
1997 Northwest Forest Plan

An Ecosystem Management Approach

Watersheds, Communities, and People

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT



USDA
Forest Service



The Northwest Forest Plan presents a vision for a sustainable future for Federal natural resources (lands managed by the USDA Forest Service and the USDI Bureau of Land Management) and for local timber dependent communities within the range of the northern spotted owl (area in gray on the map below). This area encompasses all or portions of 17 National Forests in Washington, Oregon, and California and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed public land in Oregon and California.

NOTE: The Northwest Forest Plan does not apply to land outside federal ownership.

Area Included in the Northwest Forest Plan

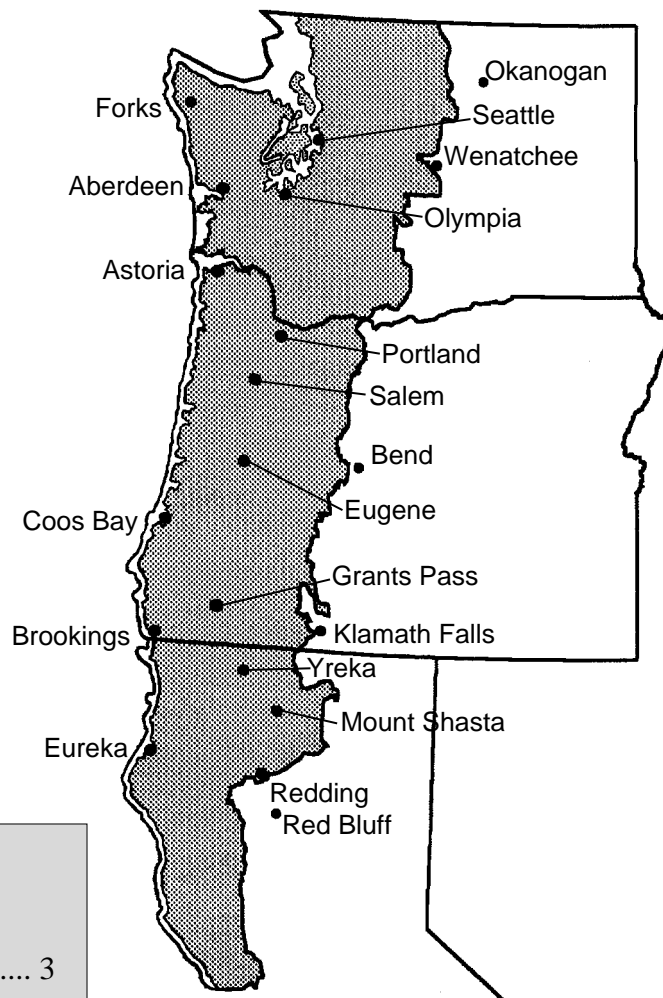


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Forest
Service

Date: December 15, 1997

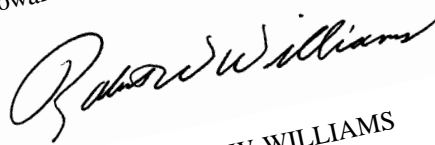
The Northwest Forest Plan is about managing ecosystems to ensure that they are healthy, productive, and sustainable. While many people view ecosystem management as the 1990's word for natural resource management, we have learned and come to appreciate that managing ecosystems is far more than that. Simply put, healthy and productive ecosystems include healthy and productive people, communities, and watersheds.

Together, the three elements of watersheds, people, and communities form dynamic ecosystems. They are the foundation upon which the sound management direction of the Northwest Forest Plan rests.



This year's Accomplishment Report portrays this comprehensive view and concept of managing ecosystems. It recognizes that we produce far more than just forest products--healthy, functioning communities and quality jobs that can support people are also important products of ecosystem management.

We hope you will find that our accomplishments in 1997 were wide ranging and impressive. This report highlights our advances in meeting the continued opportunities and challenges of implementing the Northwest Forest Plan. You are an important part of the plan's success. With your help, we will continue to work toward excellence in ecosystem management.


ROBERT W. WILLIAMS

Regional Forester
Pacific Northwest Region



G. LYNN SPRAGUE
Regional Forester
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Ecosystem Analysis

Ecosystem analysis considers past, current, and future conditions and needs of ecosystems: the communities, people, and watersheds.

■ Planning for a Brighter Future

Rural communities aren't sitting back waiting for the future to happen *to* them, they're actively involved in planning for and creating a brighter future.

Community strategic action teams, made up of members of a community or communities, collaborate (sometimes for the first time!) to actively design the future of their communities. Many hope to nurture small businesses to create new jobs, increase infrastructure for telecommuting, attract businesses with improved transportation to job markets, and improve their quality of life with downtown beautification programs.

■ Watershed Analysis in 1997

We've come a long way in understanding what makes a watershed "tick." Between 1995 and 1997, we completed over 283 watershed analyses across 19 National Forests. This represents 55% of all watersheds covered by the Northwest Forest Plan. These analyses set the stage for a variety of watershed efforts, including watershed restoration.

■ Neighbors Helping Neighbors

The Northwest Forest Plan identifies certain watersheds, called Tier 1 Key Watersheds, for their outstanding aquatic habitats and their high priority need for restoration.

In 1997, forest resource professionals on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest collaborated with diverse organi-

■ Good Progress on Assessments

Late Successional Reserves total nearly 7.5 million acres within the Northwest Forest Plan area. Assessments for 75% of these acres should be finished by summer, 1998. As a result of what we're learning from these assessments, we're improving what we do on the ground, such as treating young forest stands to create future late successional/old growth forests.



Community strategic planning, funded by the Forest Service, indicated the need for improved fire protection services for the communities of Crescent Junction, Odell Lake, and Willamette Pass, Oregon.

zations and agencies on watershed analysis for two adjacent Tier 1 Key Watersheds in the Trinity Basin in northern California. The resulting watershed analysis addresses an array of issues and values for 50,000 acres.

■ Accomplishments

FY 1997 Accomplishments - Ecosystem Analysis

Item	Watershed Analysis	
	Number Completed	Acres
California	11	746,105
Oregon	26	1,032,974
Washington	20	1,805,096
Total	57	3,584,175

■ Success in the Columbia River Gorge

"I never knew I'd learn so much about community planning!" remarked Anita Gahimer, who grew up in Skamania County, Washington, and returned as Manager of the Port of Skamania County.

Anita is a member of the 42-person Skamania County Community Action Team (a 1997 Forest Service national award winner). Annually, members of the group revisit their community's vision, goals, and opportunities. Quarterly, they rethink the priorities of the projects that will help them move toward their desired future.

The key, according to Anita, is reaching consensus. "When you agree to support another person's project over your own, it generates a lot of community support. Because everyone agrees on the priorities for the entire community, you have total buy in."

One goal is to provide family wage jobs for current residents. "Our goal is to attract new businesses, industry, and investments to provide better wages. And we hope to improve and expand existing companies in the area."

It's an ongoing process. "Just as companies need to re-evaluate themselves and where they're going, we believe we do, too. We don't want to get stuck doing the same things. We want to be sure the

"We don't want to get stuck doing the same things. We want to be sure the path we're taking is the right one for our community."



Anita Gahimer, Manager of the Port of Skamania County, Washington, works with the Skamania County Community Action Team to plan for the future.

path we're taking is the right one for our community," notes Anita.

Skamania County Community Action Team members are popular speakers in other communities -- especially those that wish to take charge of their own future and learn from Skamania County's successes. Anita is excited about the success of the community planning process. "Both the quality of projects and the level of community support are clear indications that we're making a BIG difference in Skamania County."

■ In 1998...

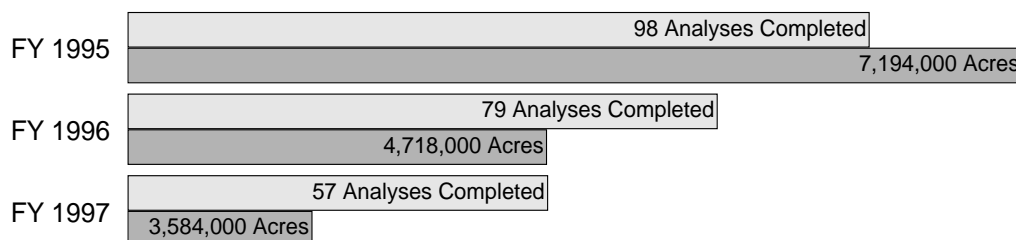
Our vision for 1998 is greater integration of ecosystem plans, analyses, strategies, and projects that link the needs and capabilities of the watersheds with those of the communities and people who live there. Since natural resources play such a big economic role in many of these

communities, linking these efforts is critical to the overall health of both the forests and communities.

While we won't accomplish this all in 1998, we're working closer than ever with communities to integrate forest planning goals with local objectives.

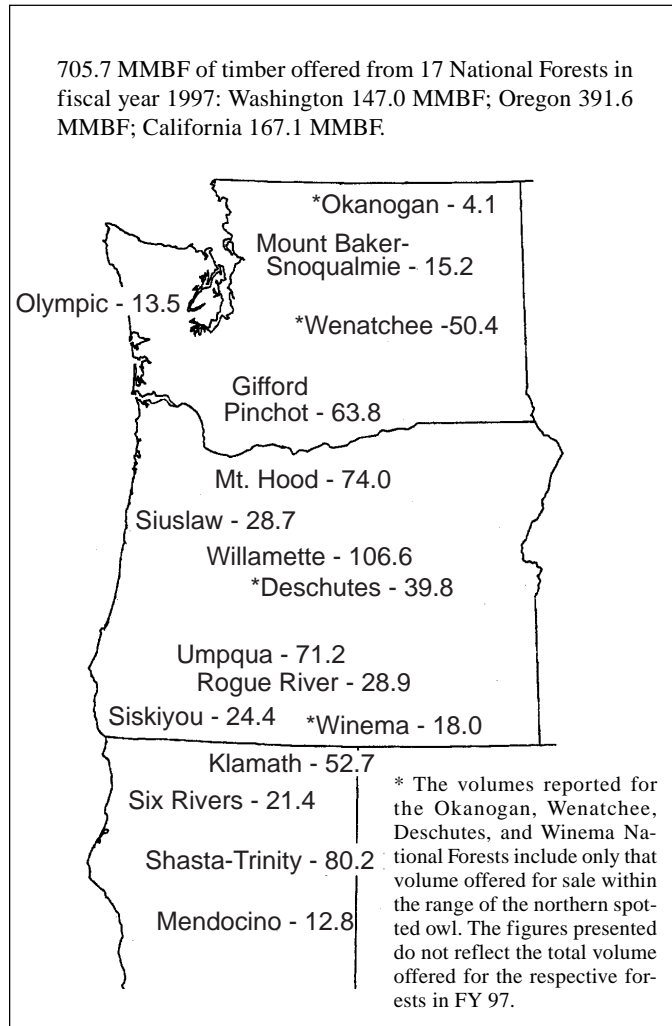
■ Trends

Watershed Analysis Trends



Ecosystem Products

"Ecosystem products" refers to forest products like timber, mushrooms, high water quality, and improved wildlife habitat, as well as community products such as healthy economies and quality jobs.



Rural Community Assistance in Action

People who work in the woods are exploring new ways to make their living in the forest, and the Forest Service Rural Community Assistance program provides technical and financial help to make this happen:

- **Ecosystem workforce training** teaches workers the skills needed to restore watersheds, improve forest health, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- **Special forest products training** teaches workers who harvest mushrooms, boughs, beargrass, Christmas trees, and medicinal plants how to collect them to ensure sustainable crops in the future.

1997 Northwest Forest Plan Forest Products Facts

- Timber sale offerings were 705.7 million board feet (MMBF) in fiscal year (FY) 1997.
- The FY 1997 sale offerings totalled more than three times the volume offered in FY 1994 (233 MMBF).
- The volume offered in FY 1997 meets the intent of the Northwest Forest Plan, "for an environmentally sensitive timber sale program with a sustainable timber harvest level."
- The total value of Christmas trees, firewood, and other special forest products came to \$2,279,938 in 1997.
- Wenatchee National Forest planners and timber sale preparation crews have successfully prepared and offered over 213 MMBF since the catastrophic fires of the summer of 1994.
- Siuslaw and Olympic National Forests have increased thinning in younger stands to benefit wildlife habitat.

Accomplishments

FY 1997 Accomplishments - Ecosystem Products

This table reflects the amount of timber offered for sale, as well as values of special forest products, from lands managed by the Forest Service under the Northwest Forest Plan.

MMBF = Million board feet.

	Timber Offered MMBF	Christmas Trees (\$)	Firewood (\$)	Other* (\$)
California	167.1	121,587	93,590	103,102
Oregon	391.6	91,860	233,456	821,117
Washington	147.0	91,763	99,562	623,899
Total	705.7	\$305,210	\$426,609	\$1,548,119

*Includes mushrooms, boughs, medicinal herbs, cones, beargrass, etc.

■ Custom Cuts

"All wood is cut to length somewhere... Do it at the stump!" This is the industry motto as technology speeds toward the latest in harvest systems: cut-to-length. As old growth harvesting becomes history, small wood processing is where the action is, and cut-to-length equipment is making it more practical.

Kent Stevens, a forest products specialist with a logging equipment supplier, is a big fan of cut-to-length. "Equipment called a harvester cuts a tree, delimits the log, and in the process electronically determines where the first, and any subsequent logs, should be cut."

"We're doing a better job of managing lands today by removing the dead, dying, and stagnant material," explains Kent. The objective, according to Kent, is sustained yield growth.



Kent Stevens from Eugene, Oregon, is a big fan of cut-to-length harvest systems.

■ Ecotourism in Curry County, Oregon

Imagine walking along a suspended pathway through the lush firs of the coastal forest canopy--a real bird's eye view! This is just part of an ecotourism project proposed in Curry County, Oregon.

The project would mix guided interpretive visits along suspended and surface trails with educational programs

The Canopy Project is projected to...

- Support 50 family wage jobs
- Facilitate research operations
- Generate \$17 million for the county's economy
- Pump \$54 million dollars annually into Oregon's tourism economy

and on-site research. Federal grants, including Rural Community Assistance funds from the Forest Service, are moving community ideas into feasibility studies, preliminary design, and environmental assessment.

In a county where almost 60% of the land is in federal or state ownership, Curry County Commissioner Bill Roberts and others are "growing" a new economic sector based on the enchantment of local natural resources. "It's giving us a chance to bring public land back into our economic base," notes Commissioner Roberts.

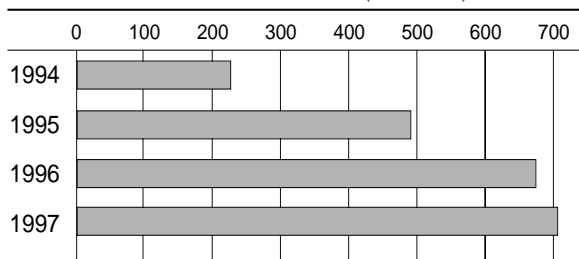
■ Jobs as a Key Product

Successful ecosystem management involves healthy and productive communities, people, and watersheds. We can no longer measure ecosystem health solely by the number and amount of forest products and uses. As a full partner in these ecosystems, we share the responsibility of the health and well-being of the workers and businesses in

these communities. In 1998 and beyond, we will continue to respond to people's needs by structuring our programs and efforts to provide high quality family wage jobs that are dependable, sustainable, and will enable people to remain and continue to be a productive part of the ecosystem.

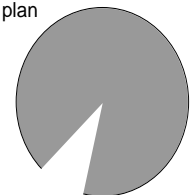
■ Trends

Timber Offered 1994 - 1997 (MMBF)



Grant Funds to Communities, Counties, and Tribes

Over 90% of Rural Community Assistance funds under the plan are granted directly to communities, counties, and tribes for community-identified projects to meet local needs. Fully 7.5% of the remaining 10% of funds goes into Forest Service technical assistance.



Ecosystem Restoration

Ecosystem restoration means improving the health, sustainability, and productivity of watersheds, communities, and people.

■ One-Stop-Shopping

The collaborative, one-stop-shopping service created by the Community Economic Revitalization Teams (CERTs) provides communities, counties, and tribes with a way to access state and federal programs without needing to know every agency's regulations, deadlines, and requirements. Through the CERTs, agencies work together to help communities, counties, and tribes meet *their* objectives using a one-stop, partnership approach.

Because of the success of the CERTs, six states outside the area covered by the Northwest Forest Plan have adopted, or are looking into developing, a CERT process to help their communities help themselves.

■ Reducing Dependence

Every year the Forest Service grants Old Growth Diversification funds to each state covered by the plan to help communities diversify their economies away from dependence on old growth timber.

In 1997, we granted over \$1 million each to Washington and Oregon, and \$600,000 to California. The states

used these funds to nurture and promote value-added wood product technologies, special forest products, and new technologies for getting the most out of small diameter timber.

■ Watershed Restoration

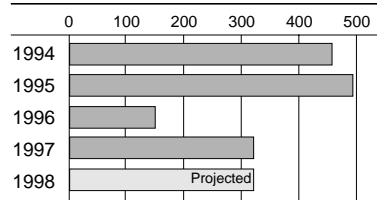
Watershed restoration is designed to improve the health of key watersheds. These watersheds are critical for conservation and recovery of wildlife and fish. Restoration activities include repairing or obliterating roads, stabilizing upland areas, and restoring stream channels and banks.



By placing logs and boulders in streambeds, we improve the quality of fish habitat. This is one of many stream restoration projects.

■ Focus

Road Obliteration (in miles)



- The widespread, devastating floods of February 1996 impacted road decommissioning projects in FY 1996 on Northwest Forest Plan forests.
- Many roads and bridges that may have provided access to decommissioning projects were washed out, preventing access to project work.
- Federal Emergency Funds were provided to restore roads to their original condition.

■ Accomplishments

FY 1997 Accomplishments - Ecosystem Restoration

Item	Riparian Structural/ Mechanical Improvements	Riparian Vegetation (thinning, etc.)	Nonfish Streams	Anadromous Fish Streams	Inland Fish Streams	Upland Improvements*
Measurement	(Acres)	(Acres)	(Miles)	(Miles)	(Miles)	(Acres)
California	43.8	4,145.1	36.3	177.0	67.2	180.0
Oregon	267.0	1,217.5	2.5	58.0	43.0	454.0
Washington	175.0	318.0	27.3	68.3	41.0	655.8
Total	485.8	5,680.6	66.1	303.3	151.2	1,289.8

*Improvements in areas above the riparian zone.

■ Sweet Success

"The people of Sweet Home were used to the revenue and lifestyle generated from the National Forest, and then 'WHOMPO!' goodbye industry!" This is how Cliff Oden, chair of the local economic development group and an active member of Sweet Home, Oregon's strategic action team, describes the impacts to his community from reduced federal timber harvest levels.

"We had to look at how we would survive. We had to develop a vision of what the town could be in an ever-changing world and what our options were," notes Cliff.

And that vision is Sweet Home's community strategic action plan: the town's blueprint for their future. With financial and technical assistance from the Forest Service and other agencies and partners, Sweet Home:

- Revitalized their downtown with plantings, murals, and storefront rehabilitation;
- Filled empty storefronts with businesses;
- Attracted more jobs with a flexible manufacturing building for several small or one large growing industry in need of increased space;
- Extended water lines to accommodate new businesses, including a recreational vehicle campground which fit with the town's tourism strategy;



Cliff Oden of Sweet Home, Oregon, feels the community's strategic action plan helps the community see the "big picture."

- Started a country music festival that attracted 30,000 people on a peak weekend, and runs on the energy of 300 community volunteers.

Carol Lewis, Sweet Home city planner, says the town's strategic plan is "...a great starting place, the first piece in a long process" without which the community "would continue to operate from distinct little groups that don't see the connections, the big picture."

Community cohesiveness and pride are growing with each new business, and Sweet Home continues to plan and change for future successes.

■ Trends

Northwest Economic Adjustment Initiative (\$Million)			
	Rural Community Assistance	Jobs-in-the-Woods	Old Growth Diversification
1994	9.6	20.0	6.3
1995	9.3	12.1	4.8
1996	10.9	13.5	2.9
1997	11.4	14.3	2.9
Total	41.2	59.9	16.9

■ Accomplishments Cont.

FY 1997 Accomplishments - Ecosystem Restoration

Item	Culverts & Bridges	Road Stabilization	Road Surface	Road Revegetation	Road Decommissioned
Measurement	(Sites)	(Miles)	(Miles)	(Acres)	(Miles)
California	6.0	1,155.3	29.0	27.0	29.8
Oregon	145.0	1,408.2	317.3	31.0	187.9
Washington	22.0	224.4	19.3	297.5	103.1
Total	173.0	2,787.9	365.6	355.5	320.8

Ecosystem Monitoring

Monitoring the ecosystem involves looking at how successfully we work with communities, as well as how we manage the land.

■ Checking Our Progress

Monitoring is the keystone to successfully implementing the Northwest Forest Plan. The continuation of the plan's success depends on tracking results and making changes to adjust course when needed. Monitoring, with its science-based feedback loops, completes the planning process.

■ Measuring Success in Communities

A vital rural community has the resources and skills it needs to thrive over time. Members of these communities know they're succeeding when: the skills, knowledge, and abilities of local people increase; initiative, responsibility, and adaptability improve; relationships and communication become stronger; people benefit from a sustainable, healthy ecosystem; and their economy is healthy due to a diversified base.

■ A Fork in the Road

When federal timber harvest levels dropped 90%, the people of Forks, Washington, used their strategic action plan to diversify their economy and maintain a role for the timber industry.

With technical and financial assistance from the Forest Service, the city built and opened a new industrial park. Dan Leinan, Forks clerk-treasurer, says, "This is a great

The plan's Record of Decision requires monitoring for:

- 1. Implementation**
(Is the plan being implemented correctly?);
- 2. Effectiveness**
(Are the objectives being achieved?); and
- 3. Validation**
(Are we getting the right results for the right reasons?).

■ Regional Implementation Monitoring

In 1997, Provincial Implementation Monitoring Teams, made up of members from multiple agencies and the public, completed their second year of implementation monitoring. The team evaluated timber sales, roads, and restoration projects and found high levels of compliance with the Northwest Forest Plan's direction.

investment of public funds. We've created over 40 new jobs and we're adding more value to the logs that are still harvested. This money is creating millions of dollars of sustainable income and payroll for our community. The taxpayers will get their investment back in payroll alone *in less than two years.*"

■ Accomplishments

Progress of Northwest Forest Plan Monitoring Efforts

	Initial Design	Conceptual Framework	Options	Approved Plans	Pilot	Refine	Plan Implementation
Implementation	[Progress bar spanning all stages]						
Effectiveness	[Progress bar spanning all stages]						
Northern Spotted Owl	[Progress bar spanning all stages]						
Late Successional Old Growth	[Progress bar spanning all stages]						
Marbled Murrelet	[Progress bar spanning all stages]						
Aquatic/Riparian	[Progress bar spanning all stages]						
Survey and Manage	[Progress bar spanning all stages]						
Other	[Progress bar spanning all stages]						
Satellite Vegetation Mapping	[Progress bar spanning all stages]						
Watershed Analysis	[Progress bar spanning all stages]						

Validation monitoring is underway on several research subjects.

■ Teachers in the Woods

Bill DeBarry is a teacher who loves the outdoors. "I love to hike, and I love to get out in the woods." And out to the woods Bill went this past summer, thanks to a partnership between the Gifford Pinchot National Forest and Portland State University called "Teachers in the Woods."

Teachers lend a helping hand to Forest Service professionals responsible for implementing watershed resto-



Bill DeBarry spent the summer of 1997 in the woods of southwest Washington helping Forest Service professionals with monitoring projects.

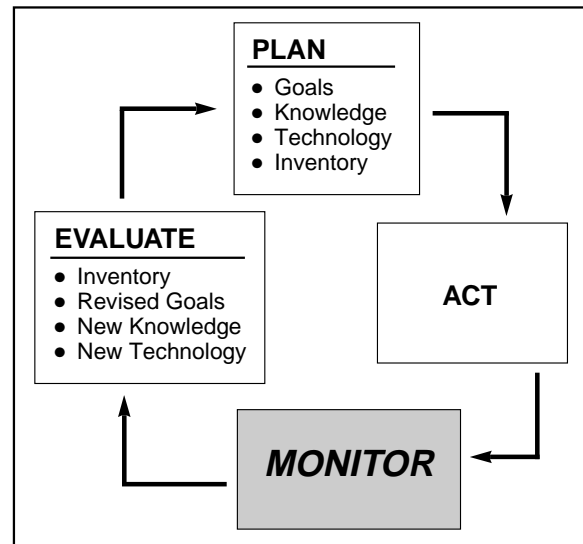
ration and ecosystem monitoring projects. They measure stream discharges, survey road culverts, and gather information from hikers and campers at high mountain lakes. These experiences provide the basis for new and innovative curricula which are being used in classrooms this fall.

"Teachers in the Woods," was born in 1995 when Portland State University Professor of Education, Marion Dresner, approached the Mt. Hood National Forest with her idea. Professor Dresner's goal is "for teachers to have an experiential opportunity in the forest." This year the program received a \$570,000 three-year federal grant, and is expanding to four National Forests in Oregon.

Portland State offers participating teachers six graduate credits and a transportation stipend. "It's the kind of program teachers need to be aware of," Bill says. However, as a caution he adds, "Teachers also need to be aware of the strenuousness of the activities."

"Any teacher interested in science, the environment, and natural resources would love this program," notes Bill.

Adaptive Management Process



■ Trends

Implementation Monitoring - Regional Trends

Items Monitored	1996	1997	1998
Timber Sales	■	■	●
Roads		■	●
Restoration Projects		■	●
Other Projects and Programs			●

■ Completed; ● Proposed

This table reflects regional monitoring efforts. Numerous other monitoring projects are underway at the local level.

Partnerships

Partnerships continue to be the backbone of success in implementing the Northwest Forest Plan.

Working cooperatively with local businesses, industry, conservation organizations, tribes, agencies, counties, communities, and individuals results in achievements that benefit natural resources, people, and the economies of Washington, Oregon, and California.

■ Collaboration for Communities

What do water, sewer, and phone lines have in common? They play a big role in helping rural communities recruit and retain businesses, and diversify their economies for a healthier economic future.

The Forest Service provides Rural Community Assistance grants which can be used with community contributions to pay for infrastructure planning and preliminary architecture and engineering designs, while other agencies can fund construction of water, sewer, and telecommunications systems.



The Forest Service worked with numerous partners to make this community kitchen a reality in East Wenatchee, Washington.

The result of this collaboration is the leveraging of federal, state, and community or tribal funds -- making each dollar go farther and do more. Each partner plays a role appropriate for the type and level of funding and technical assistance available.

■ Community-Based Initiatives



Partners include state and other federal agencies as well as members of the community and tribes.

No ecosystem stands alone. Each must be managed in collaboration with other local, state, tribal, and federal governments, and with landowners and others in the watershed.

This year, Bob Williams, Regional Forester for the Pacific Northwest Region, along with executives from nine other federal agencies, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber committing to this community-based approach to restoring watersheds.

According to Williams, "With the creation of community-based watershed councils in Oregon, we are partners in restoring the health and productivity of entire ecosystems by using our collective resources and abilities."

■ The Buck Starts Here

For every dollar of Forest Service Rural Community Assistance funds invested, over two dollars of additional contributions are leveraged from other federal, state, and local sources.





In 1997, ONABEN helped Native Americans in Washington State start 17 new businesses and expand 17 others.

■ ONABEN: Teaching by Example

"ONABEN's vision of a healthy economy in Indian Country means that each child will see two or three people with whom they can identify, succeeding in business, so their *own* success is not an aspiration but an expectation." So says Patrick Borunda, Executive Director of the Oregon Native American Business and Entrepreneurial Network (ONABEN).

ONABEN, a non-profit cooperative created by Oregon Indian tribes, increases the success of *private businesses* owned by Native Americans by offering micro-loans, training, and support. The Forest Service's Rural Community Assistance funds replicate a proven model of entrepreneurial

"...Forest Service dollars provide a return on investment that would make a mutual fund manager green."

success in Washington's Native American communities.

"What the Forest Service grant has enabled us to do is to transfer a successful experiment from Oregon into Washington and to leverage 2:1 private and tribal dollars," says Patrick. "This fiscal year we delivered services to 1,155 clients in Oregon and 319 clients in Washington."

ONABEN's success is significant because it shows how tribes are moving away from dependence on federal transfer payments and resources, toward diversified economies, resulting in a stronger economic base and more stable communities.

"This year in Washington, we accomplished 17 new business starts and 17 business expansions and these are directly attributable to the Forest Service," notes Patrick.

And the return from Forest Service dollars invested is substantial. According to Patrick, "When you look at the numbers for returns to state and federal tax coffers, Forest Service dollars provide a return on investment that would make a mutual fund manager green."

He adds, "Overall, I've been incredibly impressed with the partnership approach of the state Community Economic Revitalization Teams (CERTs). I've been in and around the public sector for 25 years, and have never seen this level of enthusiastic cooperation. The appeal of the CERT collaboration is that it allows state and federal agencies to focus together on fundamental change."

■ Trends

Since 1994, the Northwest Forest Plan has increased people's understanding that collaborative partnerships are good business - good for the Forest Service, for our many partners, and for those who use and appreciate our National Forests. Leveraging scarce federal grant funds, working side by side with conservation groups to enhance natural resources and recreation facilities, and coordinating on Forest Service and community projects all contribute to healthy, sustainable ecosystems.



The community of Bonanza, Oregon, formed a partnership with the Forest Service to build a new library.

Adaptive Management

Adaptive management of ecosystems involves learning from what we've accomplished, and making improvements when new information arises.

■ Adaptive Management Areas

The Northwest Forest Plan identifies 10 Adaptive Management Areas (AMAs) to be used to help us learn and improve how we manage ecosystems. In 1997, there were over 300 research and monitoring projects underway in these areas.

■ A Vision for the Future

Quality jobs are an essential part of healthy and productive ecosystems and the Forest Service is taking steps to incorporate this concept through watershed restoration and the Jobs-in-the-Woods program.

In the Rogue River National Forest, partners are recruiting, training, and employing restoration workers in long duration, family wage, multi-skilled work. Additionally, forests are working with the State of Washington's Jobs-for-the-Environment program to create similar high quality jobs.

And all around Oregon, watershed councils are starting up comprehensive ecosystem projects that provide quality jobs and training to local citizens.



Adaptive management is an ongoing process of learning and improving how we manage ecosystems.

Community, county, and tribal economies, long driven by timber harvest, are adapting and diversifying. In east Lewis County, Washington, the local college proposed to offer retraining for timber workers.

The Forest Service helped the college apply to the Community Economic Revitalization Team (CERT) for help. The team explored curriculum development, land acquisition, and opportunities for matching funds. Then we provided a Rural Community Assistance grant to construct the building, which is now open and providing timber worker, youth, and community training.

■ Central Cascades Partners

The Central Cascades Adaptive Management Area in Oregon, which has been nominated for national and regional ecosystem management awards, is a great example of successful adaptive management.

Scientists from Oregon State University, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Forest Service, along with members of the community, jointly planned projects across

a watershed, complete with learning objectives and a design to achieve these.

Their findings immediately resulted in changes to an ongoing project, as well as proposed similar projects. The lessons learned are shared with others through field trips and presentations.

■ International Sharing

In 1997, papers on what the Forest Service has learned through adaptive management were given to the United Nations Council on Sustainability, the Canadian Institute

of Forestry, the Canadian Model Forest Network, and the International Model Forest Network.

■ Hayfork AMA: Healthy Communities, Healthy Forests

"This is the most exciting project we've had here in four years!" notes Lynn Jungwirth. She's referring to the Hayfork AMA Small Diameter Log Yarding, Processing, and Marketing Demonstration Project which aims to reduce the cost of thinning forests while developing new markets, new technology, and new jobs.

The goals of the program are to find additional markets that can use products made from small diameter wood, and find low-impact equipment that can efficiently harvest small diameter wood.



Lynn Jungwirth is a strong supporter of the Hayfork Project which develops new markets and new technology for small diameter logs.

To this end, the Hayfork Demonstration Project was developed by the Watershed Research and Training Center in Hayfork, California, with support from the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and the Rural Community Assistance program

"This project is very important to the Watershed Center and our community because it links forest, community and economic development staff together to the benefit of all interests," notes Lynn.

Both the Forest Service and communities share the need for thinning dense stands and reducing fire hazards on public lands. Small diameter wood is the most common by-product, but in the past, markets for this wood have been poor.

In May, trainees harvested a 25-acre test site where the average tree diameter was only eight inches. Preliminary results from the mill indicate a yield of about 70 thousand board feet of lumber. The Watershed Center is seeking out markets for poles, cants, rough sawn dimensional lumber, finished dimensional lumber, and kiln-dried finished dimensional lumber.

■ In 1998...

Many of the research and monitoring efforts now underway are expected to bear fruit in the next few years, though some efforts are designed for the long term. While the initial implementation plans should be completed in the next two years, they will be updated frequently and, in

that sense, will never be finished. We expect to share more of what we're learning with the international community, given that Adaptive Management Areas are part of the cutting edge of ecosystem management in the world today.

■ Great Expectations

Communities, counties, and tribes are increasingly interested and involved in both their own and National Forest planning efforts. The Forest Service has funded and participated in community strategic action planning to the point where communities now expect to participate in National Forest planning.

Currently, Adaptive Management Areas offer an opportunity for people who want to help plan for the future of these forest areas. Soon, National Forests will revise their Forest Plans and everyone is invited to get involved in planning activities that will help shape local economies.

For Additional Information

For additional copies of this report, or for more information about the Northwest Forest Plan, please contact either of the Public Affairs Offices listed below. This Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishment Report for the National Forests is available on our web sites at www.fs.fed.us/r6 or www.r5.pswfs.gov.

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A companion report, "The Northwest Forest Plan, PNW/PSW Research Accomplishments," is also available by contacting either of the Research Stations listed below. The Northwest Forest Plan Accomplishment Report for Research is available at www.fs.fed.us/pnw or www.fs.fed.us/psw.

USDA Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Research Station
P.O. Box 3890
Portland, OR 97208-3890
(503) 808-2127

USDA Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Research Station
P.O. Box 245
Berkeley, CA 94701-0245
(510) 559-6316



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