

# Tonight's Agenda

- Review goals of monitoring
- Review topics being monitored
- Present ideas for monitoring approach
- Get your input on factors to monitor

## What is monitoring?

- Collects information to determine whether management plan objectives are being met
- Collects information to determine whether management actions have accomplished goals
- Monitoring? Planning

# Goals and objectives of the Hells Canyon Plan

- Desired future condition:
  - "A blend of motorized and nonmotorized whitewater boating provides diverse user groups a variety of opportunities in a unique setting within a major river environment"
- Manage to ensure specified opportunities for recreation experiences (ROS)
- Manage to ensure that the river's unique qualities are sustained (ORVs)

# Recreation Opportunities – 6 key features

- Access
  - Number of access sites
  - Visibility of roads
- Naturalness
  - Degree of modification
  - Visual impacts
- Social encounters
  - Number, type,
     duration, location

- Visitor management
  - Challenge, risk, selfreliance
  - Management controls, contacts
- Facilities
  - Amount of development
  - Toilets
- Visitor Impact
  - Visible at campsites

## Recreation Opportunities

 The river should be managed to provide different "levels" of the features in different places (the "spectrum")

## Outstandingly Remarkable Values

#### Recreation

- Unique
- Variety: sightseeing, wildlife observation, hiking, photography, fishing, boating
- "exceptional" interpretive opportunities

#### Scenery

- "exemplary visual features and/or attractions"
- "natural sounds produced by the river"

#### Cultural

 - "one of the richest accumulations of riverine archaeological resources"

#### Fishery

- "abundant, unique, and diverse sport fishery"

### Scope

- Comprehensively assess factors and conditions identified in planning documents as important to the recreation experience
- Assess only those factors that affect on-river experiences
- Not looking at other canyon recreation

- General approach
  - Representative sample of 2003-2004 boaters
  - Spring through fall (April-November)
  - Ability to characterize important sub-groups

Ability to characterize experiences on different

river segments



### Sampling

- On-site contact (collect names/addresses)
- Mail survey (to random subset of those contacted)
- Survey at 4-6 locations
- Randomly selected blocks of days
- Target of 1,500 responses

- Survey topics
  - ROS elements
  - ORVs
  - Effectiveness of management
  - Boaters' perceptions of change in experience
  - Items from past surveys
  - Other factors that impact experience quality

- Survey topics
  - ROS elements
    - Access
    - Naturalness
    - Social encounters
    - Visitor management
    - Facilities
    - Visitor impact



- Survey topics
  - ORVs
    - Scenery
    - Recreation
    - Cultural resources
    - Fisheries/wildlife
    - Geology

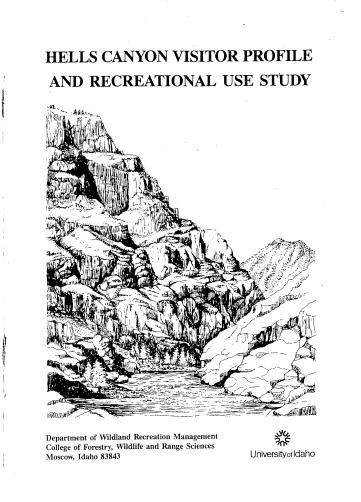


- Survey topics
  - Effectiveness of management
    - Facilities (removal of toilets, tables; developed sites; navigational markers)
    - Regulation of craft (PWC; kickers)
    - Use restrictions (caps on use; nonmotorized window; group size; aircraft)
    - Regulation on behavior (fire pans; waste pack-out; camping stay limits; designated site camping)



- Survey topics
  - Boaters' perceptions of change

- Survey topics
  - Items from past surveys
  - Surveys done in1989, 1995, and1999



- Survey topics
  - Other factors that affect on-river experiences

- How are we developing questions?
  - Look at past surveys (HCNRA and elsewhere)
  - Develop specific new items
  - Peer review

## **Timeline**

- June, 2003 public meetings
- July, 2003 external review of monitoring plan
- August-November 2003 data collection
- January 2004 analysis of initial data
- Early spring 2004 review and validation
- April August, 2004 data collection
- Winter, 2004 report to USFS

## Questions for You:

- What factors (social, environmental, managerial) contribute most positively to your Hells Canyon recreation experiences?
- What factors (social, environmental, managerial) contribute most negatively to your Hells Canyon recreation experiences?

## USFS Monitoring in Hells Canyon

- HCNRA Act
- Wild & Scenic Rivers Act
- Recreation Setting
- Visual resource objectives
- Dispersed campsites
- Cultural/historic site protection
- Fisheries habitat

- Jetboat/fall chinook interaction
- Accidental catch of listed fisheries
- Tributary fisheries
- Bald eagles
- Peregrine falcons
- Bats
- McFarlane's four-o'clock
- Noxious weeds