

FOIA MARKER

This is not a textual record. This is used as an administrative marker by the William J. Clinton Presidential Library Staff.

Collection/Record Group: Clinton Presidential Records
Subgroup/Office of Origin: Council on Environmental Quality
Series/Staff Member: Kathleen (Katie) McGinty
Subseries:

OA/ID Number: 4300
FolderID:

Folder Title:
Forest Conference-Watershed Strategy

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
S	61	7	2	1

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

EO/OSO

Bureau
of Land
Management

United States
Department of
Interior

Reply to:

Date: December 22, 1993

Subject: Fiscal Year 1994 Watershed Restoration Strategy

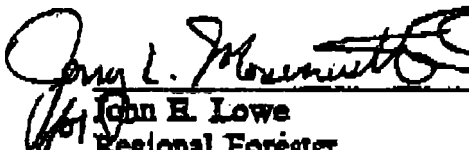
To: Forest Supervisors and BLM District Managers

Enclosed is the Interagency Watershed Restoration Strategy for Fiscal Year 1994 for your use. The strategy was developed by an interagency task group under the direction of the Interagency Implementation Team, and was approved by the Regional Interagency Executive Committee on December 16, 1993. The purpose of the strategy is to guide an interagency process for developing and selecting watershed restoration projects within the range of the northern spotted owl during fiscal year 1994.

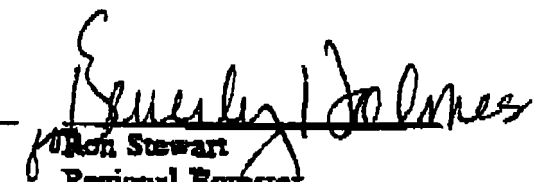
The Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT) recommended that watershed restoration programs be developed and implemented through collaborative, interagency, public and private management processes, including a rigorous, comprehensive watershed analysis. We are moving toward this goal as quickly as possible; however, federal and state agencies have already received special funds for restoration work this year, and are expected to identify projects and provide jobs in distressed communities immediately. Given the long-term goal coupled with the short-term urgency, the enclosed strategy follows FEMAT recommendations as much as possible for watershed restoration in FY 94.

The strategy requires formation of two types of interagency teams: one at the local level and one at the province level. The local interagency teams are essentially teams of agency, state and tribal specialists. The province teams include managers with authority to make project selections and should, in general, reflect the composition of the Regional Interagency Executive Committee (e.g. USFWS, USFS, BLM, NMFS, EPA, BIA, NPS, states and tribes). We expect to have province boundaries drafted for your use by mid-January.

Please distribute the strategy to appropriate members of your staff and field units for immediate implementation.


John E. Lowe
Regional Forester


D. Dean Bibler
State Director


Ron Stewart
Regional Forester

Enclosure

cc: RIBC members
ITT
SEIS Team (Bob Jacobs)
SAG (Marty Raphael)
Tom Tuchmann

INTERAGENCY WATERSHED RESTORATION STRATEGY
FOR
FISCAL YEAR 1994

December 16, 1993

Prepared by the Interagency Task Group for Restoration of Aquatic and Terrestrial Ecosystems:

Hugh Barrett	Bureau of Land Management
Vicki Campbell	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Dave Caraher (Leader)	USDA Forest Service
Valerie Elliot	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Nancy Gloman	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Dave Heller	USDA Forest Service
Maurice Jernsted	Soil Conservation Service
Ron Lee	Environmental Protection Agency
Tom Nickelson	Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Bruce Newton	Environmental Protection Agency and Soil Conservation Service
Dave Renwald	Bureau of Indian Affairs
Ken Troyer	National Marine Fisheries Service
Larry Wasserman	Skagit River Tribes

The report responds to Action Item B: "Establish a strategy for prioritizing projects for fiscal years 1994 and 1995."

Executive Summary

This is an interagency strategy for prioritizing watershed restoration projects during fiscal year 1994. Its purpose is to help federal and state agencies coordinate their efforts during fiscal year 1994 to:

- o Respond to obvious, urgently need restoration
- o Provide needed employment for local communities
- o Follow Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team recommendations
- o Comply with the requirements of federal laws
- o Satisfy applicable funding appropriation language

The strategy features:

- o Local interagency teams of resource specialists to identify potential projects
- o Criteria for identifying priority watersheds
- o A "Preliminary Watershed Restoration Assessment" process
- o Examples of restoration activities
- o A standard format for summarizing projects
- o Use of provincial teams (which include managers with authority to make project decisions) to coordinate with state Community Economic Revitalization Teams (CERTs) and select projects

Introduction

The purpose of this strategy is to guide interagency development and selection of watershed restoration projects during fiscal year 1994. The strategy follows recommendations of the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team (FEMAT).

The FEMAT report recommends that restoration strategies be comprehensive, addressing both watershed protection of the best habitats that remain (refugia) and restoration of degraded habitats in an integrated program that moves ecosystems towards recovery and resilience. Treatments should be carefully applied so that they accelerate natural recovery. Restoration planning and projects should recognize mechanisms to reestablish disturbance regimes and related physical, chemical, and biological characteristics that are in the range of natural variability.

This strategy provides temporary, interagency guidance to begin ecosystem and watershed restoration during fiscal year 1994. The strategy does not supersede or diminish Congressional direction and priorities.

Process Overview

Principal Features

1. Agencies will allocate funds in accordance with appropriation language and biological priorities.
2. National Forests and BLM Districts will form local interagency, interdisciplinary teams.
3. The local interagency teams will identify priority watersheds where restoration work can be completed in fiscal year 1994.
4. The local interagency teams will conduct "Preliminary Watershed Restoration Assessments" to identify potential restoration projects and to support project proposals.
5. Local interagency teams will submit project package summaries to province level interagency teams.
6. Province level interagency teams will select watershed restoration projects in coordination with the state Community Economic Revitalization Teams (CERTs).
7. Agencies will report accomplishments.

Process Details

Local Interagency Teams

An essential element to FEMAT implementation strategy is collaborative management and decision making. Each National Forest and BLM District will assemble interdisciplinary teams of specialists consisting of representatives of appropriate federal, state, local, and tribal entities, if possible.

Watershed Selection

To facilitate efficient allocation of funds, each local interagency team will identify 1 to 2 watersheds for the purpose of developing candidate projects in accordance with the criteria outlined below.

The teams should consider watersheds that overlap multiple ownerships. The identification of priority ownerships should also consider the possibility that projects may be supported by funds from a variety of sources (e.g. EPA, USFWS, state agencies, and private sources). Watersheds are defined as subunits within larger river basins that are generally 20-200 square miles in size.

Watersheds should be considered using the following criteria:

1. Tier 1 Key Watersheds.
2. Watersheds with federally-listed threatened or endangered, petitioned, or candidate species.
3. Watersheds with sensitive species identified on state, federal, or tribal lists.
4. Watersheds in treaty drainages (drainages in areas covered by treaties or areas where other federally-established reserved rights grant the use and management of the natural resources by federally-recognized tribes).
5. Watersheds with ongoing or high potential for public and private cooperation.

For example, a watershed meeting multiple criteria is a higher priority than those meeting only one of the criteria.

Candidate Project Identification

For each priority watershed, local interagency teams should identify restoration projects using the preliminary watershed restoration assessment described below. The

analysis should be carried out by the local interagency teams. For the purposes of this analysis, a project package is defined as a collection of activities designed to achieve a given restoration goal(s) for an area within a watershed. There may be more than one project package per watershed.

Project Summary

For each project, prepare a summary using a standard format (Appendix A). This summary captures essential information about proposed projects, the expected environmental benefits, implementation schedule, costs, and the nature and number of jobs associated with the project.

Province Teams for Project Selection

Project summaries will be reviewed by province level interagency teams in conjunction with state Community Economic Revitalization Teams (CERTs). Province teams should include managers with the authority to make project selections and reflect the composition of the RIEC whenever possible. Final selections will be based on environmental benefits and economic considerations.

Project packages should be reviewed and selected as a unit. If a province team and state CERT do not select a project package in its entirety, further coordination with the local interagency team must be done to ensure that the integrity of restoration goals are not compromised.

Preliminary Watershed Restoration Assessment

Congressional and FEMAT direction requires that a watershed assessment be completed prior to identifying and implementing projects, but the formal procedures for a watershed analysis are not yet available. Therefore, the following "preliminary watershed restoration assessment" which mirrors the intent of the forthcoming FEMAT watershed analysis, will serve as a temporary guide for fiscal year 1994. This preliminary assessment should be used for both restoration projects under "jobs-in-the-woods" funding and other restoration projects funded with other appropriations. The amount of time expected to complete the preliminary assessment (with a local interagency team) for each watershed is about two weeks.

Process Overview

The preliminary watershed restoration assessment consists of the following steps:

1. Identify principal issues within the selected watershed that drive the need for watershed restoration.

2. Identify existing and desired conditions (driven by the principal issues).
3. Identify those processes and activities that need to be modified to achieve the desired watershed conditions.
4. Identify restoration opportunities.
5. Identify planning and coordination requirements.
6. Complete project package summary to document consistency with FEMAT.

Process Details

Step 1: Identify Principal Issues. Identify principal issues that drive the need for watershed restoration. It is important to frame issues based on the entire watershed regardless of land ownership. Issues should also be developed by viewing the watershed in context with its river basin and province. Further, each agency may be required to consider issues that Congress has identified as critical to watershed restoration. For example, anadromous fish habitat will be a required issue for the Forest Service.

Step 2: Identify existing and desired conditions. Desired conditions may be expressed in terms of (a) changes from current conditions, (b) ecosystem potential, or (c) social expectations. Desired conditions are refined through the analysis.

Step 3: Identify processes. Describe the processes that explain (a) the causes and effects of current conditions, (b) are central to achieving desired conditions, and (c) provide insight into the factors affecting resource productivity. Evaluate those processes and the impact mechanisms that have created existing conditions, and compare them to those that created historic conditions.

Step 4: Identify restoration opportunities. The FEMAT report recommends specific categories of restoration activities. For fiscal year 1994, restoration in any given area may require a combination of activities from the following categories:

- Road erosion and sedimentation
- Riparian silviculture
- Upland improvements
- Stream channel restoration

Step 5: Identify planning and coordination requirements. Identify the requirements for each project and determine the feasibility of satisfying those requirements during fiscal year 1994. Federally-funded or permitted projects must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act (e.g., section 7 consultation), Clean Water Act, and other existing laws and regulations.

Step 6: Complete the project package summary (Appendix A)**Restoration Activities**

The FEMAT report recommends the following categories of restoration activities. These are short-term, intermediate steps required until normal function of the watershed has been restored. Give special emphasis to careful planning, monitoring, and evaluation of all projects.

A. Activities that address road erosion and sedimentation. For example:**1. Remedial techniques to reduce risks of catastrophic damage resulting from large storms.**

a. Correct stream diversion potential at stream crossings, such that if a crossing fails or overtops, streamflow is not diverted down the road or ditchline.

b. Upgrade stream crossings to allow fish passage and to pass at least the 100-year streamflow, plus associated bedload and debris, using a variety of techniques such as:

- 1) Installing larger culverts
- 2) Installing trash racks
- 3) Lowering inlets
- 4) Changing the configuration of inlets
- 5) Hardening crossing fills
- 6) Controlling sediment and debris loading upstream of the crossing.

c. Remove and reconfigure unstable fills.

d. Reroute road drainage to stable receiving areas.

2. Road upgrading

a. Relieving inboard ditchlines more frequently (to prevent critical amounts of drainage water discharge).

b. Rocking road surfaces (to armor against road surface erosion and maintain design drainage configuration against traffic impacts, especially where roads must remain open during wet periods).

- c. Mulching and revegetating bare, erosion-prone surfaces such as cuts and fills, wherever derived sediments have access to the stream system.
- d. Applying site-specific drainage solutions applied wherever erosive concentrations of road drainage or streamflow are causing sediment delivery to streams.
- e. Adopting maintenance techniques that are specifically designed and conducted to control erosion and sedimentation.

3. Road decommissioning: The decommissioning of roads should be carefully planned, since this work may cause more sedimentation.

- a. Removing culverts
- b. Decompacting road surfaces (ripping)
- c. Outsloping
- d. Waterbarring
- e. Stabilizing (following analysis) potentially unstable fills
- f. Seeding and planting native vegetation, and mulching if needed

B. Activities that address riparian silviculture, for example:

- 1. Planting on streamside landslides
- 2. Planting on flood deposit "high-bars" near streams and rivers
- 3. Planting or seeding in disturbed areas such as skid trails, landings, hot-burned streamside areas, degraded meadows, and cable corridors
- 4. Interplanting appropriate conifer species among even-aged riparian hardwoods (such as alder and willow)
- 5. Aerial seeding of inaccessible areas, such as landslide surfaces and riparian areas

C. Activities that address upland improvements (to improve biological function and facilitate restoration of plant and animal communities while complementing hydrologic function), for example:

- 1. Intensive reforestation of areas historically forested (including landslides)
- 2. Interplanting understocked areas to increase diversity
- 3. Thinning with understory plantings to promote growth, vigor, and diversity
- 4. Creation of snags
- 5. Light burning to restore historic ecological function (promotion of historic stand health and composition; reduce risk of catastrophic fires)
- 6. "Feather" edges of forest stands susceptible to wind damage

D. Activities that address stream channel restoration (to restore morphological functions creating desired aquatic habitat conditions. These are recognized as short-term intermediate steps required until normal function of floodplains and riparian vegetation has been restored). Special emphasis should be given to careful planning, monitoring, and evaluation of all in-stream modification activities.

Example activities include:

1. Fish and Aquatic Resources

- a. Improving habitat complexity
- b. Improving/creating spawning habitat
- c. Restoring rearing habitat
- d. Restoring holding habitat
- e. Improving up/down stream passage

2. Hydrologic Function

- a. Energy Dissipation (introduction of large woody debris and boulders)
- b. Sediment Storage (creation of catchments)
- c. Bank Stability
- d. Floodplain/Channel Restructuring

APPENDIX A-1

FY 94 RESTORATION PROJECT PACKAGE SUMMARY

The following format should be used for documenting all restoration occurring on public land and/or funded with federal dollars in FY94.

The project package summary should consist of two pages. Activity summaries, following the project package summary, should not exceed two pages per activity. Details in the summaries may be developed by the local interagency teams or agency field units, depending on the funding source.

Project Package Name:

Project Package Number:

State:

Physiographic Province:

River Basin:

Watershed: (including USGS Catalog #)

Management Unit(s):

FEMAT Designation(s):

County(s):

Specific Project Package Location:

Principal Issues:

Processes:

Activities:

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>JOBS</u>
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Total Project Package Cost:

Monitoring & Evaluation:

Local Interagency Team:

Appendix A-1

Project Package Name:

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Lead Agency/Party:

Activity Name:

Activity Category & Type:

Management Unit(s):

FEMAT Designation(s):

Specific Location: (T/R/S)

Brief Description:

Expected Environmental Benefits: (including contribution to overall watershed restoration goals)

Monitoring & Evaluation:

Cost:

Jobs: (including # and type)

Funding Sources: (including % from each source)

Cooperators:

Implementation Schedule:

Status of Regulatory Compliance:

Appendix A-2
Explanation of Categories

FY 94 RESTORATION PROJECT PACKAGE SUMMARY

federal agencies are to use this format for documenting all restoration occurring on public land and/or funded with federal dollars in FY 94.

The project package summary should consist of two pages, maximum. Activity summaries, following the project package summary, should not exceed two pages per activity. Details in the summaries may be developed by the local interagency teams or agency field units, depending on the funding source.

Project Package Name: Descriptive of entire project package (combination of activities).

Project Package Number: Assign each project package a number and indicate how many project packages per watershed (ex: Project package #1 of 3).

State: The state in which the project package is located; California, Oregon or Washington.

Physiographic Province: Province boundaries will be identified and supplied by the Regional Ecosystem Office by January 18, 1994.

River Basin: River system comprised of many watersheds; such as the Klamath, Skagit, Umpqua.

Watershed: (including USGS Hydrologic Unit #) Drainage basin of 20-200 square miles (average). Include the appropriate state USGS Hydrologic Unit Number.

Management Unit(s): Include all land in the project package area. Start with the lowest tier management unit (ex. BLM Resource Area, USFS District) then move up to larger tiers (ex. BLM District, USFS Forest). National and state Parks, National and state Wildlife Refuges, tribal lands, private land, etc., are also management units. Also include special management designations, such as Wild and Scenic River (Wild, scenic or recreational).

FEMAT Designation(s): Designation of land in the project package area, if applicable - Key Watershed, Riparian Reserve, Late-Successional Reserves, Adaptive Management Areas, and Matrix.

County(s): List the county(s) the proposed project package area covers.

Specific Project Package Location: Include township, range and section(s). Use major roads, landmarks, USGS stream names etc., to pinpoint the project package within the watershed, indicated above.

Principal Issues: Identified by the local Interagency Team. Issues/situations which drive the need for watershed restoration. Examples are T/E listed species in the watershed, declining native salmonid stocks, high potential for additional species to be listed, etc.

Processes: Identified by the local Interagency Team. Process and/or problems which have resulted in or are causing the above. Describe known cause-effect relationships, such as degradation of stream habitat due to excessive sedimentation caused from road failures; large areas of deforestation due to past timber harvest practices; loss of riparian vegetation due to timber harvest and road related problems; loss of flood plain function and wetlands due to agricultural draining activities and channelization (diking and levees) of streams, etc.

Activities: Identified by the local interagency team. List the specific activities designed to rectify (begin to) the problems identified above. There is no limit on the number of activities listed. Estimate the cost and estimate the number of jobs each activity will require to be implemented. Examples are storm proofing roads, road obliteration, riparian plantings, upland revegetation, etc.

Total Project Package Cost: Estimate the total cost to implement the project package.

Monitoring & Evaluation: Briefly describe the proposed method to monitor and evaluate the success of the project package. Is there a monitoring plan or is one to be developed?

Local Interagency Team: List the team members and their affiliation (agency, tribe, private land owner, etc.).

Appendix A-2
Explanation of Categories

Project Package Name: Identified from package summary

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

Lead Agency/Party: The primary contact, land owner, organizer, etc., (public, private or tribal).

Activity Name: Descriptive. For identification purposes.

Activity Category & Type: List the activity category - road erosion and sedimentation, riparian silviculture, upland improvement or stream channel restoration. Also indicate the specific activity type such as storm proofing, road obliteration, riparian revegetation, hillslope reforestation, etc.

Management Unit(s): Include all land within the activity area. Start with the lowest tier management unit (ex. BLM Resource Area, USFS District) then move up to larger tiers (ex. BLM District, USFS Forest). National and state parks, national and state wildlife refuges, tribal lands, private land, etc., are also management units. Also include special management designations, such as Wild and Scenic River (wild, scenic or recreational).

FEMAT Designation(s): Designations of land in the activity area, if applicable -- key Watershed, Riparian Reserve, Late Successional Reserves, Adaptive Management Areas, and Matrix.

Specific Location: (T/R/S) Include township, range and section (1/4 of 1/4 etc.). Use major roads, map identified towns, landmarks, USGS stream names, etc., to pinpoint the activity.

Brief Description: Describe the aspects of the activity. Example: road storm proofing activity could include culvert replacement, outsloping, rolling dip construction, cleaning out inboard ditches, pulling back side cast, removal of outboard berms, etc.

Expected Environmental Benefits: (including contribution to overall watershed restoration goals) Describe the goals of the activity and how the activity contributes to overall project package and watershed restoration goals.

Monitoring & Evaluation: Provide brief details on the type of monitoring to be conducted per activity. Is there a monitoring plan or is one to be developed? Will there be an evaluation of monitoring results?

Cost: Estimated cost of activity.

Jobs: (including # and type) How many jobs and of what type (tree planters, heavy equipment operators, etc.) are needed to complete the activity.

Funding Sources: (including % from each source) List the sources of monies, including the

% from each source. Specify which agency, non-profit group, etc., and the program (specific grant, specific program, etc.) within the agency, non-profit group, etc.

Cooperators: List all agencies, parties, groups, etc., contributing to the planning, implementation, monitoring, etc., of the activity.

Implementation Schedule: Estimated dates for project start-up and completion.

Status of Regulatory Compliance: Summary of NEPA documentation, ESA consultation status, etc.