Watershed Council. It also tends to focus heavily on timber and road management to a large extent.

Although the federal and OWEB methods rely on similar ecological principles, the products of the two watershed assessment procedures are quite different. The federal analysis often results in general conceptual guidelines that are then implemented in project level planning (although containing specifics in regard to riparian reserve widths and road closures). The OWEB watershed assessment method results in more specific analysis of conditions at a finer scale by focusing on the stream channel and riparian zone.

The following summary tables outline the major topics that overlap with the Clackamas River Basin Action Plan and is not intended to be complete or comprehensive in description. The reader that wishes more information is referred to the individual watershed analysis document and to the Mt. Hood National Forest staff, since these documents may be outdated and do not reflect progress on issues that were identified.

¹ Mt. Hood National Forest. http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/documents/Watershed_Analyses/

Lower Clackamas River Watershed Analysis (1996)
 (from the National Forest boundary to the confluence of the Clackamas River with the
 Collowash River).

| Topic | Recommendation Summary |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Riparian Reserves | Riparian Reserve widths equal to potential tree height of 208 feet, the average max tree height for Douglas Fir. |
| Management Planning Recommendations | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road decommissioning opportunities. 2. Headwater restoration related to restoring flow of Dugan Creek to historic channel. 3. Foreman Hill road project. 4. Dispersed camping closure. |
| Aquatic Resource Monitoring | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Impact of human use on lakes and ponds. 2. Fish distribution and habitat use. |

Eagle Creek Watershed Assessment (1995)

| Topic | Recommendation Summary |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Riparian Reserves | Riparian Reserve widths equal to potential tree height of 208 feet, the average max tree height for Douglas Fir. |
| Restoration Projects (Aquatic) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce wood into streams throughout watersheds. 2. Protect wetlands from off-highway-vehicles. 3. Restore high priority roads in Riparian Reserves. 4. Treat noxious weeds in meadows through burning and revegetation. |
| Aquatic Resource Monitoring | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Determine base and peak flows 2. Summer high temperatures 3. Spawning surveys 4. Aquatic habitat complexity |

North Fork Clackamas River Watershed Assessment (1996)

| Topic | Recommendation Summary |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Travel Management | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road closure lists. 2. High priority roads for closure/decommissioning a) deer/elk winter range, b) high sediment delivery, c) roads in riparian reserves. |
| Riparian Reserves | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Western hemlock series, 210 to 420 feet. 2. Pacific silver fir and mountain hemlock series, 160 to 320 feet. |
| Aquatic Resource Monitoring | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor sediment production from OHV use. 2. Determine changes in stream characteristics resulting from 1996 storm on North Fork. |

South Fork Clackamas River Watershed Assessment (1996)

| Topic | Recommendation Summary |
|---|---|
| Restoration Upper South Fork subwatershed | Highest priority project is restoring riparian connectivity in the Upper South Fork subwatershed by planting western red cedar, introduce large wood into streams, plant hardwoods for short term shade, obliterate roads and culverts, and revegetate landings and pits. |
| Travel Management | Road closure/decommissioning lists. |
| Riparian Reserves | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Western hemlock series, 210 to 420 feet. 2. Pacific silver fir and mountain hemlock series, 160 to 320 feet. |
| Aquatic Resource Monitoring | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor brook trout escapements from Williams Lake. 2. Monitor brook trout populations in Memaloose Creek. 3. Monitor long term water temperature trends. |

Fish Creek Watershed Assessment (1994)

| Topic | Recommendation Summary |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Riparian Reserves | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Western hemlock zone, 209 to 418 feet. 2. Pacific silver fir and mountain hemlock series, 158 to 316 feet. |
| Restoration Opportunities | Table 7-2 lists general restoration guidelines for project level planning. |
| Travel Management | Identifies relative sediment delivery capability of road segments to assist project level planning on road closure or rehabilitation. |
| Aquatic Resource Monitoring | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Evaluate sediment sources during storms 2. Evaluate channel geomorphology recovery 3. Hydrology – continue USGS gaging stations. 4. Evaluate long-term water temperature. 5. Aquatic macroinvert. Monitoring 6. Anadromous population monitoring. |
| List of Projects (Aquatic) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Riparian stand restoration 2. wetland restoration 3. Roads restoration 4. Channel restoration 5. Lower mile of Pine Creek restoration |

Roaring River Watershed Assessment (1996)

| Topic | Recommendation Summary |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Aquatic Resource Monitoring | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brook trout introductions from high lakes. 2. Baseline trends on unmanaged watersheds. 3. Stream habitat surveys.. 4. Microbiological monitoring or recreational activities. |
| Riparian Reserves | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Western hemlock zone, 210 to 420 feet. 4. Pacific silver fir and mountain hemlock series, 160 to 320 feet. |
| Travel Management | Two roads identified for potential decommissioning. |

Oak Grove Watershed Assessment (1996)

| Topic | Recommendation Summary |
|---|---|
| Recommendations – watershed side (Aquatic) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop flow regime that includes channel maintenance flows below Lake Harriet. 2. Negotiate minimum flows from Lake Harriet Dam. 3. Coordinate with PGE and EWAB to achieve consistency in operating conditions for Oak Grove and Stone Creek projects. |
| Recommendations – Timothy Lake Area (Aquatic) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assure sanitary facilities are adequate. 2. Limit camping. 3. Prohibit grazing outside of allotment. 4. Improve riparian conditions along Cooper Creek. 5. Restore shade to Dinger and Cooper Creeks. |
| Recommendations – Lake Harriet Catchment Area (Aquatic) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fish habitat enhancement on mainstem Oak Grove Fork. 2. Introduce large wood into Anvil and Peavine Creeks. 3. Replace Road 5810 and 5830. 4. Replace undersized culverts on Raod 4630. |

Upper Clackamas Watershed Assessment (1995)

(encompasses the headwaters of the Clackamas River and extends downstream to the confluence of the Collawash River)

| Topic | Recommendation Summary |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Riparian Reserves | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Western hemlock zone, 210 to 420 feet. 2. Pacific silver fir and mountain hemlock series, 160 to 320 feet. |
| Restoration Priorities (Aquatic) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reconnect and restore side channels for late run coho salmon, particularly along Road 46. 2. Decommission no arterial roads within the LSR and Tier 1 Key Watershed. 3. Improve instream habitat structure within streams in the East, west and South groups. 4. Correct fish passage problems with the range of late run coho salmon. |
| Travel Management | Identifies priorities for road closures. |
| Aquatic Resource Monitoring | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instream habitat objectives. 2. Fish production objectives. |

Collawash/Hot Springs Watershed Assessment (1995)

| Topic | Recommendation Summary |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Restoration Priorities (Aquatic) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sediment reduction and hydrologic recovery – road obliterations. 2. Promote growth in plantations and natural second growth. 3. Restore stand structure in riparian reserves and LSR. 4. Improve aquatic habitats by planting hardwoods, reintroducing beaver, instream structures, removing culverts, address dispersed recreation, and remove and restore unneeded roads. |
| Travel Management | Identifies system roads to retain, roads to obliterate, roads proposed for decommissioning. |
| Aquatic Resource Monitoring | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monitor long-term water temperature trends. 2. Estacada District – water quality, habitat quality, and channel attribute monitoring. 3. Develop fish production estimates. 4. Monitor use of side channels for coho salmon rearing. |