Appendix 9

Additional Aquatics Guidance and USFWS and NMFS Matrices

Contents

Introduction

The information in this appendix is an integral element to be used in conjunction with Chapter 3 direction. The appendix information supports and guides the objectives and standards in Chapter 3 and is not intended to stand alone.

The first section of this appendix describes one component of the aquatic and riparian strategy for Alternative S1: Riparian Management Objectives (RMOs). The second section describes the Sediment Delivery Influence Area used in Alternative S2 and S3. The last section contains the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service Matrices of Pathways and Indicators used as an interim procedure to determine project consistency until Watershed Condition Indicators are developed (see Chapter 3 for more information). These matrices were reformatted for the ICBEMP appendix, but the content was not changed.

Riparian Management Objectives - Alternative S1

In Alternative S1, Riparian Management Objective (RMO) values for stream channel conditions provide criteria to help assess attainment of aquatic and riparian goals as described in Chapter 3. These values provide a description and characterization of watershed, riparian, and stream channel processes and existing conditions that can be used to guide management activity design, implementation, and monitoring. RMOs are not expected to be met instantaneously but rather would be achieved over time.

As indicated below, some RMOs would apply to forested ecosystems, some to rangeland ecosystems, and some to all ecosystems. Actions that reduce habitat quality are inconsistent with the purpose of Alternative S1 direction. However, the intent of RMOs are not to establish a ceiling for what constitutes good habitat conditions. The following statements provide the intent for use of the RMOs and their purpose in a comprehensive conservation program:

1. RMOs are criteria to help evaluate progress towards attainment of watershed, aquatic and riparian goals.
2. RMOs are not to be viewed as independent from other components of the aquatic conservation strategy; rather, they are part of an aquatic conservation program. RMOs are not always sensitive to immediate effects but rather exhibit response to cumulative effects and factors influencing channel history over time.
3. RMOs do not replace state and federal water quality standards promulgated under the federal Clean Water Act or state laws, but they should complement these standards in providing measurable habitat attributes.

In PACFISH (2/24/95) and INFISH (7/28/95), landscape-scale RMO values describing good habitat for anadromous and inland native fish were developed, using stream inventory data for pool frequency, large woody debris, bank stability, lower bank angle, and width-to-depth ratio. Applicable published and non-published scientific literature was used to define favorable water temperatures. All of the described habitat features may not occur in a specific segment of stream within a watershed, but all generally should occur at the watershed scale for stream systems of moderate to large size (3rd to 6th order).

Riparian Management Objective values represent a starting point to describe the desired condition for fish habitat. National Forest and BLM managers are encouraged to establish site-specific RMOs. Riparian Management Objectives should be refined to better reflect conditions that are attainable in a specific watershed or stream reach based on local landform, climate, stream type and valley bottom settings, and potential vegetation. Modification of RMO values in Alternative S1 requires completion of Ecosystem Analysis at the Watershed Scale or site-specific analysis to provide the ecological basis for the change. Rationale supporting these changes and the effects of the changes shall be documented.

Riparian Management Objective values for six environmental features are identified in Table 1. These features are good indicators of ecosystem health, are quantifiable, and are subject to accurate, repeatable measurements. RMOs do not apply to Alternatives S2 or S3.

Sediment Delivery Influence Area - Alternatives S2 and S3

The *Assessment of Ecosystem Components* identified hillslope steepness as an important biophyscial principle that should be considered in developing a riparian management strategy. As side slopes adjacent to streams steepen, the likelihood of disturbance resulting in discernable instream effects increases. Thus, management activities on steep slopes which increase surface erosion and sediment delivery rates may require design or mitigative features that limit the effect on riparian function and instream habitat. Standard B-S42 addresses this principle and uses relationships developed in the *Assessment of Ecosystem Components*.

The general relationship of slope to sediment travel distance can be used to define an area where sediment transport may be of concern, as shown in Figure 1. This curve is based on data from Idaho batholith soils (Ketcheson and Megahan, 1996); it may over-predict erosional processes for less erodible soils and may under-predict sediment transport for finer particles of eroded material. Figure 1 describes sediment travel distance as a function of slope gradient, for median values of obstructions and source area. For this curve the 90th percentile of volume is used to predict a low risk transport distance that is, on average, exceeded only 10 percent of the time for any given slope. The curve does not predict the volume of sediment reaching a stream or moving a certain distance, but rather predicts probabilities that sediment particles will travel at least as far as the distance calculated using the curve.

Other research (Megahan and Ketcheson 1996) found that in addition to slope, other significant predictors

Table 1. RMO Values for Alternative S1.

Habitat Feature	Values									
Pool Frequency (all systems) Varies by channel width.	Wetted width (feet)	10	20	25	50	75	100	125	150	200
	Pools per mile	96	56	47	26	23	18	14	12	9
Water Temperature	No measurable increase in maximum water temperature (7 day moving average of daily maximum temperature measured as the average of the maximum daily temperature of the warmest consecutive 7 day period). Maximum water temperatures below 59°F within adult bull trout holding habitat and below 48°F within bull trout spawning and rearing habitats. Maximum water temperatures below 64°F within anadromous fish migration and rearing habitats and below 60°F within anadromous fish spawning habitats.									
Large Woody Debris (forested systems)	> 20 pieces per mile; > 12 inch diameter; > 35 foot length.									
Bank Stability (rangeland systems)	> 80 percent stable.									
Lower Bank Angle (rangeland systems)	> 75 percent of banks with <90 degree angle (i.e., undercut).									
Width/Depth Ratio (all systems)	< 10, mean wetted width divided by mean depth.									

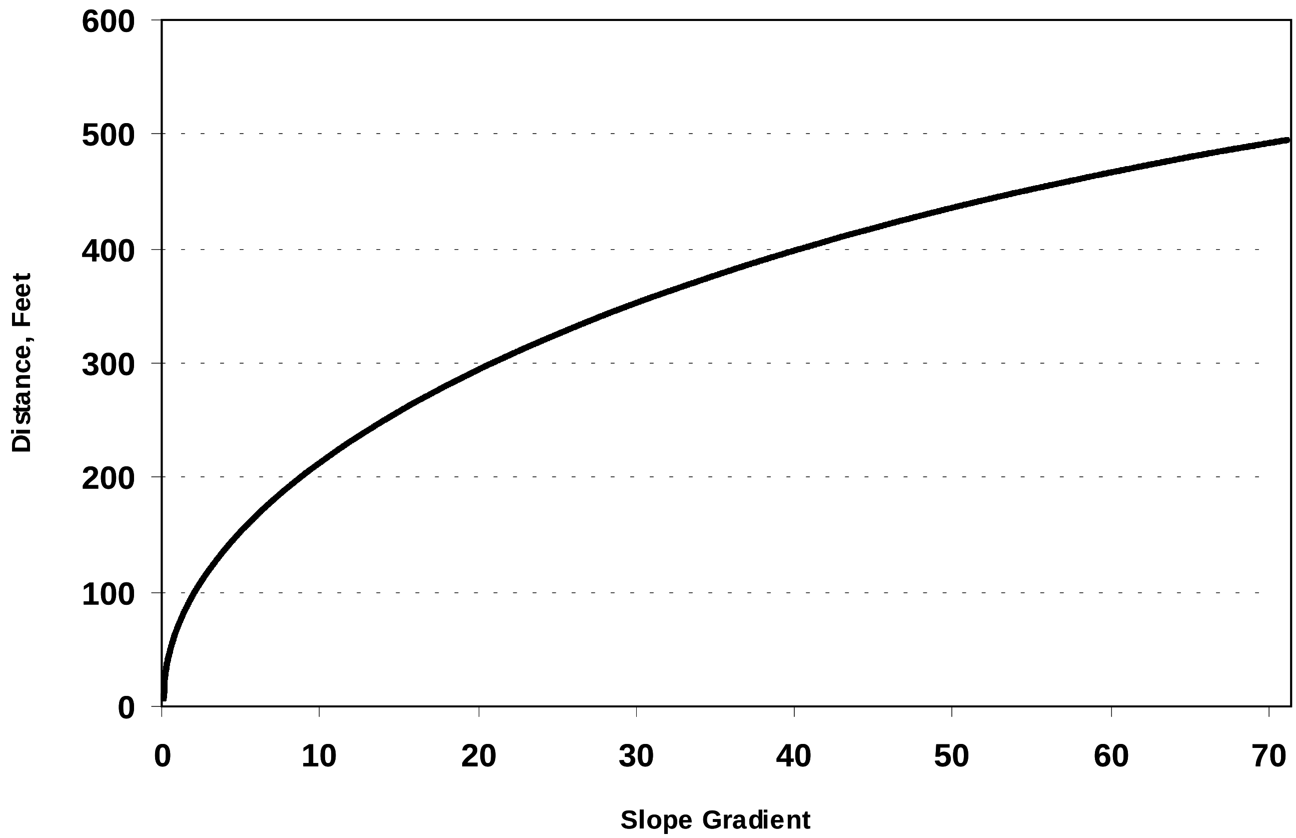

Figure I. Relationship of Slope to Sediment Distance Using Information from Ketcheson and Megahan (1996).

of transport distance were sediment volume, amount of obstructions, and source area. Volume alone accounts for 78 percent of the variance in sediment transport distance in the Megahan and Ketcheson data set, and is therefore a useful predictor of risk of sediment travel distance exceedance. Different levels of risk can be defined by varying volumes of sediment according to the distribution of the samples in the Megahan and Ketcheson data set.

To implement standard B-S42, field units can either use the relationship in Figure 1 or locally developed sediment delivery relationships to identify the sediment delivery influence area. The sediment delivery influence area is defined as the area adjacent to RCAs where sediment from management activities has a likelihood of being delivered to the RCA. Distances derived from Figure 1 are measured from the edge of the channel and the area extending beyond the RCA is the sediment delivery influence area and would be managed according to B-S42. When developing local relationships, similar concepts used to develop Figure 1 can be applied to local information (See the *Assessment of Ecosystem Components* for more detail). Important variables to consider when developing local sediment delivery relationships are slope, potential sediment volume, on the ground obstructions, soil characteristics, and sediment source. These relationships should use the best available scientific information. Distances obtained through either method are estimates and may need modification based on site level investigations.

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USFWS Matrix

A Framework To Assist In Making Endangered Species Act Determinations Of Effect For Individual Or Grouped Actions At The Bull Trout Subpopulation Watershed Scale

Prepared by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (adapted from the National Marine Fisheries Service, February 1998) This document was reformatted for the ICBEMP Supplemental Draft EIS. Content was not changed.

Overview

The following framework was designed to facilitate and standardize determinations of effect for Endangered Species Act (ESA) conferences, consultations and permits focusing on bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus).* We recommend that this framework be applied to individual actions or grouped similar activities at the 5th or 6th field Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) watershed scale. Subsequent Conference Reports or Biological Opinions that you will receive from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will address the effects of your actions at the bull trout subpopulation level. Maps of bull trout subpopulation watersheds will be provided to you for your area and generally are similar to the 4th field Hydologic Unit Code (HUC). It will be necessary for you to aggregate your 5th or 6th field HUC framework determinations to the subpopulation watershed level in any Biological Assessment that you submit.

When USFWS conducts an analysis of a proposed activity or grouped activities, it involves the following steps: (1) define the biological requirements of the listed species; (2) evaluate the relevance of the environmental baseline to the species' current status; (3) determine the effects of the proposed or continuing action(s) on listed and proposed species; and (4) determine whether all the life stages and forms of the species can be expected to survive, with an adequate potential for recovery, to be self-sustaining and self-regulating under the effects of the proposed or continuing action(s), the environmental baseline, and any cumulative effects. The last item (item 4) addresses considerations given during a jeopardy analysis. *Please recognize, however, that this framework document does not address jeopardy or identify the level of take or adverse effects which would constitute jeopardy.* Jeopardy is determined on a case by case basis involving the specific information on habitat conditions and the health and status of the fish population. USFWS is currently preparing a set of guidelines, to be used in conjunction with this document, to help in the determination of jeopardy.

This framework document provides a consistent, logical line of reasoning to aid in determining when and where adverse effects occur and why they occur. It is a framework or template to stimulate discussion among Level 1 and Interdisciplinary teams regarding the influence of important habitat variables or indicators on bull trout populations. It is not an aquatic conservation strategy. *This framework does not replace watershed analysis nor attempt to define data standards.* Using available data, results from watershed analyses, and team discussions, the framework will help the teams arrive at an ecologically defendable and trackable determination of the effects of proposed actions on the species and its habitat.

This framework document contains definitions of ESA effects and examples of effects determinations, a recommended reading list to help in understanding the importance of an indicator on bull trout, a matrix of diagnostics / pathways of effects and indicators of those effects, a checklist for documenting the environmental baseline and effects of the proposed action(s) on the relevant indicators, and a dichotomous key for making determinations of effect and documenting expected incidental take. None of the tools identified in this document are new inventions. The matrix, check list, and dichotomous key format have been adapted from the matrix, check list, and dichotomous key developed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to determine the effects of actions on listed anadromous fish species. Although some identifying words and values in this framework have been changed from those in the NMFS document, the format is very similar. The matrix developed here reflects the information needed to evaluate effects of proposed and on-going land management actions of the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Bureau of Land Management on the persistence and potential recovery of proposed / listed bull trout subpopulations. The similarity between the NMFS's document and this framework should facilitate a blending of the matrices by Level 1 teams during combined consultation / conference efforts with the two regulatory agencies, as well as formal integration of the matrices by the two agencies in the future.

Using these tools, the Federal agencies and Non-Federal Parties (both will be referred to as evaluators in the remainder of this document) can make determinations of effect for proposed projects (i.e. "no effect" / "may affect" and "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" / "may affect, likely to adversely affect") on listed and proposed species. *As explained below, these determinations of effect will depend on whether a proposed action (or group of actions) hinders the attainment of relevant environmental conditions (identified in the matrix as pathways and indicators) and further impacts the status of a bull trout subpopulation (also identified in the matrix as diagnostics and indicators), and/or results in "take" of a proposed or listed species, as defined in the ESA.*

Finally, this framework is a ***draft*** document designed to be applied to a wide range of environmental conditions. This means it must be flexible and will be refined. It also means that a certain degree of professional judgement will be required in its application. *There will be circumstances where the numeric values or descriptions in the matrix simply do not apply to a specific watershed, are unavailable, or exist in a different format. In each case, the evaluator will need to provide more ecologically appropriate values using local data when available, including data sources and techniques used, as well as provide adequate documentation and rationale (see amendment to Streamlining direction) that justify changes or deletions of a diagnostic/pathway indicator(s). All documentation must be presented in each associated biological assessment, habitat conservation plan, or other appropriate document.* This documentation will be used by USFWS in preparation of a section 7 consultation, habitat conservation plan, or other appropriate biologically based document.

Before You Begin

To facilitate effective use of the framework, it will be necessary to gather and familiarize yourself with several documents and reports ranging in scope from general bull trout life history information to specific stream reach survey information. It would be difficult to even begin to list all the important information sources that can help you better understand the biology of bull trout and its interrelationship with its environment. To begin your information search, any watershed analysis and previous biological assessments pertaining to the watershed under consideration, as well as all the maps, data findings and results, and historical accounts you can gather, will be essential information in assessing your integrated environmental and population baseline and arriving at a biologically sound effects determination.

Below are listed a few sources that may be helpful to you in your information search. Many of those recommended are referred to or cited in the framework.

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Description of the Matrix

The objective of the "Matrix of Diagnostics / Pathways and Indicators" (USFWS Table 1) is to integrate the biological and habitat conditions to arrive at a determination of the potential affect of land management activities on a proposed or listed species. This matrix is divided into seven overall diagnostics / pathways (major rows in the matrix) and a summary integration diagnostic:

Species Diagnostics
- Subpopulation Characteristics

Habitat Pathways
- Water Quality
- Habitat Access
- Habitat Elements
- Channel Condition and Dynamics
- Flow / Hydrology
- Watershed Conditions

Habitat and Species`
- Integration of Species and Habitat Condition

The above were designed to simplify arriving at an effects determination with a firm understanding of the status of the bull trout subpopulation in the watershed being considered for management activities, the environmental baseline (current condition) of the habitat, and how that subpopulation might be affected (beneficially or not) by changes in its habitat as a result of the proposed action(s). It is essential that each diagnostic / pathway be addressed.

The species diagnostic "Subpopulation Characteristics" is designed to help you evaluate the status of the bull trout subpopulation in the area of the proposed action(s) under current habitat conditions. Each of the above listed diagnostic tools relating to habitat represents a pathway by which actions can have potential effects on bull trout. It is essential to have an understanding of both the condition of the habitat and the status of the subpopulation when proposing activities that will change the environmental baseline and potential risk to the species. Integration of these diagnostics and pathways is needed to make an appropriate effects determination.

The diagnostics and pathways are further broken down into "indicators." Within the habitat pathways, indicators are generally arranged from a finer to a broader scale. For example, under the pathway "Habitat Elements", the indicators ask you to consider information from the reach level, (substrate embeddedness), to the grouped reach level (large woody debris, pool frequency and quality, large pools), to the entire stream length (off-channel habitat), and finally the complete subpopulation watershed (refugia).

Indicators are generally of two types: (1) metrics that have associated numeric values (e.g. "4 - 9 ° C"); and / or (2) descriptions (e.g. "adequate habitat refugia do not exist"). The purpose of having both types of indicators in the matrix is that numeric data are not always readily available for making determinations or there may be no reliable numeric indicator for a specific environmental or population attribute. In this case, a description of overall condition may be the only appropriate method available.

When a numeric value and a description are combined in the same cell in the matrix, it is because accurate assessment of the indicator requires attention to both. Values and descriptions are presented to stimulate discussion within Level 1 and interdisciplinary teams. They provide a diagnostic tool that should be evaluated for reliability in describing environmental functional relationships specific to the watershed you are considering for management activity. *The numeric values are not presented as absolutes nor to define data standards.* They are presented as diagnostic tools to promote discussion of differences between local data or findings and values suggested in the matrix. If local data relating to a specific indicator is not available for comparison and verification, then proposed management activities should be designed to minimize impacts to that indicator.

If a numeric indicator suggested in the matrix is not functionally attainable given the inherent characteristics of the watershed being considered or if an equivalent value is available using a different field technique, Level 1 and Interdisciplinary teams should replace the numeric value with local data and professional judgement. When this occurs, changes must be accompanied by rigorous discussion within the team, which is integrated into adequate documentation complete with supportive local data and the technique used to compile the data, and / or scientifically supported reasoning, logic, or professional judgement for the change. Likewise, if a team decides not to use all indicators in a diagnostic or pathway, the team must provide defendable and trackable documentation on why an indicator was not considered.

Diagnostics, pathways, and indicators may overlap in their scope and data components. This is to provide a cross check that ensures potential effects are viewed from more than one perspective. Likewise, it provides an avenue for integration among habitat variables and between the condition of a bull trout subpopulation and its habitat.

The columns in the matrix correspond to levels of condition of the indicator. There are three condition levels: "functioning appropriately," "functioning at risk," and "functioning at unacceptable risk." These three categories of function are defined for each indicator in the "Matrix of Diagnostics / Pathways and Indicators". In concept, indicators in a watershed are "functioning appropriately" when they maintain strong and significant populations that are interconnected and promote recovery of a proposed or listed species or its critical habitat to a status that will provide self-sustaining and self-regulating populations. When the indicators are "functioning at risk", they provide for persistence of the species but in more isolated populations and may not promote recovery of a proposed or listed species or its habitat without active or passive restoration efforts. "Functioning at unacceptable risk" suggests the proposed or listed species continues to be absent from historical habitat, or is rare or being maintained at a low population level; although the habitat may maintain the species at this low persistence level, active restoration is needed to begin recovery of the species.

Description of the Checklist

The "Checklist for Documenting Environmental Baseline and Effects of Proposed Action(s) on Relevant Indicators" (USFWS Table 2) is designed to be used in conjunction with the matrix. The checklist has six columns. The first three describe the condition of each indicator (which when taken together encompass the environmental baseline and condition of the bull trout subpopulation), and the second three describe the effects of the proposed action(s) on each indicator. As with the matrix, rigorous discussion among Level 1 or Interdisciplinary teams should occur when making checklist selections. Likewise, documentation and rationale supporting each checklist selection must be made available.

Description of the Dichotomous Key for Making ESA Determinations of Effect and Documentation of Expected Incidental Take

The "Dichotomous Key for Making ESA Determinations of Effect" (USFWS Table 3) is designed to aid in determinations of effect for proposed actions that require a section 7 consultation / conference or permit under Section 10 of the ESA. Once the matrix has been modified with watershed specific local data (if necessary) to meet the needs of the evaluators, and the checklist has been discussed and filled out, the evaluators should use the key to help make their ESA determinations of effect. If it is determined that the proposed actions will result in a "take", identify the expected "take" on the "Documentation of Expected Incidental Take" form that accompanies the Dichotomous Key.

How to Use the Matrix, Checklist, and Dichotomous Key

1. Group similar projects when possible that are proposed within a 5th or 6th field HUC watershed.

2. Using the Matrix provided (or a version modified and documented by the evaluator) **evaluate environmental baseline conditions** (mark on checklist), use all 7 pathways (identified in the matrix). Summarize the matrix in the "Habitat and Species: Integration of Habitat and Species Conditions" indicator.

3. **Evaluate effects of the proposed action** at both the 5th or 6th and watershed leverls using the matrix. Do they restore, maintain or degrade existing baseline conditions? Mark on checklist and provide written logic and rationale.

4. Take the checklist you marked and the dichotomous key and answer the questions in the key, substantiated by a written rationale and logic, **to reach a determination of effects.**

Use professional judgement, level 1 team discussions, written documentation and rationale, and the checklist to work through the dichotomous key.

(Note: Actual Matrix is USFWS Table 1. Actual Checklist in USFWS Table 2. Actual Dichotomous key in USFWS Table 3.)

Matrix of Diagnostics/Pathways and Indicators

Use to describe the environmental and subpopulation baseline conditions.

Subpopulation characteristics, water quality, habitat access, habitat elements, channel condition and dynamics, flow/ hydrology, watershed condition, integration of species, and habitat conditions .

and

Then use the same Diagnostic/Pathways and Indicators to evaluate the proposed projects on species and its habitat.

↓

Mark Results on Checklist

↓

Checklist

Environmental Baseline			Effects of the Action		
Funct. Appro-	Funct. at Risk	Funct. at Unnaccept-	Maintain	Restore	Degrade

Dichotomous Key

Yes/No
No Effect
May Effect
Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Likely to Adversely Affect

Definitions of ESA Effects Thresholds and Examples

Following are definitions of ESA effects (sources in *italics*):

"No effect"

This determination is only appropriate "if the proposed action will literally have no effect whatsoever on the species and / or critical habitat, not a small effect or an effect that is unlikely to occur." (From "*Common flaws in developing an effects determination*", Olympia Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Furthermore, actions that result in a "beneficial effect" do not qualify as a no effect determination. If a "no effect" determination is derived, conference / consultation does not need to proceed, but it is recommended that these determinations be shared within the Level 1 team. Documentation to substantiate this determination must be filed in evaluator's records.

"May affect, not likely to adversely affect"

"The appropriate conclusion when effects on the species or critical habitat are expected to be beneficial, discountable, or insignificant. Beneficial effects have contemporaneous positive effects without any adverse effects to the species or habitat. Insignificant effects relate to the size of the impact and should never reach the scale where take occurs. Discountable effects are those extremely unlikely to occur. Based on best judgement, a person would not: (1) be able to meaningfully measure, detect, or evaluate insignificant effects; or (2) expect discountable effects to occur." (From "*Draft Endangered Species Consultation Handbook; Procedures for Conducting Section 7 Consultations and Conferences,*" USFWS / NMFS, 1994). The term "negligible" has been used in many ESA consultations involving anadromous fish in the Snake River basin. The definition of this term is the same as "insignificant." Consultation / conference is required for this effect determination, but can proceed as informal.

"May affect, likely to adversely affect"

Unfortunately, there is no definition of adverse effects in the ESA or its implementing regulations. The draft Endangered Species Consultation Handbook (NMFS / USFWS, November 1994) provides this definition for "Is likely to adversely affect" - the appropriate conclusion if any adverse effect to listed species or critical habitat may occur as a direct or indirect result of the proposed action or its interrelated or interdependent actions. In the event the overall effect of the proposed action is beneficial to the listed species or critical habitat, but is also likely to cause some adverse effects, then the proposed action 'is likely to adversely affect' the listed species or critical habitat. An "is likely to adversely affect" determination requires formal section 7 consultation.

The following is a definition specific to anadromous salmonids developed by NMFS, the FS, and the BLM during the PACFISH consultation and is given as example: "Adverse effects include short or long-term, direct or indirect management-related, impacts of an individual or cumulative nature such as mortality, reduced growth or other adverse physiological changes, harassment of fish, physical disturbance of redds, reduced reproductive success, delayed or premature migration, or other adverse behavioral changes to listed anadromous salmonids at any life stage. Adverse effects to designated critical habitat include effects to any of the essential features of critical habitat that would diminish the value of the habitat for the survival and recovery of listed anadromous salmonids" (From *NMFS' Pacfish Biological Opinion, 1/23/95*). Interpretation of part of the preceding quotation has been problematic. The statement "...impacts of an individual or cumulative nature..." has often been applied only to actions and impacts, not organisms. NMFS' concern with this definition is that it does not clearly state that the described impacts include those to individual eggs or fish. However, this definition is useful if it is applied on the individual level as well as on the subpopulation and population levels.

For the purposes of Section 7, any action which has more than a negligible potential to result in "take" is likely to adversely affect a proposed / listed species. It is not possible for NMFS or USFWS to concur on a "not likely to adversely affect" determination if the proposed action will cause take of the listed species. Take can be authorized in the Incidental Take Statement of a Biological Opinion after the anticipated extent and amount of take has been described, and the effects of the take are analyzed with respect to jeopardizing the species or adversely modifying critical habitat. *Take, as defined in the ESA, clearly applies to the individual level, thus actions that have more than a negligible potential to cause take of individual eggs and/or fish are "likely to adversely affect."*

"Likely to jeopardize the continued existence of"

The regulations define jeopardy as "to engage in an action that reasonably would be expected, directly or indirectly, to reduce appreciably the likelihood of both the survival and recovery of a listed species in the wild by reducing the reproduction, numbers, or distribution of that species" (*50 CFR §402.02*).

"Take"

The ESA (Section 3) defines take as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct". The USFWS further defines "harm" to include "significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering", and "harass" as "actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering".

Examples of Effects Determinations

"No effect"

USFWS is encouraging evaluators to conference / consult at the subpopulation or watershed scale (i.e., on all proposed actions in a particular watershed or within the range of a bull trout subpopulation) rather than on individual projects. Due to the strict definition of "no effect" (above), the interrelated nature of in-stream conditions and watershed conditions, and the watershed scale of these conferences, consultations, and activities, "no effect" determinations for all actions in a watershed will be unusual when proposed / listed species are present in or downstream from a given watershed. This is reflected in the dichotomous key, however the evaluator may identify some legitimate exceptions to this general rule.

Example

The proposed project is in a watershed where available monitoring information indicates that in-stream habitat is functioning appropriately and riparian vegetation is at or near potential. The proposed activity will take place on stable soils and will not result in increased sediment production. No activity will take place in the riparian zone and no listed / proposed species or designated critical habitat exist in the watershed or immediately downstream of the watershed where the activity will take place.

"May affect, not likely to adversely affect"

Example

The proposed action is in a watershed where bull trout exists. Available monitoring information indicates that in-stream habitat is functioning appropriately and riparian vegetation is at or near potential. Past monitoring indicates that this type of action has led to the present condition (i.e., timely recovery has been achieved with the kind of management proposed in the action). No activity will take place in the riparian zone. Given available information, the potential for take to occur is negligible.

"May affect, likely to adversely affect"

Example

The proposed action is in a watershed that has a remnant resident population of bull trout in very low numbers and the migratory form is no longer present. The watershed is in relatively good condition, however a few in-stream indicators show degradation, such as excess fine sediment, moderate cobble embeddedness, and poor pool frequency / quality. If the action will further degrade any of these indicators, the determination is clearly "likely to adversely affect".

A less obvious example would be a proposed action in the same watershed that is designed to improve baseline conditions, such as road obliteration or culvert repair. Even though the intent is to improve the degraded conditions over the long-term, if any short-term impacts (such as temporary sedimentation) will cause take (adverse effects), then the determination is "likely to adversely affect."

Sample Species Narrative

*Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus)

Endangered Species Act Status: Proposed threatened Columbia River population segment and endangered Klamath River population segment, June 10, 1997. All life forms are included in this proposal.

Description

For years, the bull trout and Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma* Girard) were combined under one name, the Dolly Varden (*Salvelinus malma* Walbaum). In 1991, with the support of the American Fisheries Society, they became two distinct species. A couple of the most useful characteristics in separating the two species are the shape and size of the head (Cavender 1978). The head of a bull trout is more broad and flat on top, being hard to the touch, unlike Dolly Varden. Bull trout have an elongated body, somewhat rounded and slightly compressed laterally, and covered with cycloid scales numbering 190-240 along the lateral line. The mouth is large with the maxilla extending beyond the eye and with well developed teeth on both jaws and head of the vomer (none on the shaft). Bull trout have 11 dorsal fin rays, 9 anal fins, and the caudal fin is slightly forked. Although they are often olive green to brown with paler sides, color is variable with locality and habitat. Their spotting pattern is easily recognizable showing pale yellow spots on the back, and pale yellow and orange or red spots on the sides. Bull trout fins are tinged with yellow or orange, while the pelvic, pectoral, and anal fins have white margins. There should be no black or dark markings on the fins.

Historical and Current Distribution

The historical range of bull trout was restricted to North America (Cavender 1978; Haas and McPhail 1991). Bull trout have been recorded from the McCloud River in northern California, the Klamath River basin in Oregon and throughout much of interior Oregon, Washington, Idaho, western Montana, and British Columbia, and extended into Hudson Bay and the St. Mary's River Saskatchiwan. Bull trout are believed to be a glacial relict (McPhail and Lindsey 1986), and their broad distribution has probably contracted and expanded periodically with natural climate change (Williams and others, in press). Genetic variation suggests an extended and evolutionarily important isolation between populations in the Klamath and Malheur Basins and those in the Columbia River basin (Leary and others 1993). Populations within the Columbia River basin are more closely allied and are thought to have expanded from common glacial refugia or to have maintained higher levels of gene flow among populations in recent geologic time (Williams and others, in press).

It is unlikely that bull trout occupied all of the accessible streams at any one time. Distribution of existing populations is often patchy even where numbers are still strong and habitat is in good condition (Rieman and McIntyre 1993; Rieman and McIntyre 1995). Habitat preferences or selection is likely important (Dambacher and others, in press; Goetz 1994; Rieman and McIntyre 1995); but more stochastic extirpation and colonization processes may influence distribution even within suitable habitats (Rieman and McIntyre 1995).

Even though bull trout may move throughout whole river basins seasonally, spawning and juvenile rearing appear to be limited to the coldest streams or stream reaches. The lower limits of habitat used by bull trout are strongly associated with gradients in elevation, longitude, and latitude, that likely approximate a gradient in climate across the Basin (Goetz 1994). The patterns indicate that spatial and temporal variation in climate may strongly influence habitat available to bull trout (see Meisner 1990 for an example with brook trout). While temperatures are probably suitable throughout much of the northern portion of the range, predicted spawning and rearing habitat are restricted to increasingly isolated high elevation or headwater "islands" toward the south (Goetz 1994; Rieman and McIntyre 1995).

Bull trout are now extinct in California and only remnant populations are found in much of Oregon (Ratliff and Howell 1992). A small population still exists in the headwaters of the Jarbidge River, Nevada which represents the present southern limit of the species range. Bull trout are known or predicted to occur in 45 percent of watersheds in the historical range and to be absent in 55 percent.

Migratory life histories have been lost or limited throughout the range (for example, Goetz 1994; Jakober 1995; Montana Bull Trout Scientific Committee, in preparation; Pratt and Huston 1993; Ratliff and Howell 1992; Rieman and McIntyre 1993, 1995). There is evidence of declining trends in some populations (Mauser and others 1988; Pratt and Huston 1993; Schill 1992; Weaver 1992) and extirpations of local populations are reportedly widespread.

Life History Characteristics

Bull trout spawn from August through November (McPhail and Murray 1979; Pratt 1992). Hatching may occur in winter or early spring, but alevins may stay in the gravel for an extended period after yolk absorption (McPhail and Murray 1979). Growth, maturation, and longevity vary with environment, first spawning is often noted after age four, with individuals living 10 or more years (Rieman and McIntyre 1993).

Two distinct life-history forms, migratory and resident, occur throughout the range of bull trout (Pratt 1992; Rieman and McIntyre 1993). Migratory forms rear in natal tributaries before moving to larger rivers (fluvial form) or lakes (adfluvial form) or the ocean (anadromous) to mature. Migratory bull trout may use a wide range of habitats ranging from 2nd to 6th order streams and varying by season and life stage. Seasonal movements may range up to 300 km as migratory fish move from spawning and rearing areas into overwinter habitat in downstream reaches of large basins (Bjornn and Mallet 1964; Elle and others 1994). The resident form may be restricted to headwater streams throughout life. Both forms are believed to exist together in some areas, but migratory fish may dominate populations where corridors and subadult rearing areas are in good condition (Rieman and McIntyre 1993).

Habitat Relationships

Bull trout appear to have more specific habitat requirements than other salmonids (Rieman and McIntyre 1993). Habitat characteristics including water temperature, stream size, substrate composition, cover and hydraulic complexity have been associated with the distribution and abundance (Dambacher and other, in press; Jakober 1995; Rieman and McIntyre 1993).

Stream temperatures and substrate composition may be particularly important characteristics of suitable habitats. Bull trout have repeatedly been associated with the coldest stream reaches within basins. Goetz (1994) did not find juvenile bull trout in water temperatures above 12.0°C. The best bull trout habitat in several other Oregon streams was where water temperature seldom exceeded 15°C (Buckman et al. 1992; Ratliff 1992; Ziller 1992). Temperature also appears to be a critical factor in the spawning and early life history of bull trout. Bull trout in Montana spawned when temperatures dropped below 9 to 10°C (Fraley and Shepard 1989). McPhail and Murray (1979) reported 9°C as the threshold temperature to initiate spawning for British Columbia bull trout. Temperatures fell below 9°C before spawning began in the Metolius River, Oregon (Riehle 1993). Survival of bull trout eggs varies with water temperature (McPhail and Murray 1979). They reported that 0-20%, 60-90%, and 80-95% of the bull trout eggs from British Columbia survived to hatching in water temperatures of 8-10°C, 6°C, and 2-4°C, respectively. Weaver and White (1985) found that 4-6°C was needed for egg development for Montana bull trout. Temperature may be strongly influenced by land management (Henjum and others 1994) and climate change; both effects may play an important role in the persistence of bull trout.

Bull trout are more strongly tied to the stream bottom and substrate than other salmonids (Pratt 1992). Substrate composition has repeatedly been correlated with the occurrence and abundance of juvenile bull trout (Dambacher and others in press; Rieman and McIntyre 1993) and spawning site selection by adults (Graham and others 1981; McPhail and Murray 1979). Fine sediments can influence incubation survival and emergence success (Weaver and White 1985), but might also limit access to substrate interstices that are important cover during rearing and overwintering (Goetz 1994; Jakober 1995).

Key Factors

Angling is a factor influencing the current status of bull trout. Bull trout may be vulnerable to overharvest (Ratliff and Howell 1992; Rieman and Lukens 1979). Poaching is viewed as an important cause of mortality, especially in accessible streams that support large migratory fish (N. Horner, Idaho Department of Fish and Game and J. Vasho, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, pers. comm.).

Watershed disruption is a second factor that has played a role in the decline of bull trout. Changes in or disruptions of watershed processes likely to influence characteristics of stream channels are also likely to influence the dynamics and persistence of bull trout populations. Bull trout have been more strongly associated with pristine of only lightly disturbed basins (Brown 1992; Clancy 1993; Cross and Everest 1995; Dambacher and others, in press; Huntington 1995; Ratliff and Howell 1992).

Patterns of stream flow and the frequency of extreme flow events that influence substrates are anticipated to be important factors in population dynamics (Rieman and McIntyre 1993). With overwinter incubation and a close tie to the substrate, embryos and juveniles may be particularly vulnerable to flooding and channel scour associated with the rain-on-snow events common in some parts of the range within the belt geography of northern Idaho and northwestern Montana (Rieman and McIntyre 1993). Channel dewatering tied to low flows and bed aggradation has also blocked access for spawning fish resulting in year class failures (Weaver 1992).

Changes in sediment delivery, aggradation and scour, wood loading, riparian canopy and shading or other factors influencing stream temperatures, and the hydrologic regime (winter flooding and summer low flow) are all likely to affect some, if not most, populations. Significant long-term changes in any of these characteristics or processes represent important risks for many remaining bull trout populations. Populations are likely to be most sensitive to changes that occur in headwater areas encompassing critical spawning and rearing habitat and remnant resident populations.

Introduced species are a third factor influencing bull trout. More than 30 introduced species occur within the present distribution of bull trout. Some introductions like kokanee may benefit bull trout by providing forage (Bowles and others 1991). Others such as brown, brook, and lake trout are thought to have depressed or replaced bull trout populations (Dambacher and others, in press; Donald and Alger 1992; Howell and Buchanan 1992; Kanda and others, in press; Leary and others 1993; Ratliff and Howell 1992). Brook trout are seen as an especially important problem (Kanda and others, in press; Leary and others 1993) and may progressively displace bull trout through hybridization and higher reproductive potential (Leary and others 1993). Brook trout now occur in the majority of the watersheds representing the current range of bull trout. Introduced species may pose greater risks to native species where habitat disturbance has occurred (Hobbs and Huenneke 1992).

Isolation and fragmentation are the fourth factor likely to influence the status of bull trout. Historically bull trout populations were well connected throughout the Basin. Habitat available to bull trout has been fragmented, and in may cases populations have been isolated entirely. Dams have isolated whole subbasins throughout the Basin (see for example, Brown 1992; Kanda and other, in press; Pratt and Huston 1993; Rieman and McIntyre 1995). Irrigation diversions, culverts, and degraded mainstem habitats have eliminated or seriously depressed migratory life histories effectively isolating resident populations in headwater tributaries (Brown 1992; Montana Bull Trout Scientific Committee, in preparation; Ratliff and Howell 1992; Rieman and McIntyre 1993). Introduced species like brook trout may displace bull trout in lower stream reaches further reducing the habitat available in many remaining headwater areas (Adams 1994; Leary and others 1993). Loss of suitable habitat through watershed disturbance may also increase the distance between good or refuge habitats and strong populations thus reducing the likelihood of effective dispersal (Frissell and others 1993).

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USFWS Table 1. Matrix of Diagnostics/Pathways and Indicators.

The values of criteria presented here are NOT absolute. They may be adjusted for local watersheds given supportive documentation.

Diagnostic or Pathway	Indicators	Functioning Appropriately	Functioning at Risk	Functioning at Unacceptable Risk
Species				
Subpopulation Characteristics Within Subpopulation Watersheds	Subpopulation Size	Mean total subpopulation size or local habitat capacity more than several thousand individuals. All life stages evenly represented in the subpopulation.[1]	Adults in subpopulation are <500 but >50.[1]	Adults in subpopulation are <50.[1]
	Growth and Survival	Subpopulation has the resilience to recover from short-term disturbances (e.g., catastrophic events, etc.) or subpopulation declines within 1 to 2 generations (5 to 10 years).[1] The subpopulation is characterized as increasing or stable. At least 10 years of data support this estimate.[2]	When disturbed, the subpopulation will not recover to predisturbance conditions within 1 generation (5 years). Survival or growth rates have been reduced from those in the best habitats. The subpopulation is reduced in size, but the reduction does not represent a long-term trend.[1] At least 10 years of data support this characterization.[2] If less data are available and a trend cannot be confirmed, a subpopulation will be considered at risk until enough data are available to accurately determine its trend.	The subpopulation is in rapid decline or is maintaining at alarmingly low numbers. Under current management, the subpopulation condition will not improve within 2 generations (5 to 10 years).[1] This is supported by a minimum of 5 years of data.
	Life History Diversity and Isolation	The migratory form is present and the subpopulation exists in close proximity to other spawning and rearing groups. Migratory corridors and rearing habitat (lake or larger river) are in good to excellent condition for the species. Neighboring subpopulations are large with high likelihood of producing surplus individuals or straying adults that will mix with other subpopulation groups.[1]	The migratory form is present but the subpopulation is not close to other subpopulations or habitat disruption has produced a strong correlation among subpopulations that do exist in proximity to each other.[1]	The migratory form is absent and the subpopulation is isolated to the local stream or a small watershed not likely to support more than 2,000 fish.[1]
	Persistence and Genetic Integrity	Connectivity is high among multiple (5 or more) subpopulations with at least several thousand fish each. Each of the relevant subpopulations has a low risk of extinction.[1] The probability of hybridization or displacement by competitive species is low to nonexistent.	Connectivity among multiple subpopulations does occur, but habitats are more fragmented. Only one or two of the subpopulations represent most of the fish production.[1] The probability of hybridization or displacement by competitive species is imminent, although few documented cases have occurred.	Little or no connectivity remains for refounding subpopulations in low numbers, in decline, or nearing extinction. Only a single subpopulation or several local populations that are very small or that otherwise are at high risk remain.[1] Competitive species readily displace bull trout. The probability of hybridization is high and documented cases have occurred.
Habitat				
Water Quality	Temperature	Seven-day average maximum temperature in a reach during the following life history stages:[1,3] incubation 2 - 5°C rearing 4 - 12 °C spawning 4 - 9°C also temperatures do not exceed 15°C in areas used by adults during migration (no thermal barriers).	Seven-day average maximum temperature in a reach during the following life history stages:[1,3] incubation <2°C or 6°C rearing <4°C or 13 - 15 °C spawning <4°C or 10°C also temperatures in areas used by adults during migration sometimes exceeds 15°C.	Seven-day average maximum temperature in a reach during the following life history stages:[1,3] incubation <1°C or >6°C rearing >15 °C spawning <4 °C or > 10°C also temperatures in areas used by adults during migration regularly exceed 15°C (thermal barriers present).

	Sediment (In areas of spawning and incubation; rearing areas will be addressed under "substrate embeddedness.")	Similar to chinook salmon[1]: for example, < 12% fines (<0.85mm) in gravel[7]; <20% surface fines of <6mm.[5,6]	Similar to chinook salmon[1]: for example, 12-17% fines (<0.85mm) in gravel[7]; 12-20% surface fines.[7]	Similar to chinook salmon[1]: for example, >17% fines (<0.85mm) in gravel[7]; >20% fines at surface or depth in spawning habitat.[7]
	Chemical Contamination/Nutrients	Low levels of chemical contamination from agricultural, industrial, and other sources; no excess nutrients, no CWA 303d designated reaches.[8]	Moderate levels of chemical contamination from agricultural, industrial, and other sources; some excess nutrients, 1 CWA 303d designated reach.[8]	High levels of chemical contamination from agricultural, industrial, and other sources; high levels of excess nutrients, more than 1 CWA 303d designated reach.[8]
Habitat Access	Physical Barriers (Address subsurface flows impeding fish passage under the pathway "flow/hydrology.")	Man-made barriers present in watershed allow upstream and downstream fish passage at all flows.	Man-made barriers present in watershed do not allow upstream and/or downstream fish passage at base/low flows.	Man-made barriers present in watershed do not allow upstream and/or downstream fish passage at a range of flows.
Habitat Elements	Substrate Embeddedness in Rearing Areas (Spawning and incubation areas were addressed under the indicator "sediment.")	Reach embeddedness <20%.[9,10]	Reach embeddedness 20-30%.[9,10]	Reach embeddedness >30%.[4,10]
	Large Woody Debris	Current values are being maintained at >80 pieces/mile that are >24 inces diameter and >50 feet length on the coast;[9] or >20 pieces/mile >12 inces diameter >35 feet length on the eastside;[11] also adequate sources of woody debris are available for both long- and short-term recruitment.	Current levels are being maintained at minimum levels desired for "functioning appropriately," but potential sources for long-term woody debris recruitment are lacking to maintain these minimum values.	Current levels are not at those desired values for "functioning appropriately," and potential sources of woody debris for short- and/or long-term recruitment are lacking.
	Pool Frequency and Quality	Pool frequency in a reach closely approximates:[6] Wetted width (feet) #pools/mile 0 - 5 39 5 - 10 60 10 - 15 48 15 - 20 39 20 - 30 23 30 - 35 18 35 - 40 10 40 - 65 9 65 - 100 4 (Can use formula: pools/mi = 5,280/wetted channel width # channel widths per pool); also, pools have good cover and cool water[4], and only minor reduction of pool volume by fine sediment.	Pool frequency is similar to values in "functioning appropriately," but pools have inadequate cover/temperature,[4] and/or there has been a moderate reduction of pool volume by fine sediment.	Pool frequency is considerably lower than values desired for "functioning appropriately;" also cover/temperature is inadequate,[4] and there has been a major reduction of pool volume by fine sediment.
	Large Pools (In adult holding, juvenile rearing, and overwintering reaches where streams are >3m in wetted width at baseflow.)	Each reach has many large pools >1 meter deep.[4]	Reaches have few large pools (>1 meter) present.[4]	Reaches have no deep pools (>1 meter).[4]
	Off-channel Habitat (See reference 18 for identification of these characteristics.)	Watershed has many ponds, oxbows, backwaters, and other off-channel areas with cover; and side-channels are low energy areas.[4]	Watershed has some ponds, oxbows, backwaters, and other off-channel areas with cover; but side-channels are generally high energy areas.[4]	Watershed has few or no ponds, oxbows, backwaters, or other off-channel areas[4]

USFWS Table 1. Matrix of Diagnostics/Pathways and Indicators. (continued)

The values of criteria presented here are NOT absolute. They may be adjusted for local watersheds given supportive documentation.

Diagnostic or Pathway	Indicators	Functioning Appropriately	Functioning at Risk	Functioning at Unacceptable Risk
	Refugia (See Checklist footnotes for definition of this indicator.)	Habitats capable of supporting strong and significant populations are protected and are well distributed and connected for all life stages and forms of the species.[12, 13]	Habitats capable of supporting strong and significant populations are insufficient in size, number, and connectivity to maintain all life stages and forms of the species.[12, 13]	Adequate habitat refugia do not exist.[12]
Channel Condition & Dynamics	Average Wetted Width/Maximum Depth Ratio in Scour Pools in a Reach	<10[7, 5]	11 - 20[5]	>20[5]
	Streambank Condition	>80% of any stream reach has >90% stability.[5]	50 - 80% of any stream reach has >90% stability.[5]	<50% of any stream reach has >90% stability.[5]
	Floodplain Connectivity	Off-channel areas are frequently hydrologically linked to main channel; overbank flows occur and maintain wetland functions, riparian vegetation, and succession.	Reduced linkage of wetland, floodplains, and riparian areas to main channel; overbank flows are reduced relative to historical frequency, as evidenced by moderate degradation of wetland function, riparian vegetation/succession.	Severe reduction in hydrologic connectivity between off-channel, wetland, floodplain and riparian areas; wetland extent drastically reduced and riparian vegetation/succession altered significantly.
Flow/Hydrology	Change in Peak/Base Flows	Watershed hydrograph indicates peak flow, base flow, and flow timing characteristics comparable to an undisturbed watershed of similar size, geology, and geography.	Some evidence of altered peak flow, baseflow and/or flow timing relative to an undisturbed watershed of similar size, geology, and geography.	Pronounced changes in peak flow, baseflow and/or flow timing relative to an undisturbed watershed of similar size, geology, and geography.
	Increase in Drainage Network	Zero or minimum increases in active channel length correlated with human caused disturbance.	Low to moderate increase in active channel length correlated with human caused disturbance.	Greater than moderate increase in active channel length correlated with human caused disturbance.
Watershed Conditions	Road Density & Location	<1 mi/mi^2,[13] no valley bottom roads	1 - 2.4 mi/mi^2,[13] some valley bottom roads.	>2.4 mi/mi^2,[13] many valley bottom roads.
	Disturbance History	<15% ECA of entire watershed with no concentration of disturbance in unstable or potentially unstable areas, and/or refugia, and/or riparian area. For NWFP area there is an additional criteria of 15% LSOG in watersheds.[14]	<15% ECA of entire watershed but disturbance concentrated in unstable or potentially unstable areas, and/or refugia, and/or riparian area; and for NWFP area there is an additional criteria of 15% LSOG in watersheds.[14]	>15% ECA of entire watershed and disturbance concentrated in unstable or potentially unstable areas, and/or refugia, and/or riparian area; does not meet NWFP standard for LSOG.
	Riparian Conservation Areas (RHCA - PACFISH and INFISH) (Riparian Reserves - Northwest Forest Plan)	The Riparian Conservation Areas provide adequate shade, large woody debris recruitment, habitat protection, connectivity in subwatersheds, and buffers or include known refugia for sensitive aquatic species (>80% intact) and adequately buffer impacts on rangelands: percent similarity of riparian vegetation to the potential natural community/composition >50%.[15]	Moderate loss of connectivity or function (shade, LWD recruitment, etc.) of riparian conservation areas, or incomplete protection of habitats and refugia for sensitive aquatic species (70-80% intact), and adequately buffer impacts on rangelands: percent similarity of riparian vegetation to the potential natural community/composition 25-50% or better.[15]	Riparian conservation areas are fragmented, poorly connected, or provides inadequate protection of habitats for sensitive aquatic species (<70% intact, refugia does not occur), and adequately buffer impacts on rangelands: percent similarity of riparian vegetation to the potential natural community/composition <25%.[15]

	Disturbance Regime	Environmental disturbance is short lived; predictable hydrograph, high quality habitat and watershed complexity providing refuge and rearing space for all life stages or multiple life-history forms.[1] Natural processes are stable.	Scour events, debris torrents, or catastrophic fire are localized events that occur in several minor parts of the watershed. Resiliency of habitat to recover from environmental disturbances is moderate.	Frequent flood or drought producing highly variable and unpredictable flows, scour events, debris torrents, or high probability of catastrophic fire exists throughout a major part of the watershed. The channel is simplified, providing little hydraulic complexity in the form of pools or side channels.[1] Natural processes are unstable.
Species and Habitat				
Integration of Species and Habitat Conditions		Habitat quality and connectivity among subpopulations is high. The migratory form is present. Disturbance has not altered channel equilibrium. Fine sediments and other habitat characteristics influencing survival or growth are consistent with pristine habitat. The subpopulation has the resilience to recover from short-term disturbance within 1 to 2 generations (5 to 10 years). The subpopulation is fluctuating around an equilibrium or is growing.[1]	Fine sediments, stream temperatures, or the availability of suitable habitats have been altered and will not recover to predisturbance conditions within one generation (5 years). Survival or growth rates have been reduced from those in the best habitats. The subpopulation is reduced in size, but the reduction does not represent a long-term trend. The subpopulation is stable or fluctuating in a downward trend. Connectivity among subpopulations occurs but habitats are more fragmented.[1]	Cumulative disruption of habitat has resulted in a clear declining trend in the subpopulation size. Under current management, habitat conditions will not improve within two generations (5 to 10 years). Little or no connectivity remains among subpopulations. The subpopulation survival and recruitment responds sharply to normal environmental events.[1]

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[7] Biological Opinion on Land and Resource Management Plans for the: Boise, Challis, Nez Perce, Payette, Salmon, Sawtooth, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. March 1, 1995.

[8] A Federal Agency Guide for Pilot Watershed Analysis (Version 1.2), 1994.

[9] Biological Opinion on Implementation of Interim Strategies for Managing Anadromous Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, and Portions of California (PACFISH). National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, January 23, 1995.

USFWS Table 2. Checklist for Documenting Environmental Baseline and Effect of Proposed Action(s) on Relevant Indicators.

Diagnostics/ Pathways	Environmental Baseline			Effects of the Action(s)			
Indicators	**Functioning Properly**	**Functioning at Risk**	**Functioning at Unaccept-able Risk**	**Restore[1]**	**Maintain[2]**	**Degrade[3]**	**Compliance with ACS**
Subpopulation Characteristics							
Growth and Survival							
Life History Diversity and Isolation							
Persistence and Genetic Integrity							
Water Quality							
Temperature							
Sediment							
Chemical Contam./Nutrients							
Habitat Access							
Physical Barriers							
Habitat Elements							
Substrate Embeddedness							
Large Wood Debris							
Pool Frequency and Quality							
Pool Quality							
Off-Channel Habitat							
Refugia[4]							
Channel Cond. & Dynamics							
Wetted Width/Max. Depth Ratio							
Stream Bank Cond.							
Floodplain Connectivity							
Flow Hydrology							
Change in Peak/Base Flows							
Drainage Network Increase							
Watershed Conditions							
Road Density & Location							
Disturbance History							
Riparian Conservation Areas							
Disturbance Regime							
Watershed Name:			**Location:**				

USFWS Table 2. Checklist for Documenting Environmental Baseline and Effect of Proposed Action(s) on Relevant Indicators. (continued)

[1] For the purposes of this checklist, "restore" means to change the function of a "functioning at risk" indicator to "functioning appropriately", or to change the function of a "functioning at unacceptable risk" indicator to "functioning at risk" or "functioning appropriately" (i.e., it does not apply to "functioning appropriately" indicators). Restoration from a worse to a better condition does not negate the need to consult/confer if take will occur.

[2] For the purposes of this checklist, "maintain" means that the function of an indicator does not change (i.e., it applies to all indicators regardless of functional level).

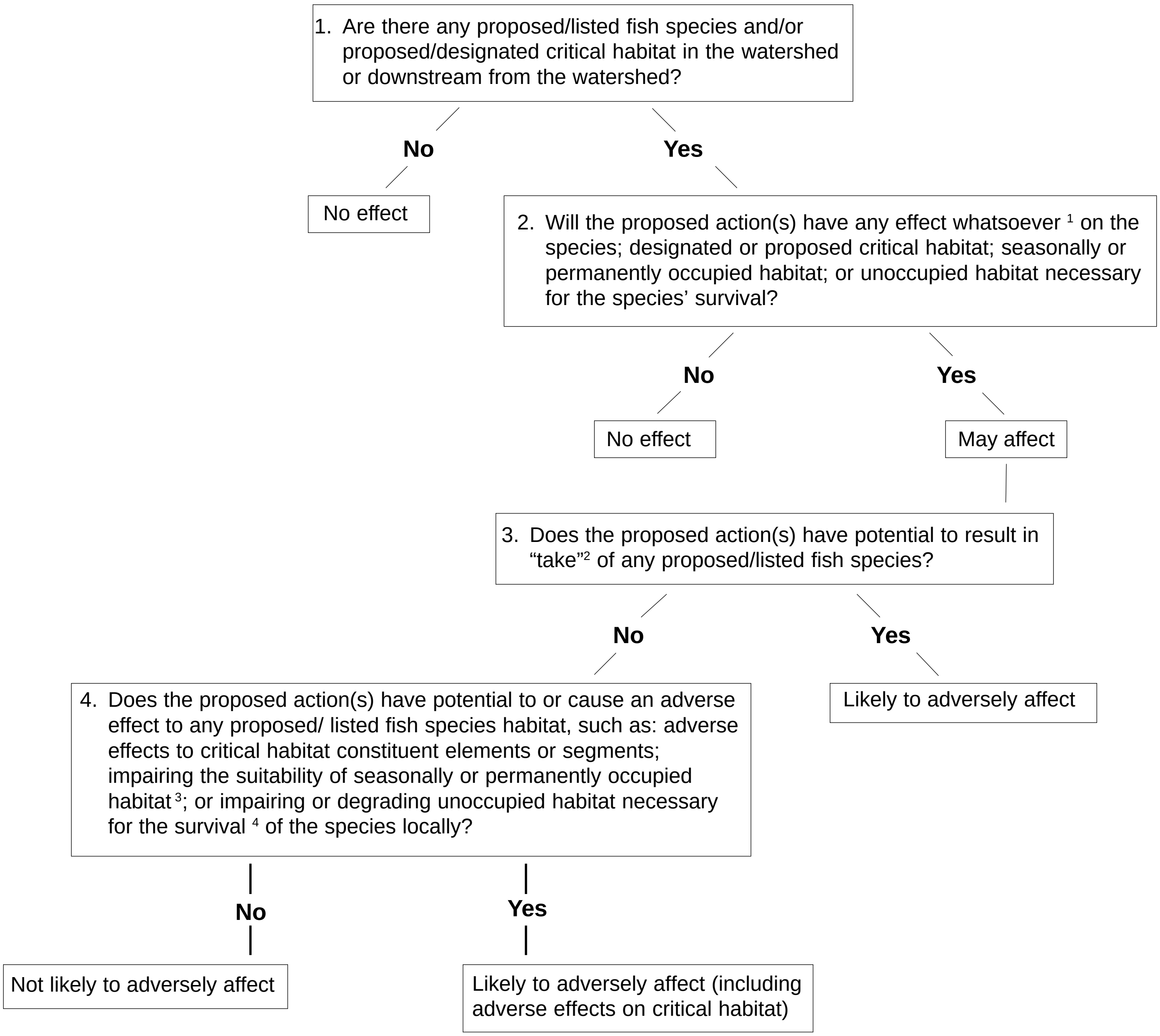
[3] For the purposes of this checklist, "degrade" means to change the function of an indicator for the worse (i.e., it applies to all indicators regardless of functional level). In some cases, a "functioning at unacceptable risk" indicator may be further worsened, and this should be noted.

[4] Refugia = watersheds or large areas with minimal human disturbance having relatively high quality water and fish habitat, or having the potential of providing high quality water and fish habitat with the implementation of restoration efforts. These high quality water and fish habitats are well distributed and connected within the watershed or large area to provide for both biodiversity and stable populations.

Adapted from discussions on "Stronghold Watersheds and Unroaded Areas" in Lee, D.C., J.R. Sedell, B.E. Rieman, R.F. Thurow, J.E. Williams and others. 1997. Chapter 4: Broadscale Assessment of Aquatic Species and Habitats. In T.M. Quigley and S. J. Arbelbide eds "An Assessment of Ecosystem Components in the Interior Columbia Basin and Portions of the Klamath and Great Basins Volume III". U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Gen Tech Rep PNW-GTR-405.

USFWS Table 3. Dichotomous Key for Making ESA Determination of Effects.

Circle the conclusion at which you arrive:



[1] **"Any effect whatsoever"** includes small effects, effects that are unlikely to occur, and beneficial effects (all of which are recognized as "may effect" determinations). A **"no effect**" determination is only appropriate if the proposed action **will literally have no effect whatsoever** on the species and/or critical habitat, **not** a small effect, an effect that is unlikely to occur, or a beneficial effect.

[2] **"Take"** - The ESA (Section 3) defines take as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct". The USFWS (USFWS, 1994) further defines "harm" as "significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering", and "harass" as "actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering".

[3] Action(s) with potential to hinder attainment of relevant "**functioning appropriately indicators**" (from USFWS Table 2) may result in an adverse affect determination due to negative effects on habitat. This may indicate harm or harassment take of the species or adverse effects to habitat necessary for survival of the species locally (i.e. potential for adverse affect w/o take, or adversely affecting critical habitat).

[4] **Survival** - The species persistence, as listed or as a recovery unit, beyond the conditions leading to its endangerment, with sufficient resilience to allow recovery from endangerment. This condition is characterized by a species with a sufficiently large population, represented by all necessary age classes, genetic heterogeneity, and number of sexually mature individuals producing viable offspring, which exists in an environment providing all requirements for completion of the species' entire life cycle, including reproduction, sustenance, and shelter (USDI and USDC 1998).

Documentation of Expected Incidental Take

Name and location of action(s):______________________ Species:______________

1. The proposed action may result in incidental take through which of the following mechanisms (circle as appropriate)?

   Harm: Significant impairment of behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding, sheltering, and others (identify).

   Harass: Significant disruption of normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, sheltering, or others (identify).

   Pursue, Hunt, Shoot, Wound, Capture, Trap, Collect.

2. What is the approximate duration of the effects of the proposed action(s) resulting in incidental take?

3. Which of the following life stages will be subject to incidental take (circle as appropriate)?

   Fertilization to emergence (incubation)

   Juvenile rearing to adulthood

   Adult holding and overwintering

   Adults spawning

   Adults migrating

4. Which life form and subpopulation status are present in the watershed or downstream of the watershed where the activities will take place (circle as appropriate)?

Life Form:	Subpopulation status:
Resident	**Stronghold population**
Adfluvial	Depressed population
Fluvial	
Anadromous	

5. What is the location of the expected incidental take due to the proposed action(s)?

   Basin and watershed:

   Stream reach and habitat units:

6. Quantify your expected incidental take:

   Length stream affected (miles):

   Individuals (if known):

USFWS Appendix A

Examples of Influences of Human Activities on Aquatic Ecosystems

The following, except the section on water temperature, are excerpts generally from two sources: 1. "An Assessment of Ecosystem Components in the Interior Columbia Basin and Portions of the Klamath and Great Basins, Volume III, Chapter 4, 1997, (referred to as Lee and others 1997), and 2) Rieman and McIntyre 1993. These descriptions are generated to stimulate biologist's thought and Level 1 team discussion on evaluation of all the diagnostics / pathways through which habitat degradation could occur and aquatic populations can be altered. *These examples are not all inclusive.* We recommend that biologists review all the recommended reports and papers suggested on page 8 and use them to gain a more complete insight into each indicator listed in the matrix. The Interior Columbia Basin Assessment can be acquired from the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station, 3200 SW Jefferson Way, Corvallis, OR 97331.

Channel Stability

(Excerpts from Rieman and McIntyre 1993)

"Young bull trout are closely associated with stream channel substrates. Incubation occurs over a prolonged period through the winter. Juvenile fish are found in close association with the bottom of the channel, often using substrate for cover (Fraley and Shepard 1989; Oliver 1979; Pratt 1984; Shepard and others 1984b). The association with substrate appears more important for bull trout than for other species (Nakano and others 1992; Pratt 1984).

The extended tie to substrate and the presence of embryos and alevins in substrate during winter and spring suggests that highly variable stream flows, bed load movements, and channel instability will influence the survival of young bull trout (Goetz 1989; Weaver 1985). The embryos and young of fish that spawn in the fall are particularly vulnerable to flooding and scouring during winter and early spring (Elwood and Waters 1969; Seegrist and Gard 1972; Wickett 1958) and to low winter flows or freezing within the substrate." "Low habitat complexity, the frequency of bed load scour and the frequency of low flows may be aggravated by watershed disruption and problems of channel instability in many bull trout streams."

Channel Substrate

(Excerpts from Rieman and McIntyre 1993)

"Increased sediments reduce pool depth, alter substrate composition, reduce interstitial space, and cause channels to braid (Beschta and Platts 1986; Clifton 1989; Everest and others 1987; Lisle 1982; Megahan and others 1980). Initial work on the influence of fine sediments (Shepard and others 1984a; Weaver and White 1985) suggested that incubating bull trout embryos tolerated fine sediments (less than 6.35 millimeters) better than cutthroat trout, steelhead trout, and brook trout. Their tolerance appeared similar to that of chinook salmon (Hausle and Coble 1976; Irving and Bjornn 1984; Tappel and Bjornn 1983). More recent work (Weaver and Fraley 1991), however, indicated that any increase in fine sediments reduces survival. Others have found that when the percent of fine sediments in the substrate was higher, rearing bull trout were also less abundant (Leathe and Enk 1985; McPhail and Murray 1979; Shepard and others 1984a; Weaver and Fraley 1991)." "Spawners may also "select" sites where substrate is not highly compacted (Graham and others 1981; McPhail and Murray 1979).

It is difficult to predict how much a particular change in substrate composition will affect survival for any salmonid (Chapman 1988; Everest and others 1987; Weaver and Fraley 1991). Some substrates are more likely to accumulate fines than others, and some populations probably are more sensitive than others. In the absence of detailed local information on population habitat dynamics, any increase in the proportion of fines in substrates should be considered a risk to productivity of an environment and to the persistence of associated bull trout populations."

Cover

(Excerpts from Rieman and McIntyre 1993)

"Bull trout usually associate with complex forms of cover and with pools. Juveniles live close to in-channel wood, substrate, or undercut banks (Goetz 1991; Pratt 1984, 1992). Young-of-the-year bull trout use side channels, stream margins, and other areas of low velocity. Older fish use pools (Hoelscher and Bjornn 1989; Pratt 1984) and areas with large or complex woody debris and undercut banks (Graham and others 1981; Oliver 1979; Pratt 1985; Shepard and others 1984b). Woody debris correlated significantly with densities of bull trout sampled in streams in the Bitterroot National Fores (Clancy 1992)." "Cover is important in winter and is thought to limit many fish populations (Chapman 1966; Cunjak and Power 1986). Cover clearly influences population density and overwinter survival of brook trout (Boussu 1954; Hunt 1976; Saunders and Smith 1962)."

Water Temperature

Researchers recognize temperature more consistently than any other factor influencing bull trout distribution, based mostly on correlative evidence (Reiman and McIntyre 1993). Water temperatures in excess of about 15°C are thought to limit bull trout distribution (Rieman and McIntyre 1993). McPhail and Murray (1979) reported that the survival of bull trout eggs to hatching varied with water temperature: 0-20% survival in 8-10°C, 60-90% in 6°C, and 80-95% in 2-4°C. Temperatures between 4-6°C were needed for egg development in Montana streams (Weaver and White 1985). Water temperature also appears to be a critical factor in the spawning and early life history of bull trout. Spawning has been observed to occur in British Columbia, Oregon, and Montana at or below 9°C (Fraley and Shepard 1989, McPhail and Murray 1979, Riehle 1993).

Water Quality

(Excerpts from Rieman and McIntyre 1993)

"The extent and intensity of land development and land-use activities have increased during the past century." "Aquatic ecosystem perturbations related to these activities include: 1) thermal pollution; 2) toxicity due to the presence of organic compounds (synthetic and natural) and heavy metal ions; 3) introduction of pathogenic organisms; 4) organic wastes that result in potentially catastrophic changes in dissolved oxygen levels; 5) acidification; 6) elevated sedimentation rates; and 7) increased eutrophication (Ellis 1989).

Eutrophication is indicative of deteriorating water quality associated with a buildup of nutrients, especially nitrogen and phosphorus. Increased rates of nutrient loading can be related to changes an / or disturbances within a watershed (Brugam and Vallarino 1989; Dojlido and Best 1993; Stauffer 1991). Development activities that contribute to increased nutrient levels include point sources such as industrial effluents and water-borne sewage systems and nonpoint sources such as agricultural operations, residential development and septic systems, road construction, and forest practices (Dojlido and Best 1993; Spencer 1991; Thralls 1991).

Nonpoint source pollution may be the most problematic cause of water quality deterioration because the origin of perturbation is often difficult to identify and control." "Development can result in increases of nitrogen and phosphorus in surface waters resulting from: septic system effluents (Scott 1991; Sorrie 1994; Stauffer 1991), runoff from fertilized lawns and agricultural lands (Lewis and others 1984; Power and Schepers 1989), and runoff from highways and road (Ehrenfeld and Schneider 1991; Lewis and others 1984)."

Some Major Activities and their Effects

(All of the following are excerpts from Lee and others 1997)

Water diversions and dams

"Trends in the number of dams constructed over time and impounded water volumes indicate that many streams and rivers have experienced a rapid and massive change in their hydrology. Even though the rate of increase in storage volume has leveled since the mid-1970s, the total number of dams continues to increase, suggesting that new construction is focused on smaller dams (National Research Council 1995)."

"Reservoir operation has resulted in long-term changes in downstream water temperatures and the annual discharge of water and sediments. The pattern and timing of the annual hydrograph have been altered in most basins on scales ranging from hours to months and even years. In many instances dams have changed large river systems to isolated fluvial fragments between lakes. In arid areas of the

Basin, stream diversions have reduced flows to a trickle."

"Water withdrawals for off-stream uses include rural domestic use, stock watering, irrigation, public water supply, commercial and industrial supply, and thermoelectric cooling." "Agricultural irrigation is by far the dominant off-stream use in the Basin."

"Most irrigation diversions on Forest Service and BLM-administered lands are operated by private individuals, but a few water rights are held by federal agencies."

" Irrigation has contributed to the extirpation of salmon and steelhead from many small streams in the Salmon National Forest (Keifenhiem 1992). Many streams in the Sawtooth National Recreation Area have inadequate instream flow as a result of irrigation." " The cumulative loss of spawning and rearing habitat in these tributaries is significant."

Grazing and Farming

"The proportion of land in the Pacific Northwest dedicated to agriculture is relatively small (approximately 16%). However, agricultural practices can have considerable effects on aquatic resources because the lands are often located on historic flood plains and valley bottoms. The effects of farming on aquatic systems include loss of native vegetation, bank instability, loss of floodplain function, removal of large woody debris sources, changes in sediment supply, changes in hydrology, increases in water temperature, changes in nutrient supply, chemical pollution, channel modification, and habitat simplification (Spence and others 1995)."

"The effects of livestock grazing on aquatic systems are related, in part, to the biophysical attributes of the site (Archer and Smeins 1991)." "Unstable stream conditions often exist as part of the natural conditions of streams; however, grazing can amplify these unstable conditions. In some cases, livestock use may initiate additional instability within a stream system.

Overgrazing by livestock can lead to a reduction of soil structure, soil compaction, and damage or loss of vegetative cover. All of these processes contribute to an increase in the rate and erosive force of surface runoff (Meehan and Platts 1978; Thurow 1991). Resulting increases in soil erosion lead to a loss of stored nutrients in the soil and a decrease in the level of vegetative productivity (Thurow 1991). The degree of soil erosion associated with livestock grazing is related to slope gradient and aspect of the site being grazed, the condition of the soil, type and density of vegetation, and the accessibility of the site to livestock (Meehan and Platts 1978).

Riparian areas maintain stream structure and function through processes such as water filtration, bank stabilization, water storage, groundwater recharge, nutrient retention, regulation of light and temperature, channel shape and pattern (morphology and micro-topography), and dispersal of plants and animals (Cummins and others 1984; Gregory and others 1991; Minshall 1967, 1994; Sullivan and others 1987)." "Livestock grazing can alter the species composition of stream-side vegetation (Archer and Smeins 1991; Platts 1978; Stebbins 1981; Thurow 1991; Vollmer and Kozel 1993) and diminish vegetative productivity (Archer and Smeins 1991; Horning 1994; Meehan and Platts 1978; Platts 1978; Thurow 1991; Vollmer and Kozel 1993). Grazing alters riparian vegetation by removing deep rooting plant species and decreasing canopy cover and riparian vegetation height (Platts 1991). Grazing has been implicated in the alteration of species composition of vegetative communities and associated fire regimes (Agee 1993; Leopold 1924).

Grazing is a major nonpoint source of channel sedimentation (Dunne and Leopold 1978; MacDonald and others 1991; Meehan 1991; Platts 1991). Grazed watersheds typically have higher stream sediment levels than ungrazed watersheds (Lusby 1970; Platts 1991; Rich and others 1992; Scully and Petrosky 1991). Increased sedimentation is the result of grazing effects on soils (compaction), vegetation (elimination), hydrology (channel incision, overland flow), and bank erosion (sloughing) (Kauffman and others 1983; MacDonald and others 1991; Parsons 1965; Platts 1981a, 1981b; Rhodes and others 1994). Sediment loads that exceed natural background levels can fill pools, silt spawning gravels, decrease channel stability, modify channel morphology, and reduce survival of emerging salmon fry (Burton and others 1993; Everest and others 1987; MacDonald and others 1991; Meehan 1991; Rhodes and others 1994). In addition, runoff contaminated by livestock wastes can cause an increase in potentially harmful bacteria (for example, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Aeromonas hydrophila*) (Taylor and others 1989; Hall and Amy 1990; Thurow 1991). Compared to ungrazed sites, aquatic insect communities in stream reaches associated with grazing activities often are composed of organisms more tolerant of increased silt levels, increased levels of total alkalinity and mean conductivity, and elevated water temperatures (Rinne 1988)."

Timber Harvest

"Anderson (1988), citing a 1986 report of the Montana State Water Quality Bureau, suggested that the single greatest threat to watersheds and aquatic life is timber harvest and associated road building within forests. This threat is due, in part, to the increased level of harvesting timber from steeper, more environmentally sensitive terrain (Anderson 1998; Platts and Megahan 1975). Accelerated surface erosion and increased levels of sedimentation can decrease after initial disturbance but may remain above natural levels for many years (Platts and Megahan 1975; Spencer 1991; Swanson 1981)." "Vulnerable watersheds generally have high slope gradients, high levels of potential soil erodibility, soils having moderate to very poor drainage, or soil moisture contents in excess of field capacity for long periods of the year (van Kesteren 1986).

Soil and site disturbance that inevitably occur during timber harvest activities are often responsible for increased rates of erosion and sedimentation (Chamberlain and others 1991; FEMAT 1993; MacDonald and others 1991; Meehan 1991; Reid 1993; Rhodes and others 1994); modification and destruction of terrestrial and aquatic habitats (FEMAT 1993; van Kesteren 1986); changes in water quality and quantity (Bjornn and Reiser 1991; Brooks and others 1992; Chamberlain and others 1991; Rhodes and others 1994); and perturbation of nutrient cycles within aquatic ecosystems (Rowe and others 1992). Physical changes affect runoff events, bank stability, sediment supply, large woody debris retention, and energy relationships involving temperature (Li and Gregory 1995). All of these changes can eventually culminate in the loss of biodiversity within a watershed (FEMAT 1993; Rowe and others 1992).

Increased delivery of sediments, especially fine sediments, is usually associated with timber harvesting and road construction (Eaglin and Hubert 1993; Frissell and Liss 1986; Havis and others 1993; Platts and Megahan 1975). As the deposition of fine sediments in salmonid spawning habitat increase, mortality of embryos, alevins, and fry rises. Erosion potential is greatly increased by reduction in vegetation, compaction of soils and desruption of natural surface and subsurface drainage patterns (Chamberlain and others 1991; Rhodes and others 1994). Generally, logged slopes contribute sediment to streams based on the amount of bare compacted soils that are exposed to rainfall and runoff. Slope steepness and proximity to channels determine the rate of sediment delivery.

Water quality (for example, water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and nutrients) can be altered by timber harvest activities (Chamberlain and others 1991). Stream temperature is affected by eliminating stream-side shading, disrupted subsurface flows, reduced stream flows, elevated sediments, and morphological shifts toward wider and shallower channels with fewer deep pools (Beschta and others 1987; Chamberlain and others 1991; Reid 1993; Rhodes and others 1994). Dissolved oxygen can be reduced by low stream flows, elevated temperatures, increased fine inorganic and organic materials that have infiltrated into stream gravels retarding intergravel flows (Bustard 1986; Chamberlain and others 1991). Nutrient concentrations may increase following logging but generally return quickly to normal levels (Chamberlain and others 1991).

Because the supply of large woody debris to stream channels is typically a function of the size and number of trees in riparian areas, it can be profoundly altered by timber harvest (Bisson and others 1987; Sedell and others 1988; Robison and Beschta 1990). Shifts in the composition and size of trees within the riparian area affect the recruitment potential and longevity of large woody debris within the stream channel. Large woody debris influences channel morphology, especially in forming pools and instream cover, retention of nutrients, and storage and buffering of sediment. Any reduction in the amount of large woody debris within streams, or within the distance equal to one site-potential tree height from the stream, can reduce instream complexity (Rainville and others 1985; Robison and Beschta 1990). Large woody debris increases the quality of pools, provides hiding cover, slow water refuges, shade, and deep water areas (Rhodes and others 1994). Ralph and others (1994) found instream wood to be significantly smaller and pool depths significantly shallower in intensively logged watersheds. The size of woody debris in a logged watershed in Idaho was smaller than that found in a relatively undisturbed watershed (Overton and others 1993).

Because water is often delivered to lakes via stream channels, we can infer that effects to streams related to timber harvest and road construction may eventually be manifested within lakes." "Birch and others (1980) reported that timber harvest activities caused increases in lake sedimentation rate and lake productivity in three of four lakes studied in western Washington, accelerating the rate of change in the trophic status of each lake. Timber harvest activities and road construction, including railroad construction, increased sedimentation rates above natural levels in three lades of the Flathead Basin (Spencer 1991). Road construction appeared to be the greatest cause of disturbance resulting n enhanced fine sediment deposition in lakes downstream from the construction areas."

Roads

"Roads contribute more sediment to streams than any other land management activity (Gibbons and Salo 1973; Meehan 1991), but most of the land management activities, such as mining, timber harvest, grazing, recreation, and water diversions are dependent on roads. The majority of sediment from timber harvest activities are related to roads and road construction (Chamberlain and others 1991; Dunne and Leopold 1978; Furniss and others 1991; Megahan and others 1978; MacDonald and Ritland 1989) and associated increased erosion rates (Beschta 1978; Gardner 1979; Meehan 1991; Reid 1993; Reid and Dunne 1984; Rhodes and others 1994; Swanson and Dyrness 1975; Swanston and Swanson 1976)." "Roads can also affect water quality through applied road chemicals and toxic spills (Furniss and others 1991; Rhodes and others 1994)."

"Roads directly affect natural sediment and hydrologic regimes by altering streamflow, sediment loading, sediment transport and deposition, channel morphology, channel stability, substrate composition, stream temperatures, water quality, riparian conditions within a watershed. For example, interruption of hill-slope drainage patterns alters the timing and magnitude of peak flows and changes base stream discharge (Furniss and others 1991; Harr and others 1975) and sub-surface flows (Furniss and others 1991; Megahan 1972). Road-related mass soil movements can continue for decades after the roads have been constructed (Furniss and others 1991). Such habitat alterations can adversely affect all life-stages of fishes, including migration, spawning, incubation, emergence, and rearing (Furniss and others 1991; Henjum and others 1994; MacDonald and others 1991; Rhodes and others 1994)."

"Road / stream crossings can also be a major source of sediment to streams resulting from channel fill around culverts and subsequent road crossing failures (Furniss and others 1991). Plugged culverts and fill slope failures are frequent and often lead to catastrophic increases in stream channel sediment, especially on old abandoned or unmaintained roads (Weaver and others 1987). Unnatural channel widths, slope, and stream bed form occur upstream and downstream of stream crossings (Heede 1980), and these alterations in channel morphology may persist for long periods of time. Channelized stream sections resulting from riprapping of roads adjacent to stream channels are directly affected by sediment from side casting, snow removal, and road grading; such activities can trigger fill slope erosion and failures. Because improper culverts can reduce or eliminate fish passage (Belfore and Gould 1989), road crossings are a common migration barrier to fishes (Evans and Johnston 1980; Furniss and others 1991; Clancy and Reichmuth 1990)."

Mining

"Although any mining activity may have negative effects on aquatic ecosystems (according to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission 1994, 14,400 kilometers of rivers and streams in the western United States have been polluted by mining), the largest impacts are generally associated with surface mining."

"Mining activities can affect aquatic systems in a number of ways: through the addition of large quantities of sediments, the addition of solutions contaminated with metals or acids, the acceleration of erosion, increased bank and streambed instability, and changes in channel formation and stability. Sediments enter streams through erosion of mine tailings (Besser and Rabeni 1987), by direct discharge of mining wastes to aquatic systems, and through movement of groundwater (Davies-Colley and others 1992). Coarse particles that enter watersheds are likely to settle relatively rapidly (Davies-Colley and others 1992), and therefore, effects on aquatic systems are greatest near mining activities. Fine inorganic particles (like clays) settle slowly and may travel great distances from the point of their introduction and therefore may have a greater effect on water bodies such as lakes further from mining activities. Fine suspended material reduces the amount of light available for benthic algae and plants, and thereby, biomass and primary production are diminished. Fine suspended materials may also reduce the quantity and quality of epilithon (substrate surface biofilm) that serves as food for benthic invertebrates. If suspended sediments damage respiratory structures of benthic invertebrates, their abundance may decline (Davies-Colley and others 1992)."

"Acidification of surface waters, a process associated with surface mining, mobilizes toxic metals naturally embedded in soils and streambeds." "Acidification of surface waters can affect organisms directly, such as salmonids which experience reduced egg viability, fry survival, growth rate, and other ills, or indirectly from toxic metals or substances which can affect growth, reproduction, behavior, and migration of salmonids and production of benthic algae (Spence and others 1995). Ecosystem responses to contaminants are dependant on the chemical, physical, biological, and geological processes at each site (Pascoe and others 1993). Depending on concentration, trace metal toxicity may reduce growth and reproduction or cause death of aquatic organisms (Leland and Kuwabara 1985). Adult stages of mollusks and fish can generally withstand higher concentrations of metals than other organisms (Leland and Kuwabara 1985), but embryonic and larval stages are quite sensitive to heavy metals (Leland and Kuwabara 1985). The combination of some metals may inhibit primary production more than any single metal alone (Wong and others 1978); therefore, when several metals are present, water quality criteria for single metals are insufficient for protecting aquatic life (Borgmann 1980)."

"Surface mining practices of dredging and placer mining have altered aquatic habitats by destroying riparian vegetation and reworking channels."

Common practice for extracting gold today involves heap leach mining, a form of open-pit mining used for low-grade ore deposits. Piles of crushed ore are sprayed with a solution of sodium-cyanide (NaCN) that bonds with gold particles and is deposited in pools from which the gold is recovered. Numerous, small help leach fields are located in the Basin, primarily in floodplains of rivers or streams which are susceptible to large floods, creating the potential for flood inundation of the toxic leach pools and consequent contamination of river or stream habitats."

Non-native Fish Species

"Most introductions have been made with the intent of creating or expanding fishing opportunities and were initiated in earnest as early as the late 1800's (Evermann 1893; Simpson and Wallace 1978). Stocking of mountain lakes with cultured stocks of cutthroat, brook, and rainbow trout has been extensive (Bahls 1992; Liss and others 1995; Reiman and Apperson 1989)." "A variety of species such as kokanee salmon, chinook salmon, lake trout, brown trout, Atlantic salmon, coho salmon, black bass and other centrarchids, and ictalurids were introduced in these systems to diversify angling opportunities, create trophy fisheries, and to provide forage for potential trophy species."

"Although introductions have provided increased fishing opportunities and socioeconomic benefits, they have also led to catastrophic failures in some fisheries and expanded costs to management of declining stocks (Bowles and others 1991; Gresswell 1991; Gresswell and Varley 1988; Wydoski and Bennett 1981)."

"Non-native fishes also threaten native species through hybridization and subsequent loss of the native genome through introgression." "Hybridization between brook trout and bull trout appears to be common where the species overlap (Adams 1994; Leary and others 1993; Reiman and McIntyre 1993), and elimination or displacement of bull trout can be a common outcome (Leary and others 1993).

Predation by non-native species may have an important influence on some native cyprinids and catostomids (Williams and others 1990), resident trout populations (Griffith 1988; Reiman and Apperson 1989), and on the survival of juvenile anadromous salmonids (Reiman and others 1991)." "Predation by introduced fishes is also commonly identified as a major factor in the isolation and decline of native amphibians (Bahls 1992; Bradford and others 1993; Liss and others 1995) and has important effects on local invertebrate faunas as well (Bahls 1992; Liss and others 1995)."

"Consequences of introducing non-native species are not limited to a few interacting species. Effects frequently cascade through entire ecosystems (Winter and Hughes 1995) and compromise structure and ecological function in ways that rarely can be anticipated (Li and Moyle 1981; Magnuson 1976; Moyle and others 1986)."

"There is growing recognition that biological integrity and not just species diversity (Angermeier 1994; Angermeier and Karr 1994) is an important characteristic of aquatic ecosystem health. The loss or restriction of native species and the dramatic expansion of non-native species leave few systems that are not compromised."

Hatcheries

"Although the cultured stocks of salmonids have been frequently used to mitigate the effects of over-harvest and habitat degradation, there is substantial evidence that this practice has detrimental effects on native populations (Hindar and others 1991; Krueger and May 1991; Marnell 1986; Miller 1954). Offspring of hatchery fish spawning in the wild do not survive as will as the offspring of wild fish (Chilcote and others 1986; Leider and others 1990; Nickelson and others 1986), even if the hatchery stock was developed from wild adults (Reisenbichler and McIntyre 1977). There is unavoidable selection for traits favoring survival in the artificial conditions of egg trays, tanks, raceways, and holding ponds. Hatchery fish thus become genetically distinct from wild fish. If they stray and subsequently spawn with wild fish in natural areas, survival of the offspring is compromised (Chilcote and others 1986).

Despite lower survival, hatchery fish occupy habitat that would otherwise be used by wild fish (Miller 1954). In addition, artificially high densities of fish returning to hatcheries attract intensive fisheries that can over-harvest wild fish (Reisenbichler, in press; Wright 1981, 1993)."

"Many hatcheries located on tributaries of the Columbia River have water intakes upstream of structures designed to divert migrating fish into hatchery ponds. In order to reduce the risk of transmitting diseases to the hatchery via its water intake, adult fish are not passed upstream of the intake barrier at many sites. Protection of hatchery water supplies often prevents natural populations from accessing large tracts of historic spawning and nursery area."

Commercial and Recreational Harvest

"Angler harvest directly increases mortality and thereby influences total population abundance, size- and age-structure, and reproductive potential (Ricker 1975). Fishing may lead to substantial declines in abundance, especially in populations that are extremely vulnerable to certain types of gear." "Although high catchability may be desirable in sport fisheries, it may lead to substantial declines in abundance and changes in population structure without restrictions (Gresswell 1990; Gresswell and others 1994; Gresswell and Liss 1995).

Although management agencies have attempted to reduce or eliminate fishing as a source of mortality, incidental harvest of many sensitive native fish stocks is a problem in the Basin." "Anglers may also affect fish stocks by altering fish habitat through redd trampling and increased bank erosion. Roberts and White (1992) demonstrated that wading on trout redds can cause mortality to eggs and fry. For many years, stream reaches in some states have been closed to angling during salmon spawning season to reduce harassment of spawning fish."

"Within the past decade, many agencies have adopted new philosophies of management that prioritize restoration and management of native fish stocks and their habitats (Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) 1991) and recognize the non-consumptive values of fish (Botsford 1994; Gresswell 1994). Where habitat for native species remains suitable, fish populations have increased substantially following implementation of restrictive harvest regulations (Gresswell 1990; Varley and Gresswell 1988)." "Bull trout numbers and redds also increased in response to decreased harvest (Ratliff 1992). These examples suggest that where populations retain resilience, restoration efforts can be successful."

Habitat Fragmentation and Simplification

"Aquatic habitat fragmentation (impassable obstructions, temperature increases, and water diversion) and simplification (channelization, removal of woody debris, channel bed sedimentation, removal of riparian vegetation, and water flow regulation) have resulted in a loss of diversity within and among native fish populations."

"Theories from population and conservation biology predict that smaller or more isolated populations have an increased risk of extirpation, and that smaller patches of habitat are likely to support less diverse communities (Boyce 1992; Gilpin and Soule 1986; MacArthur and Wilson 1967; Simberloff 1988). There is empirical evidence that these are important issues for many aquatic communities and species (Gilpin and Diamond 1981; Hanks 1991; Sjogren 1991) including fishes (Reiman and McIntyre 1995; Schlosser 1991; Sheldon 1988). At the same time species and communities that are spatially diverse face lower risks of regional extirpation in highly variable environments (den Boer 1968; Simberloff 1988). Core or source populations that are resistant to disturbance may support populations in other marginal or ephemeral habitats through dispersal (Bowers 1992; Simberloff 1988). The quality and distribution of even a few such key areas may ultimately dominate the dynamics of whole systems (Bowers 1992).

The heterogeneity of habitats for aquatic organisms, and particularly fishes, has been clearly recognized at multiple scales from microhabitat units to entire basins (Sedell and others 1990; Schlosser 1991). This spatial complexity is seen as an important factor influencing species diversity and ecosystem stability (Bowers 1992; Gresswell and others 1994; Schlosser 1991) and results in discontinuous distribution of life stages, populations, metapopulations, or subspecies and species as well. Important habitat types, such as pools or off-channel rearing areas, are discontinuous within stream reaches and influence the distributions and relative abundances of a species or life stages at that scale (Schlosser 1991). At larger watershed scales the distribution among reaches and among streams may be influenced by such things as local climate, stream temperature, stream gradients, the distribution of suitable spawning sites and gravels, and stream size (Fausch and others 1994; McIntyre and Rieman 1995; Rieman and McIntyre 1995). Spawning and rearing of bull trout and westslope and Yellowstone cutthroat trout, for example, may be restricted to smaller, headwater streams both by temperature and stream size even though subadults and adults may move widely throughout entire river basins (Gresswell 1995; McIntyre and Reiman 1995; Reiman and McIntyre 1995)."

"Fringe environments that do not support a large abundance of fishes may actually contribute much of the genetic variability to the population and may contribute in a critical way to the persistence of much larger systems (Northcote 1992; Scudder 1989). The connection among spatially diverse and temporally dynamic habitats and populations is likely to be a critical factor to persistence and integrity of aquatic communities.

Fishes, particularly salmonids, exhibit remarkable diversity of life-history strategies (Lichatowich and Mobrand 1995; Reiman and McIntyre 1993; Thorpe 1994) and important dispersal mechanisms for dealing with naturally fragmented and variable environments (Milner and Bailey 1989; Quinn 1993; Thorpe 1994). Migratory life-history forms may be a particularly important mechanism of dispersal and risk aversion in highly variable environments for species like bull and Yellowstone cutthroat trout (Gresswell and others 1994; Reiman and McIntyre 1993).

The loss or degradation of habitats resulting form anthropogenic activities has not occurred in a random or uniformly dispersed fashion. Often lower elevation lands are more accessible, have wider floodplain valleys, and are more easily developed, hence habitat degradation has been greater in lower watersheds or in the lower reaches of larger systems. Dams and water diversions often result in fragmented streams and rivers. As a result, watershed retaining the best remaining habitats are not well dispersed throughout the individual basins; they are often restricted to less productive headwater areas. Small streams in the headwater basins actually represent more extreme or sensitive environments with limited resilience to disturbance, increased synchrony among the populations, and relatively poor potential for dispersal throughout the entire Basin.

Because life-history stages and forms are also distributed in non-uniform or non-random patterns (Lichatowich and Mobrand 1994; Reiman and Apperson 1989; Schlosser 1991), some have been more likely to disappear than others. Within heavily managed areas, disturbance has often been dispersed among watersheds in an effort to minimize damage in any single area. If most watersheds are compromised, there are few local populations with the resilience to persist in the face of major storm or other catastrophic events that eventually test those populations. When high quality habitats are isolated in a system, the loss of migratory life histories, elimination of connecting corridors, or the poor quality of interspersed habitats that may act as "stepping stones" (Gilpin 1987) for dispersal may seriously limit the connectivity among populations. Eventually the ability of populations to rebound or support those that are lost is diminished."

"The loss of life history expression influences the connectivity and stability among populations, but it also has restricted the full potential for fish production (Lichatowich and Mobrand 1995). The challenge for aquatic ecosystem management will be the maintenance and restoration of spatially diverse, high quality habitats that minimize the risks of extinction (Frissell and others 1993; Reeves and Sedell 1992) and that provide for the full expression of potential life histories (Healey 1994; Lichatowich and Mobrand 1995)."

General Recreational Activities

"Mountain lakes, especially those in national parks and scenic forested areas, may be the most susceptible aquatic systems to the negative effects of recreation. The inherent sensitivity of a lake to pollutants influences its susceptibility to water-quality degradation (Gilliom and others 1980)." "Likelihood of pollutant-loading increases if soil, geologic, or hydrologic characteristics of a watershed favor the transport of pollutants to a lake (Gilliom and others 1980)."

"Where visitor use is high, trampling associated with foot traffic can affect vegetation along lakes and streams through direct mechanical action and indirectly through changes in soil (Liddle 1975). Resistance to trampling depends on plant life form; large and broad-leaved plants are most susceptible, and grasses generally are most resistant (Burden and Randerson 1972). Loss of vegetation from shorelines, wetlands, or steep slopes can cause erosion and pollution problems (Burden and Randerson 1972; Gilliom and others 1980)."

"Power boats can have numerous negative effects on lake environments. Resuspension of bed sediments can occur with passage of a single boat (Garrad and Hey 1987)." "Concomitant high levels of turbidity and reduced light penetration may be a major factor in declining populations of submerged macrophytes." "Power boats are also associated with the spread of the exotic Eurasion watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum* *spicatum*). Because it reproduces from seeds, rhizomes, and fragmented stems, this non-native plan is easily transported between water bodies when plant matter becomes entangled on boat propellers or trailers (Reed 1977)."

"Outboard engines introduce hydrocarbon emissions to the aquatic environment, and emissions have a high phenol content that is quite toxic to aquatic organisms (Wachs and others 1992). Increased lead levels in reservoirs may be attributed to recreational boating and gasoline spills (Cairns and Palmer 1993)."

"Effects of off-road recreational vehicle use on aquatic resources are documented only for a few types of natural systems. On sand dunes and shorelines, off-road vehicles can result in significant reductions of vegetation (Anders and Leatherman 1987; Wisheu and Keddy 1991)." "Disturbance associated with off-road vehicle use can alter plant community composition or create openings in cover vegetation on shorelines (Wisheu and Keddy 1991). Partial loss of vegetation from shorelines can result in increased erosion that continues until those shorelines are devoid of vegetation (Wisheu and Keddy 1991). Because seeds tend not to be deeply buried in shoreline wetlands, they may be particularly sensitive to intense disturbance (Wisheu and Keddy 1991), and recovery of disturbed shorelines may be very slow. Use of off-road vehicles may be particularly detrimental in fragile soils or in areas where habitat for sensitive species is limited (Williams 1995). Additionally, off-road vehicle use in streams can result in destruction of redds, eggs, and young.**"**

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USFWS Appendix B

Relating the ACS Objectives and Aquatic/Riparian Strategy Objectives with the Diagnostics/ Pathways and Indicator

ACS Objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan

Forest Service and BLM-administered lands within the range of the northern spotted owl will be managed to:

1. Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations and communities are uniquely adapted.
2. Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. Lateral, longitudinal, and drainage network connections include floodplains, wetlands, upslope areas, headwater tributaries, and intact refugia. These network connections must provide chemically and physically unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic and riparian-dependent species.
3. Maintain and restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.
4. Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, wetland ecosystems. Water quality must remain within the range that maintains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the system and benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities.
5. Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystemsevolved. Elements of the sediment regime include the timing, volume, rate, and character of sediment input, storage, and transport.
6. Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic,and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows must be protected.
7. Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.
8. Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and enter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.
9. Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.

Aquatic/Riparian Strategy Objectives in PACFISH and INFISH

The ACS for PACFISH and INFISH is written as "Riparian Goals" that describe expectations in establishing the characteristics of healthy, functioning watersheds, riparian areas, and associated fish habitats. These are interim directions. Until a long-term direction is finalized, these goals / objectives amend LRMPs and RMP in areas within the proposed bull trout listing areas but outside of that land covered by the Northwest Forest Plan.

Maintain or restore:

1. water quality, to a degree that provides for stable and productive riparian and aquatic ecosystems;
2. stream channel integrity, channel processes, and the sediment regime (including the elements of timing, volume, and character of sediment input and transport) under which the riparian and aquatic ecosystems developed;
3. instream flows to support healthy riparian and aquatic habitats, the stability and effective function of stream channels, and the ability to route flood discharges;
4. natural timing and variability of the water table elevation in meadows and wetlands;
5. diversity and productivity of native and desired non-native plant communities in riparian zones;
6. riparian vegetation, to:
   a. provide an amount and distribution of large woody debris characteristic of natural aquatic and riparian ecosystems;
   b. provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation within the riparian and aquatic zones; and
   c. help achieve rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration characteristics of those under which the communities developed.
7. riparian and aquatic habitats necessary to foster the unique genetic fish stocks that evolved within the specific geo-climatic region; and
8. habitat to support populations of well-distributed native and desired non-native plant, vertebrate, and invertebrate populations that contribute to the viability of riparian-dependent communities.

A comparison between ACS Objectives of the Northwest Forest Plan and the diagnostics/ pathways and indicators used in the effects matrix.

USFWS Appendix B - Table 1. Relation of Indicators to ACS and Aquatic/Riparian Strategy Objectives.

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives - Northwest Forest Plan	Aquatic/Riparian Strategy Objectives - PACFISH/INFISH	Indicators
1, 8, 9	7, 8	Subpop Char / Subpop Size
3, 4, 5, 9	1, 2, 7, 8	Subpop Char / Grow & Survl
1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9	1, 2, 3, 6, 7	Subpop Char / Life History Diversity & Isolation
2, 6, 9	3, 6, 7, 8	Subpop Char / Persistence & Genetic Integrity
2, 4, 8, 9	1, 5, 6, 7	Water Quality / Temperature
4, 5, 6, 8, 9	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Water Quality / Sediment
2, 4, 8, 9	1, 5, 7, 8	Water Quality / Chemical Concentration/Nutrients
2, 6, 9	3, 7, 8	Hab Access / Phys Barriers
3, 5, 8, 9	2, 6, 7, 8	Hab Elem / Substrate Embed
3, 6, 8, 9	2, 3, 6, 7	Hab Elem / L W D
3, 8, 9	2, 6, 7	Hab Elem / Pool Freq & Qual
3, 5, 6, 9	2, 3, 7	Hab Elem / Large Pools
1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9	2, 3, 4, 6, 7	Hab Elem / Off-Channel Hab
1, 2, 9	7, 8	Hab Elem / Refugia
3, 8, 9	3, 7, 8	Chan Cond & Dynamics / Wet Width/Max Depth Ratio
3, 8, 9	1, 2, 5, 6, 7	Chan Cond & Dynamics / Streambank Condition
1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9	3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Chan Cond & Dynamics / Floodplain Connectivity
5, 6, 7	2, 3, 6	Flow/Hydrology / Change in Peak/Base Flow
2, 5, 6, 7	2, 3	Flow/Hydrology / Increase in Drainage Network
1, 3, 5	2, 4, 8	Watershed Conditions / Road Density & Location
1, 5	2, 6, 8	Watershed Conditions / Disturbance History
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Watershed Conditions / RCA, RHCA, Riparian Reserves
1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Watershed Condition / Disturbance Regime

NMFS Matrix

Making Endangered Species Act Determinations of Effect for Individual or Grouped Actions at the Watershed Scale

Prepared by the National Marine Fisheries Service Environmental and Technical Services Division Habitat Conservation Branch, August 1996. *This document was reformatted for the ICBEMP Supplemental Draft EIS. Content was not changed.*

Overview

The following guidelines are designed to facilitate and standardize determinations of effect for Endangered Species Act (ESA) conferencing, consultations and permits focusing on anadromous salmonids. We recommend that this process be applied to individual or grouped actions at the watershed scale. When the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) conducts an analysis of a proposed activity it involves the following steps: (1) Define the biological requirements of the listed species; (2) evaluate the relevance of the environmental baseline to the species' current status; (3) determine the effects of the proposed or continuing action on listed species; and (4) determine whether the species can be expected to survive with an adequate potential for recovery under the effects of the proposed or continuing action, the environmental baseline and any cumulative effects, and considering measures for survival and recovery specific to other life stages. The last item (item 4) addresses considerations given during a jeopardy analysis.

This document provides a consistent, logical line of reasoning to determine when and where adverse effects occur and why they occur. Please recognize that this document does not address jeopardy or identify the level of take or adverse effects which would constitute jeopardy. Jeopardy is determined on a case by case basis involving the specific information on habitat conditions and the health and status of the fish population. NMFS is currently preparing a set of guidelines, to be used in conjunction with this document, to help in the determination of jeopardy.

This document contains definitions of ESA effects and examples of effects determinations, a matrix of pathways of effects and indicators of those effects, a checklist for documenting the environmental baseline and effects of the proposed action(s) on the relevant indicators, and a dichotomous key for making determinations of effect. None of the tools identified in this document are new inventions. The matrix, checklist, and dichotomous key format were developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Region 2 and the USDA Forest Service Region 3 for a programmatic ESA section 7 consultation on effects of grazing (USFWS, May 5, 1995). The matrix developed here reflects the information needed to implement the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS) (Appendix D) and to evaluate effects relative to the Northwest Forest Plan ACS Objectives, and the Ecological Goals in the Proposed Recovery Plan for Snake River Salmon (appendix D) and the LRMP consultation on the eight National Forests in Idaho and Oregon.

Using these tools, the Federal agencies and Non-Federal Parties (referred to as evaluators in the remainder of this document) can make determinations of effect for proposed projects (i.e. “no effect” / ”may affect” and “may affect, not likely to adversely affect” / ”may affect, likely to adversely affect”). As explained below, these determinations of effect will depend on whether a proposed action (or group of actions) hinders the attainment of relevant environmental conditions (identified in the matrix as pathways and indicators) and / or results in “take”, as defined in ESA, section 3 (18) of a proposed or listed species.

Finally, this document was designed to be applied to a wide range of environmental conditions. This means it must be flexible. It also means that a certain degree of professional judgement will be required in its application. ***There will be circumstances where the ranges of numerics or descriptions in the matrix simply do not apply to a specific watershed or basin. In such a case, the evaluator will need to provide more biologically appropriate values.*** **When this occurs, documentation justifying these changes should be presented in the biological assessment, habitat conservation plan, or other appropriate document so that NMFS can use it in preparation of a section 7 consultation, habitat conservation plan, or other appropriate biologically based document.**

Description of the Matrix

The “Matrix of Pathways and Indicators” (NMFS Table 1) is designed to summarize important environmental parameters and levels of condition for each. This matrix is divided into six overall pathways (major rows in the matrix):

- Water Quality
- Channel Condition and Dynamics
- Habitat Access
- Flow / Hydrology
- Habitat Elements
- Watershed Conditions

Each of the above represents a significant pathway by which actions can have potential effects on anadromous salmonids and their habitats. The pathways are further broken down into “indicators.” Indicators are generally of two types: (1) Metrics that have associated numeric values (e.g. “six pools per mile”); and (2) descriptions (e.g. “adequate habitat refugia do not exist”). The purpose of having both types of indicators in the matrix is that numeric data are not always readily available for making determinations (or there are no reliable numeric indicators of the factor under consideration). In this case, a description of overall condition may be the only appropriate method available.

The columns in the matrix correspond to levels of condition of the indicator. There are three condition levels: “properly functioning,” “at risk,” and “not properly functioning.” For each indicator, there is either a numeric value or range for a metric that describes the condition, a description of the condition, or both. When a numeric value and a description are combined in the same cell in the matrix, it is because accurate assessment of the indicator requires attention to both.

Description of the Checklist

The “Checklist for Documenting Environmental Baseline and Effects of Proposed Action(s) on Relevant Indicators” (NMFS Table 2) is designed to be used in conjunction with the matrix. The checklist has six columns. The first three describe the condition of each indicator (which when taken together encompass the environmental baseline), and the second three describe the effects of the proposed action(s) on each indicator.

Description of the Dichotomous Key for Making ESA Determinations of Effect

The “Dichotomous Key for Making ESA Determinations of Effect” (NMFS Figure 1) is designed to guide determinations of effect for proposed actions that require a section 7 consultation or permit under Section 10 of the ESA. Once the matrix has been tailored (if necessary) to meet the needs of the evaluators, and the checklist has been filled out, the evaluators should use the key to help make their ESA determinations of effect.

How to Use the Matrix, Checklist, and Dichotomous Key

1. Group projects that are within a watershed.

2. Using the Matrix provided (or a version modified by the evaluator) evaluate environmental baseline conditions (mark on checklist), use all 6 pathways (identified in the matrix).

3. Evaluate effects of the proposed action using the matrix. Do they restore,maintain or degrade existing baseline conditions? Mark on checklist.

4. Take the checklist you marked and the dichotomous key and answer the questions in the key to reach a determination of effects.

Work through the Dichotomous Key

Matrix of Pathways and Indicators

Use to describe the Environmental Baseline Conditions

Water Quality, Habitat Access, Habitat Elements, Channel Condition and Dynamics, Flow/ Hydrology, Watershed Condition

and

Then use the same Pathways and Indicators to evaluate the Proposed Projects

↓

Mark Results on Checklist

↓

Checklist

Environmental Baseline			Effects of the Action		
Properly Funct.	At Risk	Not Properly Funct.	Maintain	Restore	Degrade

Use Professional Judgement and the Checklist to

↓

Dichotomous Key

Yes/No
No Effect
May Effect
Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Likely to Adversely Affect

Definitions of ESA Effects and Examples

Definitions of Effects Thresholds

Following are definitions of ESA effects (sources in *italics*). The first three ("no effect," "may affect, not likely to adversely affect," and "may affect, likely to adversely affect") are not defined in the ESA or implementing regulations. However, "likely to jeopardize" is defined in the implementing regulations:

"No effect"

This determination is only appropriate "if the proposed action will literally have no effect whatsoever on the species and / or critical habitat, not a small effect or an effect that is unlikely to occur." (From "*Common flaws in developing an effects determination*", Olympia Field Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Furthermore, actions that result in a "beneficial effect" do not qualify as a no effect determination.

"May affect, not likely to adversely affect"

"The appropriate conclusion when effects on the species or critical habitat are expected to be beneficial, discountable, or insignificant. Beneficial effects have contemporaneous positive effects without any adverse effects to the species or habitat. Insignificant effects relate to the size of the impact and should never reach the scale where take occurs. Discountable effects are those extremely unlikely to occur. Based on best judgement, a person would not: (1) be able to meaningfully measure, detect, or evaluate insignificant effects; or (2) expect discountable effects to occur." (From "*Draft Endangered Species Consultation Handbook; Procedures for Conducting Section 7 Consultations and Conferences*," USFWS / NMFS, 1994). The term "negligible" has been used in many ESA consultations involving anadromous fish in the Snake River basin. The definition of this term is the same as "insignificant."

"May affect, likely to adversely affect"

The appropriate conclusion when there is "more than a negligible potential to have adverse effects on the species or critical habitat" (*NMFS draft internal guidelines*). Unfortunately, there is no definition of adverse effects in the ESA or its implementing regulations. The draft Endangered Species Handbook (NMFS / USFWS, June 1994) provides this definition for "Is likely to adversely affect": "This conclusion is reached if any adverse effect to listed species or critical habitat may occur as a direct or indirect result of the proposed action or its interrelated or interdependent actions. In the event the overall effect of the proposed action is beneficial to the listed species or critical habitat, but may also cause some adverse effects to individuals of the listed species or segments of the critical habitat, then the proposed action 'is likely to adversely affect' the listed species or critical habitat."

The following is a definition specific to anadromous salmonids developed by NMFS, the FS, and the BLM during the PACFISH consultation; "Adverse effects include short or long-term, direct or indirect management-related, impacts of an individual or cumulative nature such as mortality, reduced growth or other adverse physiological changes, harassment of fish, physical disturbance of redds, reduced reproductive success, delayed or premature migration, or other adverse behavioral changes to listed anadromous salmonids at any life stage. Adverse effects to designated critical habitat include effects to any of the essential features of critical habitat that would diminish the value of the habitat for the survival and recovery of listed anadromous salmonids" (From *NMFS' Pacfish Biological Opinion, 1/23/95*). Interpretation of part of the preceding quotation has been problematic. The statement "...impacts of an individual or cumulative nature..." has often been applied only to actions and impacts, not organisms. NMFS' concern with this definition is that it does not clearly state that the described impacts include those to individual eggs or fish. However, this definition is useful if it is applied on the individual level as well as on the subpopulation and population levels.

For the purposes of Section 7, any action which has more than a negligible potential to result in "take" (see definition at bottom of Dichotomous Key, NMFS fIGURE 1) is likely to adversely affect a proposed / listed species. It is not possible for NMFS or USFWS to concur on a "not likely to adversely affect" determination if the proposed action will cause take of the listed species. Take can be authorized in the Incidental Take Statement of a Biological Opinion after the anticipated extent and amount of take has been described, and the effects of the take are analyzed with respect to jeopardizing the species or adversely modifying critical habitat. *Take, as defined in the ESA, clearly applies to the individual level, thus actions that have more than a negligible potential to cause take of individual eggs and/or fish are "likely to adversely affect."*

"Likely to jeopardize the continued existence of"

The regulations define jeopardy as "to engage in an action that reasonably would be expected, directly or indirectly, to reduce appreciably the likelihood of both the survival and recovery of a listed species in the wild by reducing the reproduction, numbers, or distribution of that species" (*50 CFR §402.02*).

"Take"

The ESA (Section 3) defines take as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct". The USFWS further defines "harm" as "significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering", and "harass" as "actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering".

Examples of Effects Determinations

"No effect"

NMFS is encouraging evaluators to conference / consult at the watershed scale (i.e., on all proposed actions in a particular watershed) rather than on individual projects. Due to the strict definition of "no effect" (above), the interrelated nature of in-stream conditions and watershed conditions, and the watershed scale of these conferences, consultations, and activities "no effect" determinations for all actions in a watershed could be rare when proposed / listed species are present in or downstream from a given watershed. This is reflected in the dichotomous key, however the evaluator may identify some legitimate exceptions to this general rule.

Example

The proposed project is in a watershed where available monitoring information indicates that in-stream habitat is in good functioning condition and riparian vegetation is at or near potential. The proposed activity will take place on stable soils and will not result in increased sediment production. No activity will take place in the riparian zone.

"May affect, not likely to adversely affect"

Example

The proposed action is in a watershed where available monitoring information indicates that in-stream habitat is in good functioning condition and riparian vegetation is at or near potential. Past monitoring indicates that this type of action has led to the present condition (i.e., timely recovery has been achieved with the kind of management proposed in the action). Given available information, the potential for take to occur is negligible.

"May affect, likely to adversely affect"

Example

The proposed action is in a watershed that has degraded baseline conditions such as excess fine sediment, high cobble embeddedness, or poor pool frequency / quality. If the action will further degrade any of these pathways, the determination is clearly "likely to adversely affect".

A less obvious example would be a proposed action in the same watershed that is designed to improve baseline conditions, such as road obliteration or culvert repair. Even though the intent is to improve the degraded conditions over the long-term, if any short-term impacts (such as temporary turbidity and sedimentation) will cause take (adverse effects), then the determination is "likely to adversely affect."

NMFS Matrix - Table 1. Matrix of Pathways, and Indicators

(Remember, the ranges of criteria presented here are not absolute, they may be adjusted for unique watersheds.

Pathway	Indicators	Properly Functioning	At Risk	Not Properly Functioning
Water Quality	Temperature	50-57° F[1]	57-60° (spawning) 57-64° (migration &rearing)[2]	> 60° (spawning) > 64° (migration & rearing)[2]
	Sediment/Turbidity	<12% fines (8.5mm) in gravel,[3] turbidity low	12-17% (west-side)[3], 12-20% (east-side)[2], turbidity moderate	>17% (west-side)[3], >20% (east side)[2] fines at surface or depth in spawning habitat[2], turbidity high
	Chemical Contamination/Nutrients	low levels of chemical contamination from agricultural, industrial and other sources, no excess nutrients, no CWA 303d designated reaches[5]	moderate levels of chemical contamination from agricultural, industrial and other sources, some excess nutrients, one CWA 303d designated reach[5]	high levels of chemical contamination from agricultural, industrial and other sources, high levels of excess nutrients, more than one CWA 303d designated reach[5]
Habitat Access	Physical Barriers	any man-made barriers present in watershed allow upstream and downstream fish passage at all flows	any man-made barriers present in watershed do not allow upstream and/or downstream fish passage at base/low flows	any man-made barriers present in watershed don't allow upstream and/or downstream fish passage at a range of flows
Habitat Elements	Substrate	dominant substrate is gravel or cobble (interstitial spaces clear), or embeddedness <20%[3]	gravel and cobble is subdominant, or if dominant, embeddedness 20-30%[3]	bedrock, sand, silt or small gravel dominant, or if gravel and cobble dominant, embeddedness >30%[2]
	Large Woody Debris	Coast: >80 pieces/mile >24"diameter >50 ft. length[4]; East-side: >20 pieces/ mile >12"diameter >35 ft. length[2]; and adequate sources of woody debris recruitment in riparian areas	currently meets standards for properly functioning, but lacks potential sources from riparian areas of woody debris recruitment to maintain that standard	does not meet standards for properly functioning and lacks potential large woody debris recruitment
	Pool Frequency channel width # pools/mile 5 feet 184 10" 96 15“ 70 2" 56 25“ 47 50“ 26 75" 23 100“ 18	meets pool frequency standards (left) and large woody debris recruitment standards for properly functioning habitat (above)	meets pool frequency standards but large woody debris recruitment inadequate to maintain pools over time	does not meet pool frequency standards
	Pool Quality	pools >1 meter deep (holding pools) with good cover and cool water[3], minor reduction of pool volume by fine sediment	few deeper pools (>1 meter) present or inadequate cover/temperature[3], moderate reduction of pool volume by fine sediment	no deep pools (>1 meter) and inadequate cover/temperature[3], major reduction of pool volume by fine sediment

NMFS Table 1. Matrix of Pathways and Indicators. (continued)

Remember, the ranges of criteria presented here are not absolute, they may be adjusted for unique watersheds.

Pathway	Indicators	Properly Functioning	At Risk	Not Properly Functioning
	Off-channel Habitat	backwaters with cover, and low energy off-channel areas (ponds, oxbows, etc.)[3]	some backwaters and high energy side channels[3]	few or no backwaters, no off-channel ponds[3]
	Refugia (important remnant habitat for sensitive aquatic species)	habitat refugia exist and are adequately buffered (e.g., by intact riparian reserves); existing refugia are sufficient in size, number and connectivity to maintain viable populations or sub-populations[7]	habitat refugia exist but are not adequately buffered (e.g., by intact riparian reserves); existing refugia are insufficient in size, number and connectivity to maintain viable populations or sub-populations[7]	adequate habitat refugia do not exist[7]
Channel Condition & Dynamics	Width/Depth Ratio	<10[2,4]	10-12 (we are unaware of any criteria to reference)	>12 (we are unaware of any criteria to reference)
	Streambank Condition	>90% stable; i.e., on average, less than 10% of banks are actively eroding[2]	80-90% stable	<80% stable
	Floodplain Connectivity	off-channel areas are frequently hydrologically linked to main channel; overbank flows occur and maintain wetland functions, riparian vegetation and succession	reduced linkage of wetland, floodplains and riparian areas to main channel; overbank flows are reduced relative to historical frequency, as evidenced by moderate degradation of wetland function, riparian vegetation/succession	severe reduction in hydrologic connectivity between off-channel, wetland, floodplain and riparian areas; wetland extent drastically reduced and riparian vegetation/succession altered significantly
Flow/Hydrology	Change in Peak/Base Flows	watershed hydrograph indicates peak flow, base flow and flow timing characteristics comparable to an undisturbed watershed of similar size, geology and geography	some evidence of altered peak flow, baseflow and/or flow timing relative to an undisturbed watershed of similar size, geology and geography	pronounced changes in peak flow, baseflow and/or flow timing relative to an undisturbed watershed of similar size, geology and geography
	Increase in Drainage Network	zero or minimum increases in drainage network density due to roads[8,9]	moderate increases in drainage network density due to roads (e.g., 5%)[8,9]	significant increases in drainage network density due to roads (e.g., 20-25%)[8,9]
Watershed Conditions	Road Density & Location	<2 mi/mi^{2}11, no valley bottom roads	2-3 mi/mi^2, some valley bottom roads	>3 mi/mi^2, many valley bottom roads
	Disturbance History	<15% ECA (entire watershed) with no concentration of disturbance in unstable or potentially unstable areas, and/or refugia, and/or riparian area; and for NWFP area (except AMAs), 15% retention of LSOG in watershed[10]	<15% ECA (entire watershed) but disturbance concentrated in unstable or potentially unstable areas, and/or refugia, and/or riparian area; and for NWFP area (except AMAs), 15% retention of LSOG in watershed[10]	>15% ECA (entire watershed) and disturbance concentrated in unstable or potentially unstable areas, and/or refugia, and/or riparian area; does not meet NWFP standard for LSOG retention

Riparian Reserves	the riparian reserve system provides adequate shade, large woody debris recruitment, and habitat protection and connectivity in all subwatersheds, and buffers or includes known refugia for sensitive aquatic species (>80% intact),and/or for grazing impacts: percent similarity of riparian vegetation to the potential natural community/ composition >50%[12]	moderate loss of connectivity or function (shade, LWD recruitment, etc.) of riparian reserve system, or incomplete protection of habitats and refugia for sensitive aquatic species (70-80% intact), and/or for grazing impacts: percent similarity of riparian vegetation to the potential natural community/composition 25-50% or better[12]	riparian reserve system is fragmented, poorly connected, or provides inadequate protection of habitats and refugia for sensitive aquatic species (<70% intact), and/or for grazing impacts: percent similarity of riparian vegetation to the potential natural community/composition <25%[12]

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[2] Biological Opinion on Land and Resource Management Plans for the: Boise, Challis, Nez Perce, Payette, Salmon, Sawtooth, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests. March 1, 1995.

[3] Washington Timber/Fish Wildlife Cooperative Monitoring Evaluation and Research Committee, 1993. Watershed Analysis Manual (Version 2.0). Washington Department of Natural Resources.

[4] Biological Opinion on Implementation of Interim Strategies for Managing Anadromous Fish-producing Watersheds in Eastern Oregon and Washington, Idaho, and Portions of California (PACFISH). National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Region, January 23, 1995.

[5] A Federal Agency Guide for Pilot Watershed Analysis (Version 1.2). 1994.

[6] USDA, Forest Service. 1994. Section 7 Fish Habitat Monitoring Protocol for the Upper Columbia River Basin.

[7] Frissell, C.A., W.J. Liss, and David Bayles. 1993. An Integrated Biophysical Strategy for Ecological Restoration of Large Watersheds. Proceedings from the Symposium on Changing Roles in Water Resources Management and Policy. June 27-30, 1993. (American Water Resources Association), p. 449-456.

[8] Wemple, B.C. 1994. Hydrologic Integration of Forest Roads with Stream Networks in Two Basins, Western Cascades, Oregon. M.S. Thesis, Geosciences Department, Oregon State University.

[9] Example, see Elk River Watershed Analysis Report. 1995. Siskiyou National Forest, Oregon.

[10] Northwest Forest Plan. 1994. Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl. USDA Forest Service and USDI Bureau of Land Management.

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NMFS Table 2. Checklist for Documenting Environmental Baseline and Effect of Proposed Action(s) on Relevant Indicators.

Diagnostics/ Pathways	Environmental Baseline			Effects of the Action(s)		
Indicators	**Properly Functioning[1]**	**At Risk[1]**	**Not Properly Functioning[1]**	**Restore[2]**	**Maintain[3]**	**Degrade[4]**
Water Quality:						
Temperature						
Sediment						
Chem. Contam./Nut.						
Habitat Access:						
Physical Barriers						
Habitat Elements:						
Substrate						
Large Wood Debris						
Pool Frequency						
Pool Quality						
Off-Channel Habitat						
Refugia						
Channel Cond. & Dyn:						
Width/Depth Ratio						
Stream Bank Cond.						
Floodplain Connectivity						
Flow Hydrology:						
Peak/Base Flows						
Drainage Network Increase						
Watershed Conditions:						
Road Dens. & Loc.						
Disturbance History						
Riparian Reserves						
Watershed Name:			**Location:**			

NMFS Table 2. Checklist for Documenting Environmental Baseline and Effect of Proposed Action(s) on Relevant Indicators. (continued)

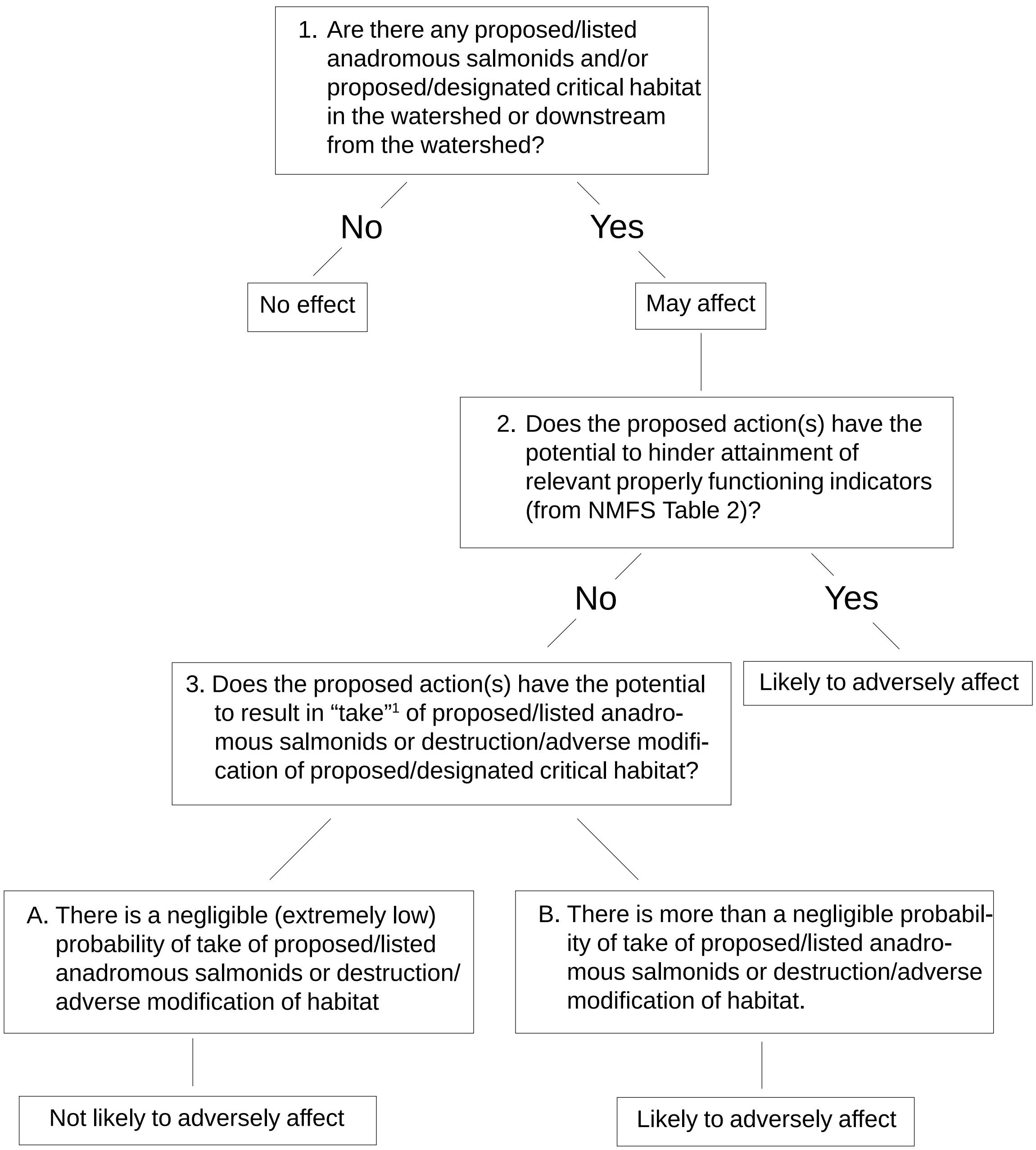
[1] These three categories of function (“properly functioning,” “at risk,” and “not properly functioning”) are defined for each indicator in the “Matrix of Pathways and Indicators” (NMFS Table 1).

[2] For the purposes of this checklist, “restore” means to change the function of an “at risk” indicator to “properly functioning”, or to change the function of a “not properly functioning” indicator to “at risk” or “properly functioning” (i.e., it does not apply to “properly functioning” indicators).

[3] For the purposes of this checklist, “maintain” means that the function of an indicator does not change (i.e., it applies to all indicators regardless of functional level).

[4] For the purposes of this checklist, “degrade” means to change the function of an indicator for the worse (i.e., it applies to all indicators regardless of functional level). In some cases, a “not properly functioning” indicator may be further worsened, and this should be noted.

NMFS Figure I. Dichotomous Key for Making ESA Determination of Effects



[1] "Take" - The ESA (Section 3) defines take as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, trap, capture, collect or attempt to engage in any such conduct". The USFWS (USFWS, 1994) further defines "harm" as "significant habitat modification or degradation that results in death or injury to listed species by significantly impairing behavioral patterns such as breeding, feeding, or sheltering", and "harass" as "actions that create the likelihood of injury to listed species to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering".

NMFS Appendix A: Overview of Some Key Habitat Elements and Activities Affecting Them

The following are excerpts from A Coarse Screening Process For Potential Application in ESA Consultations (CRITFC, 1994). The excerpts are intended to stimulate the biologist's thought processes into evaluating all of the pathways through which habitat degradation could occur. Unfortunately this is not an all inclusive list. However, it is a start. We recommend that biologists review the entire "Coarse Screening" document and any other documents that are available to them. The "Coarse screening" document is available from The National Marine Fisheries Service, Portland, Oregon. We also highly recommend reviewing a report prepaired by ManTech Environmental Research Services Corporation while under contract to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Environmental Protection Agency and US Fish and Wildlife Service. The document is entitled "An Ecosystem Approach to Salmonid Conservation". This document is also available from the NMFS in Portland, Oregon.

Channel Substrate

"Salmon survival and production are reduced as fine sediment increases, producing multiple negative impacts on salmon at several life stages. Increased fine sediment entombs incubating salmon in redds, reduces egg survival by reducing oxygen flow, alters the food web, reduces pool volumes for adult and juvenile salmon, and reduces the availability of rearing space for juveniles rendering them more susceptible to predation. Reduced survival-to-emergence (STE) for salmon caused by elevated fine sediment increases is of particular concern because it is a source of density-independent mortality that can have extremely significant negative effects on salmon populations even at low seeding.

The rearing capacity of salmon habitat is decreased as cobble embeddedness levels increase. Overwinter rearing habitat may be a major limiting factor to salmon production and survival. The loss of overwintering habitat may result in increased levels of mortality during rearing life stages."

Channel Morphology

"Available data indicate that the production of salmon is reduced as pool frequency and volume decrease. Large pools are required by salmon during rearing, spawning, and migration. Pools provide thermal refugia, velocity refugia during storm events, resting habitat for migrating salmon, and important rearing habitat for juvenile salmon."

"Fine sediment is deposited in pools during waning flows. Residual pool volume is the volume of a pool not filled by fine sediment accumulations. Fine sediment volumes in pools reduce pool quality and reduce residual pool volumes (the pool volume available for salmon use)."

"Available data indicate that salmon production increases as Large Woody Debris (LWD) increases. LWD provides cover, velocity refugia, and plays a vital role in pool formation and the maintenance of channel complexity required by salmon in natal habitat. LWD also aids in reducing channel erosion and buffering sediment inputs by providing sediment storage in headwater streams."

Bank Stability

"Bank stability is of prime importance in maintaining habitat conditions favoring salmon survival. Bank instability increases channel erosion that can lead to increased levels of fine sediment and the in-filling of pools. Unstable banks can lead to stream incisement that can reduce baseflow contributions from groundwater and increase water temperature. Bank instability can cause channel widening that can significantly exacerbate seasonal water temperature extremes and destabilize LWD."

Water Temperature

"Available information indicates that the elevation of summer water temperatures impairs salmon production at scales ranging from the reach to the stream network and puts fish at greater risk through a variety of effects that operate at scales ranging from the individual organism to the aquatic community level. Maximum summer water temperatures in excess of 60°F impair salmon production. However, many smaller streams naturally have much lower temperatures and these conditions are critical to maintaining downstream water temperatures. At the stream system level, elevated water temperatures reduce the area of usable habitat during the summer and can render the most potentially productive and structurally complex habitats unusable. Decreases in winter water temperatures also put salmon at additional risk. The loss of vegetative shading is the predominant cause of anthropogenically elevated summer water temperature. Channel widening and reduced baseflows exacerbate seasonal water temperature extremes. Elevated summer water temperatures also reduce the diversity of coldwater fish assemblages."

Water Quantity and Timing

"The frequency and magnitude of stream discharge strongly influence substrate and channel morphology conditions, as well as the amount of available spawning and rearing area for salmon. Increased peak flows can cause redd scouring, channel widening, stream incisement, increased sedimentation. Lower streamflows are more susceptible to seasonal temperature extremes in both winter and summer. The dewatering of reaches can block salmon passage."

Some Major Activities and their Effects

Logging

Regional differences in climate, geomorphology, soils, and vegetation may greatly influence timber harvest effects on streams of a given size. However, some broad generalizations can be made on how timber harvest affects the hydrologic cycle, sediment input, and channel morphology of streams:

1. *Hydrologic cycle.* Timber harvest often alters normal streamflow patterns, particularly the volume of peak flows (maximum volume of water in the stream) and base flows (the volume of water in the stream representing the groundwater contribution). The degree these parameters change depend on the percentage of total tree cover removed from the watershed and the amount of soil disturbance caused by the harvest, among other things. For example, if harvest activities remove a high percentage of tree cover and cause light soil disturbance and compaction, rain falling on the soil will infiltrate normally. However, due to the loss of tree cover, evapotranspiration (the loss of water by plants to the atmosphere) will be much lower than before. Thus, the combination of normal water infiltration into the soil and greatly decreased uptake and loss of water by the tree cover results in substantially higher, sustained streamflows. Hence, this type of harvest results in higher base flows during dry times of the year when evapotranspiration is high, but does not greatly affect peak flows during wet times of the year because infiltration has not decreased and evapotranspiration is low. On the other hand, if the harvest activities cause high soil disturbance and compaction, little rainfall will be able to penetrate the soil and recharge groundwater. This results in higher surface runoff and equal or slightly higher base flows during dry times of the year. During wet times of the year, the compacted soils deliver high amounts of surface runoff, substantially increasing peak flows. In general, timber harvest on a watershed-wide scale results in water moving more quickly through the watershed (i.e., higher runoff rates, higher peak and base flows) because of decreased soil infiltration and evapotranspiration. This greatly simplified model only partly illustrates the complex hydrologic responses to timber harvest (Chamberlain et al. 1991, Gordon et al. 1992).
2. *Sediment input.* Timber harvest activities such as road-building and use, skidding logs, clear-cutting, and burning increase the amount of bare compacted soil exposed to rainfall and runoff, resulting in higher rates of surface erosion. Some of this hillside sediment reaches streams via roads, skid trails, and / or ditches (Chamberlain et al. 1991). Appropriate management precautions such as avoiding timber harvest in very wet seasons, maintaining buffer zones below open slopes, and skidding over snow can decrease the amount of surface erosion (Packer 1967). Harvest activities can also greatly increase the likelihood of mass soil movements occurring, particularly along roads and on clear-cuts in steep terrain (Furniss et al. 1991, O'Loughlin 1972). Increased surface erosion and mass soil movements associated with timber harvest areas can result in an increase in sediment input to streams. Fine

sediment may infiltrate into relatively clean streambed gravels or, if the supply of fine sediment is large, settle deeper into the streambed (Chamberlain et al. 1991).

3. *Stream channel morphology*. The hydrologic and sedimentation changes discussed above can influence a stream's morphology in many ways. Substantial increases in the volume and frequency of peak flows can cause streambed scour and bank erosion. A large sediment supply may cause aggradation of the stream channel, pool filling, and a reduction in gravel quality (Madej 1982). Streambank destabilization from vegetation removal, physical breakdown, or channel aggradation adds to sediment supply and generally results in a loss of stream channel complexity (Scrivener 1988). In addition, losses of in-stream large woody debris supplies (i.e., removal of riparian trees) also result in less channel complexity as wood-associated scour pools decrease in size and disappear (Chamberlain et al. 1991).

Roads

"Roads are one of the greatest sources of habitat degradation. Roads significantly elevate on-site erosion and sediment delivery, disrupt subsurface flows essential to the maintenance of baseflows, and can contribute to increased peakflows. Roads within riparian zones reduce shading and disrupt LWD sources for the life of the road. These effects degrade habitat by increasing fine sediment levels, reducing pool volumes, increasing channel width and exacerbating seasonal temperature extremes."

Grazing

The impacts of livestock grazing to stream habitat and fish populations can be separated into acute and chronic effects. Acute effects are those which contribute to the immediate loss of individual fish, and loss of specific habitat features (undercut banks, spawning beds, etc.) or localized reductions in habitat quality (sedimentation, loss of riparian vegetation, etc.). Chronic effects are those which, over a period of time, result in loss or reductions of entire populations of fish, or widespread reductions in habitat quantity and/or quality.

Acute Effects

Acute effects to habitat include compacting stream substrates, collapse of undercut banks, destabilized streambanks and localized reduction or removal of herbaceous and woody vegetation along streambanks and within riparian areas (Platts 1991). Increased levels of sediment can result through the resuspension of material within existing stream channels as well as increased contributions of sediment from adjacent streambanks and riparian areas. Impacts to stream and riparian areas resulting from grazing are dependent on the intensity, duration, and timing of grazing activities (Platts 1989) as well as the capacity of a given watershed to assimilate imposed activities, and the pre-activity condition of the watershed (Odum 1981).

Chronic Effects

Chronic effects of grazing result when upland and riparian areas are exposed to activity and disturbance levels that exceed assimilative abilities of a given watershed. Both direct and indirect fish mortality are possible, and the potential for mortality extends to all life cycle phases. As an example, following decades of high intensity season-long grazing on BLM lands in the Trout Creek Mountains of southeast Oregon, the Whitehorse Creek watershed had extensive areas of degraded upland and riparian habitat (BLM 1992). An extreme rain-on-snow event in late winter 1984 and subsequent flooding of area streams flushed adult and juvenile trout through area streams and into Whitehorse Ranch fields and the adjacent desert.

Although less extreme, increases in stream temperature and reduced allochthonous inputs following removal of riparian vegetation, increased sedimentation, and decreased water storage capacity work together to reduce the health and vigor of stream biotic communities (Armour et al. 1991, Platts 1991, Chaney et al. 1990). Increased sediment loads reduce primary production in streams. Reduced instream plant growth and riparian vegetation limits populations of terrestrial and aquatic insects. Persistent degraded conditions adversely influence resident fish populations (Meehan 1991).

Mining

"Mining activities can cause significant increases in sediment delivery. While mining may not be as geographically pervasive as other sediment-producing activities, surface mining typically increases sediment delivery much more per unit of disturbed area than other activities (Dunne and Leopold, 1978; USFS, 1980; Richards, 1982; Nelson et al. 1991) due to the level of disruption of soils, topography, and vegetation. Relatively small amounts of mining can increase sediment delivery significantly."

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NMFS Appendix B: Species Narrative

Umpqua River Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*)

Endangered Species Act Status: Proposed Endangered, July 8, 1994, Umpqua River Basin, in Southwestern Oregon. All life forms are included in this proposal.

Description

Sea-run cutthroat trout is a profusely spotted fish which often has red or sometimes orange slash marks on each side of the lower jaw. Coastal sea-run cutthroat trout often lose the cutthroat marks when in seawater. Some other trouts, such as Apache trout, Gila trout and Redband trout may also have yellowish or red slash marks. Other identifying marks include; the presence of basibranchial teeth, located on the basibranchial plate behind the tongue. The upper jaw is typically more than half the length of the head with the eye being well forward of the back of the maxilla.

The spots on cutthroat trout are small to medium, irregularly shaped, dispersed evenly over the entire body including the belly and anal fin. Coloration of sea-run fish is often silvery with a slight yellow tint. This silver coloration often masks the spots. Sea-run fish darken and take on spots after a period in freshwater. Freshwater fish are often more colorful with pale yellow colors on the body and red-orange or yellow on the lower fins. The gill plates sides and ventral areas may tinted a rosy color as spawning time draws nearer (description from Stolz and Schnell, 1991).

Distribution

Coastal cutthroat trout range from northern California to the Gulf of Alaska. The distribution of the proposed Umpqua River Sea-run cutthroat trout is the greater Umpqua River Basin located in Douglas County in southwestern Oregon. The Umpqua River Basin stretches from the Cascade Mountains in the east to the Pacific Ocean at Reedsport, Oregon. The drainages of the North and South Umpqua Rivers together make up about 2/3 of the greater Basin drainage, and each river is about 170 km long. The mainstem Umpqua River flows in a northwesterly direction another 180 km to the ocean. Together, the three rivers form one of the longest coastal basins in Oregon, approximately 340 km in length, with a drainage area of over 12,200 sq. km. Major tributaries of the mainstem Umpqua River include Calapooya (River Kilometer [RKm] 164), Elk (RKm 78), and Scholfield Creeks (Rkm 18) and the Smith River (Rkm 18). The estuary of the Umpqua River is one of largest on the Oregon coast and has a large seawater wedge that extends as far inland as Scottsburg, Oregon at Rkm 45 (From Status Review For Oregon's Umpqua River Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout, Johnson et al. 1994).

Life Forms

Sea-Run (Anadromous) Cutthroat Trout

Cutthroat trout have evolved to exploit habitats least preferred by other salmonid species (Johnston 1981). Unlike other anadromous salmonids, sea-run cutthroat trout do not over-winter in the ocean and only rarely make long extended migrations across large bodies of water. They migrate in the nearshore marine habitat and usually remain within 10 km of land (Sumner 1972, Giger 1972, Jones 1976, Johnston 1981). While most anadromous cutthroat trout enter seawater as 2- or 3-year-olds, some may remain in fresh water for up to 5 years before entering the sea (Sumner 1972, Giger 1972).

Resident (Nonmigratory) Cutthroat Trout

Some cutthroat trout do not migrate long distances; instead, they remain in upper tributaries near spawning and rearing areas and maintain small home territories (Trotter 1989). Resident cutthroat trout have been observed in the upper Umpqua River drainage (Roth 1937, FCO and OSGC 1946 , ODFW 1993a).

During a radio tagging study Waters (1993) found that fish smaller than 180mm maintained home ranges of less than 14m of stream length and moved about an average of 27m during the study. Fish larger than 180mm had home ranges of about 76m and moved and average total distance of about 166m. This study was conducted in three tributaries of Rock Creek on the North Umpqua River drainage (In Johnson et al. 1994).

River-Migrating (Potamodromous) Cutthroat Trout

Some cutthroat trout move within large river basins but do not migrate to the sea.

Life History/Migration

The following descriptions are condensed from status review (Johnson et al. 1994)

Cutthroat trout spawning occurs between December and May and eggs begin to hatch within 6-7 weeks of spawning, depending on temperature. Alevins remain in the redds for a further few weeks and emerge as fry between March and June, with peak emergence in mid-April (Giger 1972, Scott and Crossman 1973). Newly emerged fry are about 25 mm long. They prefer low velocity margins, backwaters, and side channels, gradually moving into pools if competing species are absent. If coho fry are present they will drive the smaller cutthroat fry into riffles, where they will remain until decreasing water temperatures reduce the assertiveness of the coho fry (Stolz and Schnell, 1991). In winter , cutthroat trout go to pools near log jams or overhanging banks (Bustrad and Narver 1975).

Parr Movements

After emergence from redds, cutthroat trout juveniles generally remain in upper tributaries until they are 1 year of age, when they may begin extensive movement up and down streams.

Directed downstream movement by parr usually begins with the first spring rains (Giger 1972) but has been documented in every month of the year (Sumner 1953, 1962, 1972; Giger 1972; Moring and Lantz 1975; Johnston and Mercer 1976; Johnston 1981). As an example, from 1960 to 1963 (Lowry 1965) and from 1966 to 1970 (Giger 1972) in the Alsea River drainage, large downstream migrations of juvenile fish began in mid-April with peak movement in mid-May. Some juveniles (parr) even entered the estuary and remained there over the summer, although they did not smolt nor migrate to the open ocean (Giger 1972). In Oregon, upstream movement of juveniles from estuaries and mainstem to tributaries begins with the onset of winter freshets during November, December, and January (Giger 1972, Moring and Lantz 1975). At this time, these 1-year and older juvenile fish averaged less than 200 mm in length.

Smoltification

Time of initial seawater entry of smolts bound for the ocean varies by locality and may be related to marine conditions or food sources (Lowry 1965, 1966; Giger 1972; Johnston and Mercer 1976; Trotter 1989). In Washington and Oregon, entry begins as early as March, peaks in mid-May, and is essentially over by mid-June (Sumner 1953, 1972; Lowry 1965; Giger 1972; Moring and Lantz 1975; Johnston 1981). Seaward migration of smolts to protected areas appears to occur at an earlier age and a smaller size than to more exposed areas. On the less protected Oregon coast, cutthroat trout tend to migrate at an older age (age 3 and 4) and at a size of 200 to 255 mm (Lowry 1965, 1966; Giger 1972).

Timing of Smolt Migrations in the Umpqua River

Trap data from seven locations in the North Umpqua River in 1958 and from three locations in Steamboat Creek (a tributary of the North Umpqua River downstream of Soda Springs Dam) between 1958 and 1973 indicate that juvenile movement is similar to that reported by Lowry (1965) and Giger (1972) in other Oregon coastal rivers. Movement peaked in May and June, with a sharp decline in July, although some juveniles continued to be trapped through September and October. It is unknown whether Umpqua River cutthroat trout juveniles migrate from the upper basin areas to the estuary, but it seems unlikely considering the distance (well over 185 km) and the river conditions (average August river temperature at Winchester Dam (located on the main Umpqua River where the Interstate 5 highway crosses the Umpqua) since 1957 is 23.3°C) (ODFW 1993a).

Estuary and Ocean Migration

Migratory patterns of sea-run cutthroat trout differ from Pacific salmon in two major ways: few, if any, cutthroat overwinter in the ocean, and the fish do not usually make long open-ocean migrations, although they may travel considerable distances along the shoreline (Johnston 1981, Trotter 1989, Pauley et al. 1989). Studies by Giger (1972) and Jones (1973, 1974, 1975) indicated that cutthroat trout, whether initial or seasoned migrants, remained at sea an average of only 91 days, with a range of 5 to 158 days.

Adult Freshwater Migrations

In the Umpqua River, it is reported (ODFW 1993a) that cutthroat trout historically began upstream migrations in late June and continued to return through January with bimodal peaks in late-July and October. Giger (1972) reported a similar return pattern, but with slightly later modal peaks (mid-August and late-October to mid-November) on the Alsea River.

Spawning/Rearing

Cutthroat trout generally spawn in the tails of pools located in small tributaries at the upper limit of spawning and rearing sites of coho salmon and steelhead. Streams conditions are typically low stream gradient and low flows, usually less than 0.3 m^3/second during the summer (Johnston 1981). Spawn timing varies among streams, but generally occurs between December and May, with a peak in February (Trotter 1989).

Cutthroat trout are iteroparous and have been documented to spawn each year for at least 5 years (Giger 1972), although some cutthroat trout do not spawn every year (Giger 1972) and some do not return to seawater after spawning, but remain in fresh water for at least a year (Giger 1972, Tomasson 1978). Spawners may experience high post-spawning mortality due to weight loss of as much as 38% of pre-spawning mass (Sumner 1953) and other factors (Cramer 1940, Sumner 1953, Giger 1972, Scott and Crossman 1973).

Food

In streams cutthroat trout feed mainly on terrestrial and aquatic insects that come to them in the drift. When in the marine environment cutthroat trout feed around gravel beaches, off the mouths of small creeks and beach trickles, around oyster beds and patches of eel grass. They primarily feed on amphipods, isopods, shrimp, stickelback, sand lance and other small fishes. (Stolz and Schnell, 1991)

Additional Information

Much of what is presented here was take from two sources. They are the *Status Review for Oregon's Umpqua River Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout*, June 1994, available from the National Marine Fisheries Service, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, Coastal Zone and Estuarine Studies Division, 2725 Montlake BLVD. E., Seattle, WA 98112-2097 and the book *The Wildlife Series, Trout*, Edited by Judith Stolz and Judith Schnell, Stackpole Books, Cameron and Kelker Streets, P.O. Box 1831, Harrisburg, PA 17105 (ISBN number 0-8117-1652-X). Both documents contain a lot more information for those that are interested.

NMFS Appendix C

A Comparison Between ACS Objectives, Ecological Goals, and the Pathways and Indicators Used in the Effects Matrix.

Aquatic Conservation Strategy Objectives - Northwest Forest Plan	Ecological Goals - Snake River Recovery Plan/LRMP	Pathways/Indicators
2, 4, 8, 9	2, 5, 9, 10	Water Quality / Temperature
4, 5, 6, 8, 9	5, 6, 7, 9, 10	Water Quality/Sediment./Turbidity
2, 4, 8, 9	2, 5, 9, 10	Water Quality/Chemical Concentration/Nutrients
2, 6, 9	2, 7, 10	Habitat Access/Physical Barriers
3, 5, 8, 9	3, 6, 9, 10	Habitat Elements/Substrate
3, 6, 8, 9	3, 4, 7, 9, 10	Habitat Elements/Large Woody Debris
3, 8, 9	3, 4, 9, 10	Habitat Elements/Pool Frequency
3, 5, 6, 9	3, 4, 6, 7, 10	Habitat Elements/Pool Quality
1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9	1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10	Habitat Elements/Off-Channel Habitat
1, 2, 9	1, 2, 10	Habitat Elements/Refugia
3, 8, 9	3, 9, 10	Channel Condition/Dynamics/Width/Depth Ratio
3, 8, 9	3, 9, 10	Channel Condition/Dynamics/Streambank Condition
1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9	1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10	Channel Condition/Dynamics/Floodplain Connectivity
5, 6, 7	6, 7, 8	Flow/Hydrology/Change in Peak/Base Flow
2, 5, 6, 7	2, 6, 7, 8	Flow/Hydrology/Increase in Drainage Network
1, 3, 5	1, 3, 6	Watershed Conditions/Road Density & Location
1, 5	1, 6	Watershed Conditions/Disturbance History
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10	Watershed Conditions/Riparian Reserves

NMFS Appendix D: ACS Objectives and Ecological Goals

ACS Objectives

Forest Service and BLM-administered lands within the range of the northern spotted owl will be managed to:

1. Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations and communities are uniquely adapted.
2. Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. Lateral, longitudinal, and drainage network connections include floodplains, wetlands, upslope areas, headwater tributaries, and intact refugia. These network connections must provide chemically and physically unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic and riparian-dependent species.
3. Maintain and restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.
4. Maintain and restore water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems. Water quality must remain within the range that maintains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the system and benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities.
5. Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved. Elements of the sediment regime include the timing, volume, rate, and character of sediment input, storage, and transport.
6. Maintain and restore in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows must be protected.
7. Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.
8. Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.
9. Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.

Ecological Goals

NMFS restated, refined, and expanded the PACFISH goals to provide added detail on ecological function needed for listed salmon and to include landscape and habitat connectivity perspectives. These goals provide consistency with NMFS' basin-wide Ecological Goals for all Federal land management agencies contained in the Proposed Recovery Plan for Snake River Salmon. Consistency with these goals will help NMFS determine whether land management actions avoid jeopardy or adverse modification of critical habitat during watershed-scale and project-scale consultations. However, although consistency with the goals and their associated guidelines generally is necessary to achieve informal concurrence under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, concurrence cannot be guaranteed since the goals and other guidance were not structured to eliminate short-term adverse effects. Also, some of the guidelines (particularly with regard to grazing, mining, and how to proceed following watershed analysis) are not specific enough to eliminate the requirement for project-specific interpretation and analysis. The goals and guidelines described below do not include NMFS' long-term expectations for the eastside environmental impact statements. The Ecological Goals are as follows:

1. Maintain and restore the distribution, diversity, and complexity of watershed and landscape-scale features to ensure protection of the aquatic systems to which species, populations, and communities are uniquely adapted.
2. Maintain and restore spatial and temporal connectivity within and between watersheds. Lateral, longitudinal, and drainage network

connections include floodplains, wetlands, upslope areas, headwater tributaries, and intact refugia. These network connections must provide chemically and physically unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic and riparian-dependent species.

3. Maintain and restore the physical integrity of the aquatic system, including shorelines, banks, and bottom configurations.
4. Maintain and restore timing, volume and distribution of large woody debris (LWD) recruitment by protecting trees in riparian habitat conservation areas. Addition of LWD to streams is inappropriate unless the causes of LWD deficiency are understood and ameliorated.
5. Maintain and restore the water quality necessary to support healthy riparian, aquatic, and wetland ecosystems. Water quality must remain within the range that maintains the biological, physical, and chemical integrity of the system and benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities.
6. Maintain and restore the sediment regime under which aquatic ecosystems evolved. Elements of the sediment regime include the timing, volume, rate, and character of sediment input, storage, and transport.
7. Maintain and restore instream flows sufficient to create and sustain riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats, retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood routing, and optimize the essential features of designated critical habitat. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows should be maintained, where optimum, and restored, where not optimum.
8. Maintain and restore the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain inundation and water table elevation in meadows and wetlands.
9. Maintain and restore the species composition and structural diversity of plant communities in riparian areas and wetlands to provide adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, appropriate rates of surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration and to supply amounts and distributions of coarse woody debris sufficient to sustain physical complexity and stability.
10. Maintain and restore habitat to support well-distributed populations of native plant, invertebrate, and vertebrate riparian-dependent species.