

Mt. Hood National Forest

Sustainability monitoring . . .

. . . in your national forest!



Sustainability monitoring is a framework that describes, assesses, and evaluates progress towards sustainability. It is a holistic way of looking at ecological, social, and economic considerations, values, and desired outcomes.

Mt. Hood National Forest's sustainability monitoring project is based on the Local Unit Criteria and Indicator Development (LUCID) pilot test chartered in 1998. During the pilot, the Forest and Portland State University worked to determine whether sustainability monitoring could enhance local-scale monitoring.



LUCID includes a systems approach to monitoring and development of a local set of key criteria and indicators as a framework for sustainability monitoring.

- A systems approach looks at the strength of interrelationships and their strengths between ecological, social and economic systems.
- Criteria and indicators work the same way as a health check-up. When you go in for a physical, your doctor looks at certain indicators to understand the status of your health. If she sees a 'red flag' result, she may order other tests, which taken together can give you a clean bill of health or 'indicate' that something different is needed. Criteria and indicators are used in the same way to look at the sustainability and health of forests.

Using lessons learned from the LUCID test, the Forest is moving to a monitoring program that can answer key sustainability questions and build a long-term method for looking at forests.

- The Forest is exploring ways to use criteria and indicators to help resource managers prepare for the 2009 Forest Plan revision, to refine the Forest's initial sustainability assessment and to improve project decisions from a sustainability standpoint.
- The Forest is also sharing information, tools, and applications; working with partners to collect and share data and to monitor sustainability; and may pursue a third-party monitoring pilot with Pinchot Institute.

To learn more, contact Nancy Lankford (silviculture/ecology program) at 503-668-1663, or Jeanne Rice (ecologist) at 503-668-1668.

Sustainable . . . for the long run.



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