

**Appendix F : Mid-Klamath
Watershed Restoration Implementation Strategy
For
Karuk Tribe Ancestral Territory and
Six Rivers and Klamath National Forest Service Lands**

Appendix G Draft Version: August 1, 2000

Appendix H Implementation Strategy Background

The Six Rivers and Klamath National Forests and the Karuk Tribe of California have developed a “Programmatic” approach to watershed restoration in the Mid-Klamath and Salmon River sub-basins which allows for the Forest Service to initially develop and prioritize the projects and prepare National Environmental Quality Act (NEPA) analysis documents. The Karuk Tribe participates by preparing project prescriptions and work specifications ("Design Planning") for Forest Service approval. Design and the subsequent implementation of the decommissioning projects is the main focus of a Tribal Watershed Restoration Program leaving upgrade and road modifications and other decommissioning projects to Forest Service staff.

The Tribe and the two National Forests have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) based upon the Government to Government relationship established between the Tribe and the Forest Service. This MOU establishes a framework upon which the Tribe and the Forest Service may jointly identify, plan and accomplish mutually beneficial projects and activities within Karuk Ancestral Territory that provide for watershed restoration, job training opportunities, and community economic development.

Many of the watersheds within these Klamath River sub-basins have been listed as sediment, temperature and/or nutrient impaired under 303 (d) of the Clean Water Act, or are classified as “Key Watersheds”, critical spawning and rearing habitat for endangered or threatened anadromous fish species. The purpose of this **Strategic Implementation Plan** is to identify the steps the Forest Service and Karuk Tribe are taking to protect and restore watershed conditions consistent with the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP), including Standards and Guidelines for the Northwest Province.

Following the direction of The Klamath and Six Rivers National Forest’s “Land and Resource Management Plans” (LRMP’s) and the Karuk Tribe’s “Nonpoint Source Management Plan” (NPSP), this **Strategic Implementation Plan** addresses the issue of large-scale watershed restoration by: (a) providing brief descriptions of existing Karuk Tribe and Forest Service programs; (b) identifying the current watershed restoration priorities; (c) establishing criteria that defines practical completion of restoration efforts;

(d) establishing a watershed restoration program that will tactically implement a large scale effort for watershed restoration in a cost-effective and timely manner.

Existing Programs; Karuk Tribe of California

The Karuk Tribe of California has an inherent interest in the stewardship and management of lands within their ancestral territory located in the Mid-Klamath River province. Many important ceremonial, historic and contemporary use areas are located within the entire area. The Karuk are concerned about various environmental effects on water quality, forests, fisheries and historical sites important to their people. Anadromous fish species are culturally significant and the recovery of high quality water, healthy riparian and aquatic habitat for their survival is paramount. The maintenance and restoration of these important and tribally significant values are the charge of the Karuk Department of Natural Resources.

Ninety-six percent of the Karuk Ancestral Territory lies within the Klamath and Six Rivers National Forests. In 1979, the Karuk Tribe gained federal sovereign nation status and began Government-to-Government protocols with the USDA Forest Service. While in the past Tribal participation in Forest Service planning efforts have been limited, at best at an advisory level, new federal mandates and directions have fostered a more cooperative environment. The Tribe and Klamath and Six Rivers National Forests have since entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) based upon this Government-to-Government relationship. These MOU's establish a framework upon which the Tribe and the Forest Service may jointly identify, plan and accomplish mutually beneficial projects and activities.

The Karuk Tribe's Department of Natural Resources is located in Orleans, California. Department staff includes the Department Director, Natural Resources Manager, Environmental Protection Agency Coordinator, technicians and support Personnel. In addition, the Department has begun a process of staffing and building the capacity of a "Watershed Restoration Division". With the initiation of this Watershed Restoration Division, the Karuk Tribe has successfully implemented the first phase of a cooperative restoration project on the "Steinacher Road Decommissioning Project" in partnership with the USDA Forest Service; Klamath and Six Rivers National Forests.

Redefining and expanding the role of the Karuk Tribe in managing their traditional resources has brought about the development of this new watershed restoration partnership between the Karuk Tribe and the Forest Service. Building the Tribe's capacity to play an appropriate role in ecosystem management is the only means by which this partnership and an overall Watershed Restoration Program within the Mid-Klamath and Salmon River sub-basins will be achieved.

The Karuk Tribe of California has a vested interest in developing an overall **"Karuk Cultural and Ecosystem Restoration Program"** for management of their Ancestral Territory and for the creation of long-term employment for Tribal members. Due to the extremely rural population of the Mid-Klamath and Salmon River sub-basins and severe budget cuts of the Forest Service personnel the Forest Service lacks the necessary funding or staff time for an acceptable time frame for habitat recovery.

Development of this Restoration Program serves as an important step toward a more cooperative partnership between the Karuk Tribe and the Forest Service within Karuk Ancestral Territory.

The “Non-Point Source Pollution (NPS) Assessment and NPS Management Plan”; Karuk Tribe of California 1996, identifies criteria, guidelines and best management practices (BMP’s) for the protection of waters within the Karuk Ancestral Territory. Watersheds with the most serious impacts, or potential impacts to spawning habitat were ranked highest and this ranking is supported by Forest Service watershed restoration prioritization rankings. Socioeconomic factors are also addressed by this prioritization given that much of the Karuk society gains its social, cultural and economic support from the fishery resources, and habitat associated with healthy fisheries. The Wooley Creek watershed, a tributary to the Salmon River, both “Key Watersheds”, was ranked as the highest priority according to habitat condition requirements for Salmonid fisheries.

In addition, the Karuk Tribe of California places a high priority on the stewardship and management of the Ishi Pishi and Happy Camp areas, as these are the centers of their ancestral territory. Important ceremonial, historic and contemporary use areas are located throughout the entire **Strategic Implementation Plan** area. The Karuk are concerned about various management related environmental affects on water quality, forests, erosion, anadromous fisheries, historical sites, and, upon their contemporary and ceremonial uses. This **Strategic Implementation Plan** will conduct work within the watersheds that lay on the Klamath River within this cultural and ecologically significant area.

Existing Programs; USDA Forest Service

Since the establishment of the Forest Service in 1905, the organization has aimed at balancing commodity production with beneficial uses of water. However, commodity production (principally timber) was the dominant management focus in the Klamath Province during the 1960’s and 1970’s. (Previous to this had been extensive in-river, hydraulic and lode mining). The timber emphasis resulted in considerable amounts of road building, timber harvest and broadcast burning in many watersheds. Some of this intense commodity production caused degradation of stream systems. Also during this time period, major floods disrupted both managed and unmanaged watersheds. As a result of both types of watershed disturbing events, many river systems were listed as impaired, primarily for sediment.

Since that time, the Forest Service has increased its emphasis on environmental concerns through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and field operations with respect to water, fish and wildlife resources. In addition to the strengthened NEPA process and field operations, new water quality protection programs were added in the 1980’s and 1990’s. The first was the Water Quality Management for National Forest Systems Lands in California, also known as the Best Management Practice (BMP) program in 1981, followed by the Best Management Practices

Effectiveness Program (BMPEP) in 1992, the Northwest Forest Plan in 1994/1996 and the completion of the LRMP's for Six Rivers National Forest in 1995 and the Klamath National Forest in 1994.

Forest Plan Standards and Guidelines (S&G's), which incorporates the Northwest Forest Plan provides watershed and aquatic protection measures through the establishment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS). There are four components of the strategy. The first is establishment of Riparian reserves along all intermittent and perennial streams. These areas maintain hydrologic, geomorphic and ecological processes that directly affect streams and fish habitats. Only activities that protect or enhance the ACS objectives are permissible in the riparian reserve.

The second component of the ACS is the establishment of Key Watersheds for protection of fish and water quality. Many of the watersheds in the North Coast drainages are Key Watersheds. These watersheds may have high quality habitat for aquatic species or degraded habitat that has a high restoration potential. Key watersheds are the cornerstones for maintaining or recovering habitat for anadromous and resident fish species. Directions for these watersheds include placing high priority on restoration and establish a policy of no net increase in road mileage.

Watershed Analysis is the third component of the ACS. Watershed Analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of the interactions between land use activities, the physical environment and the biological environment. With this knowledge, the ability to estimate direct, indirect or cumulative effects of management activities are improved. Watershed Analysis provides information to guide management decisions, refine boundaries of riparian reserves, develop restoration strategies and priorities, and determine indicators for monitoring. Watershed Analysis is completed for majority of the sub-watersheds within the scope of this Implementation Strategy.

Watershed and water quality problems that have been identified through a Watershed Analysis, or, more specific analytical filters such as the Klamath National Forest's "Westside Roads Analysis" and Ti and Irving Creeks Road Hazard inventories, provide information to the fourth "Watershed Restoration" component of the ACS. Restoration emphasis is on control and prevention of road runoff, sediment restoration of riparian vegetation, and restoration of instream habitat. Balancing these three elements varies by location within a watershed. Current emphasis is on road restoration, whether it be upgrading or decommissioning.

Further prioritization and direction is provided through the development of an Environmental Assessment (EA) which serves as the "Decision Document" for forest system roads proposed for decommissioning. For the scope of this **Strategic Implementation Plan**, at this time there is a completed EA for the Happy Camp Ranger District and an EA nearing completion for the "East Ishi Pishi Road Restoration Project" comprising of the impaired watersheds of Ti, Irving, Ukonom and Rogers Creeks. In addition, the USDA Forest Service, Klamath National Forest "*Environmental Assessment for Steinacher Rd. (Rd. 12NO1) Rehabilitation Project*", 1995 provides the authority

committing the USDA Forest Service to the decommissioning of Steinacher Road in the Wooley Creek tributary of the Salmon River.

In Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck's "Natural Resource Agenda for the 21st Century", an emphasis was placed on Watershed Health and Restoration, and Forest Roads. The newly developed long-term road policy is based on four primary objectives: 1) more carefully considered decisions to build new roads, 2) eliminate old, unneeded roads, 3) upgrade and maintain roads important to public access, and 4) develop new and dependable funding for forest road management. This **Strategic Implementation Plan** addresses two of these objectives; elimination of old, unneeded roads and the development of new funding resources to provide critical watershed restoration of these degraded drainages.

Management within the project area is guided by the two National Forest's LRMP's and the following Watershed Analysis; Ishi Pishi/Ukonom-1998, Elk Creek-1994, Indian Creek-1997, Thompson/Seiad/Grider-1999, Dillon Creek-1995 and the Main Salmon-1995. In addition, the 1997 Klamath National Forest **Westside Roads Analysis**, the 1999 **Happy Camp Ranger District Road Decommissioning EA** and the July 2000 draft of the **Ishi Pishi Road Restoration Project** are cited for specific roads identified and prioritized for decommissioning. These documents are available upon request at the Six Rivers and Klamath National Forest's Supervisors office in Eureka and Yreka, California.

Appendix I Watershed Restoration Priorities (Decommissioning)

Appendix J East Side Ishi Pishi Management Area; Approximately 64 miles of road have been identified as candidates for road decommissioning and roughly 8.5 miles would be converted to trail. This action will implement proven decommissioning methods to remove and/or stabilize unstable logging haul road - stream crossings and to reestablish the natural hillslope drainage pattern. Sub-watersheds within the Ishi Pishi Analysis Area that are identified as **critical concern**, and are considered "Impaired" as determined by the Northwest Forest Plan, include the Ti, Irving, Rogers and Ukonom Creeks as high potential sources of sediment contributing to the degradation of water quality within the Klamath River system. The pure cool water from the sub-watersheds of the Ishi Pishi area is important and may be critical in maintaining water quality in the Klamath River and providing thermal refugia for anadromous fish.

Happy Camp Ranger District; The proposed action is to decommission 74.5 miles of road, provide approximately 8 miles of all terrain vehicle trail and 4.3 miles of foot and equestrian trail on portions of decommissioned road surfaces. This action would treat 130 sites that were significantly damaged in the 1997 flood. Criteria used to determine decommissioning candidates include; sites that existed on active landslides, presence of alternative accesses routes, intermittent to non-existent human access, and the long-term benefit to the aquatic resources.

East Side Ishi Pishi Management Area – Proposed Implementation Period - 2001

Appendix K UNIT 1

Road #	Road Name	Watershed	Length (mi.)	Remarks
12N08	Irving Gates	Irving	4.3	High Priority
12N08A	Irving Gates	Irving	.9	High Priority
12N08B	Irving Gates	Irving	.3	High Priority
12N26	Flatlander	Irving	.4	High Priority
12N26A	Flatlander	Irving	.5	High Priority
12N26B	Flatlander	Irving	.2	High Priority
12N29	Bald Butte	Irving	2.0	High Priority
12N29A	Bald Butte	Irving	1.3	High Priority
Total Miles			9.9	

East Side Ishi Pishi Management Area – Potential Implementation Period - 2002

Appendix L UNIT 2

Road #	Road Name	Watershed	Length (mi.)	Remarks
12N09B	Merrill Mtn. Loop	Rogers	.1	
12N13N	Bull Pine	Rogers	.2	
12N13X	Bull Pine II	Rogers	2.0	Convert to Trial
12N13Y	East Bull Pine	Irving	.5	Convert to Trial
12N14	Leach	Katamin	.5	
12N24	Camp Out	Rogers/Irving	1.0	
12N24A	Camp Out	Rogers/Irving	.3	
12N32A	West Camp Three	Rogers/Irving	.2	
12N41	Merrill Mtn. Loop	Rogers/Wooley	1.0	
12N43	View-it	Rogers	1.1	High Priority
12N44	Roger Davis	Rogers	.7	High Priority
12N46 Spur	Merrill Off	Merrill	.2	
15N17N	Camp Three	Merrill	.1	
Total			7.9	

East Side Ishi Pishi Management Area – Potential Implementation Period - 2003

Appendix M UNIT 3

Road #	Road Name	Watershed	Length (mi.)	Remarks
12N05	Haypress	Wooley	3.3	After silviculture treatment
12N07 & A	Merrill Creek	Merrill	2.75	After silviculture treatment
12N47	Gates Creek	Wooley	1.1	
12N47A	Gates Creek	Wooley	1.8	
13N04	Bridge Creek	Wooley	2.09	
13N04A	Bridge Creek	Wooley	.2	
Total			11.24	

East Side Ishi Pishi Management Area – Potential Implementation Period - 2003

Appendix N UNIT 4

Road #	Road Name	Watershed	Length (mi.)	Remarks
13N06	Ti Creek	Ti	.7	
13N06A	Ti Creek	Ti	1.3	
13N06B & Spur	Ti Creek	Sandy Bar	.5	After silviculture and fuels treatment
13N06E	Ti Creek	Ti	1.2	
13N07A	Karoo	Ti	.7	
13N10	Sandy Bar Loop	Sandy Bar	4.2	Convert to Trail, after silviculture treatment
13N11B	Sandy Bar	Stanshaw	.7	
13N11D	Sandy Bar	Ti	.4	
13N11F	Sandy Bar	Sandy Bar	.3	After silviculture treatment, arch. survey
13N12A	Stanshaw	Stanshaw	1.1	After silviculture treatment, arch. survey
13N12D	Stanshaw	Stanshaw	.6	
13N25	Ti Tie	Sandy Bar	1.0	Convert to Trail, after silviculture treatment
13N33	Cabbage Head	Ti	1.5	After silviculture treatment, arch. survey
13N43	Ti Loop	Ti	1.1	After silviculture treatment, arch. survey
13N51Y	Sandyshaw	Sandy Bar	1.1	After Sandollar
13N52	Potse	Eyese	.4	
15N17D	Camp Three	Irving	.9	After fuels treatment
Total			17.7	

East Side Ishi Pishi Management Area – Potential Implementation Period - 2004

Appendix O UNIT 5

Road #	Road Name	Watershed	Length (mi.)	Remarks
13N01	Upper Cub	Ukonom	1.1	
13N03	Camp Four	Ti	2.5	After silviculture and fuels treatment
13N06Y	No. Ti Creek	Ti	1.3	
13N09	Middle Ti	Ti	3.0	After silviculture and fuels treatment
13N09A	Middle Ti	Ti	.3	After silviculture and fuels treatment
13N22	Poo Bear	Ukonom	1.0	
13N45	Ten Bear Trail	Ti, Ukonom	.8	Road to trail, after fuels treatment
13N45A	Ten Bear Trail	Ukonom	.5	
14N01A	Ten Bear	Ukonom	.5	
14N01B	Ten Bear	Ti	.7	
14N01F	Ten Bear	Ti	.8	
14N01N	Ten Bear	Ti	.2	Unnamed spur
14N12	Cub Creek	Ukonom	1.2	
14N63	Cub Poo	Ukonom	.3	After silviculture treatment, arch. survey
14N63A	Cub Poo	Ukonom	.3	After silviculture treatment, arch. survey
15N17H	Camp Three	Ukonom	.9	
Total			15.4	

East Side Ishi Pishi Management Area – Potential Implementation Period - 2004

Appendix P UNIT 6

Road #	Road Name	Watershed	Length (mi.)	Remarks
13N08A	Ukonom Mtn.	Ti	.2	
13N08C	Ukonom Mtn.	Ukonom	.2	
13N08E	Ukonom Mtn.	Kennedy	.4	
13N08F	Ukonom Mtn.	Thomas	.3	
13N08H	Ukonom Mtn.	Ukonom	.3	
13N11J	Sandy Bar	Ti	.4	After silviculture treatment, arch. survey
13N15	Lower Ten Bear	Ti	2.8	After silviculture and fuels treatment
13N15A	Lower Ten Bear	Ti	.3	After silviculture and fuels treatment
14N01C	Ten Bear	Ti	.4	After silviculture and fuels treatment
14N01D	Ten Bear	Ti	.4	After silviculture and fuels treatment
14N01E	Ten Bear	Ti	.7	
14N01G	Ten Bear	Ti	.4	
14N08	Kennedy Flats	Burns	1.6	Maintain now, then silviculture and fuels treatment
14N08A	Kennedy Flats	Burns	.8	
14N15A	Delahaye	Burns	.2	
14N22 Spur	Grand Slam	Ukonom	.2	Unnamed spur
Total			9.6	

Happy Camp Ranger District –Roads for Decommissioning

Road #	Road Name	Length (mi.)	# Road /Stream Crossings	Remarks
14N06B	Kings Creek	.71	0	
15N06	Bear Creek	2.8	13	
15N06A	Bear Creek	3.76	29	
15N13	Malone	3.21	1	
17N07	Middle Thompson	3.54	23	
17N21	Clauson	.53	0	
17N30	Elk Lick	3.59	8	
17N32	SF Indian	4.38	38	
17N32C	SF Indian	.99	5	
17N40	Elk Lick	.65	0	
17N40A	Elk Lick	.45	1	
17N41	Elk Lick	2.14	3	
18N01	Thompson Creek	4.3	27	Proposed for 2001 implementation
18N07	E Thompson	5.44	17	
18N07A	E Thompson	1.27	3	
18N07B	E Thompson	.16	2	
18N17	EF Indian	1.78	2	
18N17A	EF Indian	.63	0	
18N27A	Tom Gray	1.06	6	
18N42	Little Grayback	.86	4	
19N01D	Thompson Ridge	.72	2	
40S07C	Grayback	.48	5	
45N78	Cliff Valley	2.34	0	
45N78B	Cliff Valley	.99	0	
45N81	Rancheria Creek	2.93	6	
46N28Y	Ridge Loop	1.53	5	
46N43Y	Middle Grider	1.1	0	
46N61	Maple Springs	.63	2	
46N61A	Maple Springs	2.8	6	
46N63	Blue Mtn.	3.21	0	
46N64	Walker Creek	3.36	25	
46N70Y	Middle Grider	.96	0	
46N71Y	Middle Grider	.75	0	
46N76	Joe Miles	1.87	12	
46N77	Grider Ridge	3.93	8	
46N78	Three Biscuit	2.11	14	
46N80X	Big Blue	2.09	0	
Appendix Q Total		74.05	267	