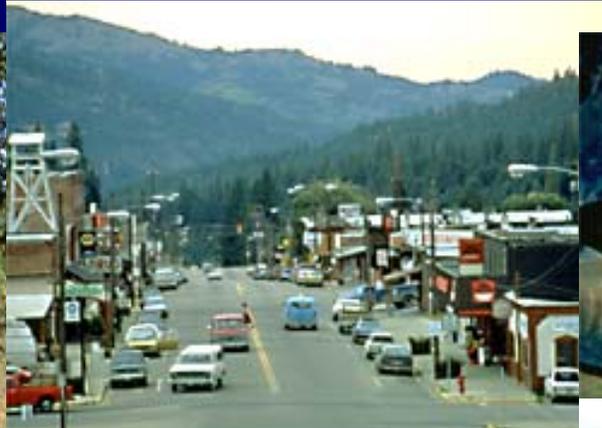
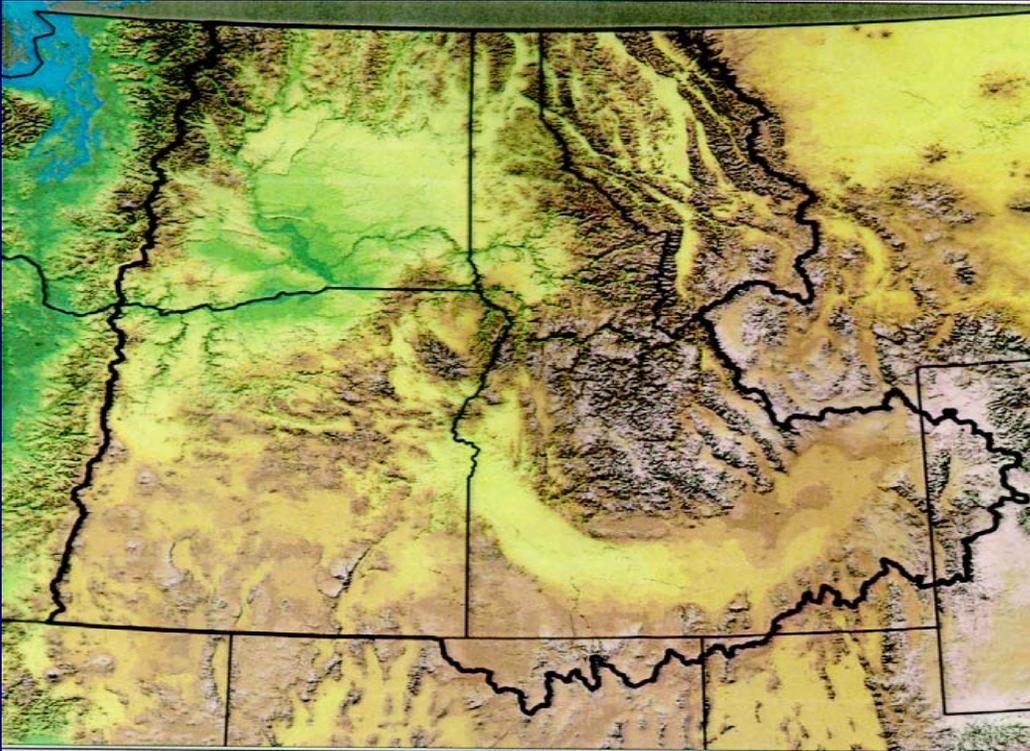


Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project



Stan Ponce

Representative - Secretary's of the Interior and Agriculture



In July of 1993, President Clinton directed the Forest Service to “develop a scientifically sound and ecosystem-based strategy for eastside forests.”

In response, the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management initiated the Interior Columbia River Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) in January of 1994 with the goal of creating a long-term, comprehensive strategy for managing the public lands in the Basin.

GENERAL FACTS

- ❖ 144 Million Acres in the Assessment Area
- ❖ Portions of 7 States and 100 Counties
- ❖ 22 Affected Tribal Governments
- ❖ Some of the most diverse ecosystems in the US
- ❖ Upper portion of the Columbia River system in the US
- ❖ Parts of the Klamath River and Great Basins

GENERAL FACTS

- ❖ 63 million acres of BLM (25/20) and FS (38/09) land
- ❖ 50 % of the Interior Columbia Basin
- ❖ 6.8 million acres of designated wilderness
- ❖ 16 million acres of “potentially” roadless area
- ❖ 104,087 miles of streams
- ❖ 12 RAC and PAC areas

ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS AFFECTED

- Up to 64 individual land use plans
- 23 National Forests
- 9 BLM Districts

INTERIM MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- PACFISH – Protection of Pacific Salmon and other anadromous fish habitat (May 94; March 95 for 18 months pending long-term strategy). BLM & FS
- EASTSIDE SCREENS – Establishing riparian, ecosystem, and wildlife standards for timber sales in eastern OR and WA. Habitat options – old growth forests. (5/20/94; 6/5/95) FS

INTERIM MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- INFISH –Protection of Bull Trout and other Inland native fish outside the anadromous fish habitat (July 95) FS
- Related litigation – Several appeals and lawsuits over federal land management decisions, plans, and activities. Influenced decision to plan at the broad scale to address the issues of species viability, biodiversity, and related cumulative effects.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

- Biological Opinions – BOs on the land and Resource Management Plans as amended by PACFISH and INFISH provided reasonable and prudent measures, implementing terms and conditions, and conservation recommendations.

The purpose and need for the Project:

- Restore and maintain the long-term ecosystem health of public lands.
- Support the needs of people by providing predictable and sustainable levels of products and services.



- Provide long-term, broad-scale management direction that will replace interim strategies
- Provide consistent direction at regional and subregional levels to assist managers in making decisions at the local level
- Help restore and maintain habitats of plant and animal species
- Update or amend, if necessary, current FS and BLM management plans with long-term direction, primarily at the regional and sub-regional levels

Collaborating Agencies

- Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- Fish & Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Environmental Protection Agency

Executive Steering Committee

- State Directors of the BLM for OR/WA, ID, and MT
- Regional Foresters for PNW, Intermountain, and Northern Regions of the NFS
- PNW and RM FS Research Stations
- FWS – Portland and Denver
- NMFS – Seattle
- EPA - Seattle

Key Activities - Science Advisory Group

- Framework for Ecosystem Management in the ICB including portions of the Klamath and Great Basins (June 1996)
- An Integrated Scientific Assessment for Ecosystem Management in the ICB (Sept 1996)
- Summary of Scientific Findings (Nov 1996)

Key Science Findings

- Increased susceptibility to severe fire, insects, and disease.
- Decreases in terrestrial species source habitats due to fewer large old trees, shrublands and grasslands.
- Decline in key salmonids habitat and abundance.
- Exotic plants are a significant threat.
- Ecological integrity and health are reduced and at risk.
- Local socioeconomic resiliency and dependency upon federal natural resources varies widely.

Integrated Effects – Story of Momentum

- Shaped by factors such as fire, drought, human uses, and evolving forests and grasslands
- Rapid increases in human use have altered the natural succession and disturbance regimes of the basin and have created a momentum
- The science evaluation suggests that after 100 years of implementation, current trends in uncharacteristic wildfire, insect and disease mortality and the adverse effects of livestock grazing are not reversed when summarized across the entire basin

Intent was to develop a long-term, comprehensive strategy for managing public lands is needed to address broadscale issues:

- **Forest and Rangeland Health**
- **Aquatic and Terrestrial Species**
- **Socio-economics**

This strategy will also:

- **Facilitate management of future listed species**
- **Replace Interim Direction (PACFISH, INFISH, Eastside Screens)**

The Integrated Direction in the SDEIS is Hierarchical and Geographically Specific

Step-Down Direction

Explains how the broad scale direction will be stepped down from the Project area to site-specific actions; ensuring that the “big picture” context is retained as more refined information is developed through analysis. Step-down direction applies to the entire Project area*.

Base Level Direction

The intent is to maintain and secure a wide array of critical resource values by addressing the four major components of the integrated strategy (landscape, terrestrial, aquatic, and social economic). Base level direction applies to the entire Project area*.

Restoration Direction

The intent is to improve resource conditions that are not functioning properly. Restoration activities are intended to address and benefit multiple resources (aquatic and terrestrial species, forests, rangelands and watersheds), and at the same time consider the needs of Tribes and communities. Restoration direction applies wherever restoration activities occur and in Subbasins that have been identified as restoration priorities*.

Aquatic A2 Subwatersheds

The intent is to maintain and improve aquatic and riparian habitats with important, high populations of fish. This direction applies to mapped areas in the Project area*.

Aquatic A1 Subwatersheds

The intent is to conserve and maintain aquatic and riparian habitat with important, high fish populations. This direction applies to mapped areas in the Project area*.

Terrestrial (T) Watersheds

The intent is to maintain and secure terrestrial wildlife species habitats that have declined significantly over time and are in short supply; and to increase the extent and connectivity of these “source” habitats within T watersheds. This direction applies to identified areas in the Project area*.

* Reminder: Direction applies only to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management-administered lands

Projected timeline for the ICBEMP

- **Two DEISs released in June 1997**
- **Eleven month public comment period with 83,000 comments received**
- **Supplemental Draft EIS developed based on comments and direction from Secretaries**
- **Supplemental DEIS completed Winter 2000**
- **FEIS targeted for Winter 2000**
- **Record of Decision targeted for Winter 2001**

Alternatives

Supplemental Draft EIS

S1 (no action)

- Current direction under existing NF and BLM land use plans
- PACFISH/INFISH, Eastside Screens & Guidance from Biological Opinions
- Current level of activities

S2 & S3 (action)

- Maintain & actively restore ecosystems
- Provide for social & economic needs of people

Alternative S2 is the Preferred Alternative

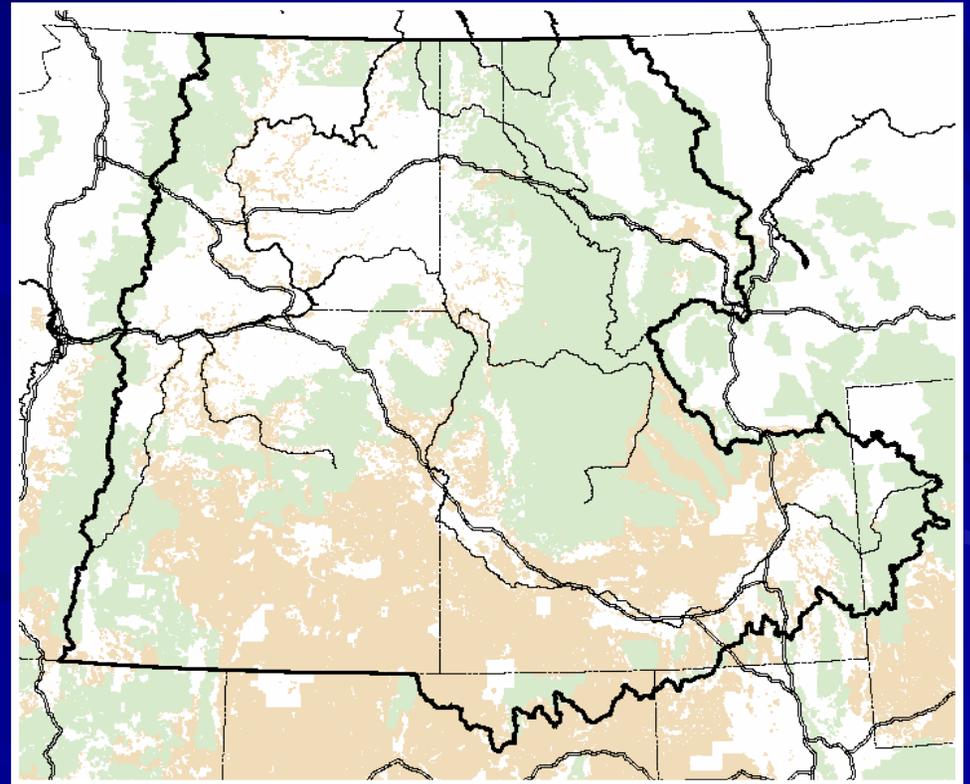
(Objectives, Standards and Guidelines)

Alternatives S2 & S3

Basin-wide Strategy

Step-down Direction

Broad-scale direction is stepped down from the Project level to site specific actions.

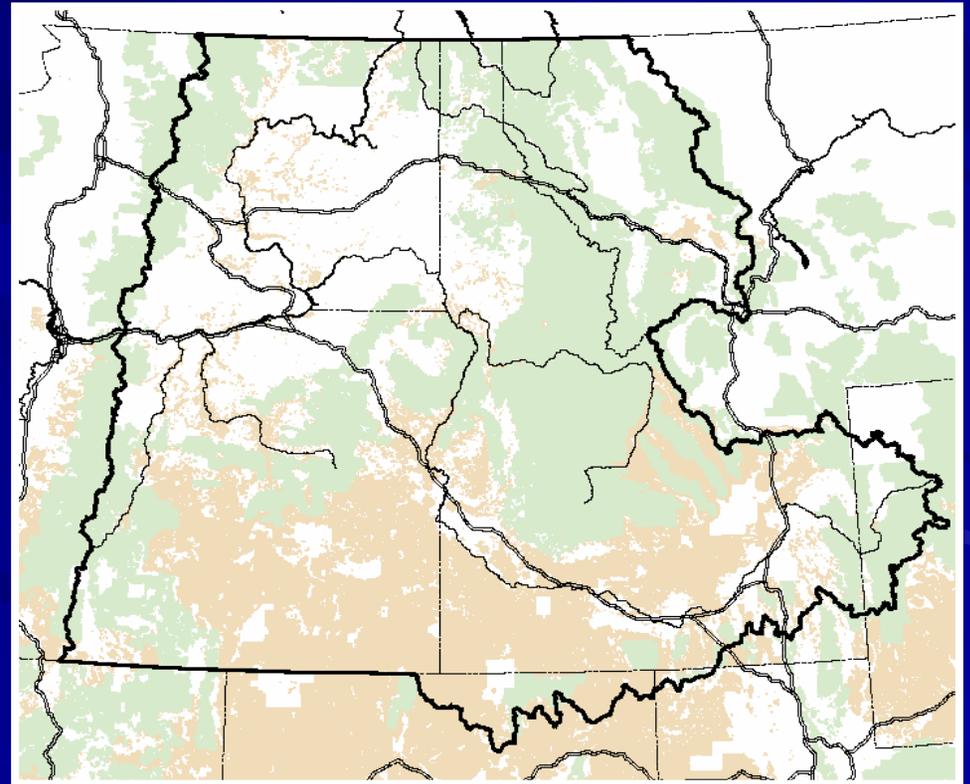


Alternatives S2 & S3

Basin-wide Strategy

Base Level Direction

Maintains & secures a wide array of critical resource values by addressing forest & rangeland health, fish and wildlife habitat, communities, and tribes.



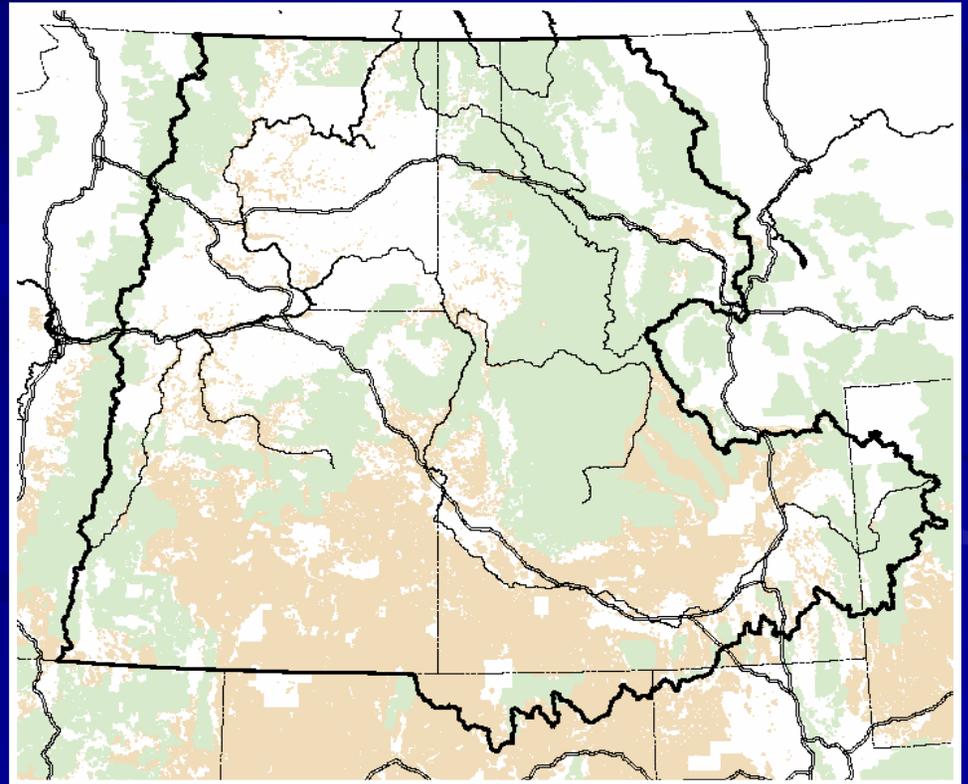
Alternatives S2 & S3

Basin-wide Strategy

Restoration Direction

Applies where activities occur - high priority subbasins & locally identified restoration priorities

Addresses & benefits multiple resources while considering the needs of tribes & communities

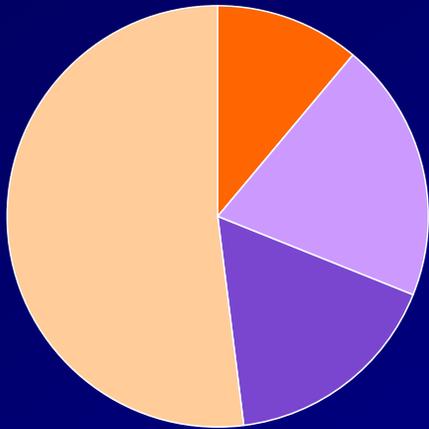


Hierarchy of Direction by Alternative

FS/BLM Administered Lands

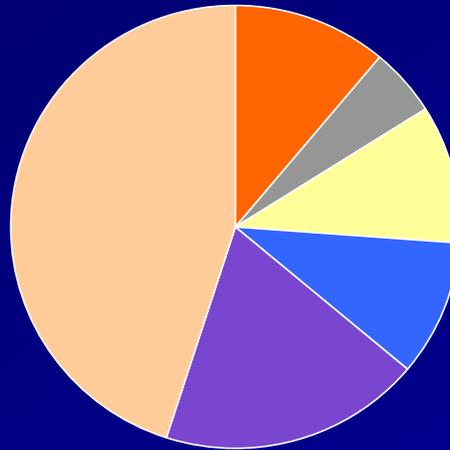
Alternative S1

- 11.3 M Wilderness
- 3.9 M Special Emphasis Areas
- 11.0 M RCAs
- 32.9 M Remaining Project Area



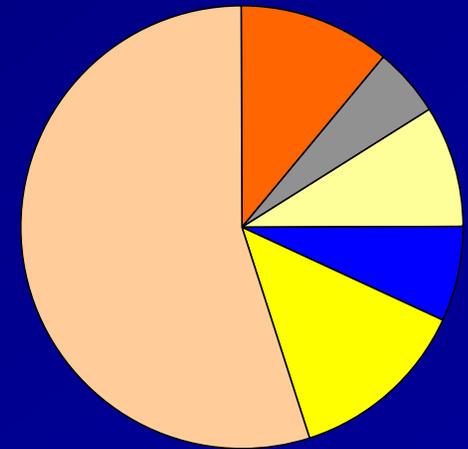
Alternative S2

- 11.3 M Wilderness
- 3.1 M A1 Subwatershed
- 4.8 M T Watershed
- 6.0 M A2 Subwatershed
- 11.5 M RCAs
- 26.9 M Remaining Project Area



Alternative S3

- 11.3 M Wilderness
- 3.0 M A1 Subwatershed
- 4.8 M T Watershed
- 4.5 M A2 Subwatershed
- 7.6 M RCAs
- 33.4 M Remaining Project Area



*Acres that are in one or more category are only counted once. For example, for Alternative S2, there are 6.5 million acres of A1 Subwatersheds, however, 3.2 million acres are within Wilderness Areas and, are therefore, counted as part of the 6.8 million acres of Wilderness.

128,352,970 Total SDEIS Acres
63,565,640 BLM/FS Acres

	S1		S2		S3	
Acres	Total Acres	Hierarchy Acres	Total Acres	Hierarchy Acres	Total Acres	Hierarchy
Wilderness	6,819,121	6,819,121	6,819,121	6,819,121	6,819,121	6,819,121
Priority Watersheds	19,722,470	12,903,350				
A1 Subwatershed			6,515,675	3,293,421	6,356,045	2,920,045
T Watershed			14,344,468	6,042,468	14,344,468	6,051,612
A2 Subwatershed			6,822,827	6,140,570	5,062,448	4,506,956
RCAs	15,891,410	10,960,793	19,069,692	12,381,018	12,077,472	8,220,903
Remaining ICBEMP		32,882,376		28,889,042		35,047,003
Total BLM/FS Acres		63,565,640		63,565,640		63,565,640

Issues Leading to Project Gridlock

- Complexity, Scale, Time Frame
- Not everyone played fair, no matter who was driving the herd
- OMB had major concerns – Benefit/Value
- CEQ had major issues - Implementation
- Congressional concerns – Locals not supportive
- Public felt out of touch
- In the end, the Administration backed away
- Federal verses Private land

Completion of the Project

- The Land Management and Regulatory Agencies recognized the value of the Science
- Signed a MOU to cooperatively implement “*The Interior Columbia Basin Strategy*” to guide the efforts to update land use plans for National Forests and BLM lands in the four state region (February 19, 2003)
- Received support from regional leaders