



NORTHWEST FOREST PLAN SCIENCE FORUM

Monitoring Program History and Overview

June 9, 2015



Background to NWFP

- Post WWII record timber harvest and the birth of modern environmental regulation
- 1989 – 1992: Series of court-ordered injunctions on timber sales
- 1992 - Scientific Assessment Team Report
- 1993 – Forest Conference. Vision to manage on an ecosystem scale
 - FEMAT Report – 10 Options
 - Northwest Forest Plan (Option 9)



NWFP Five Key Principles



- Never forget human and economic dimensions of issues
- Protect long-term health of forests, wildlife and waterways
- Focus on scientifically sound, ecologically credible, and legally responsible strategies and implementation
- Produce a predictable and sustainable level of timber sales and non-timber resources
- Ensure that Federal agencies work together

Purposes of the NWFP

- Take an ecosystem management, scientifically supported approach
- Meet the requirements of existing laws and regulations.
- Maintain a healthy forest ecosystem with habitat that will support populations of native species (particularly LSOG species) including protection for riparian areas and waters.
- Maintain a sustainable and predictable supply of timber and other forest products that will contribute to the stability of local and regional economies.



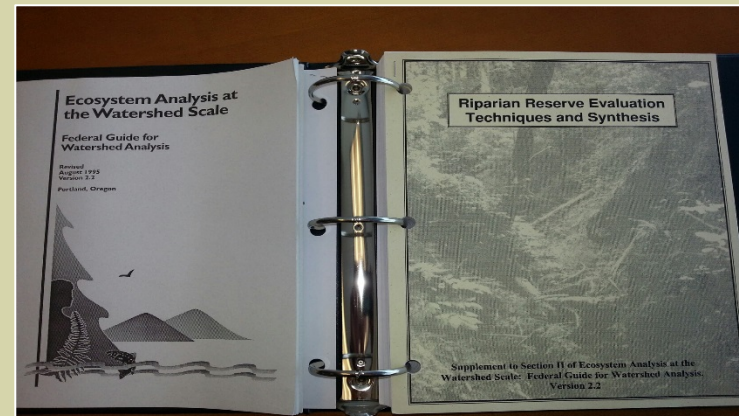
Land Use Allocations

- Congressionally Reserved Areas
- Late-Successional Reserves (LSRs)
- Managed LSRs
- Adaptive Management Areas
- Administratively Withdrawn Areas
- Riparian Reserves
- Key watersheds
- Matrix (Harvest Land Base)



Plan Implementation

- Aquatic Conservation Strategy
 - Riparian Reserves, Watershed Analysis, Key Watersheds, Restoration
- Late Successional Reserve Assessments
- Adaptive Management
- Survey and Manage Program
- Interagency Organization
- **Monitoring**



Monitoring Under the NWFP

- The NWFP ROD highlighted the importance of monitoring. Judge Dwyer (in lifting the injunctions on the timber program) also reiterated the importance of monitoring in his 1994 decision:



Monitoring is central to the [Northwest Forest Plan's] validity. If it is not funded, or done for any reason, the plan will have to be reconsidered.

Types of Monitoring

- Implementation Monitoring
- Effectiveness Monitoring
- Validation Monitoring



NWFP Regional Monitoring Program

- The goal of the regional monitoring program is to evaluate the effectiveness of the NWFP in achieving its management objectives on Federal Lands in the planning area.



NWFP Regional Monitoring Program

- Late-Successional / Old Growth Trends
- Watershed Condition Trends
- Northern Spotted Owl Population & Habitat Trends
- Marbled Murrelet Population & Habitat Trends
- Socioeconomic Trends
- Tribal- Federal Relationship



NWFP Regional Monitoring Program

Late-Successional / Old Growth Monitoring

- characterizes the status and trends of older forests to answer the question:

Is the NWFP maintaining or restoring late-successional and old-growth forest ecosystems to desired conditions on federal lands in the plan area?



NWFP Regional Monitoring Program

Marbled Murrelet Monitoring

- assesses status and trends in marbled murrelet populations and nesting habitat to answer the questions:

Are the marbled murrelet populations associated with the NWFP area stable, increasing, or decreasing?

Is the NWFP maintaining and restoring marbled murrelet nesting habitat?



NWFP Regional Monitoring Program

Northern Spotted Owl Monitoring

- assesses status and trends in northern spotted owl populations and habitat to answer the questions:

Will implementing the NWFP reverse the downward trend in spotted owl populations?

Is the NWFP maintaining or restoring owl habitat necessary to support viable owl populations?



NWFP Regional Monitoring Program

Aquatic and Riparian Effectiveness Monitoring

- characterizes the ecological condition of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems to answer the question:

Is the NWFP maintaining or restoring aquatic and riparian ecosystems to desired conditions on federal lands in the plan area?



NWFP Regional Monitoring Program

Tribal Monitoring

- addresses conditions, trends, and access to resources protected by treaty or of interest to American Indian tribes, the condition of and access to religious and cultural heritage sites, and the quality of the government- to-government relationship to answer the questions:

How well and to what degree is government-to-government consultation being conducted under the NWFP? Have the goals and objectives of the consultation been achieved? Is the consultation occurring because of effects on resources of tribal interest on federal lands?



NWFP Regional Monitoring Program

Socioeconomic Monitoring

- characterizes the social and economic impacts of federal forest management on forest-associated communities to answer the question:

What is the status and trend of socioeconomic well-being?



NWFP Regional Monitoring Program

- Results evaluated and reported in one and five year intervals.
- 10 year and 15 year reports (and a host of other information and data) available at <http://www.reo.gov/monitoring>

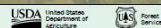


Socioeconomic Status and Trends

Elisabeth Grinspoon and Richard Phillips



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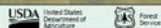


Status and Trend of Nesting Habitat of Marbled Murrelet

Martin G. Raphael, Gary A. Falck, Katie M. Dugger, Beth Deanna Lynch, Sheri L. Miller, S. Kim Nelson, and Richard



General Technical Report
GTR-426
August 2011

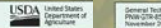


Status and Trends of Owl Populations and

Rammond J. Davis, Katie M. Dugger, and William C. Aney



General Technical Report
GTR-426
October 2012

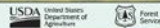


Status and Trends of Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forests

Melinda Moser, Janet L. Ohmann, Robert E. Kennedy, Warren B. Cohen, Matthew J. Gregory, Zhiqiang Yang, Heather M. Roberts, Thomas A. Spie, and Maria Floresta



General Technical Report
GTR-426
November 2011

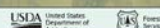


Watershed Condition Status and

Steven H. Lantigan, Sean N. Gordon, Peter Eldred, Mark Is, Steve Wilcox, Chris Moyer, and Heidi Anderson



General Technical Report
GTR-426
February 2012



Effectiveness of the Federal-Tribal Relationship

Oregon/Washington report prepared by:
The Resource Innovation Group and the Institute for a Sustainable Environment, University of Oregon

California report prepared by:
Kathy Lynn, Katie Mackendrick, and Hannah Satein

Overall Report Compiled by:
Gary R. Harris, Northwest Forest Plan, Tribal Monitoring Lead



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Interagency Participation



• Forest Service



• National Park Service



• Bureau of Land Management



• Environmental Protection Agency



• National Marine Fisheries



• US Army Corps of Engineers



• Fish & Wildlife Services



• Bureau of Indian Affairs



• Natural Resources Conservation Service



• U.S. Geological Survey

Objectives for Today

- Develop awareness & understanding of science information from the Northwest Forest Plan monitoring programs
- Describe advances in the state of knowledge over the 20 years of Plan implementation

Today's Purpose

- Share key findings from 20 years of monitoring
- Not intended as a “Listening Session” or as forum to collect differing opinions about the success of the NWFP

Thank You...

- National Park Service for Hosting us at the Fort Vancouver National Historical Site
- Esteemed presenters and audience members

Now on to a great day of science and monitoring!

