

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Wallowa-Whitman  
National Forest

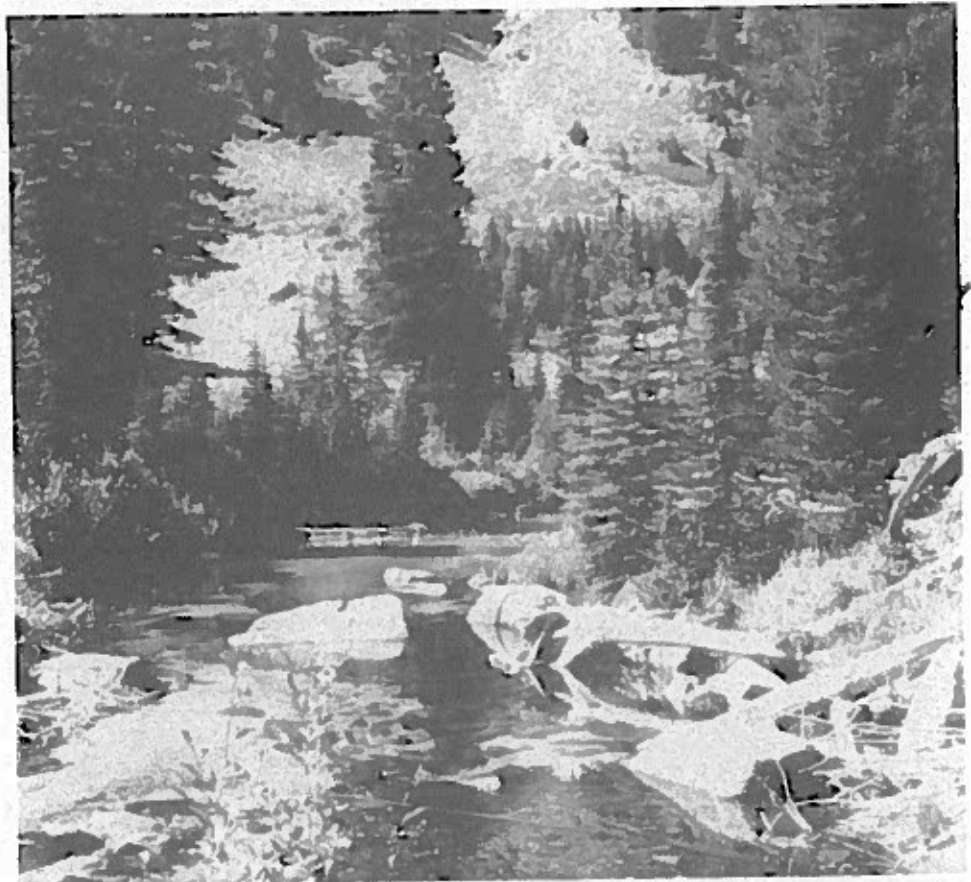
June 1993



Environmental Assessment for the

# Lostine River

**Wild and Scenic River Management Plan**



**DECISION NOTICE  
AND  
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE  
LOSTINE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Forest Plan Amendment No. 7**

**USDA Forest Service  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest  
Eagle Cap Ranger District**

**Wallowa County, Oregon**

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Lostine Wild and Scenic River Management Plan on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is available for the public review at the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor's Office in Baker City, Oregon. The EA analyzes alternatives to managing the Lostine Wild and Scenic River in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The selected alternative described below amends the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan).

**DECISION**

As Forest Supervisor for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, it is my decision to implement Alternative D (with one exception identified below) of the EA for the Lostine Wild and Scenic River Management Plan. Alternative D prescribes the following activities:

- Adopts a management plan for managing the Lostine Wild and Scenic River so as to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values.
- Modifies the Management Area boundary for MA-7 surrounding the Lostine River

It is also my decision to recommend this boundary change to the Regional Forester as the final boundary for the Lostine Wild and Scenic River corridor in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

My decision also includes the following changes to the Forest Plan to further clarify the management of the Lostine Wild and Scenic River.

On page 4-75 after item "23." add a new heading: "24. Lostine Wild and Scenic River." Followed by "The Lostine Wild and Scenic River, within National Forest Lands, will be managed according to the Lostine Wild and Scenic River Management Plan on file at Forest Headquarters."

There is one exception to Alternative D as outlined in the EA. Alternative D under the heading of "Fisheries" stated: "Close all campsites within 75 feet of the Lostine River." My decision is to add the following: "Existing campsites may be allowed within this 75 foot area if it is determined that they are not adversely affecting fisheries values."

## ALTERNATIVES

I considered three other alternatives before selecting Alternative D.

- Alternative A (No Action) consisted of protecting and managing the river corridor under the interim direction and within the interim boundary of a quarter mile either side of the river. Alternative A did not provide direction for managing the Outstandingly Remarkable Values (OR values) or provide guidance for private landowners.
- Alternative B gave special emphasis to the management of the Recreation OR values.
- Alternative C gave special emphasis to the management of the Fisheries, Wildlife, Scenic, and Vegetation/Botanic OR values.

## REASONS FOR THE DECISION

I selected Alternative D because it prescribes the best mix of activities to achieve the project objectives and attain the desired condition.

Of the four alternatives, Alternative D provides for the best opportunity to protect and enhance all of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values, protect free flow, and protect water quality while minimizing the impacts to private landowners.

## SCOPING AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The public has been involved throughout the process. Initially, approximately 12 public meetings were held to discuss issues and concerns. Additional meetings were held to review the alternatives, the draft EA, and to discuss concerns. Letters were also sent to acquire additional information from public and private landowners and to inform the public on the progress of the management plan.

## ISSUES

Several issues were identified during the scoping process. Five significant issues were identified by the interdisciplinary team for analysis in the EA:

- Recreation: What type and level of recreational opportunities will be available within the corridor while still protecting resource values.
- Fisheries: How to protect and enhance the populations and habitat of the salmon, steelhead, and bull trout while allowing for other uses within and adjacent to the river corridor.
- Vegetation: How will the the OR values be affected by the decline of forest health and can vegetative management improve the forest health situation and still protect all the OR values?
- Transportation: How to meet the transportation needs while protecting and enhancing the resources and OR values.
- Fire Management: Given the existing and predicted fuel loading within the river corridor, what are appropriate fire prevention and suppression strategies.

Management of each of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values were also addressed as issues. The Outstandingly Remarkable Values are Scenic, Recreation, Wildlife, Fisheries, Historic/Prehistoric, and Vegetation/Botanical.

## MONITORING

Monitoring will be in accordance with the existing monitoring plan outlined in the Forest Plan. This includes the monitoring for the protection and enhancement of the OR values, free flow, and water quality.

An additional monitoring program for water quality was also established with the management plan.

## SPECIFICALLY REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

There are no unavoidable, adverse effects associated with implementing Alternative D that are not already identified in the Final EIS for the Forest Plan.

There are no short-term uses proposed in the project. Promoting long-term health and productivity of the Forest's ecosystems is a project objective.

There are no irreversible or irretrievable losses from implementing Alternative D that are not already identified in the Final EIS for the Forest Plan.

There are no unusual energy requirements associated with implementing Alternative D.

There are no specific projects planned within wetlands or floodplains.

The management plan will cause no adverse effects to any Threatened or Endangered species or critical habitat; prime farmland, rangeland, or forest land; cultural resources; or civil rights, women, and minorities not already identified in the Final EIS for the Forest Plan.

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Based on the site-specific environmental analysis documented in the Environmental Assessment, I have determined that the Wild and Scenic Lostine River Management Plan and Forest Plan Amendment #8 are not major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment. Therefore an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. The direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts discussed in the EA have been disclosed within the appropriate context and will have little intensity. My determination is based on the incorporation of mitigation measures and monitoring requirements associated with Alternative D and the following factors from Title 40 CFR 1508.27:

1. The beneficial and adverse environmental effects described in the EA for Alternative D were considered independently to determine if the project would significantly affect the human environment. No significant impacts were identified.
2. Public response to the project has indicated that the project is not likely to cause effects that are highly controversial. Refer to Chapter I of the EA for a description of the public scoping process.
3. The project causes no highly uncertain effects and no effects that involve unique or unknown risks.
4. There will be no significant cumulative effect from implementing the plan in conjunction with past, present, and foreseeable future actions.
5. The plan will not adversely affect any sites or features listed or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or any significant scientific, cultural, or historical resources.
6. The effects of the plan on threatened and endangered species were analyzed in a biological evaluation (BE). There will be no risk of adversely affecting these species with the plan as described in the EA. The plan will have no adverse effect on threatened and endangered species habitat. Over time, the plan is expected to have positive effects on threatened and endangered species.

7. The plan is consistent with all known Federal, State, and local laws. Regulations related to the National Forest Management Act and the Endangered Species Act have been incorporated into the project. Environmental Protection Agency herbicide application requirements will be followed.

#### FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS

I have determined that this amendment is not significant in relation to the National Forest Management Act of 1976. Adoption of this amendment will not significantly alter Forest Plan goals, objectives, standards, guidelines, or management direction. Indeed, this amendment will enable managers to better meet the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and existing Forest Plan objectives, standards, guidelines, and management direction.

#### PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

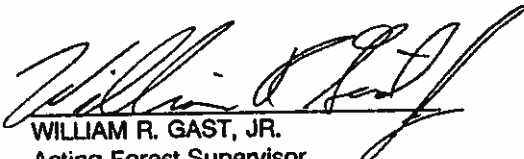
Implementation of this decision shall not occur within 30 days following publication of the legal notice of the decision in the Baker City Herald.

#### APPEAL RIGHTS

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 217. Any Notice of Appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 217.9 (Content of a Notice of Appeal) and must be filed with John Lowe, Regional Forester, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, Oregon 97208 within 45 days of the date legal notice of this decision appears in the Baker City Herald.

#### CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information regarding the Wild and Scenic Lostine River Management Plan, contact Marty Gardner at the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Supervisor's Office, P.O. Box 907, Baker City, Oregon 97814 or at (503) 523-6391.

  
WILLIAM R. GAST, JR.  
Acting Forest Supervisor  
Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

7/7/93  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**FOR THE LOSTINE RIVER**

**NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER**

**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST  
EAGLE CAP RANGER DISTRICT  
WALLOWA COUNTY, OREGON**

**USDA FOREST SERVICE**

**Responsible Official**

**R. M. RICHMOND  
FOREST SUPERVISOR  
WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST**

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE LOSTINE RIVER  
NATIONAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVER  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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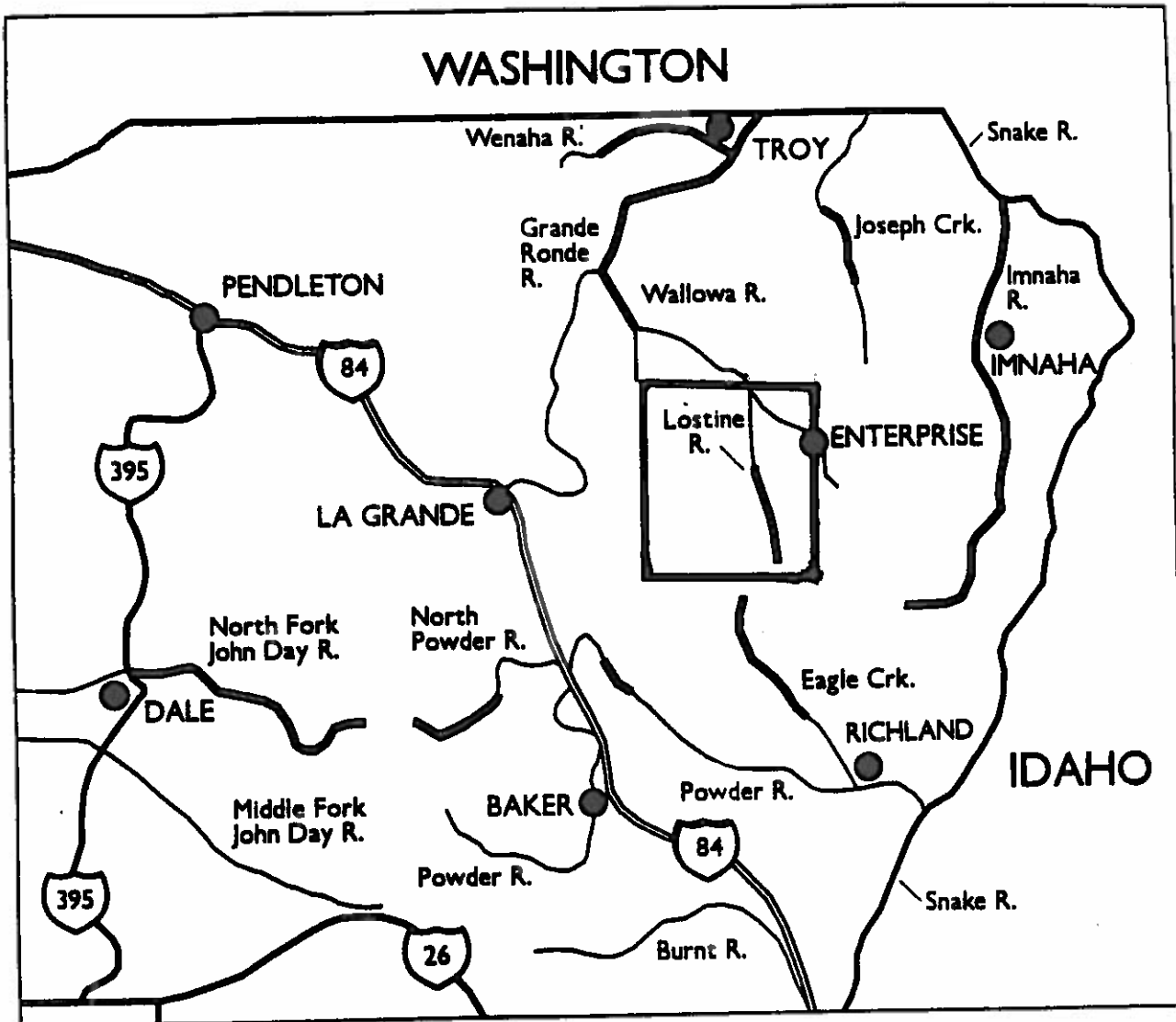
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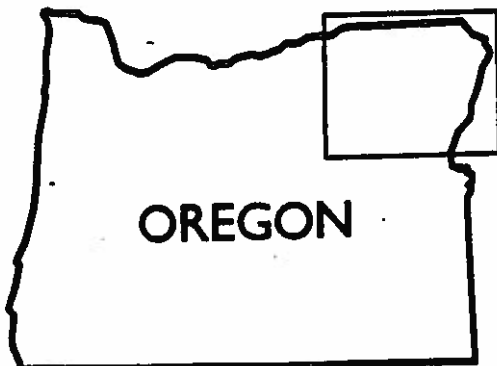
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# Lostine River



Detail Map



Location Map

Designated by the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988

- River
- Wild and Scenic River Area
- Highway

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE - REGION SIX

WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST

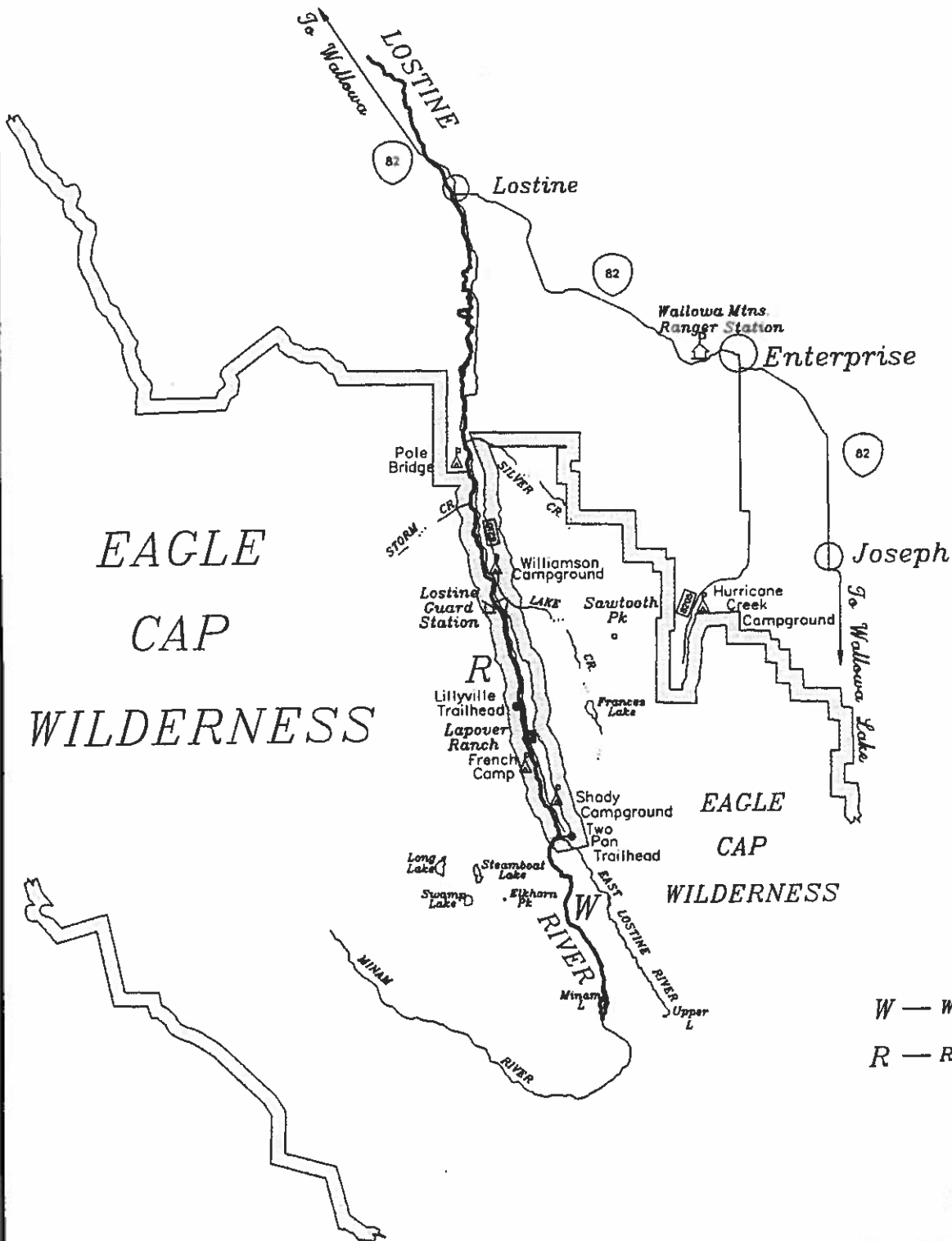


AREA LOCATION MAP

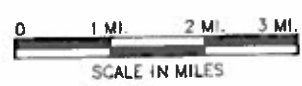


VICINITY MAP FOR

# LOSTINE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER



W — Wild River  
R — Recreational River



## Chapter I

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# *Purpose and Need for Action*



# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## LOSTINE WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

### CHAPTER I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

#### A. Introduction

The Lostine River is located in Northeast Oregon on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, starting within the Eagle Cap Wilderness at Minam Lake (Section 29, T.4S., R.44E., W.M.) and flowing north to the National Forest Boundary (at the section line between sections 10 and 15, T.2S., R.43E., W.M.). The river can be accessed from the town of Lostine by heading south on County Road 551 and then along Forest Road 8210. The section of the river designated by Congress as a Wild and Scenic River is approximately 16 miles long.

The Lostine River was designated a Wild and Scenic River by the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-557, 102 Stat. 2782) as an amendment to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (Public Law 90-542, 82 Stat. 907) (Appendix B).

This legislation declared a policy that selected rivers of the United States which:

"...possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

The Lostine River is free-flowing and has outstandingly remarkable values (OR values), as documented in the Resource Assessment (Appendix C), which includes scenery, recreation, fish, wildlife, and vegetation/botanical.

The Act defines three classifications for a Wild and Scenic River, based on the degree of development and access. The classifications are:

**Wild River Areas** - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with water-

sheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

**Scenic River Areas** - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

**Recreational River Areas** - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundments or diversion in the past.

The Lostine River is classified as follows:

**Segment A. (WILD)** - That part of the Lostine River starting from its headwaters in the Eagle Cap Wilderness to the Eagle Cap Wilderness boundary, approximately 5 miles.

**Segment B. (RECREATIONAL)** - That part of the Lostine River starting at the Eagle Cap Wilderness boundary to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Boundary at Silver Creek, approximately 11 miles.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act gives direction to the administering agency, in this case the USDA Forest Service, to prepare a comprehensive management plan to provide protection of the river values.

The river and river corridor are managed according to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and its Environmental Impact Statement. The interim direction for this river is under Management Area 7 of the Forest Plan, which states:

"Management is intended to preserve the special values of those rivers or river segments

(meaning the river plus its associated corridor) which are part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.... Management of lands bordering or adjacent to the river (and its associated corridor) will not diminish the special values which caused the river to be included in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.\*

A portion of the Lostine River corridor lies within the Eagle Cap Wilderness, Management Area 4. Conflicts between the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Wilderness Act will be resolved by the more restrictive provisions.

This Environmental Assessment is the basis for the River Management Plan. It gives information about the planning process used and the environmental analysis done by the Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team). This document describes alternative methods for managing the river, as well as describing the environmental effects of each alternative.

The results of this analysis and any subsequent decision including the management plan may result in an amendment to the Forest Plan.

## **B. Proposed Action**

The proposed action is the development of a management plan for the Lostine Wild and Scenic River. The plan will address resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, and other management practices necessary or desirable to achieve the purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The plan is to be developed by the Forest Service. The plan will be implemented after its availability has been published in the Federal Register. The plan will be in effect until it is revised or amended through the Wallowa-Whitman Forest planning process.

The proposed action also includes recommending the final river corridor boundary.

## **C. Purpose Of and Need For Action**

The purpose of this analysis is to follow the direction of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which requires the Forest Service to develop a comprehensive management plan for this river. Section 3 (d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 states:

\*... The plan shall address resource protection, development of lands and facilities, user capacities, and other management practices necessary or desirable to achieve the purpose of this Act. The plan shall be coordinated with and may be incorporated into resource management planning for affected adjacent Federal lands. The plan shall be prepared, after consultation with State and local governments and interested publics within three full fiscal years after the date of designation. Notice of the completion and availability of such plan shall be published in the Federal Register.\*

The development of this management plan is through a process established by the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). The Lostine River Management Plan will guide the management of the Lostine River. Once the plan is developed it will be incorporated into the Wallowa-Whitman Forest Plan by a Forest Plan amendment. Revisions to the river management plan after it becomes a part of the Forest Plan will be through the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest planning process as directed by the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) and NEPA.

## **D. Decision Needed**

Based on this analysis, specific decisions need to be made by the Forest Service to implement the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and complete a management plan. Specific decisions to be made are:

- Determine how to implement the basic requirements of the Act, which include protection of the water quality, the free-flowing condition, and the river's aesthetic, scenic, historic, archeologic, and scientific features (Section 1(a) and 10(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act).
- Determine the degree in which to protect, enhance and/or develop the OR values identified in the Resource Assessment. These "... shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations" (Section 1(b) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act).

- Determine the development of lands, facilities, user capacities, and/or compatibility with other management practices necessary or desirable to achieve the purpose of the Act. (Section 3 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act)
- Determine the priority between OR values when they cannot be implemented equally. (Section 3 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act)
- Determine the boundary of the river corridor. (Section 3 of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act)
- Determine guides for private landowners to protect and enhance the OR values. (Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.)

The Regional Forester has the authority to approve the management plan and detailed boundary location (FSM 2354.04e). The Regional Forester has delegated the approval of management plans to the Forest Supervisors if they "...result in a nonsignificant change to the Forest Plan" (Letter to FSM 1920/1950/2350 dated June 21, 1991).

The Chief of the Forest Service has the responsibility to "transmit detailed boundary description, river segment classifications and management and development plans for wild and scenic rivers to the President of the Senate, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the Federal Register" (FSM 2354.04a).

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that boundaries must be published in the Federal Register and shall not become effective until ninety days after they have been forwarded to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

These decisions will be documented in a Decision Notice, which is separate from the Environmental Assessment. The decisions will be based on the alternatives developed and the results of this analysis.

## **E. Issues and Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

### **KEY ISSUES**

The following is a description of how the Key Issues were identified.

NEPA defines issues as "... unresolved conflicts regarding alternative uses of available resources." Issues can also be defined as subjects of public interest relating to resource management. The Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) identified issues after conducting a scoping process.

This scoping process included public meetings; correspondence with a variety of interest groups, organizations, and individuals; contacts with federal, state, county, and tribal governments; and consultation with specialists both within and outside the Forest Service. Scoping was continued throughout the analysis process.

Through this public involvement process a variety of issues were identified. The ID Team sorted through the issues to determine "which are not significant" (CEQ Regulation 1501.7(3)). The remaining issues have been identified as Key Issues.

Some of the non-key issues are addressed in this section under OTHER ISSUES and a more detailed list can be found in the analysis file.

The following are the Key Issues, identified by a narrative statement describing the situation and then quantified by an issue statement:

### **RECREATION**

A wide range of recreational activities take place within and adjacent to the Lostine River corridor. Recreational activities are predicted to increase over time, thereby increasing the conflicts between recreational uses and resources.

Dispersed and developed camping has grown over the last few years. This growth in human activity impacts riparian areas and other resource values. Recreational livestock and recreational vehicle use is also increasing, which impacts riparian areas, vegetation, soils, water quality, and other resource values.

Recreational activities have different impacts depending on their locations. The recreational impacts west of Forest Road 8210 concern riparian areas, fish habitat, sensitive plants, and water quality. The recreational impacts east of Forest Road 8210 concern fire hazards and wilderness.

Proper planning and development is needed to minimize conflicts and to protect free-flow, OR values, other resource values.

**The Issue Is:** What type and level of recreational opportunities will be available within the corridor while still protecting resource values. Elements used to evaluate this issue are:

- a. What level of dispersed camping is appropriate within the river corridor?
- b. What level of developed recreation is appropriate within the river corridor?
- c. What level of stock facilities, both recreational and administrative, is appropriate within the river corridor?
- d. What level of recreational grazing is appropriate within the river corridor?
- e. What level of law enforcement/Forest Service personnel will be available within the river corridor?
- f. How much and where is ATV use appropriate within the river corridor.
- g. What level of interpretive/educational facilities will be available?
- h. What level of commercial oriented recreation is appropriate?

## FISHERIES

The Lostine River is a valuable fisheries. It provides excellent habitat for chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. The chinook salmon is listed as threatened, and the bull trout and wild steelhead are listed as sensitive. Uses of the

resources, whether recreational or commodity oriented, can have negative impacts on fish habitat, riparian areas, and water quality.

Fish stocking programs can improve recreational fishing but have negative impacts on fish habitat.

The management of activities within and adjacent to the river corridor is essential in protecting the fisheries habitat and water quality.

**The Issue Is:** How to protect and enhance the populations and habitat of the salmon, steelhead, and bull trout while allowing for other uses within and adjacent to the river corridor. Elements used to evaluate this issue are:

- a. What standards and guidelines are needed to protect fisheries habitat and populations including riparian areas?
- b. What level of fish stocking is appropriate?

## VEGETATION

Forest lands in the Lostine River Canyon have been subjected to increasing damage due to insects and disease. Present forest health problems are associated with stand overstocking, drought induced tree stress, 90 years of fire exclusion, and selective timber harvesting which has favored the establishment of shade tolerant tree species such as the true firs. These tree species are very susceptible and vulnerable to damage and mortality from forest pests such as bark beetles, defoliators, and root diseases.

Overall, the forested stands within the Lostine River drainage are in a poor state of forest health.

**The Issue Is:** How will the OR values be affected by the decline of forest health?

**The Issue Is:** Can vegetative management improve the forest health situation and still protect all the OR values? Elements used to evaluate this issue are:

- a. What silvicultural strategies will be emphasized within the river corridor?
- b. What is the appropriate direction for the fuelwood program within the river corridor?

- a. What level of fire prevention is appropriate?
- b. What level of fire suppression is appropriate?

## TRANSPORTATION

Forest Road 8210 is the only inventoried road on National Forest lands within the river corridor. However, the public, either in search of firewood, camping spots, or just driving to see what they can find have created numerous wheel tracks throughout the river corridor. These wheel tracks, once visible, attract the attention of others. Soon the wheel tracks turn into roads or have the same negative impacts on other resources as roads. Although easily established they are difficult to remove.

**The Issue Is:** How to meet the transportation needs while protecting and enhancing the resources and OR values. Elements used to evaluate this issue are:

- a. What roads are needed for access?
- b. What can be done with those roads not needed?
- c. What level of road maintenance is needed?
- d. What level of off road vehicle use is appropriate?

## FIRE MANAGEMENT

Fuel loading (both dead and live) has increased as a result of both natural events and management activities. This increase has created a situation in which a fire start may be difficult to control at an acceptable level. The difficulty is compounded by the presence of private land and structures. A fire of catastrophic size would have serious effects on many of the OR values.

**The Issue Is:** Given the existing and predicted fuel loading within the river corridor, what are appropriate fire prevention and suppression strategies. Elements used to evaluate this issue are:

## OTHER ISSUES

Other issues were identified but not considered to be Key Issues because they are adequately addressed by the Forest Plan, regulations, or law. Because all alternatives will follow the directions set by these documents they were not considered "Key."

The following is a list of some of the other issues not determined "Key" and how they were resolved:

**Soils** - This was not considered a Key Issue because the soil guidelines within the Forest Plan were determined to be adequate for National Forest lands. Other State and Federal agencies have regulations dealing with soils on private lands, i.e., State Forest Practices Act. Those soil considerations that effect an OR value (like sediments as it relates to fish habitat) will be dealt with under that OR value.

**Old Growth** - This was not considered a Key Issue because no designated old growth (Management Area 15) exists within the river corridor. Even though there are areas within the river corridor that qualify as old growth, the Wilderness land allocation (Management Area 4) adequately addressed any old growth concerns.

Any correlation between threatened and endangered species and old growth will be addressed under either the Vegetation/ Botanical or the Wildlife OR values.

**Water** - This was not considered a Key Issue because the Clean Water Act, State standards for water quality, and the Forest Plan were determined to be adequate to address water quality. There is a close relationship between water quality and fish habitat. Those items that may affect water quality but are related to fish will be dealt with under the Fisheries OR value.

Water quantity was not considered a Key Issue because water flows are adequate, State standards are adequate for the OR values, and exist-



ing diversions are protected by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

**Roadless Areas** - This was not considered a Key Issue because no inventoried roadless areas (RARE II) are within the river corridor. Within the river corridor there exists areas without roads that have a roadless character. It was determined that these areas are adequately addressed by the Forest Plan, Wilderness designation, and the river classification of Wild. No activity is being planned that would negatively impact the roadless character of these areas.

**Biodiversity (Diversity)** - This was not considered a separate Key Issue because it is an important component of the Fisheries, Wildlife, and Vegetation/Botanic OR values. The effects on diversity will be discussed in Chapter III, Effects of Alternatives under the section OTHER ISSUES.

**Navigability** - Under state law, the Division of State Lands (DSL) is responsible for the management of the beds and banks of navigable waterbodies (ORS 274.005-274.590). DSL is the administrative arm of the State Land Board (the Board), composed of the Governor, Secretary of State, and State Treasurer. Under constitutional and statutory guidelines, the Board is responsible for managing the assets of the Common School Fund. These assets include the beds and banks of Oregon's navigable waterways and are to be managed for the greatest benefit of the people of this state, consistent with the conservation of this resource under sound techniques of land management. Protection of public trust values of navigation, fisheries, and public recreation are of paramount importance, too.

State ownership of the beds of navigable waterbodies was granted to Oregon in 1859 as an incidence of statehood and is an inherent attribute of state sovereignty protected by the U.S. Constitution. The beds of non-navigable waterbodies remained in the ownership of the United States or its grantees. The navigability of the Lostine River from its headwaters (Rivermile 0) to the National Forest Boundary (Rivermile 16) has not been established. Currently, the Federal government, Wallowa County, and private property owners claim ownership of the

river's bed and bank. This river plan does not propose to address the issue of navigability. Rather, this river plan is intended to provide a management philosophy for the above segment of the river, as well as the remainder of the river.

The original Federal test for determining navigability was established in The Daniel Ball case over 100 years ago. This U.S. Supreme Court admiralty case clarified that rivers "are navigable in fact when they are used, or susceptible of being used, in their ordinary condition, as highways of commerce . . ." Interpreting this requirement, subsequent court decisions have adopted this test for title purposes and have ruled that a waterbody is navigable if it was capable of use, at the time of statehood, as a public highway for transporting goods or for travel in the customary modes of trade and travel on water.

DSL has not made a determination concerning the navigability and state ownership for the beds and banks of the Lostine River. The position of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is that the navigability of the river has not been established.

For purposes of managing the above portion of this river (where navigability has not been established), no special requirements will be pursued.

However, the DSL does administer the State's Removal-Fill Law which protects Oregon's waterways from uncontrolled alteration. The law requires a permit for fill or removal of more than 50 cubic yards of material within the State's waterways. The permit-review process involves coordination with the natural resource and land use agencies from the local through the Federal levels.

Nothing set forth herein shall limit the ability of the Forest Service and BLM to administer this segment of river.

As with any jointly managed resource, jurisdiction is not as important as care for the resource. The DSL, Forest Service, and BLM will continue to work together to assure that the public trust interest and the purpose of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are met.

Forest Service regulations require that the analysis evaluate the following issues:

- Consumers, civil rights, minority groups, and women,
- Prime farmlands, rangelands, and forest lands,
- Wetlands and floodplains,
- Threatened and endangered species, and
- Cultural resources.

These will be discussed in Chapter III, Effects of Alternatives under the section of OTHER ISSUES.

### OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES (OR VALUES)

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that a river be free flowing and possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable values." When the Lostine River was designated Wild and Scenic in 1988, the Congressional Records indicated that Scenic, Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife values qualified as outstandingly remarkable. Through the resource assessment process (a site specific assessment of the resource values of the river and part of the Pacific Northwest Region river planning process), one additional OR value was identified. This was Vegetation/Botanic. All of the OR values are identified in detail in the Resource Assessment, completed in April of 1992 (Appendix C).

The OR values and the finding from the Lostine River Resource Assessment follows:

#### **Scenic**

"The Lostine River possesses much diversity in landform, water, color, and vegetation. The headwaters of the Lostine River is located in the spectacular high country of the Willowa Mountains. Here, the river meanders through lush meadows surrounded by steep, craggy, granitic peaks. Further down, a forest environment of mixed conifer is dominant. The Lostine River has beautiful deep, clear, blue pools as well as stretches of swift water, crashing over and skirting around large rocks. This finding agrees with the Congressional Record that

scenery in the Lostine River corridor is an outstandingly remarkable value."

**The Issue Is:** What level should the visual quality be managed for?

#### **Recreation**

"The quality and diversity of recreation opportunities available along the Lostine River corridor makes it a very popular area. The Eagle Cap Wilderness and the roaded Lostine Canyon draws visitors locally and from great distances outside the geographic region. This finding agrees with the Congressional Record that recreation in the Lostine River corridor is an outstandingly remarkable value."

**The Issue Is:** This OR value was previously discussed under the recreation issue.

#### **Fisheries**

"The Lostine River supports anadromous fisheries such as spring chinook and summer steelhead, as well as several species of native and stocked trout. Summer steelhead, on the Regional Forester's Sensitive Species list (Pacific Northwest Region), and spring chinook, federally listed threatened by the National Marine Fisheries Service, are both very important locally, regionally, and nationally. The clear, cold, highly-oxygenated water of the Lostine River is important to the survival of these key species. This finding agrees with the Congressional Record that fisheries is an outstandingly remarkable value on the Lostine River."

**The Issue Is:** This OR value was previously discussed under the fisheries water quality issue.

#### **Wildlife**

"The diversity and importance of the habitat supports a significant wildlife population. The number of federally-listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive species sighted or which are known to inhabit the Lostine River corridor makes it an important ecosystem. The efforts in re-introducing bighorn sheep and introducing mountain goats in the Hurricane-Lostine divide is notable in this geographic region. This finding

concur with wildlife being an outstandingly remarkable value as identified in the Congressional Record."

**The Issue Is:** How to best manage for the protection and enhancement of wildlife populations and habitat within the river corridor?

#### **Vegetation/Botanic**

"While the plant communities found in the Lostine River corridor are typical of the Wallowa Mountains, the presence of the *Botrychium spp.* is unique. The number of different species in one locality combined with the rarity of these plants makes the Lostine drainage a delight for botanists and scientists, and many travel long distances to pursue the study of *Botrychium spp.* The three candidate species for federal

threatened and endangered listing, and the identification of a "type locality" moonwort (*B. pedunculatum*) elevates botany to an outstandingly remarkable value for the Lostine River."

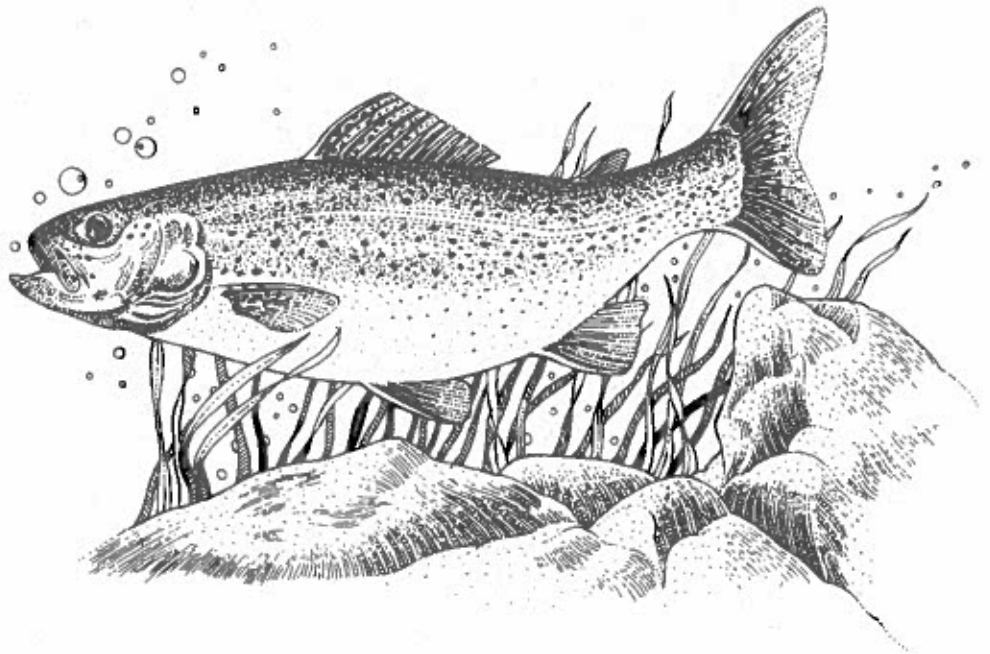
**The Issue Is:** How best to manage for the protection and enhancement of the populations and habitat of the vegetation and botanical resources within the river corridor?

These Key Issues and the outstandingly remarkable values (OR values) are the "drivers" of alternative development and provides a basis for the evaluation of the alternatives. Each alternative will address the issues and the OR values.

## Chapter II

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### *Alternatives Including the Proposed Action*



## **CHAPTER II. ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **A. Introduction**

The alternatives present a variety of ways to respond to the Key Issues and to manage the OR values. Each alternative is a comprehensive strategy for managing the Lostine Wild and Scenic River.

The alternatives will be explained by giving the general goal of the alternative followed by a description of how that alternative deals with each Key Issue and OR value.

Because of the existing regulations in the Forest Plan and for the Eagle Cap Wilderness, the range of reasonable alternatives is limited.

To fully understand each alternative, the reader will need to look at the alternative description, mitigation measures, alternative summary, and map.

### **B. Alternative Formulation**

Before formulating the alternatives, each Key Issue and each OR value was defined in terms of an opportunity spectrum. An opportunity spectrum is a list of reasonable options available to resolve an issue or a level of management for an OR value. The spectrum is usually organized to start at one end of an issue (least restrictive) and go to the other end of that issue (most restrictive). The range is usually defined by the existing laws and regulations at one end and what is reasonable at the other end.

As an example, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act states that the OR values shall be protected and enhanced; therefore, the range of management activities could not contain a practice that did not protect and enhance an OR value.

After developing the range or opportunity spectrum for each Key Issue and OR value, alternatives were developed by first defining their theme. The theme is defined as a goal statement in the alternative description. Based on this theme, options were selected from the opportunity spectrum that best fit that theme. This was done until all options within each opportunity spectrum were used in at least one alternative. The Interdisciplinary Team (ID

Team) then looked at any other theme or arrangement of components that would create a reasonable alternative. This completed the full range of alternatives needed to make a decision accomplishing the Purpose and Need.

All alternatives utilize the existing direction found in the Forest Plan unless stated otherwise by an alternative.

### **C. Alternative Description**

#### **ALTERNATIVE A (No Action)**

**GOAL** - The goal of Alternative A is to manage the Lostine River under existing laws and authorities. These would include but are not limited to direction for Management Area 7 - Wild and Scenic Rivers (MA-7) in the Forest Plan and Forest Service Manual (FSM) direction. If conflicts arise between the different documents that cannot be resolved, the more restrictive guidelines would apply unless stated otherwise.

Management would preserve the OR values. Each OR value would be managed on its own, with no emphasis on any one OR value.

Easement acquisition would be considered for those lands critical to maintaining the characteristics of the river segments.

The boundary for the river corridor would be a quarter mile from either side of the high water line.

This alternative is the "No Action" alternative as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and further defined by the Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ).

#### **Alternative A - Description by Key Issues**

**Recreation** - Alternative A addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Maintain the existing Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the river corridor. This is Primitive (WRS Scale FSM 2322) for the Wild sections of the river and Primitive

(WRS Scale FSM 2322) and Roaded Natural for the Recreational sections of the river.

- b. The existing condition would be defined by the Forest Plan (MA-7) and FSM 2300, including FSM 2354. If conflicts arise between the different documents that cannot be resolved, the more restrictive guidelines would apply unless stated otherwise. The current recreational opportunities provided in the corridor would be maintained.

There are currently two level 2 campgrounds (Williamson and Shady Campgrounds), two picnic areas (Pole Bridge and French Camp), and three trailheads (Two Pan, Shady, and Lillyville) in the Recreational section of the river. Campground Development Levels are defined in Appendix A.

There are numerous dispersed campsites throughout the river corridor. Some of these dispersed campsites are more developed than others. A few of these sites have picnic tables and the Forest Service has been installing toilet facilities. These sites are named and include Arrow, King, Turkey Flat, and Walla Walla. Although they may be considered level 1 campgrounds, they are currently considered dispersed campsites.

**Fisheries** - Alternative A addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving water quality (the water quality at the time of river designation or closest estimate) as it relates to fish habitat, including but not limited to sediment, stream temperature, shading, and large woody debris.
- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

**Vegetation/Forest Health** - Alternative A addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving vegetation and forest health within and adjacent to the river corridor.

- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. The "Blue Mountain Forest Health Report" and "Restoring Ecosystems in the Blue Mountains" would also be used to guide managers in dealing with forest health concerns. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

**Transportation** - Alternative A addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction. Forest Road 8210 is a level 3 road. No improvements are currently scheduled for this road.
- b. Current direction for transportation management is defined in the Forest Plan, the Road Management Objectives, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

**Fire Management** - Alternative A addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for prevention and suppression activities.
- b. Current direction for fire management is defined in the Forest Plan, Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Management Plan, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

**Alternative A - Description by Outstandingly Remarkable Value**

**Scenic** - Alternative A addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Retention and Preservation within the Recreational section of the river.
- b. Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Preservation in the Wild section of the river.
- c. Visual management would be according to the existing Forest Plan, National Forest Landscape Management Handbook Vol. 2

Chapter 1, The Visual Management System USDA #462, The Timber Chapter USDA Handbook 559 and Forest Service Manual 2354 (FSM 2354). Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

**Recreation** - Alternative A addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. See Recreation under "Key Issues" listed above.

**Fisheries** - Alternative A addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. See Fisheries under "Key Issues" listed above.

**Wildlife** - Alternative A addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Utilize current wildlife direction for managing the wildlife populations and habitat.
- b. Current direction for wildlife management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

**Vegetation/Botanic** - Alternative A addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Utilize current vegetation/botanical and PETS direction for managing the vegetation and PETS species within the river corridor.
- b. Current direction for vegetative and PETS species management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

## **ALTERNATIVE B**

**GOAL** - The goal of Alternative B is to emphasize and manage for the highest level of Recreational OR values without adversely impacting the other OR values. The other OR values would be managed for

protection and enhancement, but they may not be managed to their highest potential due to conflicts with the emphasized OR value.

The recreational setting for the corridor would be managed towards the rustic and less developed end of Roded Natural. Campground development would be no higher than level 3.

Easements or land acquisition would be pursued for all private lands within the river corridor. These would be developed for recreational purposes.

The boundary, starting at Minam Lake on the west side of the river, would be a quarter mile from the ordinary high water line to approximately Two Pan Trail Head. From approximately Two Pan Trailhead on the west side of the river, the boundary would be 1000 feet from the ordinary high waterline to the south side of Section 15. From the south section line of Section 15 the boundary would follow the wilderness boundary to the Forest boundary, and then heading east on the Forest boundary to the wilderness boundary. Heading south the boundary would follow the wilderness boundary to approximately East Lostine Creek. From approximately East Lostine Creek the boundary would continue south at a quarter mile from the ordinary high water line back to Minam Lake. At Minam Lake outlet the boundary would swing a quarter mile arc and tie to the boundary heading north again. (See Appendix E)

## **Alternative B - Description by Key Issues**

**Recreation** - Alternative B addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Maintain the existing Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the river corridor. This is Primitive (WRS Scale FSM 2322) for the Wild sections of the river and Primitive (WRS Scale FSM 2322) and Roded Natural for the Recreational sections of the river.
- b. The existing condition management direction would be defined by the Forest Plan (MA-7) and FSM 2300, including FSM 2354. If conflicts arise between the different documents that cannot be resolved, the more restrictive guidelines would apply unless stated otherwise. The current recreation opportunities and direction provided in the cor-

ridor would be maintained with the following changes:

- c. Develop existing dispersed campsites to prevent resource damage. Development in this case could include putting in a picnic table, fire ring, traffic control devices, or other effective means to control use. Additional dispersed campsites may be developed where appropriate and resources are protected. These additional campsites would most likely be between Lostine Guard Station and Two Pan Trailhead.
- d. Develop additional campsites within or adjacent to Williamson and Shady Campgrounds. Develop French Camp into a level 2 or 3 campground. Develop one additional level 2 or 3 campground between Williamson Campground and Lillyville Trailhead. Develop a picnic shelter at French Camp with the intention of utilizing the existing structure.
- e. Develop recreational stock facilities at all campgrounds identified above. Develop recreational stock facilities at all trailheads. Develop administrative stock facilities at Lostine Guard Station and Bowman Trailhead.
- f. Limit recreational livestock grazing to the east side of Forest Road 8210 and out of all recreational facilities. In the Wild river section, encourage the use of pellets or grain.
- g. Maintain a Forest Service presence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Forest Service would enter into an agreement with local law enforcement officials to provide occasional patrols through the area or would provide for occasional Forest Service law enforcement patrols throughout the area. This applies to the Recreational section of the river.
- h. Restrict All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) to designated areas only. These areas would be in the northern half of the river corridor.
- i. Develop an interpretive/educational program, including on-site personnel working with interpretive programs and the development of brochures and additional signing.

Develop Interpretive sites at French Camp and Lapover.

- j. Encourage the use of commercial permits to facilitate increased recreational use. Utilize existing facilities and establish new ones if needed.

**Fisheries** - Alternative B addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving water quality (the water quality at the time of river designation or closest estimate) as it relates to fish habitat, including but not limited to sediment, stream temperature, shading, and large woody debris.
- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Evaluate existing campgrounds to determine if any campsites are significantly impacting fisheries habitat or water quality (those campsites within 25 feet of the river). Those sites having a negative impact would be closed.
- d. Evaluate dispersed campsites. Those that have an adverse impact on fisheries habitat or water quality would be managed to reduce the impact or would be closed.
- e. No recommendation would be made concerning the State's fish stocking program.

**Vegetation/Forest Health** - Alternative B addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving vegetation and forest health within and adjacent to the river corridor.
- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. "The Blue Mountain Forest Health Report" and "Restoring Ecosystems in the Blue Mountains" would also be used to guide managers in dealing with forest health concerns. Conflicts between any of these docu-



ments would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

- c. Utilize a full range of silvicultural techniques for improving forest health with an emphasis towards uneven-age management.
- d. Limit fuelwood cutting to designated areas only. Special restrictions would be developed to ensure that fuelwood cutting would protect and enhance the river-related values.

**Transportation** - Alternative B addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction. Forest Road 8210 is a level 3 road.
- b. Current direction for transportation management is defined in the Forest Plan, the Road Management Objectives, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Forest Road 8210 and roads to recreation facilities and approved dispersed campsites would be the only roads open to the public unless approved through a NEPA process. All other roads will be used under the terms of a permit.
- d. Those roads not listed above would be appropriately blocked or rehabilitated to a productive soil. In some cases, creative means may be needed to block or hide the road from view so it will have time to revegetate.
- e. Increase Forest Road 8210 road maintenance to level 4.
- f. Restrict all motorized vehicle use within 50 feet of the river, except as listed above or for administrative or emergency use.

**Fire Management** - Alternative B addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for prevention and suppression activities.
- b. Current direction for fire management is defined in the Forest Plan, Eagle Cap Wilder-

ness Fire Management Plan, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

- c. Reduce fire hazards within 100 feet of all roads. This may be accomplished using a variety of management tools, including prescribed fire, hand piling slash, encouraging firewood cutting, thinning, pruning, or other effective methods.
- d. Use fire patrols during peak fire seasons, especially during evening hours, holidays, or other high use periods.
- e. Implement a specific fire closure order for the drainage during peak fire seasons.
- f. Implement an educational program which may include posters, bulletin boards, prevention personnel, or other effective means to inform the public.
- g. Enter into a cooperative agreement with private landowners on reporting fires and fire suppression actions.
- h. Fire suppression would follow the Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Plan within the Wilderness portion of the river corridor. Outside of the Wilderness, all fires would receive an appropriate suppression response.

**Alternative B - Description by Outstandingly Remarkable Value**

**Scenic** - Alternative B addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Retention and Preservation within the Recreational sections of the river.
- b. Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Preservation in the Wild section of the river.
- c. Visual management would be according to the Forest Plan, National Forest Landscape Management Handbook Vol. 2 Chapter 1, The Visual Management System USDA #462, The Timber Chapter USDA Handbook 559 and Forest Service Manual 2354 (FSM

2354). Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

- d. Adopt the "Lostine River Viewshed Corridor Plan" by Walker and Macy, April 1992, as additional guidelines for managing the visual resource within the river corridor.

**Recreation** - Alternative B addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. See Recreation under "Key Issues" listed above.

**Fisheries** - Alternative B addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. See Fisheries under "Key Issues" listed above.

**Wildlife** - Alternative B addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving wildlife habitat as it relates to riparian aquatic habitat, unique habitats, within and adjacent to the river corridor.
- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Manage snag levels at 100 percent within the river corridor.
- d. Utilize fire as a tool to manage wildlife habitat.

**Vegetation/Botanic** - Alternative B addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Utilize current vegetation/botanical and PETS direction for managing the vegetation and PETS species within the river corridor.
- b. Current direction for vegetative and PETS species management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

- c. Implement an educational/interpretive program that may include signing, bulletin boards, or other effective means to inform the public of PETS species.
- d. Monitor existing campgrounds to determine impacts to PETS plants. Mitigate adverse impacts found during monitoring.
- e. Monitor dispersed campsites to determine impacts to PETS plants. Those found to have an adverse impact on PETS plant, mitigate effects or close that site.

### ALTERNATIVE C

**GOAL** - The goal of Alternative C is to emphasize and manage for the highest level of Fisheries, Wildlife, Vegetation/Botanic, and Scenic OR value without adversely impacting Recreation OR values. The Recreation OR values would be managed to protect and enhance, but they may not be managed to their highest potential due to conflicts with the emphasized OR values.

The recreational setting for the corridor would be managed towards the rustic and less developed end of Rooded Natural. Campground development would be no higher than level 3.

Easements or land acquisition would be pursued for all private lands within the river corridor. These would be developed for recreational or fisheries purposes.

The boundary, starting at Minam Lake on the west side of the river, would be a quarter mile from the ordinary high water line to approximately Two Pan Trail Head. From approximately Two Pan Trailhead on the west side of the river, the boundary would be 1000 feet from the ordinary high waterline to the south side of Section 15. From the south section line of Section 15 the boundary would follow the wilderness boundary to the Forest boundary, and then heading east on the Forest boundary to the wilderness boundary. Heading south the boundary would follow the wilderness boundary to approximately East Lostine Creek. From approximately East Lostine Creek the boundary would continue south at a quarter mile from the ordinary high water line back to Minam Lake. At Minam Lake outlet the boundary would swing a quarter mile arc and tie to

the boundary heading north again. (See Appendix E)

### **Alternative C - Description by Key Issues**

**Recreation** - Alternative C addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Maintain the existing Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the river corridor. This is Primitive (WRS Scale FSM 2322) for the Wild sections of the river and Primitive (WRS Scale FSM 2322) and Roaded Natural for the Recreational section of the river.
- b. The existing condition management direction would be defined by the Forest Plan (MA-7) and FSM 2300, including FSM 2354. If conflicts arise between the different documents that cannot be resolved, the more restrictive guidelines would apply unless stated otherwise. The current recreation opportunities provided in the corridor would be maintained.
- c. Eliminate all dispersed camping between Forest Road 8210 and the Lostine River. Dispersed camping would be allowed east of Forest Road 8210 as long as campsites are 200 feet beyond any Class I, II, or III streams and wetlands. Dispersed camping would be limited to approved, designated sites.
- d. Develop additional campsites within or adjacent to Williamson and Shady Campgrounds.
- e. Develop recreational stock facilities at Shady Campground and at all trailheads. Develop administrative stock facilities at Lostine Guard Station and Bowman Trailhead.
- f. Allow no recreational livestock grazing. Feeding of recreational livestock would be limited to Forest Service designated corrals. Encourage feeding with pellets or grain within the river corridor.
- g. Maintain a Forest Service presence 7 days a week, during normal work hours, between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Forest Service would enter into an agreement with the local law enforcement officials to provide

occasional patrols through the area or would provide for occasional Forest Service law enforcement patrols through the area. This applies to the Recreational section.

- h. Prohibit the use of all ATV's inside the river corridor.
- i. Develop an interpretive/educational program including training for Forest Service personnel, the development of brochures, and the establishment of additional signing.
- j. Discourage commercial permits. Existing permits would be continued. Existing facilities use would be eliminated as special use permits expired.

**Fisheries** - Alternative C addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving water quality (the water quality at the time of river designation or closest estimate) as it relates to fish habitat, including but not limited to sediment, stream temperature, shading, and large woody debris.
- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Evaluate existing campgrounds (those campsites within 100 feet of the river) to determine if any campsites are significantly impacting fisheries habitat or water quality. Those sites that have a negative impact would be closed.
- d. Eliminate dispersed campsites between Forest Road 8210 and the Lostine River. Allow no dispersed camping within 200 feet of any Class I, II, or III streams, or wetlands.
- e. Recommend to the State that it eliminate fish stocking or pursue a native fish stocking program only.

**Vegetation/Forest Health** - Alternative C addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving vegetation and forest health within and adjacent to the river corridor.
- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. "The Blue Mountain Forest Health Report" and "Restoring Ecosystems in the Blue Mountains" would also be used to guide managers in dealing with forest health concerns. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Utilize a full range of silvicultural techniques for improving forest health with an emphasis towards uneven-age management.
- d. Prohibit fuelwood cutting in the river corridor, excluding wood for campfires within the river corridor.

**Transportation** - Alternative C addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction. Forest Road 8210 is a level 3 road.
- b. Current direction for transportation management is defined in the Forest Plan, the Road Management Objectives, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Forest Road 8210 and roads to recreation facilities and approved dispersed campsites are the only roads to be open to the public unless approved through a NEPA document. All other roads will be used under the terms of a permit.
- d. Those roads not listed above would be appropriately blocked or rehabilitated to a productive soil. In some cases, creative means may be needed to block or hide the road from view so it will have time to revegetate.
- e. Retain Forest Road 8210 at road maintenance level 3.

- f. Issue an Area Closure Order for the Recreational river section to prohibit the use of motorized vehicles off of open roads.

**Fire Management** - Alternative C addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for prevention and suppression activities.
- b. Current direction for fire management is defined in the Forest Plan, Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Management Plan, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Reduce fire hazards within 50 feet of all roads. This may be accomplished using a variety of management tools including prescribed fire, hand piling slash, thinning, pruning, or other effective methods.
- d. Use fire patrols during the peak fire season, especially during evening hours, holidays, or other high use periods.
- e. Implement a specific fire closure order for the drainage during the peak fire season.
- f. Implement an educational program which may include posters, bulletin boards, prevention personnel, or other effective means to inform the public.
- g. Enter into a cooperative agreement with private landowners on reporting fires and fire suppression actions.
- h. Fire suppression would follow the Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Plan within the Wilderness portion of the river corridor. Outside of the Wilderness, all fires would receive an appropriate suppression response.

**Alternative C - Description by Outstandingly Remarkable Value**

**Scenic** - Alternative C addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Retention and Preservation within the Recreational sections of the river.
- b. Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Preservation in the Wild section of the river.
- c. Visual management would be according to the Forest Plan, National Forest Landscape Management Handbook Vol. 2 Chapter 1, The Visual Management System USDA #462, The Timber Chapter USDA Handbook 559 and Forest Service Manual 2354 (FSM 2354). Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

**Recreation** - Alternative C addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. See Recreation under "Key Issues" listed above.

**Fisheries** - Alternative C addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. See Fisheries under "Key Issues" listed above.

**Wildlife** - Alternative C addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving wildlife habitat as it relates to riparian aquatic habitat, unique habitats, within and adjacent to the river corridor.
- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Manage snag levels at 100 percent within the river corridor.
- d. Utilize fire as a tool to manage wildlife habitat.

**Vegetation/Botanic** - Alternative C addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Utilize current vegetation/botanical and PETS direction for managing the vegetation and PETS species within the river corridor.
- b. Current direction for vegetative and PETS species management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Implement an educational/interpretive program that may include signing, bulletin boards, or other effective means to inform the public of PETS species.
- d. Improve PETS species habitat within 1.5 mile of the Lostine Guard Station. Restrict access to critical habitat areas within this 1.5 mile area.
- e. Monitor existing campgrounds to determine if any campsites are significantly impacting PETS species. Those sites having a negative impact would be closed.
- f. Monitor dispersed campsites. Those that have an adverse impact on PETS plants would be closed.

#### **ALTERNATIVE D (Preferred)**

**GOAL** - The goal of Alternative D is to emphasize and manage for a balance between the OR values. The Fisheries, Wildlife, Scenic, and Vegetation/Botanic (natural) OR values would be managed at a high level while improving upon the quality of recreation in the corridor rather than quantity of recreation.

The recreational setting for the corridor would be managed towards the rustic, primitive, and less developed end of Rooded Natural. Campground development would be no higher than level 3. Recreation facilities would be upgraded to provide for quality recreation and to protect resources. Some increases in recreation facilities may be needed.

Easements or land acquisition would be desirable for all private lands within the river corridor. This would be from willing sellers only. These would be developed for recreational or fisheries purposes.

The boundary, starting at Minam Lake on the west side of the river, would be a quarter mile from the ordinary high water line to approximately Two Pan Trail Head. From approximately Two Pan Trailhead on the west side of the river, the boundary would be 1000 feet from the ordinary high waterline to the south side of Section 15. From the south section line of Section 15 the boundary would follow the wilderness boundary to the Forest boundary, and then heading east on the Forest boundary to the wilderness boundary. Heading south the boundary would follow the wilderness boundary to approximately East Lostine Creek. From approximately East Lostine Creek the boundary would continue south at a quarter mile from the ordinary high water line back to Minam Lake. At Minam Lake outlet the boundary would swing a quarter mile arc and tie to the boundary heading north again. (See Appendix E)

**Alternative D - Description by Key Issues**

**Recreation - Alternative D addresses this Key Issue by the following:**

- a. Maintain the existing Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the river corridor. This is Primitive (WRS Scale FSM 2322) for the Wild sections of the river and Primitive (WRS Scale FSM 2322) and Roaded Natural for the Recreational sections of the river.
- b. The existing direction would be defined by the Forest Plan (MA-7) and FSM 2300, including FSM 2354. If conflicts between the different documents cannot be resolved, the more restrictive guidelines would apply unless stated otherwise. The current recreation opportunities provided in the corridor would be maintained with the following changes.
- c. Eliminate dispersed camping between Forest Road 8210 and the Lostine River, other than those approved and designated as overnight campsites. Approved sites would be designated, on the ground, as open for camping. Approved overnight campsites would be those not adversely impacting fish habitat, PETS plants, riparian areas, or other OR values. A campsite may be approved by mitigating the impacts to fish habitat, water quality or other OR values. Any campsite that

cannot mitigate adverse impacts to OR values, will be closed.

Overnight camping east of Forest Road 8210 would be allowed in approved, designated sites.

To Implement, a CFR closure order would be issued to restrict camping to approved sites.

This direction would be monitored to determine if it meets the objective of reducing impacts to OR values, ability to administer, and other impacts. If adequate protection is not achieved, then other systems to control use may be considered such as permit system.

- d. Develop additional campsites within or adjacent to Williamson and Shady Campgrounds. Develop French Camp and Pole Bridge to provide better information and better facilities. Dispersed camps that receive heavy use may be developed to provide better resource protection. Develop a picnic shelter at French Camp with the intention of utilizing the existing structure. Improve Two Pan Trailhead to better accommodate use and protect resources. Improve and redesign Bowman Trailhead, with emphasis on location most of the facilities on the east side of the Road 8210, to better accommodate use and protect resource.
- Overnight camping in developed sites would be allowed only in approved, designated campsites.
- e. Develop Recreational stock facilities at Shady Campground and at all trailheads. Develop administrative stock facilities at Lostine Guard Station and Bowman Trailhead.
- f. Permit recreational livestock grazing in Forest Service designated areas only. In the Recreational section of the river, no designated areas would be within 100 feet of riparian areas. Encourage the use of pellets and grain within the river corridor.
- g. This alternative would not define the number of days or times that a Forest Service presence would be required. This alternative recognizes that to effectively implement the

recreation direction and to protect and enhance OR values will require an increased level of administration. This level of administration will be appropriate for implementation of this plan. The Forest Service would enter into an agreement with the local law enforcement office to provide occasional patrols through the area or would provide for occasional Forest Service law enforcement patrols through the area (This agreement applies to the Recreational river segment only).

- h. Prohibit motorized vehicles use off open roads (except snowmobiles) within the river corridor.
- i. Develop an interpretive/educational program including training for Forest Service personnel, the development of brochures, and establishment of additional signing. Develop interpretive sites at French Camp and Lapover.
- j. Utilize commercial operations that do not require on-site facilities except those primitive improvements associated with existing packing operations.

**Fisheries** - Alternative D addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving water quality (the water quality at the time of river designation or closest estimate) as it relates to fish habitat, including but not limited to sediment, stream temperature, shading, and large woody debris.
- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Close all campsites within 75 feet of the Lostine River. This includes campsites in campgrounds, other developed sites, or dispersed sites. Campsites may be altered, moved, or redesigned to meet this direction.
- d. Dispersed campsites between Forest Road 8210 and the Lostine River which adversely impact fish habitat or riparian areas would be eliminated or developed to mitigate the im-

pact. Allow no dispersed camping within 75 feet of any Class I, II, or III streams or wetlands which adversely impacts water quality or riparian areas.

- e. Recommend to the State that it reduce the fish stocking or pursue a native fish stocking program only.

**Vegetation/Forest Health** - Alternative D addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving vegetation and forest health within and adjacent to the river corridor.
- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. "The Blue Mountain Forest Health Report" and "Restoring Ecosystems in the Blue Mountains" would also be used to guide managers in dealing with forest health concerns. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Utilize a full range of silvicultural techniques for improving forest health with an emphasis towards uneven-age management. Utilize thinning from below, underburns, and other methods that do not rely on the use of heavy equipment on site to improve forest health. Emphasize long-term forest health rather than short-term.
- d. Fuelwood cutting (excluding onsite campfire use) would be limited to achieving OR value objective or safety. Fuelwood cutting for onsite camping use will be monitored to determine impacts to OR values. Based on the monitoring results, management actions may be required to protect OR values.

**Transportation** - Alternative D addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction. Forest Road 8210 is a level 3 road.
- b. Current direction for transportation management is defined in the Forest Plan, the Road Management Objectives, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents

would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.

- c. Forest Road 8210 and roads to recreation facilities and approved dispersed campsites would be the only roads open to the public unless approved through a NEPA process. All other roads would be used under the terms of a permit.
- d. Those roads not listed above would be appropriately blocked or rehabilitated to a productive soil. In some cases, creative means may be needed to block or hide the road from view so it will have time to revegetate.
- e. Retain Forest Road 8210 at road maintenance level 3.
- f. Issue an Area Closure Order for the Recreational river section to prohibit the use of motorized vehicles off of open roads. This would not include snowmobiles.

**Fire Management** - Alternative D addresses this Key Issue by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for prevention and suppression activities.
- b. Current direction for fire management is defined in the Forest Plan, Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Management Plan, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Complete a fire hazard analysis for the Recreational river segment by January 30, 1994. Implement those recommendations that are in line with the management plan and protect and enhance OR values.
- d. This alternative made no specific recommendation concerning fire patrols. This alternative would use the existing fire detection and education program currently being used. This would include the appropriate level of fire patrol for the fire hazard.
- e. Consider a specific fire closure order for the river corridor or sections of the river corridor during the peak fire season.

- f. Implement an educational program which may include posters, bulletin boards, prevention personnel, or other effective means to inform the public.
- g. Use cooperative agreements with private landowners for fire prevention, detection, and suppression coordination. Encourage private landowners to reduce fuel hazards on private lands.
- h. Fire suppression would follow the Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Plan within the Wilderness portion of the river corridor. Outside of the Wilderness, all fires would receive an appropriate suppression response.

**Alternative D - Description by Outstandingly Remarkable Value**

**Scenic** - Alternative D addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Retention and Preservation within the Recreational sections of the river.
- b. Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Preservation in the Wild section of the river.
- c. Visual management would be according to the Forest Plan, National Forest Landscape Management Handbook Vol. 2 Chapter 1, The Visual Management System USDA #462, The Timber Chapter USDA Handbook 559 and Forest Service Manual 2354 (FSM 2354). Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- d. Adopt the "Lostine River Viewshed Corridor Plan" by Walker and Macy, April 1992, as additional guidelines for managing the visual resource within the river corridor.

**Recreation** - Alternative D addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. See Recreation under "Key Issues" listed above.

**Fisheries** - Alternative D addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:



- a. See Fisheries under "Key Issues" listed above.

**Wildlife** - Alternative D addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Utilize current direction for maintaining wildlife habitat.
- b. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Manage snag levels at 100 percent within the river corridor
- d. Utilize fire as a tool to manage wildlife habitat.

**Vegetation/Botanic** - Alternative D addresses this outstandingly remarkable value by the following:

- a. Utilize current vegetation/botanical and PETS direction for managing the vegetation and PETS species within the river corridor.
- b. Current direction for vegetative and PETS species management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
- c. Implement an educational/interpretive program that may include signing, bulletin boards, or other effective means to inform the public of PETS species.
- d. Restrict use and access in critical PETS species habitat areas. Require permits for those interested in studying PETS species in critical habitat areas. This permit is to allow the Forest Service to monitor this type of use.
- e. Monitor existing campgrounds to determine impacts to PETS plants. Mitigate adverse impacts found during monitoring.
- f. Monitor dispersed campsites to determine impacts to PETS plants. Those found to have an adverse impact on PETS plant, mitigate effects or close site.

#### **D. Alternatives Considered But Eliminated From Detailed Study**

- 1. An alternative was considered to developed the recreational facilities to a higher Development Level (levels 4 and 5) and to allow for a greater number of recreational uses. This alternative was not fully developed because the ID Team determined that this would have an adverse impact to the wilderness resources values. The ID Team did not feel that a higher developed level of recreation was part of the Recreation OR value. The Recreation OR value is a rustic, more primitive recreational experience. Because of the narrow corridor surrounded by wilderness, the components of the Recreation OR value, and the existing level of use, the ID team considered this alternative unreasonable.

#### **E. Management Requirements, Constraints, and Mitigation Measures**

As explained earlier, the issues were examined to determine which were "Key" and which were not. Some issues were not considered "Key" because the effects could be mitigated, the activity is constrained by existing laws and regulations, or mitigation measures were developed to constrain an activity. The following management requirements, constraints, and mitigation measures are common to all action alternatives unless stated otherwise.

- 1. Range
  - a. Recommend eliminating the grazing allotment within the river corridor. This allotment has been vacant for many years, has lost much of its value as a grazing allotment, and does not meet the grazing program objectives.
- 2. Vegetation
  - a. Rehabilitate sites with native species.
  - b. Recognize, promote, and enhance the qualities which will preserve the ecological corridor.

c. Timber may be harvested within the Recreational river section to protect and enhance OR values, public safety, and emergency conditions such as insect infestation, disease control, fire and other natural catastrophe. In any case harvest must be accomplished in a manner that best protects and enhances OR values. Any timber harvest will be considered a non-scheduled harvest. No timber harvest is allowed in the Wild river section or the Wilderness.

d. Encourage fire as a tool to manage vegetation, improve forest health, and reduce fire hazards.

e. Utilize the Wallowa-Whitman's Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan to prevent the spread of noxious weeds.

### 3. Easements

a. Nothing in any alternative precludes the Forest Service from actively pursuing easements when an OR value is about to be or is being threatened or damaged.

### 4. Fisheries/Water Quality

a. Identify, prior to implementing an activity, the water quality standards for water temperature, sediments, and other water quality factors that affect fish habitat in order to establish a baseline. This baseline will quantify the water quality/fish habitat at the time of the Act or the best estimate.

Activities will be measured against the baseline to determine if water quality and the fisheries OR value are being protected. This will apply to but not be limited to logging, livestock, or recreation activities on Federal or private lands.

b. Use an educational strategy, particularly at the campgrounds, to protect the salmon and steelhead spawning beds during the spawning season.

c. Implement restoration projects where camping or other management activities have impacted the riparian areas.

d. Develop an educational letter, pamphlets, or other material to educate the public on the importance of protecting riparian vegetation.

e. Provide toilet facilities where people are concentrated.

f. Create a fish management zone of 200 feet from Class I and II streams, 100 feet from Class III streams and other wetlands, and 50 feet from Class VI streams. Within this management zone, all ground disturbing activities will be analyzed and designed to have no adverse impact on fish habitat, including riparian areas. In most cases, no activity can take place that has an adverse impact on fish habitat. This will not apply to any existing situation; however, any redesigning, reconstructing, or modifying of existing conditions will utilize this standard.

g. Prohibit the use of sluice boxes or a suction dredge with a 4 inch or less hose (recreational dredging) within the river corridor until a salmon recovery plan is completed. At that time this activity may be evaluated against the recovery plan to determine its suitability. Mitigation may be used including time or area restrictions, if necessary.

### 5. Recreation

a. Develop an educational program to inform the public on the proper use of firearms within the river corridor. This may include the use of bulletin boards, posters, working with the local law enforcement agencies, and a Forest Service presence in the area.

b. Emphasize the existing Federal regulations concerning firearms. They prohibit, "discharging a firearm or any other implement capable of taking human life, causing injury, or damaging property (1) in or within 150 yards of a residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area, or (2) across or on a Forest Development road or a body of water adjacent thereto, or in any manner or

place whereby any person or property is exposed to injury or damage as a result in such discharge." State laws are also applicable in providing for safety in the area.

6. Monitoring

- a. Incorporate into the Forest's monitoring plan, the Implementation of the Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.

7. Adjacency

- a. For Federal land management, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Sec. 12(a) addresses adjacency. The Eagle Cap Ranger District must address impact to the river corridor during project planning if the project is adjacent to the river corridor. Management of the river corridor must also consider adjacency concerns at or in the vicinity of Two Pan, which is between the Recreational river section and Wild river section.

8. Conflict Resolution

- a. Conflict between OR values that cannot be resolved, will be resolved in the following priority: Fisheries, Vegetation/Botanic, Wildlife, Scenery, Recreation.

9. Management Processes Concerning Private Lands

- a. Forest Service policy, in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, established a process for managing the river corridor involving private lands. This process includes:

Cooperatively working with landowners to identify the objectives of the Forest Service as well as to identify the objectives of the landowner.

Working to an agreed upon solution acceptable to both parties (See Sec. 11 of the Act).

Identifying opportunities that landowners may take advantage of which would protect and enhance the OR values.

Working through Federal, State, and county laws, regulations, or zoning to protect OR values.

Discussing the alternative of buying/selling an easement to protect the OR values.

Identifying the need to acquire (condemn) an easement to protect the OR values only as a last resort.

- b. Private land guides were not developed for private lands. The Lapover Covenants were reviewed and found adequate for river protection. The overall objectives and DFC for the river apply to private lands.

**F. Alternative Comparison**

The following table summarizes the Key Issues and OR values for each alternative for easy comparison.

ALTERNATIVES

ISSUES

Recreation

Alternative A

Maintain the existing Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the river corridor.

The existing condition would be defined by the Forest Plan (MA-7) and FSM 2300, including FSM 2354. If conflicts arise between the different documents that cannot be resolved, the more restrictive guidelines would apply unless stated otherwise. The current recreation opportunities provided in the corridor would be maintained.

There are currently two Level 2 campgrounds (Williamson and Shady Campgrounds), two picnic areas (Pole Bridge and French Camp), and three Trailheads (Two Pan, Shady, and Lillyville) in the Recreational section of the river. Campground Development Levels are defined in Appendix A.

There is also numerous dispersed campsites throughout the river corridor. Some of these dispersed campsites are more developed than others. A few of these sites have picnic tables and the Forest Service has been installing toilet facilities. These have names and include Arrow, King, Turkey Flat, and Walla Walla. These sites, although may be considered Level 1 campgrounds are currently considered dispersed camp-sites.

Alternative B

Maintain the existing Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the river corridor.

The existing condition management direction would be defined by the Forest Plan (MA-7) and FSM 2300, including FSM 2354. If conflicts arise between the different documents that cannot be resolved, the more restrictive guidelines would apply unless stated otherwise. The current recreation opportunities and direction provided in the corridor would be maintained with the following changes:

Develop existing dispersed campsites to prevent resource damage. Development in this case could include such things as putting in a picnic table, fire ring, traffic control devices, or other effective means to control use. Additional dispersed campsites may be developed where appropriate and resources are protected. These additional campsites would most likely be between Lostline Guard Station and Two Pan Trailhead.

Develop additional campsites within or adjacent to Williamson and Shady campgrounds. Develop French Camp into a Level 2 or 3 campground. Develop one additional Level 2 or 3 campground between Williamson Campground and Lillyville Trailhead. Develop a picnic shelter a French Camp with the idea of utilizing the existing structure.

Alternative C

Maintain the existing Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the river corridor.

The existing condition management direction would be defined by the Forest Plan (MA-7) and FSM 2300, including FSM 2354. If conflicts arise between the different documents that cannot be resolved, the more restrictive guidelines would apply unless stated otherwise. The current recreation opportunities provided in the corridor would be maintained.

Eliminate all dispersed camping between Forest Road 8210 and the Lostline River. Dispersed camping would be allowed east of Forest Road 8210 as long as the campsite is beyond 200 feet of any Class I, II, or III streams and wetlands. Dispersed camping would be limited to approved, designated sites.

Develop additional campsites within or adjacent to Williamson and Shady campgrounds.

Alternative D

Maintain the existing Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) for the river corridor.

The existing condition management direction would be defined by the Forest Plan (MA-7) and FSM 2300, including FSM 2354. If conflicts arise between the different documents that cannot be resolved, the more restrictive guidelines would apply unless stated otherwise. The current recreation opportunities provided in the corridor would be maintained with the following changes.

Eliminate dispersed camping, between Forest Road 8210 and the Lostline River, other than those approved and designated as overnight campsites. Approved sites would be designated, on the ground, as open for camping. Approved overnight campsites would be those not adversely impacting fish habitat, PETS plants, riparian areas, or other OR values. A campsite may be approved by mitigating the impacts to fish habitat, water quality or other OR values. Any campsite that cannot mitigate adverse impacts to OR values, will be closed.

Overnight camping east of Forest Road 8210 would be allowed in approved, designated sites.

ISSUES	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Recreation (cont.)	<p>Recreational stock facilities would be developed at all campgrounds identified above. Recreational stock facilities would be developed at all trailheads. Administrative stock facilities would be developed at Lostine Guard Station and Bowman Trailhead.</p> <p>Recreational livestock grazing would be limited to east side of Forest Road 8210 and out of all recreational facilities. In the Wild river section, encourage the use of pellets or grain.</p>	<p>Recreational stock facilities would be developed at Shady campground. Recreational stock facilities would be developed at all trailheads. Administrative stock facilities would be developed at Lostine Guard Station and Bowman Trailhead.</p> <p>No recreational livestock grazing. Feeding of recreational livestock would be limited to Forest Service designated corrals. Encourage feeding with pellets or grain within the river corridor.</p>	<p>Recreational stock facilities would be developed at Shady campground. Recreational stock facilities would be developed at all trailheads. Administrative stock facilities would be developed at Lostine Guard Station and Bowman Trailhead.</p>	<p>To implement, a CFR closure order would be issued to restrict camping to approved sites.</p> <p>This direction would be monitored to determine if it meets the objective of reducing impacts to OR values, ability to administer, and other impacts. If adequate protection is not achieved, then other systems to control use may be considered such as permit system.</p> <p>Develop additional campsites within or adjacent to Williamson and Shady campgrounds. Develop French Camp and Pole Bridge to provide better information and better facilities. Dispersed camps that receive heavy use may be developed to provide better resource protection. Develop a picnic shelter at French Camp with the idea of utilizing the existing structure. Improve Two Pen Trailhead to better accommodate use and protect resources. Improve and redesign Bowman Trailhead, with emphasis on location most of the facilities on the east side of the Road 8210, to better accommodate use and protect resources.</p> <p>Overnight camping in developed sites would be allowed only in approved, designated campsites.</p> <p>Recreational stock facilities would be developed at Shady campground. Recreational stock facilities would be developed at all trailheads. Administrative stock facilities would be developed at Lostine Guard Station and Bowman Trailhead.</p>

ISSUES	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Recreation (cont.)	<p>Forest Service would maintain a presence 24 hours a day, 7 days a week between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Forest Service would enter into an agreement with local law enforcement officials to provide occasional patrols through the area or provide for occasional Forest Service law enforcement patrols through the area. This applies to the Recreational section of the river.</p> <p>ATV's would be restricted to designated areas only. These areas would be in the northern half of the river corridor.</p>	<p>Forest Service would maintain a presence 7 days a week, during normal work hours, between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Forest Service would enter into an agreement with local law enforcement officials to provide occasional patrols through the area or provide for occasional Forest Service law enforcement patrols through the area. This applies to the Recreational section.</p> <p>Prohibit the use of all ATV's inside the river corridor.</p>	<p>Forest Service would maintain a presence 7 days a week, during normal work hours, between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Forest Service would enter into an agreement with local law enforcement officials to provide occasional patrols through the area or provide for occasional Forest Service law enforcement patrols through the area. This applies to the Recreational section.</p> <p>Prohibit the use of all ATV's inside the river corridor.</p> <p>An interpretive/educational program would be developed including training for Forest Service personnel, the development of brochures, and establishing additional signing.</p> <p>Commercial permits would be discouraged. Existing permits would be continued. Existing facilities use would be eliminated as special use permits expire.</p>	<p>Permit recreational livestock grazing in Forest Service designated areas only. In the Recreational section of the river, no designated areas would be within 100 feet of riparian areas. Encourage the use of pellets and grain within the river corridor.</p> <p>This alternative would not define the number of days or times that a Forest Service presence would be required. This alternative recognizes that to effectively implement the recreation direction and to protect and enhance OR values will require an increased level of administration. This level of administration will be appropriate for implementation of this plan. The Forest Service would enter into an agreement with the local law enforcement office to provide for occasional Forest Service enforcement patrols through the area (this agreement applies to the Recreational river segment only).</p> <p>Prohibit motorized vehicles use off open roads (except snowmobiles) within the river corridor.</p> <p>An interpretive/educational program would be developed including training for Forest Service personnel, and development of brochures, and establishing additional signing. Develop interpretive sites at French Camp and Lapover.</p>

ISSUES	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Recreation (cont.)				Utilize commercial operations that do not require on-site facilities except those primitive improvements associated with existing packing operations.
Fishes	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving water quality (the water quality at the time of river designation or closest estimate) as it relates to fish habitat including but not limited to sediment, stream temperature, shading, and large woody debris.</p> <p>Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving water quality (the water quality at the time of river designation or closest estimate) as it relates to fish habitat including but not limited to sediment, stream temperature, shading, and large woody debris.</p> <p>Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Existing campgrounds would be evaluated to determine if any campsites are significantly impacting fisheries habitat or water quality (those campsites within 25 feet of the river). Those sites determined to have a negative impact would be closed.</p> <p>Dispersed campsites will be evaluated and those that are an adverse impact to fisheries habitat or water quality will be managed to reduce the impact or closed.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving water quality (the water quality at the time of river designation or closest estimate) as it relates to fish habitat including but not limited to sediment, stream temperature, shading, and large woody debris.</p> <p>Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Existing campgrounds (those campsites within 100 feet of the river) would be evaluated to determine if any campsites are significantly impacting fisheries habitat or water quality. Those sites determined to have a negative impact would be closed.</p> <p>Dispersed campsites would be eliminated between Forest Road 8210 and the Lostine River. No dispersed camping within 200 feet of any Class I, II, or III streams, or wetlands.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving water quality (the water quality at the time of river designation or closest estimate) as it relates to fish habitat including but not limited to sediment, stream temperature, shading, and large woody debris.</p> <p>Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Close all campsites within 75 feet of the Lostine River. This includes the Lostine River. This includes campsites in campgrounds, other developed sites, or dispersed sites. Campsites may be altered, moved, or redesigned to meet this direction.</p> <p>Dispersed campsites between Forest Road 8210 and the Lostine River which adversely impact fish habitat or riparian areas would be eliminated or developed to mitigate the impact. No dispersed camping within 75 feet of any Class I, II, or III streams, or wetlands which adversely impact water quality or riparian areas.</p>
		<p>No recommendation would be made concerning the State's fish stocking program.</p>	<p>Recommend to the State to eliminate the fish stocking or to pursue a native fish stocking program only.</p>	<p>Recommend to the State to reduce the fish stocking or to pursue a native fish stocking program only.</p>

ISSUES	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p><b>Vegetation/Forest Health</b></p>	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving vegetation and forest health within and adjacent to the river corridor.</p> <p>Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. The "Blue Mountain Forest Health Report" and "Restoring Ecosystems in the Blue Mountains" are also used to guide managers in dealing with forest health concerns. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving vegetation and forest health within and adjacent to the river corridor.</p> <p>Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. The "Blue Mountain Forest Health Report" and "Restoring Ecosystems in the Blue Mountains" are also used to guide manager in dealing with forest health concerns. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>A full range of silvicultural techniques would be used for improving forest health with and emphasis towards uneven-age management.</p> <p>Fuelwood cutting would be limited to designated area only. Special restrictions would be developed to ensure that fuelwood cutting would protect and enhance the river-related values.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving vegetation and forest health within and adjacent to the river corridor.</p> <p>Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. The "Blue Mountain Forest Health Report" and "Restoring Ecosystems in the Blue Mountains" are also used to guide managers in dealing with forest health concerns. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>A full range of silvicultural techniques would be used for improving forest health with and emphasis towards uneven-age management. Utilize thinning from below, underburns, and other methods to improve forest health that do not rely on the use of heavy equipment on site. Emphasis should be on long-term forest health rather than short term.</p> <p>Fuelwood cutting would be prohibited in the river corridor (excluding wood for campfires within the river corridor).</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving vegetation and forest health within and adjacent to the river corridor.</p> <p>Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. The "Blue Mountain Forest Health Report" and "Restoring Ecosystems in the Blue Mountains" are also used to guide managers in dealing with forest health concerns. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>A full range of silvicultural techniques would be used for improving forest health with and emphasis towards uneven-age management. Utilize thinning from below, underburns, and other methods to improve forest health that do not rely on the use of heavy equipment on site. Emphasis should be on long-term forest health rather than short term.</p> <p>Fuelwood cutting (excluding onsite campfire use) would be limited to achieving OR value objective or safety. Fuelwood cutting for onsite camping use will be monitored to determine impacts to OR values. Based on the monitoring results, management actions may be required to protect OR values.</p>



ISSUES	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p><b>Transportation</b></p>	<p>Utilize current direction. Forest Road 8210 is a Level 3 road. No improvements are currently scheduled for this road.</p> <p>Current direction for transportation management is defined in the Forest Plan, the Road Management Objectives, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction. Forest Road 8210 is a Level 3 road.</p> <p>Current direction for transportation management is defined in the Forest Plan, the Road Management Objectives, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Forest Road 8210 and roads to recreation facilities and approved dispersed campsites are the only roads to be open to the public unless approved through a NEPA process. All other roads will be used under the terms of a permit.</p> <p>Those roads not listed above will be appropriately blocked or rehabilitated to a productive soil. In some cases, creative means may need to be used to block or hide the road from view so it will have time to allow the roads to revegetate.</p> <p>Increase Forest Road 8210 road maintenance level to a Level 4.</p> <p>Except as listed above and administrative or emergency use, restrict all motorized vehicles from within 50 of the river.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction. Forest Road 8210 is a Level 3 road.</p> <p>Current direction for transportation management is defined in the Forest Plan, the Road Management Objectives, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Forest Road 8210 and roads to recreation facilities and approved dispersed campsites are the only roads to be open to the public unless approved through a NEPA document. All other roads will be used under the terms of a permit.</p> <p>Those roads not listed above will be appropriately blocked or rehabilitated to a productive soil. In some cases, creative means may need to be used to block or hide the road from view so it will have time to allow the roads to revegetate.</p> <p>Retain Forest Road 8210 at a road maintenance Level 3.</p> <p>Issue an Area Closure Order for the Recreational river section to prohibit the use of motorized vehicles off of open roads.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction. Forest Road 8210 is a Level 3 road.</p> <p>Current direction for transportation management is defined in the Forest Plan, the Road Management Objectives, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Forest Road 8210 and roads to recreation facilities and approved dispersed campsites are the only roads to be open to the public unless approved through a NEPA process. All other roads will be used under the terms of a permit.</p> <p>Those roads not listed above will be appropriately blocked or rehabilitated to a productive soil. In some cases, creative means may need to be used to block or hide the road from view so it will have time to revegetate.</p> <p>Retain Forest Road 8210 at a road maintenance Level 3.</p> <p>Issue an Area Closure Order for the Recreational river section to prohibit the use of motorized vehicles off of open roads. This would not include snowmobiles.</p>

ISSUES	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
<p><b>Fire Management</b></p>	<p>Utilize current direction for prevention and suppression activities.</p> <p>Current direction for fire management is defined in the Forest Plan, Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Management Plan, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for prevention and suppression activities.</p> <p>Current direction for fire management is defined in the Forest Plan, Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Management Plan, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Reduce fire hazards within 100 feet of all roads. This may be accomplished using a variety of management tools like prescribed fire, hand piling slash, encouraging firewood cutting, thinning, pruning, or other effective methods.</p> <p>Use fire patrols during peak fire seasons especially during evening hours, holiday, or other high use periods.</p> <p>Implement a specific fire closure order for the drainage during peak fire season.</p> <p>Implement an educational program which may include posters, bulletin boards, prevention personnel, or other effective means to inform the public.</p> <p>Enter into a cooperative agreement with private landowners on reporting fires and fire suppression actions.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for prevention and suppression activities.</p> <p>Current direction for fire management is defined in the Forest Plan, Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Management Plan, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Reduce fire hazards within 50 feet of all roads. This may be accomplished using a variety of management tools like prescribed fire, hand piling slash, thinning, pruning, or other effective methods.</p> <p>Use fire patrols during peak fire seasons especially during evening hours, holiday, or other high use periods.</p> <p>Implement a specific fire closure order for the drainage during peak fire season.</p> <p>Implement an educational program which may include posters, bulletin boards, prevention personnel, or other effective means to inform the public.</p> <p>Enter into a cooperative agreement with private landowners on reporting fires and fire suppression actions.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for prevention and suppression activities.</p> <p>Current direction for fire management is defined in the Forest Plan, Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Management Plan, and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Complete a fire hazard analysis for the Recreational river segment by January 30, 1994. Implement those recommendations that are in line with the management plan and protect and enhance OR values.</p> <p>This alternative made no specific recommendation concerning fire patrols. This alternative would use the existing fire detection and education program currently being used. This would include the appropriate level of fire patrol for the fire hazard.</p> <p>Consider a specific fire closure order for the river corridor or sections of the river corridor during the peak fire season.</p> <p>Implement an education program which may include posters, bulletin boards, prevention personnel, or other effective means to inform the public.</p> <p>Use cooperative agreements with private landowners for fire prevention, detection, and suppression coordination. Encourage private landowners to reduce fuel hazards on private lands.</p>

ISSUES	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Fire Management (cont.)		<p>Fire suppression will follow the Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Plan within the Wilderness portion of the river corridor. Outside of the wilderness, all fires would receive an appropriate suppression response.</p>	<p>Fire suppression will follow the Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Plan within the Wilderness portion of the river corridor. Outside of the wilderness, all fires would receive an appropriate suppression response.</p>	<p>Fire suppression will follow the Eagle Cap Wilderness Fire Plan within the Wilderness portion of the river corridor. Outside of the wilderness, all fires would receive an appropriate suppression response.</p>

ALTERNATIVES

OR VALUES	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Scenic	<p>Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Retention and Preservation within the Recreational section of the river.</p> <p>Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Preservation in the Wild section of the river.</p> <p>Visual management would be according to the existing Forest Plan, National Forest Landscape Management Handbook Vol. 2 Chapter 1, The Visual Management System USDA #462, The Timber Chapter USDA Handbook 559 and Forest Service Manual 2354 (FSM 2354). Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p>	<p>Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Retention and Preservation within the Recreational section of the river.</p> <p>Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Preservation in the Wild section of the river.</p> <p>Visual management would be according to the existing Forest Plan, National Forest Landscape Management Handbook Vol. 2 Chapter 1, The Visual Management System USDA #462, The Timber Chapter USDA Handbook 559 and Forest Service Manual 2354 (FSM 2354). Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Adopts the "Lostine River Viewshed Corridor Plan" by Walker and Macy April 1992 as additional guidelines for managing the visual resource within the river corridor.</p>	<p>Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Retention and Preservation in the Recreational section of the river.</p> <p>Maintains the existing visual quality objective of Preservation in the Wild section of the river.</p> <p>Visual management would be according to the two existing Forest Plan, National Forest Landscape Management Handbook Vol. 2 Chapter 1, The Visual Management System USDA #462, The Timber Chapter USDA Handbook 559 and Forest Service Manual 2354 (FSM 2354). Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p>	<p>Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Retention and Preservation in the Recreational section of the river.</p> <p>Maintain the existing visual quality objective of Preservation in the Wild section of the river.</p> <p>Visual management would be according to the existing Forest Plan, National Forest Landscape Management Handbook Vol. 2 Chapter 1, The Visual Management System USDA #462, The Timber Chapter USDA Handbook 559 and Forest Service Manual 2354 (FSM 2354). Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Adopts the "Lostine River Viewshed Corridor Plan" by Walker and Macy, April 1992, as additional guidelines for managing the visual resource within the river corridor.</p>
Recreation	See Recreation under "Key Issues" listed above.	See Recreation under "Key Issues" listed above.	See Recreation under "Key Issues" listed above.	See Recreation under "Key Issues" listed above.
Fisheries	See Fisheries under "Key Issues" listed above.	See Fisheries under "Key Issues" listed above.	See Fisheries under "Key Issues" listed above.	See Fisheries under "Key Issues" listed above.

OR VALUES	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Wildlife	<p>Utilize current wildlife direction for managing the wildlife populations and habitat.</p> <p>Current direction for wildlife management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving wildlife as it relates to riparian aquatic habitat, unique habitats, within and adjacent to the river.</p> <p>Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Snag levels will be managed at the 100 percent level within the river corridor.</p> <p>Utilize fire as a tool to manage wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining and improving wildlife habitat as it relates to riparian aquatic habitat, unique habitats, within and adjacent to the river corridor.</p> <p>Current direction for wildlife management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Snag levels will be managed at the 100 percent level within the river corridor.</p> <p>Utilize fire as a tool to manage wildlife habitat.</p>	<p>Utilize current direction for maintaining wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Snag levels will be managed at the 100 percent level within the river corridor.</p> <p>Utilize fire as a tool to manage wildlife habitat.</p>

OR VALUES	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Vegetation/Botanic	<p>Utilize current vegetation/botanical and PETS direction for managing the vegetation and PETS species within the river corridor.</p> <p>Current direction for vegetative and PETS species management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between any of these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p>	<p>Utilize current vegetation/botanical and PETS direction for managing the vegetation and PETS species within the river corridor.</p> <p>Current direction for vegetative and PETS species management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Implement an educational/interpretive program that may include signing, bulletin boards, or other effective means to inform the public of PETS species.</p> <p>Monitor existing campgrounds to determine impacts to PETS plants. Mitigate adverse impacts found during monitoring.</p> <p>Monitor dispersed campsites to determine impacts to PETS plants. Those found to have an adverse impact on PETS plants, mitigate effects or close that site.</p>	<p>Utilize current vegetation/botanical and PETS direction for managing the vegetation and PETS species within the river corridor.</p> <p>Current direction for vegetative and PETS species management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Implement an educational/interpretive program that may include signing, bulletin boards, or other effective means to inform the public of PETS species.</p> <p>Improve PETS species habitat within 1.5 miles of the Lostine Guard Station. Restrict access to critical habitat areas within this 1.5 mile area.</p> <p>Monitor existing campgrounds to determine if any campsites are significantly impacting PETS species. Those sites having a negative impact would be closed.</p> <p>Monitor dispersed campsites. Those that have an adverse impact on PETS plants would be closed.</p>	<p>Utilize current vegetation/botanical and PETS direction for managing the vegetation and PETS species within the river corridor.</p> <p>Current direction for vegetative and PETS species management is defined in the Forest Plan and FSM 2354. Conflicts between these documents would be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.</p> <p>Implement an educational/interpretive program that may include signing, bulletin boards, or other effective means to inform the public of PETS species.</p> <p>Restrict use and access in critical PETS species habitat areas. Require permits for those interested in studying PETS species in critical habitat areas. This permit is to allow the Forest Service to monitor this type of use.</p> <p>Monitor existing campgrounds to determine impacts to PETS plants. Mitigate adverse impacts found during monitoring.</p> <p>Monitor dispersed campsites to determine impacts to PETS plants. Those found to have an adverse impact on PETS plants, mitigate effects or close site.</p>

## Chapter III

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# *Environmental Consequences*



## **CHAPTER III. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES-EFFECTS OF IMPLEMENTATION**

This Chapter forms the scientific and analytic basis for the comparison of alternatives and the assessment of effects on the Key Issues and the river's Outstandingly Remarkable values (OR values). This section will also disclose the effect on other specific issues directed by laws, regulations and policies (See Other Issues). The analysis includes the short-term, long-term, direct, indirect, irreversible, irremediable, and cumulative effects.

It should be noted again that the river and river-related values are in good to excellent condition and with the current level of administration, the differences between alternatives are slight. For this reason, the effects between alternatives are small.

The following is a discussion on the effects of the alternatives by Key Issues:

### **A. Key Issues**

#### **RECREATION**

**The Issue Is:** What type and level of recreational opportunities will be available within the corridor while still protecting resource values? Elements used to evaluate this issue are:

##### **Alternative A**

###### **Direct/Indirect Effects**

Alternative A maintains the existing ROS of Primitive (WRS) for the Wild segment and Primitive (WRS) and Roaded Natural for the Recreational segments of the river.

Alternative A also maintains the existing developed and dispersed sites and manages them under current Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

###### **Cumulative Effects**

Recreation visitor activities may cause some changes and additions to the existing dispersed sites as they are further developed by the users.

##### **Alternative B**

###### **Direct/Indirect Effects**

Alternative B maintains the existing ROS of Primitive (WRS) for the Wild segment and Primitive (WRS) and Roaded Natural for the Recreational segments of the river.

Alternative B also maintains the existing developed and dispersed sites and manages them under current Forest Plan standards and guidelines with the following changes:

Recreation OR values will be emphasized by developing existing and new campsites, facilities, attractions, Forest Service presence, and informational/ educational, and commercial opportunities as outlined in the alternative description to accommodate the greatest number of visitors.

The overall appearance of the corridor may change over time as more recreation opportunities are developed and more visitors are accommodated. Monitoring is required to ensure that the Recreation OR values are not compromised by additional development.

This plan has the greatest potential to alter the recreation experience and the recreational OR value through maximizing and developing recreation opportunities.

###### **Cumulative Effects**

This alternative may have a cumulative effect on the Wild segment of the river and the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Additional development and capacity in the Recreational segment may create additional use in the Wild segment beyond the capacity identified in the Forest Plan standards and guidelines for wilderness. Any effects of development in the Recreational segment need to be monitored in the Wild segment and the more restrictive of the Wild and Scenic River Act or wilderness management guidelines adhered to.



## Alternative C

### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative C maintains the existing ROS of Primitive (WRS) for the Wild segment and Primitive (WRS) and Roded Natural for the Recreational segment of the river.

Alternative C also maintains the existing developed and dispersed sites and manages them under Forest Plan standards and guidelines except for the following:

Protect and enhance recreation OR values at a less than maximum level while emphasizing Fisheries, Wildlife, Vegetation/Botanic, and Scenic OR values. This would be accomplished by eliminating some dispersed campsites and developing some additional campsites within or adjacent to the existing campsites. Recreation stock facilities would be developed, but grazing would be restricted. Forest Service presence and interpretation and education opportunities would be increased, but ATVs would be prohibited and commercial permits discouraged. These activities are detailed in the description of alternatives.

The overall appearance of the corridor may change over time as some recreation opportunities are eliminated or restricted. Monitoring will be necessary to ensure that the recreation OR values are not compromised.

This alternative has the greatest potential to restrict recreation use and alter the existing use pattern by eliminating some existing dispersed sites, developing some additional campsites, and restricting other activities. The recreation OR value may be slightly affected by the elimination of some diversity of opportunity.

### Cumulative Effects

This alternative may have a cumulative effect on the Wild segment of the river and the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Any effects of development in the Recreational segment need to be monitored in the Wild segment and the more restrictive of the Wild and Scenic

River Act or Forest Plan standards and guidelines for wilderness adhered to.

## Alternative D

### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative D maintains the existing ROS of Primitive (WRS) for the Wild segment and Primitive (WRS) and Roded Natural for the Recreational segment of the river.

Alternative D also maintains the existing developed and dispersed sites and manages them under Forest Plan standards and guidelines except for the following:

Emphasize a balance between the recreation OR value and the other OR values while improving the quality of the recreation experience instead of the quantity of recreation opportunities. This will be accomplished by eliminating some dispersed sites, but also developing some existing dispersed sites and adding some campsites. Better information, education, picnic and stock facilities would be provided; but ATV use would be prohibited off open roads and recreation livestock grazing would be restricted within the corridor. Forest Service presence would be increased and commercial operations that do not require on-site facilities would be allowed. These activities are detailed in the description of alternatives.

The overall appearance of the corridor may change over time as some recreation opportunities are eliminated, restricted, or added. Monitoring will be necessary to ensure that the recreation OR values are not compromised.

This alternative has the potential to improve the recreation experience in the corridor while also enhancing the recreation and other OR values.

### Cumulative Effects

This alternative may have a cumulative effect on the Wild segment of the river and the Eagle Cap Wilderness. Any effects of development in the Recreational segment need to be monitored in the Wild seg-

ment and the more restrictive of the Wild and Scenic River Act or Forest Plan standards and guidelines for wilderness adhered to.

## FISHERIES

**The Issue is:** How to protect and enhance the populations and habitat of the salmon, steelhead, and bull trout while allowing for other uses within and adjacent to the river corridor. Elements used to evaluate this issue are:

Management direction concerning fisheries resources in the Lostine River corridor, regardless of the alternative selected, is anticipated to be similar to the existing management trends outlined in the Forest Plan. Throughout the alternatives, future increased visitor use in the corridor is assumed, as is the need to protect and enhance riparian and stream habitat. In general, the assimilation of this document into current management direction serves only to encourage management trends of increased protection and enhancement of these resources. This document does not in itself affect these resources. Any specific Forest Service proposed activity within the Lostine River corridor will be evaluated for its impacts towards fisheries, water quality, and riparian resources.

### Alternative A

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative A, the No Action alternative does not change current management direction. It is expected the current trend of increasing visitor use in the Lostine River corridor will continue. Over the short term, both dispersed and minimally developed Forest Service campgrounds will remain in a condition similar to their existing condition, although improving trends along the stream will be noticeable. Roads leading into dispersed campsites which have or will be identified as perpetuating unfavorable riparian disturbances will be closed to access. It is expected some campsites within Forest Service campgrounds will be moved back from the river, or in some other way modified to encourage re-establishment and improvement of riparian vegetation. Livestock use of the river will remain unchanged, continuing to have minimal riparian damage in localized areas. Visitor education con-

cerning low-impact camping will continue at a low level. Water quality, particularly concerning stream temperature, chemical composition, and sediment input is not expected to change appreciably in the short term. Due to the current concern towards fisheries related issues, habitat restoration or improvement projects will be identified. It is not anticipated these projects will be implemented in the near future. Over the long term, stream bank stability will improve through enhanced riparian vegetation and greater management emphasis directed towards these sensitive areas.

Indirect effects to stream and riparian conditions as a result of the No Action alternative will be primarily related to re-locating dispersed and Forest Service established campsites away from the river. Through these management actions, it is expected moderate decreases of sediment input will be realized due to visitor awareness and re-establishment of riparian vegetation.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

### Alternative B

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Management direction under Alternative B would emphasize recreation. Direction under this alternative would recommend that Forest Service campgrounds be improved to accommodate increased use. Dispersed campsites (and roads leading to these sites) located near the Lostine River will be significantly restricted or closed. Established Forest Service campgrounds will be modified. Specific campsites will be closed or relocated. The intent of these activities is to re-establish riparian vegetation and to protect and enhance stream bank stability. Restrictions concerning recreational livestock grazing and additional efforts in visitor education and awareness will encourage riparian enhancement.

Relocation and redesign of campsites and livestock corrals will help coordinate trail access from these sites to the river. Management in this direction will encourage revegetation along stream banks, ultimately aiding in reducing sediment delivery into the stream.

## Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

### Alternative C

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative C will encourage essentially the same management direction concerning fisheries habitat and water quality as alternatives A and B. Campsites and livestock facilities will be relocated or modified to further protect and enhance these resources. A 200-foot stream buffer will be established to restrict dispersed camping from Class I-III streams. Increased level of visitor education is similar to Alternative B and will probably exceed that encouraged under the No Action alternative.

Short term indirect effects will not be noticable as a result of this document. In the longer term, this alternative will have similar consequences as those mentioned in Alternatives A and B. Riparian vegetation and stream bank stability should improve, eventually leading to lesser amounts of sediment input into the stream.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

### Alternative D

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative D is a combination or a synthesis of both Alternatives B and C. Development and Improvement of campsites will aid in accommodating anticipated visitor use of this river corridor. As in Alternatives A, B and C, riparian, fisheries, and water quality resources are expected to improve over the longer term, although changes in the short term are not anticipated. Designated livestock grazing and watering areas will create an improving trend in vegetation in some localized areas, although these measures are not expected to have a significant effect to general water quality.

Indirect effects to riparian conditions, fish habitat and water quality are expected to be similar as that

mentioned in Alternatives A, B, and C. Riparian vegetation and stream bank stability should improve, particularly if relocation or modification of campsites is accompanied with vegetative restoration, eventually leading to lesser amounts of sediment input into the stream.

An indirect effect of a 75 foot restriction on campsites may be increases in new sites that could impact additional riparian areas. This would be reduced with an increase in Forest Service administration.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

## VEGETATION

**The Issue Is:** How will the OR values be affected by the decline of forest health?

**The Issue Is:** Can vegetative management improve the forest health situation and still protect all the OR values? Elements used to evaluate this issue are:

### Alternative A

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative A emphasizes current direction for maintaining and improving vegetative conditions and forest health concerns. Current direction permits vegetative manipulation consistent with VQO objectives of Retention. The uneven-aged, group selection management scenario provides the greatest flexibility to integrate silvicultural objectives with visual quality objectives and absorption capabilities.

Initial group selection locations would be prioritized by silvicultural need (i.e., severely overstocked pockets with no potential for release, root rot pockets, bark beetle pockets, etc.). Theoretically (in the absence of catastrophic stand destruction), implementation of the group selection treatment scenario would result in a mosaic pattern of diverse tree species, sizes and age classes in the analysis area. Forest health concerns as well as protection of the OR values would be addressed under this alternative.

## Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects, as related to the issue of forest health and the established ORVs, will be analyzed within the Middle Lostline River Subwatershed (051). 1992 Forest Pest Aerial Detection Surveys indicated that Spruce Budworm defoliation was evident from the air over a large percentage of the subwatershed. The multi-layered, host type stands typical of the unmanaged analysis area are very susceptible and vulnerable to continued insect and disease activity. The potential for a major conflagration would be very high. The entire analysis area (outside of the Wild and Scenic River Corridor) is within the Eagle Cap Wilderness. The intent of the Wilderness Act is to preserve and protect the natural condition and characteristics of designated lands. These areas are to remain essentially unaltered and undisturbed by man, with natural ecological processes permitted to operate with a minimum of human interference. Vegetation management projects intended to improve the deteriorating health conditions within the wilderness are not anticipated. The effects of stand deterioration upon scenery and recreation ORVs is unsubstantiated. Studies intended to measure the effects of pest damage to peoples perception of scenic beauty is currently being conducted.

### Alternative B

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative B emphasizes the use of even-aged management to meet silvicultural objectives and OR values. Even-aged management techniques provide the greatest latitude to improve declining forest health concerns. Two acre plus openings would be proposed to initiate stand conversion opportunities and provide the microclimatic conditions favoring the establishment of the preferred species to manage on the site. However, openings of two acres and larger will not meet visual quality objectives of Retention. Partial Retention objectives may be attainable with an irregular shelterwood harvest prescription. Residual shelterwood trees would be retained in clumps and at irregular densities to emulate natural-appearing spacing. The shelterwood would be retained through the rotation to provide diversity.

## Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects, as related to the issue of forest health and the established ORVs, will be analyzed within the Middle Lostline River Subwatershed (051). 1992 Forest Pest Aerial Detection Surveys indicated that Spruce Budworm defoliation was evident from the air over a large percentage of the subwatershed. The multi-layered, host type stands typical of the unmanaged analysis area are very susceptible and vulnerable to continued insect and disease activity. The potential for a major conflagration would be very high. The entire analysis area (outside of the Wild and Scenic River Corridor) is within the Eagle Cap Wilderness. The intent of the Wilderness Act is to preserve and protect the natural condition and characteristics of designated lands. These areas are to remain essentially unaltered and undisturbed by man, with natural ecological processes permitted to operate with a minimum of human interference. Vegetation management projects intended to improve the deteriorating health conditions within the wilderness are not anticipated. The effects of stand deterioration upon scenery and recreation ORVs is unsubstantiated. Studies intended to measure the effects of pest damage to peoples perception of scenic beauty is currently being conducted.

### Alternative C

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

A full range of silvicultural techniques would be used for improving forest health with an emphasis towards uneven-aged management. Direct and indirect effects to the vegetation resource under Alternative C are similar to those discussed in Alternative A.

#### Cumulative Effects

Cumulative effects are similar to those discussed under Alternative A.

### Alternative D

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative D emphasizes the use of uneven-aged management techniques to meet silvicultural objectives and OR values. This alternative fundamentally differs from Alternatives A and C because of its aggressive fuels/fire management emphasis. As iden-

tified in the mitigation measures, the use of prescribed fire would be proposed to further address forest health concerns. In addition to the direct and indirect effects of stand manipulation to forest health concerns and OR values identified in Alternative A, the use of prescribed fire would precipitate temporary adverse visual effects. Negative effects include: blackened tree boles, killed understory vegetation, a blackened forest floor, and tree-crown scorch. Adverse visual effects associated with prescribed burning may last from only a few weeks to no more than 1 to 3 years depending upon the sensitivity of the burn prescription. Properly analyzing and selecting burning and visual variables, firing techniques, logistics, and ignition methods should make it easier to mitigate short-term visual problems. In the long term, the use of prescribed fire will be invaluable in creating desirable visual characteristics, providing diverse wildlife habitat, increasing stand health and vigor and reducing natural fuel loadings.

#### **Cumulative Effects**

Cumulative effects, as related to the issue of forest health and the established ORVs, will be analyzed within the Middle Lostine River Subwatershed (051). 1992 Forest Pest Aerial Detection Surveys indicated that Spruce Budworm defoliation was evident from the air over a large percentage of the subwatershed. The multi-layered, host type stands typical of the unmanaged analysis area are very susceptible and vulnerable to continued insect and disease activity. The potential for a major conflagration would be very high. The entire analysis area (outside of the Wild and Scenic River Corridor) is within the Eagle Cap Wilderness. The intent of the Wilderness Act is to preserve and protect the natural condition and characteristics of designated lands. These areas are to remain essentially unaltered and undisturbed by man, with natural ecological processes permitted to operate with a minimum of human interference. Vegetation management projects intended to improve the deteriorating health conditions within the wilderness are not anticipated. The effects of stand deterioration upon scenery and recreation ORVs is unsubstantiated. Studies intended to measure the effects of pest damage to peoples perception of scenic beauty is currently being conducted.

#### **IRREVERSIBLE/IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES**

Under an uneven-aged management-group selection scenario, areas not entered in the initial cutting cycles will undoubtedly incur mortality. Quantities in excess of that required for wildlife habitat and long-term site productivity may be made available for timber harvest. Decisions whether or not to harvest the salvage volume will be analyzed as the situation presents itself. If the determination is made to forego salvage opportunities, the deteriorating timber would represent woodfiber volume and commercial value irretrievably foregone.

#### **PROBABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED**

If salvage opportunities between cutting cycles is foregone, the availability of saleable volume will be unavoidably lost.

#### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USE AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY**

The long-term productivity of resources will be affected by increased insect activity. Stand conditions favoring sustained outbreaks of insects and disease currently exist within the analysis area.

#### **POTENTIAL CONFLICTS WITH PLANS AND POLICIES OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

The Forest Service has responsibilities to coordinate with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and pursuant regulations (50 CFR Part 402). It is intended to enhance the Forest Service's ability to meet the terms of the Inter-Agency Agreement signed in February 1992 between the NMFS and the FS. The listing of Snake River chinook stocks as threatened, and sockeye stocks as endangered requires the Forest Service to ensure compliance with ESA - Section 7(a)(2) to ensure that any Forest Service action is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat of such species. The Forest Service will ensure compliance with the ESA for all ongoing and planned land management activities.

## TRANSPORTATION

**The Issue Is:** How to meet the transportation needs while protecting and enhancing the resources and OR values. Elements used to evaluate this issue are:

### Alternative A

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative A continues with the existing condition or direction. This alternative does not address the concern of roads being created by woodcutter, recreationist, or other off road use. Under this alternative, those activities would continue, creating additional roads.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

### Alternative B

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative B identifies those roads open to the public. This would help reduce the problem of the public creating new roads for a variety of reasons. It also prohibits (through a closure) all motorized vehicle use within the riparian area of the river. This would provide protection for the Lostine River riparian area. Under this alternative, the riparian area would be defined as 50 feet from the high water line.

Because of the expected increased vehicle use, the road maintenance level was increased to a Level 4. This would be appropriate if the traffic use increases.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

### Alternatives C and D

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

These two alternatives address this issue the same. These alternatives identify the roads to be open to the public as did Alternative B. However, these alter-

natives issue an area closure for all motorized use except for those roads open to the public. This provides the maximum protection for the OR values, including PETS plant species and water quality. However, it should not decrease the recreational OR value as off road recreational use is not part of the OR values.

With the area surrounded by wilderness and only on access point, this closure should be easy to enforce.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

## FIRE MANAGEMENT

**The Issue Is:** Given the existing and predicted fuel loading within the river corridor, what are appropriate fire prevention and suppression strategies? Elements used to evaluate this issue are:

### Alternative A

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

This alternative continues the existing direction for fire prevention and suppression. Nothing in this alternative would prevent implementing other direction to improve the fire prevention and suppression activities in the river corridor.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

### Alternatives B, and C

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

These alternatives all address this issue the same with one exception. These alternatives provide for a fire hazard reduction buffer along Forest Road 8210, call for increased fire patrol during peak fire seasons, increased fire prevention education, and provides for direction to work with landowners to develop a process for reducing fuel buildups and reporting fires.

All of these actions would improve the fire prevention and provide better protection for the river corridor.

Alternative B provides a 100 foot fire hazard reduction buffer along Forest Road 8210. This provides the greatest protection of the alternatives. Alternative C provides for a 50 foot buffer.

#### Alternative D

##### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative D is for the most part the same as Alternatives B and C for fire patrols, education, prevention, and working with landowners. However, Alternative D proposed to complete a fire hazard analysis for the Recreational segment. This would provide a more detailed picture of the fuels situation and recommend specific hazards to be reduced. Based on this report, the Forest Service would implement those appropriate recommendation. This would provide a more comprehensive list of hazard reduction items rather than just a 100 or 50 fuel reduction zone.

##### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

## **B. Other Issues**

### **BIODIVERSITY (Diversity)**

The health and maintenance of a functioning ecosystem is dependent on its diversity. There are three OR values that are important to diversity, Fisheries, Wildlife, and Vegetation/Botanic. The protection and enhancement of these OR values is part of the objective of the management plan. Each project, as it is proposed, will be analyzed for its effect on the OR values, which will include a discussion on biodiversity. The management of the OR values should protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area.

### **PRIVATE LANDS**

There is very little private land within the river corridor (less than 1 percent). The private land within the

corridor is referred to as Lapover Ranch. There are several landowners within this area. They have developed covenants for the purpose of managing their land and protecting its value. These covenants have been reviewed by the ID Team and were found to be more than adequate for the protection of river values. Other local, State, and Federal regulation or laws apply that will also protect the river values. For these reason, no additional direction was established concerning private land. All alternatives will provide the same level of protection and management for the river concerning private lands.

All alternatives identify these small parcels of private land as desirable to purchase; however, they were not determined to be critical to acquire for the management or protection of the river corridor. These purchases would be through willing sellers only.

### **CONSUMERS, CIVIL RIGHTS, MINORITY GROUPS, AND WOMEN**

No additional impacts to any of these groups were identified outside of what has already been addressed in the Forest Plan, CMP, or covered in other sections of this document.

### **WETLANDS AND FLOODPLAINS**

Wetlands and floodplains do exist within the planning area. Any proposed project will address the specific impacts to these areas. Because of the Fisheries OR value and the direction within the Act to protect water quality, this issue will be discussed in more detail in the next section. No negative impacts from the development of this management plan were identified.

### **THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

Threatened, endangered, and sensitive species and their habitat have been located within or adjacent to the river corridor. These include wildlife, plants, and the newly listed salmon. All of these are part of an OR value to be protected and enhanced. Therefore, any action should improve upon the existing condition. Each individual proposed project in the river corridor will analyze the impact on these species. A biological evaluation (BE) has been completed for this EA and is in the analysis file.

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources have been located within or adjacent to the river corridor. No alternative proposes to implement any activity that would have an adverse impact on any cultural resource site. Since Forest direction applies, those sites must be protected. Therefore, any action should improve upon the existing condition. Each individual proposed project in the river corridor will analyze the impact on these cultural resources. A cultural survey will be completed for any proposed activity. A cultural resource report has been completed for this EA and is in the analysis file.

## PRIME FARMLANDS, RANGELANDS, AND FOREST LANDS

The river corridor contains rangelands and forest lands. The effects on these lands is slight. Presently, there is not livestock grazing within the corridor; and this is planned to continue. The timber land available within the corridor is small given existing Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines. There are only small additions to these guidelines concerning timber harvest. Timber harvest can still occur within the river corridor outside of wilderness. However, the harvest would be considered a non-scheduled harvest under all action alternatives.

## ENERGY REQUIREMENTS

No energy requirements were identified during the analysis process.

## PROBABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

No other adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided, other than those previously discussed, were identified during the analysis process. The impact to private landowners cannot be avoided as Congress designated the river into the National Wild and Scenic System. The Forest Service is charged with developing the management plan.

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USE AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

During the development of the alternatives, other than those listed previously, neither long-term or short-term productivity would be affected.

## IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

No alternative represents an Irreversible or Irretrievable commitment of resources.

## POTENTIAL CONFLICTS WITH PLANS AND POLICIES OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS

No conflicts were identified with plans or policies of other agencies during the analysis process.

## C. Outstandingly Remarkable Values

### SCENIC

The Issue is: What level should the visual quality be managed for?

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

##### Alternative A

Alternative A maintains the existing visual quality objective (VQO) of Retention and Preservation within the Recreational segment of the river and Preservation in the wild segment of the river. Preservation is the highest VQO in the visual classification system.

Alternative A provides the least amount of scenic enhancement because it does not set any specific direction for protecting and enhancing the scenic resource.

#### Cumulative Effects

The visual quality will be managed according to broad guidelines and may be altered somewhat over the long-term due to natural and human caused activities relating to forest health and vegetation management.

##### Alternative B

Effects are similar to those of Alternative A except:

Alternative B provides for a full range of silvicultural treatments to be used for improving forest health and emphasizing uneven-aged management. The-



se treatments may be partially visible from roads and recreation areas within the corridor.

Alternative B provides for specific direction in protecting and enhancing the Scenic OR value and resource as detailed in the Lostine River Viewshed Corridor Plan.

#### Cumulative Effects

The visual quality will be managed according to the specific corridor plan and may be altered slightly from the existing condition as a result of natural and human caused activities related to forest health and vegetation management.

#### Alternative C

Effects are similar to Alternative B except:

Alternative C provides the least amount of scenic enhancement because it does not set any specific direction for protecting or enhancing the Scenic OR value and resource.

#### Cumulative Effects

The visual quality will be managed according to broad guidelines and may be altered somewhat over the long-term due to natural and human caused activities relating to forest health and vegetation management.

#### Alternative D

Effects are similar to Alternative B except:

Alternative D provides for a full range of silvicultural techniques for improving long-term forest health with an emphasis towards uneven-aged management. Treatments that do not rely on heavy equipment on site would be utilized. These treatments may be partially visible from roads and recreation areas within the corridor.

Alternative D provides for protection and enhancement of the Scenic OR value and resource as detailed in the Lostine River Viewshed Corridor Plan.

#### Cumulative Effects

The visual quality will be managed according to the specific corridor plan and may be altered slightly

from the existing condition as a result of natural and human caused activities related to forest health and vegetation management.

#### RECREATION

**The Issue Is:** This OR value was previously discussed under the recreation issue.

See "Key Issues" previously listed.

#### FISHERIES

**The Issue Is:** This OR value was previously discussed under the fisheries water quality issue.

See "Key Issues" previously listed.

#### WILDLIFE

**The Issue Is:** How to best manage for the protection and enhancement of wildlife populations and habitat within the river corridor?

#### Alternative A

##### Direct/Indirect Effects

##### Cover and Big Game Habitat

There will be no loss direct loss of habitat by maintaining the current number of recreational areas.

Indirect effects of not implementing a noxious weed program may be loss of forage.

ATV use may directly result in disturbance or harassment.

Timber and salvage harvest may alter current cover forage ratios. Effects will be addressed in specific NEPA documents.

By not closing dispersed roads, some habitat will remain out of forage production.

##### Snag Habitat

Direct loss of some snag habitat by removing "hazard" trees adjacent to roads and recreational areas.

##### Management Indicator Species

By not increasing riparian habitat management, continued loss of vegetation and subsequent hiding and foraging areas may reduce this habitat.

No dust abatement on the Lostline River road will result in the indirect effect of reduced insect prey base on the roadside vegetation. This will decrease observations of woodpeckers, chickadees, and nuthatches.

Human use levels will likely increase, directly decreasing wildlife use of the corridor.

#### Unique Species and Habitat

No direct or indirect impact to unique species habitat is anticipated.

Unique species occurrence is rare or occurs outside high use periods. Impacts are anticipated to be minimal.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects on wildlife were determined during the analysis process.

#### Alternative B

##### Direct/Indirect Effects

##### Cover and Big Game Habitat

This alternative will have a greater effect than Alternative A by increasing the amount of habitat alteration with campsite development.

There will be beneficial effects by implementing an aggressive noxious weed program.

Effects of ATV use is the same for Alternative A.

There will be no alteration of cover forage ratios by timber or salvage harvest.

Effects of dispersed roads will be less than Alternative A.

##### Snag Habitat

Same effect as Alternative A.

The remainder of the corridor will be managed at the 100% snag level.

##### Management Indicator Species

This alternative better meets the needs of wildlife species dependent on riparian habitat than Alternative A.

With dust abatement, this alternative will impact primary cavity excavators less than Alternative A.

Human use levels will increase, directly decreasing wildlife use of the corridor. Effects of this alternative to wildlife are greater than Alternative A.

Planting adjacent to developed recreational sites will increase passerine use of these areas and increase wildlife viewing opportunities.

#### Unique Species and Habitat

Effects of this alternative are the same as Alternative A.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects on wildlife were determined during the analysis process.

#### Alternative C

##### Direct/Indirect Effects

##### Cover and Big Game Habitat

Effects of this alternative are similar to Alternative B except, no ATVs will reduce the potential for disturbance and harassment, closure of dispersed sites will increase the amount of forage, and harvest may alter current cover forage ratios.

##### Snag Habitat

Same effect as Alternative A and B.

##### Management Indicator Species

Same effect as Alternative B.

Human use levels will likely increase, directly decreasing wildlife use of the corridor.

#### Unique Species and Habitat

Same effect as Alternative A and B.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects on wildlife were determined during the analysis process.

#### Alternative D

##### Direct/Indirect Effects

##### Cover and Big Game Habitat

Effects of this alternative are similar to Alternative B except for a reduced level of noxious weed control, increased road construction, and cover forage ratios that may change from current condition through harvest.

### Snag Habitat

Same effect as Alternative B.

The remainder of the corridor will be managed at the 100% snag level.

### Management Indicator Species

Same effect as Alternative B.

### Unique Species and Habitat

Effects of this alternative are the same as Alternative A.

### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects on wildlife were determined during the analysis process.

## VEGETATION/BOTANICAL

**The Issue Is:** How best to manage for the protection and enhancement of the populations and habitat of the vegetation and botanical resources within the river corridor?

A comparison of the alternatives for the botanical ORV will include dispersed camping, grazing of stock animals, the fuelwood cutting program, all terrain vehicle (ATV) use, Public education/interpretation and PETS plant habitat improvement as criteria. These activities have the greatest potential to impact PETS plants and their habitat.

### Alternative A

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative A is the no action alternative. Management guidelines outlined in the FSM and LRMP will be followed with no emphasis on any particular ORV.

**Dispersed Camping:** This has historically been an unregulated activity and will remain so under Alternative A. The potential for impact arises when dispersed sites are established near PETS plant populations. Direct impacts include road building, firewood cutting and trampling. These adverse impacts can occur long after a dispersed site has been established as is the case of the Botrychium pedunculosum type locality. Impacts at this site from the adjacent dispersed

camp include trampling, fuelwood cutting slash piled on individual plants and a latrine dug within the population. It is anticipated that these impacts will continue under Alternative A.

**Stock Facilities:** Existing regulations regarding the grazing of stock animals may result in direct adverse impact to PETS plants or habitat through trampling, grazing, soil disturbance and indirect impact through the establishment of non-native plant species transported by hay and animals.

**Fuelwood Cutting Program:** This is presently restricted to commercial permit only. Under the greensheet system, areas to avoid can be specified and potential for direct negative impact can be reduced. Enforcement of these restrictions can be difficult however. Personal fuelwood cutting for campground use will continue to be permitted. This activity has adversely affected PETS plants and habitat in the past and is anticipated to continue to have adverse direct effects.

**ATVs:** Currently, ATV use is not restricted beyond state law requirements. Direct adverse impacts to PETS plants and habitat may result through soil disturbance and mechanical damage.

**Dispersed Roads:** Current direction outlined in the LRMP will be followed. There is potential to adversely effect the botanical OR value indirectly through access to sensitive areas.

**Public Education:** Signing at trailheads and campgrounds may alleviate some of the activities which adversely impact PETS plants and habitat. There are no provisions for this to occur under alternative A.

**Habitat improvement:** Currently, lodgepole pines appear to be encroaching on Botrychium habitat. This is probably the consequence of fire suppression. The introduction of prescribed fire will reduce shade and may improve habitat resulting in a direct beneficial effect. Under Alternative A there are no provisions for habitat improvement.

## Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

### Alternative B

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative B will manage for the highest level of recreational use without adversely impacting other ORV values.

**Dispersed Camping:** Existing dispersed sites will be evaluated to determine if adverse effects are occurring to the botanical ORV. Those sites determined to be resulting in an adverse impact will be closed. This should result in a minimal level of direct impact to the botanical ORV. Additional dispersed and developed sites may be developed where appropriate. These new sites will be surveyed and therefore will not result in adverse impact to the botanical ORV.

**Stock Facilities:** Facilities will be provided at developed campgrounds and trailheads and the use of pellets or grain encouraged. Grazing will be limited to the east side of road 8210. These actions will reduce the potential for direct and indirect adverse effect to the botanical ORV but impacts may still occur east of the 8210 road.

**Fuelwood Cutting Program:** The program would be offered to both commercial and personal users within restricted sites only. Surveys for PETS plants could be completed for these sites before any activity takes place and therefore, potential for direct adverse impact reduced to a low level.

**ATVs:** Use of ATVs would be restricted to designated areas in the northern half of the river corridor. Areas can be chosen which are appropriate and will result in minimal resource damage. If enforcement is sufficient to assure compliance, potential to impact the botanical ORV should be reduced to a low level.

**Dispersed Roads:** Roads to recreation facilities and roads to approved dispersed camp-

sites will remain open. Those roads leading to sites with conflicts with the botanical ORV will be closed. This will reduce the potential for adverse impact to a low level, assuming law enforcement is sufficient enough to gain compliance.

**Public Education:** Interpretive programs and brochures will be developed to alleviate impacts to the botanical ORV. This is anticipated to result in a beneficial indirect effect.

**Habitat Improvement:** No habitat improvement projects will be initiated.

## Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

### Alternative C

#### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative C places the greatest emphasis on the natural ORVs without adversely affecting the recreational ORV.

**Dispersed Camping:** Sites between the Lostine River and road 8210 will be eliminated. Dispersed camping east of road 8210 will be allowed if there are no likely adverse impacts to the botanical ORV. This will reduce direct adverse effects to a minimal level.

**Stock Facilities:** Facilities will be provided at all developed campgrounds and trailheads and grazing restricted to these areas. This will greatly alleviate uncontrolled grazing and reduce potential direct and indirect adverse effects to the botanical ORV to a minimal level.

**Fuelwood Cutting Program:** No fuelwood cutting, commercial or personal use, would be allowed. No ground disturbance would take place and the potential to impact the botanical ORV would be eliminated. Fuelwood cutting for campground use will be allowed. There is potential to have direct adverse impacts to the botanical ORV as a result of this activity.

ATV's: All ATV use will be prohibited. No ground disturbance will take place and therefore, there is no potential to impact the botanical ORV.

Dispersed Roads: Roads which access approved dispersed sites will remain open. All other roads will be open under permit only. This will reduce the potential for both direct and indirect adverse effects to the botanical ORV to minimal levels.

Public Education: A program will be initiated to provide training for Forest Service personnel, develop brochures and provide signing. A beneficial indirect effect to the botanical ORV is anticipated.

Habitat Improvement: The type locality for Botrychium pedunculatum will be enhanced. Activities may include the use of prescribed fire and fencing. These activities will have a direct beneficial effect to the botanical ORV.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

#### Alternative D

##### Direct/Indirect Effects

Alternative D will manage for a balance of ORVs.

Dispersed Camping: Restriction and development of dispersed sites will be similar to Alternative C. The level of direct adverse effects to the botanical ORV will also be similar to Alternative C.

Stock Facilities: There will be facilities at selected campgrounds and all trailheads and grazing restricted to designated areas. This action will alleviate the direct and indirect adverse effects of stock animals on the botanical ORV, although to a lesser degree than Alternative C due to fewer facilities and grazing which occurs outside of those facilities.

Fuelwood Cutting Program: This activity will only be carried out with the objective of en-

hancing ORV values. Direct adverse effects to the botanical ORV will be reduced to minimal levels. Fuelwood cutting for campfires will be allowed and as in the other alternatives, potential exists to have a direct adverse effect on the botanical ORV as a result.

ATV's: The use of ATV's will be restricted to open roads. This will reduce potential to have direct adverse effects on the botanical ORV to minimal levels.

Dispersed Roads: Actions and effects to the botanical ORV are the same as Alternative C.

Public Education: Proposed actions and potential effects are similar to Alternative C.

Habitat Improvement: The type locality for Botrychium pedunculatum will be enhanced. Activities may include the use of prescribed fire and fencing. These activities will have a direct beneficial effect to the botanical ORV.

#### Cumulative Effects

No cumulative effects were identified during the analysis process.

However, it must be noted that little is known of the biological requirements or population biology of the PETS plants occurring in the Lostine Wild and Scenic River Planning Area. An assumption can be made that as human visitation increases, the potential for negative impact to these species also increases. The degree to which this potential impact increases is dependent on the level of control used to regulate human activities. No accurate assessment of cumulative effects can be made. This would apply to all alternatives.

#### PROBABLE ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

No adverse environmental effects that cannot be avoided were identified during the analysis process. The impact to private landowners cannot be avoided as Congress designated the river into the National Wild and Scenic System. The Forest Service is charged with developing the management plan.

**RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USE AND LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY**

During the development of the alternatives, neither long-term or short-term productivity would be affected.

**IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES**

No alternative represents an Irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources.

**POTENTIAL CONFLICTS WITH PLANS AND POLICIES OF OTHER JURISDICTIONS**

No conflicts were identified with plans or policies of other agencies during the analysis process.

## Chapter IV

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### *Agencies and Persons Consulted*



## **CHAPTER IV. AGENCIES AND PERSONS CONSULTED**

The development of this environmental analysis involved numerous people, agencies, groups, and governments. The following is a list of the person(s) and agencies consulted.

### **Government**

State of Oregon  
Nez Perce Tribe  
Confederated Tribe of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Wallowa County

### **Agencies and Organizations**

American Rivers, Inc.  
Army Corps of Engineers, Dist. Engineers  
Audubon Society of Portland  
Blue Mountain Audubon Society  
Bonneville Power Administration  
Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Land Management  
Columbia River Inter-tribal Fish Commission  
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation  
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation  
Environmental Protection Agency  
E. O. Sportsmen Council  
Forestry & Range Sciences Lab  
Grande Ronde Resource Council  
Maintain Eastern Oregon Wilderness  
Native Plant Society of Oregon  
Natural Heritage Advisory Council  
Nez Perce Fisheries Management  
Northwest Power Planning Council  
Oregon Department of Agriculture  
Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife  
Oregon Department of Forestry  
Oregon Division of State Lands  
Oregon Natural Resources Council  
Oregon Speleological Society  
Oregon State Department of Environmental Quality  
Oregon State Department of Geology and Minerals Industry  
Oregon State Land Conservation and Development Commission  
Oregon State Parks  
Oregon State Marine Board  
Oregon State Water Resources Department  
Oregon Trout  
Our National Forest, Inc.



#### **Agencies and Organizations (cont.)**

**Palouse Audobon Society  
People First  
Rao Comm.  
River Network  
Sierra Club, Blue Mountain Group  
Sierra Club, Oregon Chapter  
The Nature Conservancy  
Tri-State Steelheaders  
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
U. S. Soil Conservation Service  
Wallowa Co. Soil & Water Cons. District  
Wallowa Co. Sportsmen's Association  
Wallowa County, Board of Commissioners  
Wallowa County Chamber of Commerce  
Wallowa County Court  
Wallowa Resource Council**

#### **Individuals Representing Government**

**Les Aucoin (U.S. Representative)  
Ray Baum (State Representative)  
Peter Defazio (U.S. Representative)  
Mark Hatfield (U.S. Senator)  
Marie Lester (Union County Commissioner)  
Bob Packwood (U.S. Senator)  
Denny Smith (U.S. Representative)  
Robert Smith (U.S. Representative)  
Eugene Timms (State Senator)  
Ron Wyden (U.S. Representative)  
Glen Youngman (Umatilla County Commissioner)**

#### **Private Landowners and Interested Individuals**

**Private landowners that live within a half a mile of the Lostine River were put on a mailing list to keep them informed as we proceeded through the process. There are 23 individual landowners on this list. 69 private individuals who have expressed interest in the plan are also on the mailing list.**

Interdisciplinary Team

We have participated in this analysis and believe the significant issues have been identified and addressed:

Marty Gardner  
MARTY GARDNER, River Planner

7/1/93  
Date

Kari Martin  
KEVIN MARTIN, Wallowa Zone Wildlife Biologist

5/14/93  
Date

Paul Sbrvis  
PAUL SBRVIS, HCNRA Silviculturist

5/20/93  
Date

Bob Rose  
BOB ROSE, Wallowa Zone Fisheries

5/18/93  
Date

Marty Stein  
MARTY STEIN, Wallowa Zone Botanist

5/18/93  
Date

Tom Carlson  
TOM CARLSON, Eagle Cap Recreation Planner

5/25/93  
Date

Pat O'Connor  
PAT O'CONNOR, Eagle Cap Resource Assistant

5/25/93  
Date

Recommended by:

Lloyd Swanger  
LLOYD SWANGER, Eagle Cap District Ranger

5/14/93  
Date

I believe this assessment meets the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Bruce McMILLAN  
BRUCE McMILLAN, Forest Environmental Coordinator

7/1/93  
Date

*Appendices*

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