

# **Chapter 1**

## **Introduction**

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The Mt. Hood National Forest continues with a strong commitment to the Forest Service motto of “Caring for the Land and Serving People.” Inherent in this commitment is monitoring for sustainability of our national forest. Our goal is to work with our partners in finding an appropriate balance between sustainable social, economic, and ecological systems. Our intent is to satisfy the values of the present without compromising the needs of future generations.

The Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan for the Mt. Hood National Forest) as amended in 1994 by the Record of Decision for the Northwest Forest Plan, was approved by Regional Forester John F. Butruille on October 17, 1990, and implementation of the Forest Plan began on February 11, 1991. The Forest is now in its fourteenth year of management under the Forest Plan direction.

The Forest Plan established integrated multiple use goals and objectives, established standards and guidelines for resource activities, identified management areas and set their direction, established the maximum decadal sale quantity, and determined various monitoring and evaluation requirements.

A part of implementing the Plan involves a commitment to monitor and evaluate how well we are doing. Monitoring provides the decision makers and the public information on the progress and results of implementing the Forest Plan. This document highlights what the Forest is doing now and attempts to describe trends, in key resource areas, that are important to understanding long-term effects which ultimately affect our opportunity to sustain our needs now and in the future.

Monitoring is the gathering of information and observing management activities to provide a basis for periodic evaluation. An objective of monitoring is to ensure that the Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines are being correctly applied and are achieving the desired results. Based on review of information collected, adjustments in management actions or anticipated results can be identified.

Monitoring is fundamental for us to fulfill our responsibilities as stewards of the land. The year’s activities are not complete unless we monitor the effects of those activities, evaluate the results (i.e. what do the results mean?), and recommend actions or modifications to be made (i.e. what should be done now?). This process allows the Forest Plan to remain an active, usable document.

As we begin to move into the second decade since the adoption of the Forest Plan in 1991, we are beginning to switch the focus from short-term implementation monitoring to long-term outcomes of management with respect to key social, economic and ecological systems. This report begins the attempt to discuss the connection between short-term actions with long-term outcomes.

This report is composed of five chapters:

**Chapter 1 – Introduction**

**Chapter 2 – Accomplishments/Results/Recommendations**

Summarized individual resource program accomplishments, activities monitored, evaluations, and recommendations.

**Chapter 3 – Financial Review**

Contains information which describes the Mt. Hood National Forest in financial terms.

**Chapter 4 – Forest Plan Amendments/ Interpretation Process**

Reviews amendments made to date.

**Chapter 5 – Ongoing Planning Actions**

Highlights a variety of additional planning and analysis activities, and implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan.

Although information with respect to Forest Plan implementation has been reported for approximately a decade now, continued monitoring will allow meaningful evaluation and adaptive management decisions to be made. As monitoring continues, trends are being established that will provide valuable information for shaping the future management of the Forest.

A review of the plan was made eight years ago in an effort to determine if major changes had taken place to cause a significant amendment or revision to our plan. It was determined that because the Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl had significantly modified our plan in 1994, no further significant revision was needed at that time. The current schedule calls for revision of the Mt. Hood Forest Plan to begin in 2009, under the 2004 planning regulations.