

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest Service

Wallowa-Whitman  
National Forest

# Minam River

## *Wild and Scenic River Management Plan*



**MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**MINAM RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER**

**Wallowa-Whitman National Forest  
U.S.D.A. Forest Service  
Union and Wallowa Counties Oregon**

# MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Minam Wild and Scenic River

### Table of Contents

	<u>PAGE</u>
I. INTRODUCTION .....	1
A. Introduction.....	1
B. Relationship With Other Plans .....	1
C. Outstandingly Remarkable Values .....	1
D. How To Use This Plan.....	2
II. STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES .....	3
A. Introduction.....	3
B. Specific Standards and Guides .....	3
Watershed .....	4
Wildlife (OR Value) .....	5
Timber Management .....	5
Range .....	6
Private Lands .....	6
Minerals and Geology (OR Value).....	6
Insects and Diseases.....	7
Fire .....	7
Transportation.....	7
Recreation (OR Value) .....	7
Landscape Management (Scenic OR Value) .....	9
Fisheries (OR Value) .....	10
Cultural Resources .....	12
Vegetation .....	12
Monitoring .....	12
Adjacency .....	12
III. IMPLEMENTATION .....	13
A. Management Actions .....	13
B. Monitoring .....	17
C. Budget .....	18

#### **IV. APPENDIX**

- A. Existing Condition-Minam Wild and Scenic River Corridor**
- B. Glossary of Acronyms and Terms**
- C. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act**
- D. Resource Assessment**
- E. Section 7 Analysis Procedure**
- F. Boundary Corridor Maps and Legal Description**

## I. INTRODUCTION

### A. Introduction

The Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 amended the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 to add the 39.0 mile Minam River to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System with a "Wild" classification. The 1968 act required the Forest Service to develop a management plan within three fiscal years of designation.

The designated river length has been recalculated by the Forest Service using Geographic Information Systems and revised to 41.4 miles. This has been increased by .5 miles to include Blue Lake and its headwaters by adoption of this river management plan by the Decision Notice for the Eagle Cap Wilderness Minam River Wild and Scenic River Environmental Assessment. The total length of the river is now ~~41.9 miles with a "Wild" classification~~. The river corridor encompasses 13,453 acres, of which, 348 acres are privately owned.

Since the designated Minam River is entirely within the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area, the River Management Plan was developed in conjunction with the Eagle Cap Stewardship Plan to better address the issues and concerns for the area. Both are included in a joint Environmental Assessment. The Environmental Assessment gives the public information about the planning process used and documents the environmental analysis completed by the wilderness and river planning team. The alternative chosen by the Forest Supervisor from the Environmental Assessment is the basis for both the Eagle Cap Wilderness Stewardship Plan and the River Management Plan. The Forest Supervisor's decision is in the Decision Notice, which accompanies the Environmental Assessment.

The Minam River Wild and Scenic River Management Plan will be incorporated into the Forest Plan through an amendment to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan). All other Forest Plan direction, including Management Area 4 guidelines (as amended by the Wilderness Stewardship Plan), still apply. Any changes to this river plan will be through the Forest planning process or through environmental analyses and amendments to the Forest Plan.

### B. Relationship With Other Plans

Within the river corridor, there is one other special management areas with its own specific management objectives. This is the Eagle Cap Wilderness whose management is described in the Eagle Cap Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

In most cases, the management of these different designations are compatible. The goal is to manage for the intent of each area while protecting the other. However, there are times that this may not be possible. In this case, according to Section 10(b) and (c) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the more restrictive provision shall apply. This has been incorporated into the management plan. If conflicts arise between the other management plans and this plan, the more restrictive shall apply.

There are several species of threatened and endangered fish and animals within or near the river corridor. These species fall under the Endangered Species Act. The intent is to manage according to both Acts, with neither one taking priority over the other. If conflicts arise that cannot be resolved, then they should be resolved by the more restrictive provisions or more restrictive management plan, if possible. If the conflict is resolved in favor of the Endangered

Species Act because of the wording of that Act, then the activity should be modified to best meet the needs of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

Private property is contained in this river corridor. The Forest Service has no regulatory authority over private lands. Private property rights need to be addressed in any planned activity.

C. **Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that a river be free flowing and possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable values." When Minam River was designated Wild and Scenic in 1988, the Congressional Records indicated that scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife values qualified as outstandingly remarkable. This was substantiated by a resource assessment process (a site-specific assessment of the resource values of the river and part of the Pacific Northwest Region's river planning process).

The following is a summary of the outstandingly remarkable values:

**Scenic** - The variety in landscape is dramatic and memorable, from the steep glaciated upper drainage, to the heavily forested u-shaped valley in the middle portion, to the deeply dissected basalt canyons of the lower canyon. The entire drainage lies within the Eagle Cap Wilderness and is characterized as an area where natural processes dominate.

**Recreation** - The quality and diversity of recreational opportunities within the river corridor make it a popular area for backpacking, horsepacking, camping, fishing, wildlife viewing, and high quality hunting experiences in a semi-primitive and primitive wilderness setting. There are outstanding opportunities for experiencing solitude, freedom, closeness to nature, tranquility, self reliance, challenge, and risk.

**Geology** - The combination of glaciated and granitic-dominated geology of the headwaters contrasting with the lower volcanic basalt dominated landscape, provides a graphic textbook example to study the formative processes of the Wallowa Mountains. The corridor also displays examples of a variety of geologic processes, including, glaciation, volcanism, faulting and folding, and erosion.

**Fisheries** - Provides excellent quality habitat which supports native runs of anadromous and resident native species, including, spring/summer chinook salmon, summer steelhead, bull trout, whitefish, and rainbow trout. Includes clear, cold, highly oxygenated water which is important to the survival of these species. The Minam River provides critical habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon which have been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

**Wildlife** - The diversity of unaltered habitat includes a wide range of solitude dependent animals such as wolverine, fisher, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, black bear, river otter, bald eagles, and cougar. The area is considered a premiere reservoir for big-game species.

D. **How To Use This Plan**

This plan is divided into three sections: Standards and Guidelines, Implementation, and Appendix.

The chapter on standards and guidelines addresses the management practices that will be used on Federal lands. It also includes actions that will or will not be taken by the Forest Service in the management of the river corridor.

The chapter on implementation describes specific action that the Forest Service will take as a result of this management plan, describes the monitoring process, and describes the budget process.

The Appendix contains the Affected Environment, Glossary of Term and Acronyms, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Resource Assessment, Free-Flow Analysis Format, and Boundary Maps. This information is provided to help in the management of the river corridor.

## II. STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

### A. Introduction

Because this area is managed to meet the intent of two Congressional Acts as well as other Forest Plan direction, the standards and guidelines developed for the river corridor must be considered in conjunction with the standards and guidelines of other Management Areas (MA) which overlap the river corridor. These standards and guidelines will be consulted before going to the general Forest Plan standards and guidelines.

The following is a guide to other Management Areas (MA) that will be consulted before implementing any projects:

See also MA 4 (Wilderness-as amended by Eagle Cap Wilderness Stewardship Plan)

In the case of conflict between the standards and guidelines of these management areas or conflicts between the provisions of the Congressional Acts (Wilderness Act or Wild and Scenic Rivers Act), the more restrictive standard and guideline or provision shall apply.

Because there are threatened and endangered species within the river corridor, the Endangered Species Act is also applicable. This Act is to be coordinated with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to achieve the objectives of both Acts. In any case, any activity that must take place under the Endangered Species Act will be modified, if needed, to best meet the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

### B. Specific Standards and Guides

The following are the standards and guidelines for the management of the Minam Wild and Scenic River. These apply to Federal lands or identify actions that need to take place off of Federal lands to facilitate the management of the river corridor. The intent or objectives of these standards and guidelines apply to private land. Those more specific to private lands are under the heading "Private Lands". The Desired Future Conditions are applicable for the river corridor.

These standards and guidelines follow the same order as shown in Chapter 4 of the Forest Plan. For each resource that is also an outstandingly remarkable value, a description of the desired future condition (DFC) is given.

## MANAGEMENT AREA 7 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

**Goal** - MANAGE CLASSIFIED WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SEGMENTS TO APPROPRIATE STANDARDS AS DEFINED BY THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT, PUBLIC LAW 90-542, OCTOBER 2, 1968 (U.S. LAWS, STATUTES, ETC. 1968), AS AMENDED BY THE OMNIBUS OREGON WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT OF 1988 (PUBLIC LAWS 100-557).

**Description** - The entire 41.4 mile segment of the Minam River from the Forest Service/Eagle Cap Wilderness boundary to the outlet of Minam Lake was designated as "Wild" by the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1988 and is managed under that classification as described in the Desired Future Condition. In addition, the entire drainage of Blue Lake (.5 river miles) has been added to the designated Minam Wild and Scenic River corridor (now 41.9 miles long) and will also be managed as a "Wild River" segment as described in the Desired Future Condition.

**Desired Future Condition** - Each component of the Wild and Scenic River system will be administered to protect and enhance the values for which the river was designated and to provide public use and enjoyment of those values. Emphasis will be given to protecting the outstandingly remarkable (OR) values for which the river was designated. Thus, the OR values of scenery, recreation, fish, wildlife, and geology, will be protected and enhanced. Since the river corridor lies within the Eagle Cap Wilderness and has been classified as a "Wild" River, it will be free of impoundments and continue to be inaccessible by road. The shorelines will be essentially natural appearing. Signs of human activity, including structures or evidence of resource use, will be kept to a minimum or will be inconspicuous. The river corridor will still be managed as wilderness. The opportunity to interact with a natural environment, with challenges and minimal sights and sounds of other people will be available. There will be no use of motorized vehicles.

**Conflict Resolution** - All OR values must be protected and enhanced. If conflicts arise between OR values which cannot be resolved within the direction of the Act or management plan, then they shall be resolved according to the following priorities: 1) Fisheries, 2) Scenery, 3) Recreation, 4) Wildlife and 5) Geology.

### MANAGEMENT AREA STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

Management direction for Eagle Cap Wilderness Area as addressed in the Environmental Assessment and the Eagle Cap Stewardship Plan will also provide protection to the Minam Wild and Scenic River corridor. Thus, all DFCs and standards and guidelines for the wilderness in general, as listed in the above documents, will also apply to the river corridor. Additional protection, specific to the river corridor, is listed in this document and will be provided in the following ways:

1. **Watershed.** Construction of new water impoundments, diversions, straightening, rip-rapping, and other modifications of Minam River will generally not be allowed. Under Section 7(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the agency must determine whether the proposed water resources project has a "direct and adverse effect on the values for which such river was established." **Following the Regional guidelines, a Section 7(a) water resources development analysis will be completed for any project affecting the flow, bed, or banks of the river.** The outcome of the analysis will clearly demonstrate a compelling need for the project and consistency with achieving the DFC's, if it is to continue.



Examples of projects that would likely be subject to Section 7(a) analysis include, but are not limited to:

- a. Log removal for recreation user safety;
  - b. Fisheries habitat and watershed enhancement projects;
  - c. Footbridge construction/reconstruction projects;
  - d. Bank stabilization projects;
  - e. Activities that require a 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers;
  - f. Above activities that are Federally funded-including those on private land.
2. For any proposed activity affecting free-flow in which there will be another Federal agency "assisting by loan, grant, license, or otherwise ...," the responsible official will be the Regional Forester (FSM 2354.04e).
  3. The water quality of Minam River is above State standards. Maintain temperatures and embeddedness to levels characterized by current conditions. See "Fisheries" Desired Future Condition section for additional information.
  4. Watershed impacts will be insignificant. No human-caused action may be undertaken which will result in a measurable reduction of existing water quality or that will prevent the meeting of Oregon State water quality standards.
  5. Toilet facilities are not provided in the river corridor. The "cat hole" or other appropriate methods for all human waste disposal will be required at least 200 feet from the river.
  6. **Wildlife. (Outstandingly Remarkable Value)**  
  
**Desired Future Condition** - The desired future condition for this resource will consist of a diversity of unaltered habitat which includes a wide range of solitude dependent animals such as wolverine, fisher, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mule deer, Rocky Mountain elk, black bear, river otter, bald eagles, and cougar. Wildlife populations indigenous to the wilderness will be maintained with an emphasis on the protection of threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. The area will be managed to allow natural ecological succession and will be considered a premiere reservoir for big-game species. Natural infestations of insects will be allowed to operate freely. High quality wildlife habitat will be maintained within the river corridor, and specifically within the riparian areas. Visitor use will seldom and only temporarily displace wildlife species. Visitor use must not displace wildlife from critical areas during critical periods. Predator control will not alter the natural functioning of ecosystems.
  7. Use current Forest-wide standards and guidelines for maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat and populations (Forest Plan and FSM 2354).
  8. Follow Eagle Cap Natural Prescribed Fire Plan which will allow some natural fires to burn some acreage, thus increasing habitat diversity.
  9. Permit wildlife reintroduction only where compatible with overall wilderness objectives and it protects or enhances the OR values.
  10. Also, follow Standards and Guidelines for Wildlife given in the Eagle Cap Wilderness Stewardship Plan.

11. **Range.** Grazing of domestic livestock may occur where established prior to the Wilderness Act. Manage consistent with the Wilderness Act and to ensure the protection and enhancement of the OR values, and to protect water quality (see Standards and Guidelines for "Fisheries" for additional information concerning water quality). Range improvements (fences, water troughs, ponds, ect.) will be managed for wilderness as described in FSM 2320 and will be visually compatible with the Forest Service visual classification of Preservation.
12. Restrict grazing of livestock and recreational animals, as needed, in areas that receive heavy recreation use.
13. Identify sensitive riparian ecosystems, such as lakeshores and adjacent terrain and wet meadows and protect these from grazing impacts.
14. Other Forest-wide Forest Plan Standards and Guides for Range Management are acceptable within the river corridor should grazing be allowed in the future on vacant allotments. Any adverse impacts to OR values, water quality, or free-flow, even though within Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines, will be corrected immediately.
15. Encourage private landowners north of the corridor to reduce trespass by fencing and/or improved stock management.
16. Utilize the Wallowa-Whitman's Integrated Noxious Weed Management Plan to control and prevent the spread of noxious weeds.
17. **Private Lands.** The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act does not grant the Forest Service regulatory authority over private lands. The Act clearly states that the Forest Service is to assist, advise, and cooperate with landowners, to plan, protect and manage river resources. Forest Service policy, in accordance with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, established a process for working with landowners to help manage the private lands in the river corridor. Private land guides were not developed for private lands. The overall objectives and desired future conditions for the OR and other river-related values, as previously discussed, also apply to private lands, with exceptions as listed in the Desired Future Conditions section.

**Desired Future Condition** - The desired future condition for private lands is a positive working relationship with land owners and county administrators that ensures that the management of private lands will contribute to the protection and enhancement of the values for which the river was designated, including: free-flow, water quality, and the scenic, recreational, fish, wildlife, and geologic OR Values. The primitive character of the landscape will be maintained. No new structures or improvements, other than those made in connection with existing uses, or those needed for public recreation or resource protection will be constructed.

The following overall objectives and desired future conditions for the OR values can also be used as guidelines for working with private landowners:

**Management Area 7** - Although though the private lands in the river corridor are not wilderness they will be encouraged to be managed to provide a wilderness experience. Low levels of aircraft and motorized use is allowed on private land.

**Wildlife** - Recreational grazing, structures, corrals, lodges, commercial outfitting, air-strips, firewood gathering, and other activities on private land have a long history. Wildlife have habituated to these activities. Wildlife populations and habitat has not and will not be appreciably altered by private land development.

**Recreation** - Recreation on private land provides a wilderness recreational experience as well as a recreation destination experience. Some increased use and evidence of other users is accepted around developed lodges. Noise from aircraft and other motorized use is minimized so as not to adversely affect the wilderness and recreational solitude experience. All-terrain vehicle and tractor use on private land would remain light and vehicles are stored out of sight when not in use. Evidence of human-induced restrictions and controls is minimized.

**Minerals and Geology** - On private land, some ecological changes would be permitted to maintain existing uses, but impacts to geology and natural ecosystems would be minimized.

**Landscape Management** - On private lands the primitive nature of the landscape will be maintained. The area has a natural appearing landscape except for existing structures and improvements. Such structures are rustic in nature and blend into the surroundings. Land uses minimize the impact to natural ecosystems.

**Fish** - On private lands, sanitation facilities, water facilities, and trash dumps would not adversely affect water quality or OR values.

18. Work with the private landowners to help protect and enhance OR values in the river corridor. For specific proposals on private lands within the river corridor the Forest Service would work with the private landowner on a case-by-case basis to ensure the protection of the OR values. In this process, work towards agreed upon solution acceptable to both parties (See Sec. 11 of the Act).
19. Identify opportunities and incentives that the landowner may employ which would protect and enhance the OR values.
20. Work through Federal, State, and county laws, regulations, or zoning to protect and enhance OR values.
21. If cooperative efforts with private landowners are not successful in mitigating private land practices that threaten the river's free flow, water quality, or OR values; scenic and recreational easement acquisition would be considered. This would only occur as a last resort if all other options have failed to resolve the threat.
22. Consider acquisition from willing sellers of easements upon, or fee title to, the 348 acres of private land within the river corridor. These lands are critical to maintaining the characteristics of the river corridor.
23. Nothing in this management plan will preclude the Forest Service from actively pursuing easements when an OR value is about to, or is being, threatened or damaged.
24. Forest Service will minimize private land trespass and assist the public in identifying public lands. This will be accomplished primarily through information signing at trailheads.
25. Pursue rights-of-way across private land from willing sellers for the Minam River Trail.
26. Cooperatively work with and encourage the private landowners to protect Endangered, Threatened, or Sensitive (PETS) species habitat.

27. **Minerals and Geology. (Geologic Outstandingly Remarkable Value)**

**Desired Future Condition** - The desired future condition for geology will be a natural appearing landscape with ecological changes only. The river corridor should remain unchanged, with all major geologic features unchanged by human activity. The public visiting the area will be aware of some of the key geologic features of the area as identified through off-site interpretation.

28. The Wilderness Act precludes further mineral entry. Thus, the entire Eagle Cap Wilderness, including the river corridor, is withdrawn from new mining claims and mineral entry. There are no existing prior claims in the area.
29. **Insects and Diseases.** Monitor the levels and activities of pests normally associated with wilderness and old-growth ecosystems. Most insect and disease agents do not normally pose a threat to adjacent lands or to OR values, and the effects of endemic levels will be accepted as naturally-occurring phenomena.
30. Suppression activities for insect and disease outbreaks may be permitted with approval (Chief of the Forest Service) to prevent loss within wilderness and/or unacceptable damage to OR values or other resources in adjacent areas. Favor biological methods when available. Management of insects and diseases will follow direction in FSM 2324.1.
31. **Fire.** Wildfires will be managed in accordance with the Eagle Cap Prescribed Fire Management Plan.
32. In order to preserve water quality, fire retardant will not normally be used in the proximity of the river corridor.
33. Consider any unplanned ignitions from natural causes (ie. lightning) that occur in a designated wilderness to be prescribed fire unless the decision is made to declare it a wildfire. This decision must be made on a case-by-case basis.
34. The minimum acceptable suppression response to wildfires will be "confine".
35. Give primary consideration to maintenance of wilderness quality during suppression action on wildfires. Evidence of suppression action will be minimized and rehabilitated as discussed in FSM 2462. Suppression tactics will be based upon the guidelines contained in WW-5100-16 and the "light hand tactics guide".
36. **Transportation.** Limit transportation system within the river corridor to trails intended for nonmotorized use.
37. Limit the transportation system to trails intended for nonmotorized use.
38. Access by motorized vehicle will be limited to emergencies. Entries for other purposes as provided by the Wilderness Act will be handled on a case-by-case basis. Helispot construction will not occur without Regional Forester approval.
39. Design and maintain trails to Regional trail standards. Selected trails may be abandoned. New trail construction and relocation will be considered for protection and enhancement of OR values (with all OR values getting equal priorities), other resource protection, visitor safety, and to provide a variety of wilderness experiences.

40. **Recreation. (Outstandingly Remarkable Value)**

**Desired Future Condition:** The river corridor maintains the wilderness recreational experience. The quality and diversity of recreational opportunities within the river corridor make it a popular area for backpacking, horsepacking, camping, fishing, wildlife viewing, and high quality hunting experiences in a primitive wilderness setting. There are outstanding opportunities for experiencing solitude, freedom, closeness to nature, tranquility, self reliance, challenge, and risk. The area is characterized by an essentially unmodified natural environment. Access is limited to foot and stock travel on trails and aircraft landing on the private airstrip. Interaction between users is low and evidence of other users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of human-induced restrictions and controls.

41. Use the Region 6 ROS guide for river management in conjunction with the Forest Service ROS direction to change the WRS spectrum from "Semi-primitive" to "Primitive" for the river corridor.
42. Within the river corridor, allow no new recreation facilities or improvements. Bridges may be utilized, only where absolutely necessary, for safety, or to protect OR Values. Trail improvements, maintenance, relocation, minimal directional signing, in accordance with wilderness sign policies, may also be used to protect OR Values.
43. Discourage recreational grazing within 100 feet of the river through educational signing at the trailheads and encourage the use of pellets and grain. Monitor recreational livestock grazing. If monitoring indicates damage to OR values, take action to correct it.
44. Maintain the Minam River Trail as the primary access route within the river corridor. Improve locations of stream ford crossings and reconstruct or relocate some segments of trails for safety and protection of resource values. Improve trail maintenance over current levels where necessary to protect resource values. Provide minimal signing to keep visitors on designated trail systems.
45. Pursue acquisition of trail easements across private land for the Minam River Trail.
46. Maintain the Minam River Trailhead (outside the river corridor near State Highway 82), the Moss Springs, Minam Lake, and the Rock Springs Trailheads as the primary access route into the river corridor.
47. Manage dispersed campsite impacts so that vegetation loss at any one site does not exceed 100 square feet.
48. Provide interpretation and education, through discovery only, within the river corridor.
49. User group sizes would be constrained to a maximum of 12 people and 18 head of stock in the river corridor.
50. Use of recreational livestock, campsite location, and certain other activities, would be constrained, as needed, to protect and enhance OR values and protect wilderness values. This may include the closure of some areas to horse traffic, and limiting the number of persons allowed to enter the area if techniques for controlling resource damage prove unsuccessful. Included in these constraints will be a prohibition against any camping, campfire, and all stock activities (except watering) within 200 feet of a lake and 100 feet of a stream, and within 100 feet of selected wetlands. No hitching, tying, or picketing of stock would be allowed within these areas.

51. Hold meetings with wilderness user groups and outfitter and guide associations as needed to keep these organizations informed of wilderness and wild and scenic river management problems.
52. Dispersed recreation sites would be inventoried and sites that impact wilderness or OR values would be rehabilitated.
53. Design and maintain trails to Regional trail standards. Selected trails may be abandoned. New trail construction and relocation will be considered for protection and enhancement of OR values (with all OR values getting equal priorities), other resource protection, visitor safety, and to provide a variety of wilderness experiences.
54. Manage all trails in the corridor at the most difficult standards.
55. Manage grazing of recreational livestock to prevent site degradation.
56. Special-use permits for outfitting and guiding may be issued consistent with the protection of wilderness values and the protection and enhancement of the river corridor's outstandingly remarkable values.
57. Provide primitive recreation opportunities.
58. The number of traditional horse and mule outfitter-guide operations will not exceed 1994 levels. Consider new non-traditional operations based on demand, need, the protection of the river's OR values, wilderness values, and capacity.
59. Additional direction for managing the river corridor is specified in this River Management Plan and in the Wilderness Stewardship Plan.
60. **Landscape Management. (Scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Value)**

**Desired Future Condition:** The Visual Quality Objective (VQO) within the river corridor is Preservation. The entire river corridor lies within the Eagle Cap Wilderness and is characterized as an area where natural processes dominate. The area has a natural appearing landscape with the environment essentially unmodified except for the presence of trails, bridges, and the private land developments. Recreation facilities will be limited to primitive signing, trail bridges, trails, and primitive undeveloped campsites.

61. Maintain the existing VQO of Preservation in the river corridor.
62. Maintain a VQO of Preservation outside the river corridor as viewed from the river. A VQO of Preservation, allows ecological changes only.
63. Visual management will be according to the Forest Plan, National Forest Landscape Management Handbook Vol. 2 Chapter 1, The Visual Management System USDA #462, The Timber Chapter Vol 2. Chapter 5, Recreation Chapter Vol. 2 Chapter 8, and Forest Service Manual 2354 and 2380 (FSM 2354 & 2380). Conflicts between any of these documents will be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
64. **Fisheries (Outstandingly Remarkable Value)**

**Desired Future Condition:** Excellent water quality and quantity, stable streambanks, habitat complexity, natural levels of woody debris recruitment, and increased woody debris amounts

will be present. The Minam river provides excellent quality habitat which supports native runs of anadromous and resident native species, including, spring/summer chinook salmon, summer steelhead, bull trout, whitefish, and rainbow trout. Includes clear, cold, highly oxygenated water which is important to the survival of these species. The river also provides critical habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon which have been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

65. Many constituents of the desired future condition are present in Minam River today. The water quality of Minam River is above State standards. Maintain temperatures, embeddedness, stream shading, large woody materials, streamflows, pool levels, and bank stability at or at better levels than characterized by current conditions.
66. Current direction for habitat management is defined in the Forest Plan, FSM 2354, and the Section 7 Consultation document for spring/summer chinook salmon in the Minam River (summarized in Fisheries section of Appendix G). Conflicts between these documents will be resolved by deferring to the most restrictive unless stated otherwise.
67. Maintain optimum habitat for rainbow trout and steelhead and critical habitat for spring/summer chinook salmon.
68. Leave logs and other woody debris in the stream channel for fisheries habitat.
69. Continue Hankin/Reeves survey on 10 year intervals to monitor water quality and fisheries habitat.
70. Continue to support USGS water quality monitoring near the mouth of the Minam River.
71. Work with the private landowners to help protect and enhance fisheries and fisheries habitat on the private inholdings in the river corridor. For specific proposals on private lands within the river corridor the Forest Service would work with the private landowner on a case-by-case basis to ensure the protection of the OR values. If this is unsuccessful, scenic and recreational easement acquisition would be considered on lands critical to maintaining the character of the river corridor's "Wild" classification or the protecting and enhancement of the Fish and Water Quality OR value.
72. Work with private landowners to monitor, prioritize, and correct any future sediment source problems arising from private land.
73. Work with ODF&W to ensure protection and enhancement of the Fisheries OR value in the river corridor.
74. **Cultural Resources.** Forest wide standards and guidelines will apply.
75. Utilize current direction to protect, enhance, and interpret historic sites. Current direction is defined in the Forest Plan, Cultural Resource Protection Plan, National Historic Preservation Act, Forest Programmatic Memorandum Of Agreement (PMOA), FSM 2354, and in conference and agreement with the Nez Perce Tribe.
76. Conduct cultural resource inventory within the river corridor using an intuitively-based predictive model designed to provide an inventory of the obvious sites that will likely be affected by use. Inventory priorities will focus on finding and recording sites threatened by loss or serious deterioration during the next decade.

77. Conduct a systematic cultural resource inventory for any proposed activities including along any proposed trail construction and reconstruction routes.
78. Follow the recommendations of the Environmental Assessment for the future of Red's Horse Ranch which is currently being written.
79. **Vegetation** Forest wide standards and guidelines apply.
80. Field inventory the botanical resource during the period of the summer season most likely to locate PETS species, identify non-native vegetation, and to monitor effects of prescribed burning and other improvement projects.
81. Rehabilitate disturbed soil in accordance with the Region 6 Vegetation Management Plan.
82. Preserve the ecological corridor and promote biological diversity in the area.
83. **Monitoring** - Incorporate into the Forest's monitoring plan, the implementation of the Wild and Scenic River Management Plan.
84. **Adjacency** - For Federal land management, the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Sec. 12(a) addresses adjacency. 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.
85. Address impact to the river corridor during project planning if the project is adjacent to the river corridor and has the potential to affect identified river values (water quality, free-flow, and OR Values). Examples include, but are not limited to, the viewshed outside the river corridor when considering the Scenic OR value or the tributaries when considering water the Fish and Water Quality OR value.

### III. IMPLEMENTATION

#### A. Management Actions

The management area standards and guidelines would be carried out by the Forest Service - Eagle Cap Ranger District, unless otherwise noted.

1. **Plan Implementation** - The District, in conjunction with other agencies, will oversee the management of the river, implementation of the management plan, and coordination with the private landowners to protect the values for which the river was designated (free-flow, OR Values, river related resources).
2. The District, in conjunction with other agencies, will be responsible for monitoring the OR values to bring these resources to their Desired Future Conditions as specified in the Management Plan. The OR values include: 1) Scenery, 2) Recreation, 3) Geology, 4) Fisheries, and 5) Wildlife.
3. Plan implementation will begin the day of the published Decision Notice for the Environmental Assessment for the Eagle Cap Wilderness-Minam River Wild and Scenic River.
4. Annually, inventory and monitor the river corridor for noxious weeds to ensure reduction in populations. Prepare a map of concentrations. Every third year evaluate the inventory to determine programs needed to reduce populations.



5. Develop interpretive signing outside the river corridor at the Moss Springs and Rock Springs Trailheads to interpret the geology of the Minam River corridor. Provide information at these trailheads and at the Minam Lake and Minam River Trailheads to educate visitors on low-impact camping and equestrian use, protection of cultural resources, and respect of private land.
6. Annually, inventory and rehabilitate dispersed recreation sites within the river corridor.
7. If special-use permits are issued which include the river corridor, such operations will be inspected as needed, to insure adequate protection and enhancement of OR Values.
8. Implement restoration projects if camping, recreation use, grazing, or other management activities impact fisheries or the the riparian areas. Take appropriate action to prevent further impacts.
9. Work with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Nez Perce Tribe to monitor fish populations and trends within the river corridor.
10. Incorporate Minam River write-up and recommended actions for restoring spring chinook salmon critical habitat (required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act) into this Management Plan.
11. Use Hankin/Reeves survey, Section 7 report for spring chinook salmon, and stream survey report as baseline information for water quality and other and fisheries habitat. This baseline information includes such items as water temperature, sediment, woody debris, streambank stability, embededness, shading, and other water quality factors that affect fish habitat. Utilize the Minam River Stream Survey, Soil Conservation Service data, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife data, or other sources to achieve this objective. Activities will be measured against this baseline to determine if water quality and the fisheries OR value are being protected and enhanced.
12. Complete one field inventory and annually monitor the botanical resource including PETS species to identify existing as well as possible improvement projects.
13. Develop a botanical rehabilitation/implementation plan to address each individual site or project.
14. Complete a cultural resource survey in the river corridor to provide an inventory of sites that will likely be affected by use.
15. Change the management direction for the river corridor from a Semi-primitive WRS spectrum to that of a Primitive WRS spectrum.
16. Annually, monitor recreation use and impacts to determine the effectiveness of management direction in protecting OR values and meeting Recreation Desired Future Condition.

**B. Monitoring**

**1. Forest Level**

The Environmental Assessment for the Eagle Cap Wilderness-Minam Wild and Scenic River addresses monitoring criteria for the entire Eagle Cap Wilderness which includes

the Minam Wild and Scenic River corridor. Monitoring of this plan will be incorporated into the Forest's monitoring process. The standard and guides will be incorporated into the Forest monitoring checklist. Implementation of these criteria and any additional criteria in the Eagle Cap Stewardship Plan will ensure that all of the Recreation, Fisheries, and Wildlife Desired Future Conditions will be met. Additional monitoring criteria to ensure that all desired future conditions are listed in the following sections.

2. District Level

The District, in conjunction with other agencies, will be responsible for evaluating current uses as well as Forest Service project within the river corridor or adjacent to the river corridor for compliance with the Eagle Cap Wilderness Stewardship Plan and the River Management Plans' Desired Future Conditions and Standards and Guidelines.

The District is also responsible for an annual report concerning the Wild and Scenic River, as directed by the Forest monitoring plan. This report will be submitted to the Forest and include a discussion on the condition and changes, if any, for each of the OR values. The following are a list of threshold limits (key indicators) and management standards for each OR value and some of the other related resource values in the river corridor.

3. Landscape Management and Geology - Annually, monitor the visual quality of the area against values described in the DFCs and to ensure the protection and enhancement of the Scenic and Geologic OR Values. This would include a meeting a Preservation VQO with ecological changes only (except for prescribe burning) and ensuring that no mining activities nor recreational dredging would be take place.

- a. Key indicators include: Projects or activities which alter landform, vegetation, water, color or character of the viewshed as seen from the river corridor and Minam River Trail; and the extent and amount of developments as indicated by buildings, structures, and other physical improvements.
- b. Management standards are: No additional adverse impacts. No damage to geologic resources. No mining activities nor recreational dredging would have occurred. All activities seen from the river and Minam River Trail, would meet a Preservation VQO inside and outside the river corridor. If standards not met, identify cause of change on the National Forest and correct it. On private land, work with the landowner to try to mitigate activity, work with county to change zoning, and as a last resort consider acquiring scenic easements.
- c. Sampling procedure: Annually, field monitor the area for visual changes on private land. Note the number and type of projects, houses, structures or improvements as seen from the river corridor and Minam River Trail. Analyze individual projects on a case-by-case basis to ensure protection of viewshed and geology. Inspect National Forest lands annually, for evidence of mining activity.

C. Budget

Each year the District and Forest will provide out year budget request. The following outlines the budget process for all resources. Those dollars identified here are estimates at the time of development of this management plan and begin in Fiscal Year 1995. Each year, the District and Forest will submit a more detailed budget.

1. Recreation Facilities Operation and Maintenance

Include the funds necessary to maintain all *existing* recreation facilities.

\$ 800 per year to maintain trailheads and signing.

As a separate line item, indicate funding needs associated with *planned* recreation construction as identified in the River Management Plan. The dollars for plan, feasibility, survey/design, and construction will be identified in the Regional capital investment or challenge cost share program.

Interpretive program

Develop and install two interpretive signs, one at the Moss Springs Trailhead and one at the Rock Springs Trailhead to interpret geologic resources in the river corridor. \$4,000 (1997)

Develop and install educational signing at the Moss Springs, Rock Springs, Minam Lake, and Minam River Trailheads to educate visitors on low-impact camping and equestrian use, protection of cultural resources, and respect of private land. \$2,500 (1997)

Other recreation programs

\$1800 Annually, inventory and rehabilitate dispersed sites. (1995)

Total \$6,500 one time cost plus \$1800 per year.

2. Roads

Include the funds necessary to maintain *existing* single-purpose recreation roads such as access to campgrounds, picnic sites, boat ramps, ect.

None

Include as a separate line item, the funds necessary to maintain multi-purpose roads open to the public.

None

As a separate item, indicate funding needs associated with *planned* recreation road construction/reconstruction as identified in the River Management Plan. The dollars for plan, survey/design, and construction will be identified in the Regional capital investment program.

No roads allowed in river corridor. No roads planned outside the river corridor in conjunction with this plan.

Total \$ 0

3. Trails

Include the funds necessary to maintain *existing* trail systems.

\$5,500 per year

As a separate line item, indicate funding needs associated with *planned* trail rehabilitation and construction/reconstruction as identified in River Management Plan. The dollars for plan, survey/design, and construction/reconstruction will be identified in the Regional capital investment program.

Reconstruction                      Minam River - 1 mile @ \$5,000/mile

Total                      \$5,000 one time cost plus \$5,500 per year.

4. Forest Service Administration

*Recreation*

This section would include all recreation funds needed to administer the river corridor including:

- a. outfitter guide permit administration
- b. special use administration
- c. user contact
- d. Wild and Scenic River-related information/education programs
- e. easement administration
- f. interpretive activities
- g. vehicular support (cost for vehicles and maintenance)
- h. law enforcement

Total \$10,200 annual cost

5. Cooperative Agreements

Include costs to maintain river-related cooperative agreements such as for law enforcement (with local sheriff, rescue agency, etc.), support to county and/or other public and private entities. Identify each cooperator by name and indicate funding needs as a separate line item.

Total \$1,250 per year for coop law enforcement agreement with Union and Wallowa County Sheriffs.

6. Management Plan Revision

Include costs associated with revisions of river management plans including amendment to the Forest Plan.

None identified at this time.

7. Fisheries

Conduct a Hanklin/Reeves Stream Survey every 10 years. (\$15,000)

8. Special Studies as Scheduled in Management Plan

Include special studies identified in the river management plan. Special studies might include user survey, water quality/quantity survey/analysis, etc. Listed in order of priority:

\$4,500 Botanical survey and rehabilitation/implementation plan  
(1996)

\$5,000 Cultural survey (1997)

9. Monitoring

Include costs of monitoring program as detailed in the river management plan. Separate monitoring elements by resource area such as water, recreation, fisheries. Provide via separate line or footnote one time costs for acquisition of equipment.

Wildlife	Monitoring \$ 600 per year
Range	Monitoring \$ 600 per year
Recreation	Monitoring \$ 1,400 per year
Scenery/Geology	Monitoring \$ 600 per year
Fish	Monitoring \$ 600 per year
Botany	Monitoring \$ 600 per year
Cultural resources	Monitoring \$ 800 per year

Total annual, \$5,600 monitoring cost per year.

10. Total Costs

Total one time cost	\$ 21,000
Total annual costs	\$ 25,150
Additional costs every 10 years	\$ 15,000

**Note that the activities in this Management Plan are dependent upon the District receiving adequate funds to cover one time costs as well as annual expenses noted here. In the event that full funding is not received the priorities for the expenditure of funds is as follows:**

Ensure public safety  
Protect OR values  
Provide current access, trailheads, and trail maintenance.  
Recreation administration  
Monitoring  
Coop law enforcement  
Trail reconstruction  
Install trailhead signing (outside of wilderness)  
Special studies (as scheduled in Management Plan)