



NORTH FORK SMITH
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER MANAGEMENT PLAN

(Oregon Section Only)

USDA - Forest Service

Siskiyou National Forest

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CHAPTER I. INTRODUCTION

A. Historical Perspective

In 1968, Congress enacted the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542) that established a system to preserve free-flowing rivers that possess outstandingly remarkable values for the enjoyment of present and future generations.

In 1988, the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act added parts of forty rivers in Oregon to the National Wild and Scenic River system, including the 13 miles of the North Fork Smith River (from its headwaters in Oregon to the California state line). The north Fork Smith River in California (from the California state line south to the confluence with the Middle Fork Smith River) had been designated earlier as a Wild and Scenic under separate legislation. The Oregon portion of the North Fork Smith is managed by the Chetco and Illinois Valley Ranger Districts of the Siskiyou National Forest. The California portion is managed by the Gasquet Ranger District of the Six Rivers National Forest.

The Omnibus Act identified outstandingly remarkable scenery, whitewater recreation potential, water quality and fisheries for the North Fork Smith. It further stated that, "The scenery and emerald hued water of the Oregon portion of the North Fork Smith River greatly enhances and complements these values immediately downstream. From a systems approach, the Oregon portion is integral to the whole."

In 1989 the Siskiyou Land and Resource Management Plan was approved. One of the goals of the Forest Plan is to protect and enhance identified, outstandingly remarkable values and free flowing condition of Wild and Scenic Rivers (Forest plan Goal 11).

In 1990, the Siskiyou National Forest Acting Forest Supervisor wrote the Regional Forester proposing to prepare a separate management plan for the Oregon portion of the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River. The Siskiyou and Six Rivers National Forests were proceeding on different timelines for completing the River Management Plans for their prospective portions of the North Fork Smith River.

In 1990, the Resource Assessment that identified river related values that are outstandingly remarkable or that contribute substantially to the river setting or the functioning of the river, was completed. Water Quality, fisheries, and scenic quality were identified as Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's).

In 1995, the North Fork Smith River Watershed Analysis (Iteration 1.0) was completed. It addressed the Oregon portion of the North Fork Smith (with the exception of the North Fork of Diamond Creek). The key findings of this document describe the baseline conditions in the watershed.

In December 1999, the Environmental Assessment for the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River Management Plan (Oregon Section Only) was completed. Following a 30 day public comment period, the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant

Impact (and Forest Plan Amendment No. 9) was signed on 3/21/2000. This comprehensive River Management Plan is based on decisions made in that document.

B. River Management Plan

The 1968 act requires the development of a comprehensive River Management Plan (RMP) to protect river-related resource values and to enhance outstandingly remarkable values (ORV's). Chapter III of this plan describes the management goals, desired future conditions, and standards and guidelines designed to meet that requirement.

C. Values

To qualify as an ORV, each value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a regional or national level. Specific criteria and detailed assessments of individual values are available in the Resource Assessment (copies are available at the Chetco Ranger District). The Forest Supervisor's findings of the ORV's from the Resource Assessment are summarized below.

Scenic Quality: "The variety of landscape elements combined with the pristine character of the landscape and the river's emerald hued waters, characterize a setting that is representative of the region and that greatly enhances and complements the Smith River National Recreation Area immediately downstream. The entire North Fork was originally included in the National Rivers Inventory in part for its outstandingly remarkable scenery."

Water Quality: "The water quality of the North Fork of the Smith River contributes substantially to the river setting and overall functioning of the river ecosystem and, from a systems approach, is an integral part of the Smith River system. The water quality of the North Fork Smith River is therefore considered to be an outstandingly remarkable value."

Fish: "The fisheries value of the North Fork Smith River is outstandingly remarkable due to its substantial contribution to the world-class fishery of the greater Smith River. The North Fork Smith provides seven miles of near-pristine steelhead spawning and rearing habitat and is a significant source of the high quality water on which the anadromous fishery of the Smith River depends."

D. Relationship to Other Plans

1. The Siskiyou Forest Plan

The Siskiyou Forest Plan and the RMP are both programmatic plans. The Siskiyou Forest Plan has been amended by the RMP. The specific standards and guidelines in the RMP have been added to Chapter IV of the Siskiyou Forest Plan. The RMP is also an appendix to the Siskiyou Forest plan.

2. The Smith River NRA Management Plan (August 1992)

On November 16, 1990, President George Bush signed legislation establishing the Smith River National Recreation Area (NRA). The NRA Plan was signed on August 25, 1992 and amended the Six Rivers Forest Plan. The NRA Plan includes the management direction for the North Fork Management Area, which encompasses the California portion of the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River.

This RMP for the Oregon portion of the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River is consistent with the Smith River NRA management direction for all management areas of the NRA and for the North Fork Management Area in particular.

CHAPTER II. RIVER DESCRIPTION

The information presented here is an overview of the North Fork Smith River environment. More detailed resource information can be obtained by reviewing the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River Resource Assessment (available at the Chetco Ranger District).

1. Location

The Oregon portion of the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River is located in Curry County on the Chetco and Illinois Valley Ranger Districts (refer to vicinity map, p.5). The river corridor extends approximately 13 miles northward from the border of California to the river's headwaters in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The entire corridor is within the Siskiyou National Forest and encompasses 4,325 acres.

2. River Segments

The 13 miles of the North Fork Smith River in Oregon is classified into the following river segments by the Omnibus Act (refer to the corridor map, P.6).

a) Headwaters to Horse Creek (4.5 miles) - Wild River.

This segment flows through the Kalmiopsis Wilderness. The corridor is characterized by deep, rough canyons and sharp rock ridges.

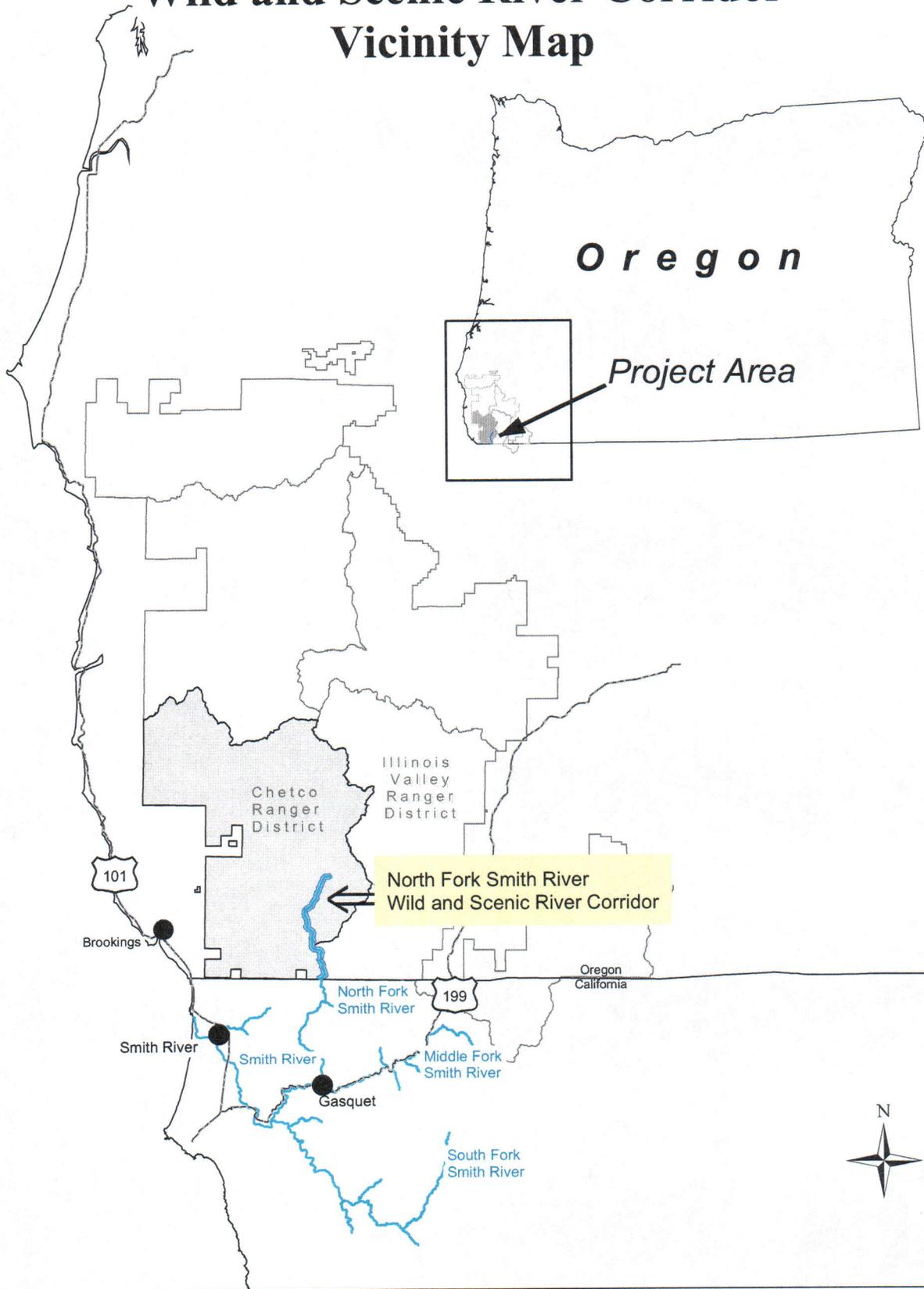
b) Horse Creek to Baldface Creek (6.5 miles) - Scenic River.

This segment flows along the Wilderness boundary almost to Baldface Creek. The eastern side of the corridor is in the Wilderness. This segment has the same primitive character as the initial Wild segment. The western side of the corridor has a few roads and portions of old timber harvest units. These past management activities cannot be seen from the river.

c) Baldface Creek to the Oregon-California State line (2 miles) - Wild River.

(Note: The river mileage for segments a and b were incorrect in the Omnibus Act. The correct mileage is shown above)

North Fork Smith River Wild and Scenic River Corridor Vicinity Map



North Fork Smith River Wild and Scenic River Corridor

Kalmiopsis Wilderness

Legend

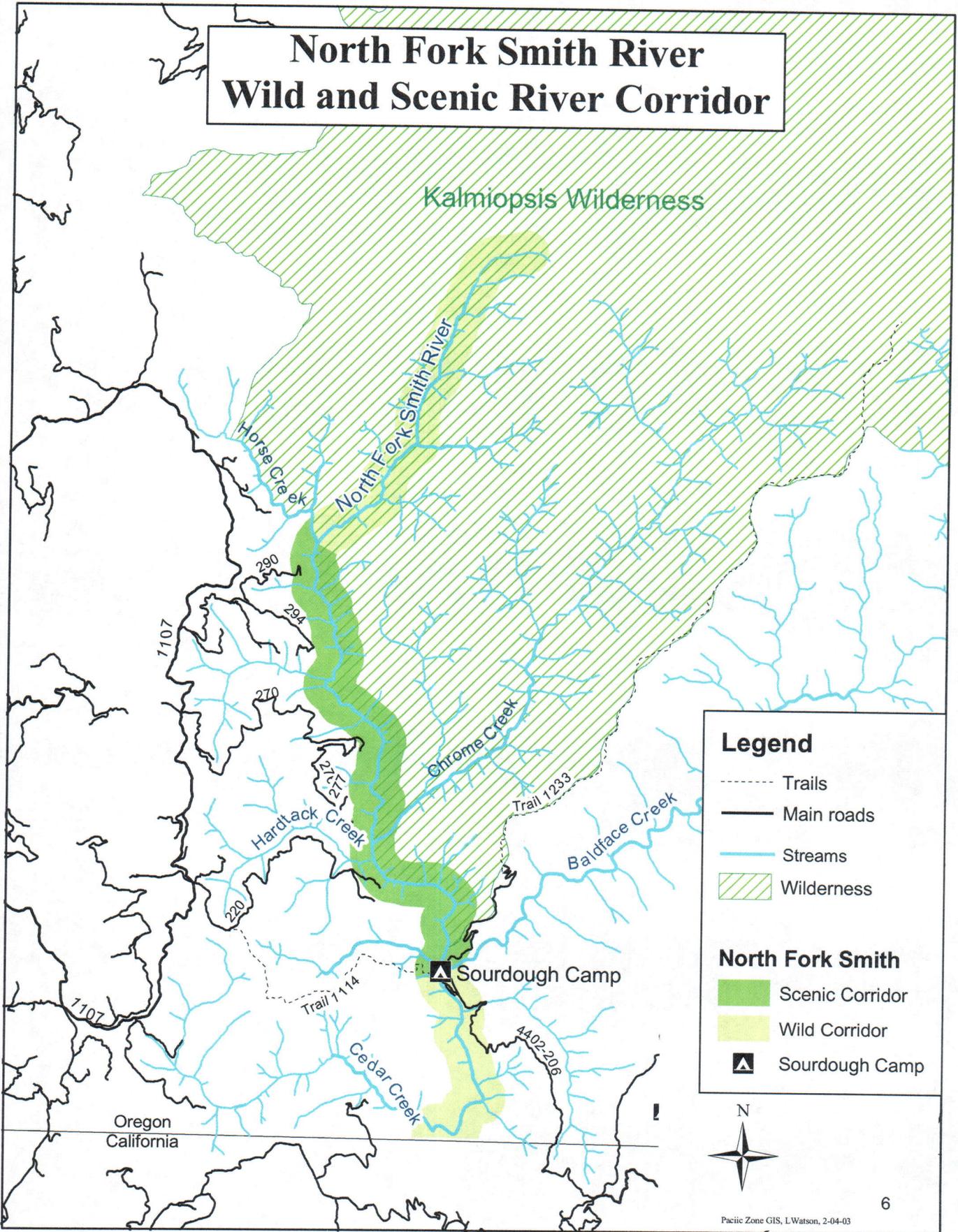
- Trails
- Main roads
- ~~~~~ Streams
- ▨ Wilderness

North Fork Smith

- Scenic Corridor
- Wild Corridor
- ▲ Sourdough Camp



Pacific Zone GIS, L.Watson, 2-04-03



3. Transportation/Access

Road 4402-206 and trails 1114 (Sourdough Trail) and 1233 (North Fork Smith Trail) provide the only direct, maintained access to the North Fork Smith River. All three of these routes converge on the river at Sourdough Camp. There is a short loop road within Sourdough Camp that provides access to campsites (road 4402-259).

Road 4402-206 is accessible by high clearance vehicles and is closed with a gate from October 1 to May 31 to prevent the spread of Port-Orford-cedar root disease. When the road is open, vehicles are not allowed on the river bars and are prohibited from crossing Baldface Creek at Sourdough Camp.

Other roads within the corridor include portions of 1107-220, 1107-270, 1107-276, and 1107-290. These roads total approximately 1.13 miles within the corridor and were built for timber harvest. The 1107-220 road is closed about 3.5 miles from the North Fork from October 1 to May 31 to prevent the introduction and spread of Port-Orford-cedar root disease. The end of road 1107-220 (about 0.18 mile) and the section of road 1107-290 within the corridor (about 0.19 mile) are impassable to vehicles due to abandonment that has resulted in the roads brushing in or failing. The remaining 0.76 mile of road within the corridor (portions of 1107-276 and 1107-270) will be closed to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of Port-Orford-cedar root disease.

4. Land Allocation

Forest Plan land allocations (Management Areas) contained within the North Fork Smith River corridor are shown on the Management Area map on page 9 and in the table below. Many Management Areas overlap. The approximate acres shown below are for the most restrictive management area.

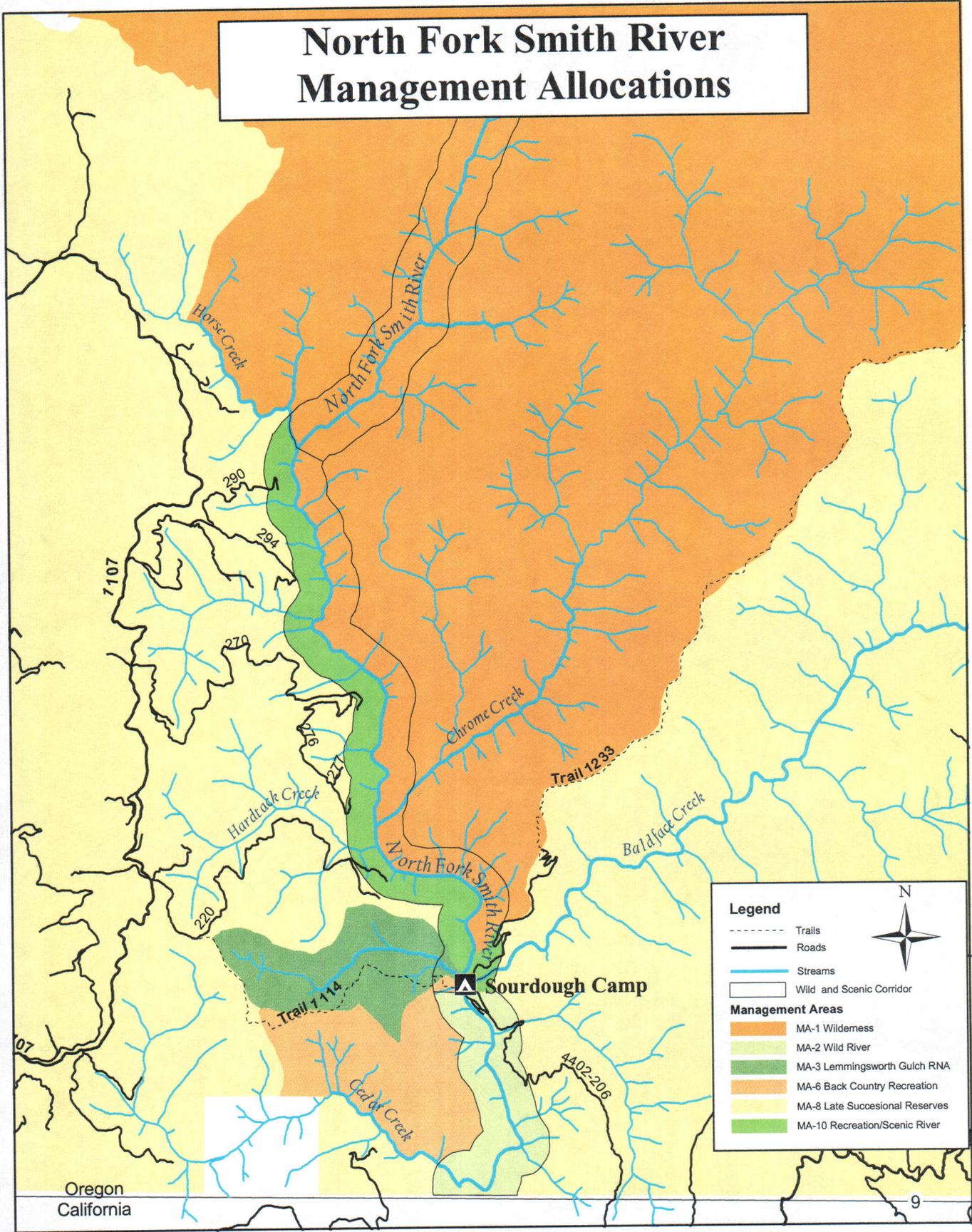
Management Area	Name	Acres within the Corridor
MA-1 Wilderness	Kalmiopsis Wilderness	2230
MA-2 Wild River	North Fork Smith	736
MA-3 Research Natural Area	Lemmingsworth Gulch	27
MA-6 Backcountry Recreation	Cedar Mountain	18
MA-10 Scenic/Recreation River	North Fork Smith	1039

5. Landscape Character

The North Fork Smith is a relatively low-gradient river, dropping about 2900 feet to 1100 feet in the 13 miles from the headwaters to the Oregon/California border. The river's segment from the headwaters to Horse Creek flows in a southwest direction, and then below Horse Creek the river flows in a southeast direction.

Most of the river corridor lies within the Dothan formation, a mixture of graywacke sandstone, siltstone, mudstone, minor conglomerate, and chert. A large body of peridotite (also referred to as "serpentinite" or "ultramafic") runs somewhat parallel to the river, 1-3 miles to the east, while another peridotite body lies to the west, eventually crossing the river just north of the Oregon/California border. The differences in vegetation can be very dramatic between the two rock types, with closed canopy forests common on the Dothan and a very open tree canopy common on the peridotite. There is generally a much higher level of botanical diversity on the peridotite derived soils.

North Fork Smith River Management Allocations



6. Climate

The climate of the North Fork Smith is influenced by both the moist coastal climate to the west and the dry interior valley climate to the east. Average annual precipitation is approximately 120 inches and most of the precipitation occurs in the winter. Some precipitation may fall as snow at the higher elevations. Temperatures generally range from winter lows in the 20's to summer highs near the 100's.

7. Recreation

Recreational use includes fishing, swimming, hiking, hunting, camping, kayaking, and rafting. Use is higher in the warmer/drier months of the year. Overall use is relatively low due to the general lack of access to the river corridor. Most recreational use is centered at Sourdough Camp, which is located on the North Fork Smith at the confluence with Baldface Creek. Sourdough Camp is divided by Baldface Creek. Motorized vehicles are not allowed in the northern half and they are only permitted access to the southern half during the dry season (June 1 to September 30).

In addition to individual and small group use at Sourdough Camp, an off-road vehicle club has "adopted" Sourdough Camp through the Illinois Valley Ranger District and provides maintenance for roads, trails, and campsites. They have been volunteering their services annually since 1982.

The North Fork Smith is viewed as a challenging and remote kayak run, and most runs are taken in the wet season during high flows. The limited access restricts the put-in sites to a ¼ mile hike from the end of the 1107-290, a ¼ mile hike off the end of the 1107-220, and Sourdough Camp. The 1107-220 road and the access road to Sourdough Camp (4402-206) are closed to motor vehicles from October 1 to May 31 making the hike to the river 3 ¾ miles and 1¾ miles respectively. Take-out points include the County Rd. 305 Bridge in California (about 3 miles below Sourdough Camp) and Gasquet, CA (about 17 miles below Sourdough Camp).

8. Vegetation

Douglas-fir, tanoak, and Pacific madrone are the dominant tree species in the river corridor. Near the State Line the corridor vegetation is influenced by ultramafic rocks and Port-Orford-cedar, incense cedar, Jeffrey pine, western white pine, and a variety of shrubs dominate the vegetation in this area.

Habitat for several sensitive plant species occurs within the river corridor, and the Lemmingsworth Gulch RNA, which overlaps the river corridor, is an example of high levels of plant diversity.

Port-Orford-cedar is a concern in the river corridor because it can be killed by an introduced pathogen, *Phytophthora lateralis*, a root disease transported in water and soil. Overall percentages of Port-Orford-cedar composition in the river corridor are low, consisting of scattered individual trees (generally <5% with some local concentrations of 5-20%). The only known disease site in the Oregon section of the corridor is about 1/3 mile north of the California border. The Wild and Scenic corridor in California has some disease sites. Some dead Port-Orford-cedar have been located in Fall Creek and Cedar Creek within the Oregon Wild and Scenic corridor, but the disease could not be identified as the cause of death.

9. Wildlife

The general area supports 150-200 species of wildlife, including Roosevelt elk, blacktail deer, black bear, cougar, and a variety of small game and non-game animals. Some river dependent species which may occur within the corridor include river otter, beaver, common merganser, American dipper (water ouzel) and kingfisher. Amphibians such as the giant salamander and tailed frog may also be present.

Other than the spotted owl, there have been no documented occurrences of any threatened, endangered, or sensitive (TES) wildlife species in the river corridor.

10. Cultural Resources

Historic use of the river area consisted primarily of mining operations. These were primarily for gold and chromite. Mining cabins and sites from the 1940's and 1950's have been documented in the corridor. All are in poor condition.

Prehistoric and historic use of the area by the Tolowa Indians was oriented along a travel route between the east and west side of the Siskiyou Mountains.

11. Geology

The North Fork Smith flows through the Coast Range Geomorphic Province to the Oregon-California border. The river flows through the Dothan Formation in Oregon. From the confluence with Hardtack Creek south to the California border, the Dothan Formation is a narrow finger, bordered to the east and west by the Josephine ultramafic sheet that eventually crosses the river just north of the California border.

12. Fire

There have been several fires within the river corridor during the past 20 years. Two small fires, each less than 1/2 acre in size, occurred within the Scenic segment. Fire suppression evidence from the Chrome Fire (1990) exists within the river corridor in

the form of felled snags and back-burned areas that were intentionally ignited to keep the fire from jumping to the other side of the river. The Biscuit Fire burned into the east side of the river corridor in 2002. The fire burned to the river in several places. Firefighters used Minimum Impact Suppression Tactics to reduce the impacts of fire suppression.

13. Timber Harvesting

Portions of eight managed stands are in the Scenic Segment of the corridor between Horse Creek and Baldface Creek. These areas were logged between 1967 and 1988. About 1.13 miles of road was built within the corridor for the timber harvest.

14. Mineral Extraction

The Wild segment inside the Kalmiopsis Wilderness was withdrawn from future mineral entry and location after December 31, 1983. The Wild segment outside the Wilderness was automatically withdrawn from mineral entry and location after October 28, 1988 by the Omnibus Act. The Forest Service has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management to close the lands within the Scenic corridor, outside of Wilderness, to surface entry and mining.

Mining has occurred within the river corridor, especially for chromite. The Sourdough (Baldface) Mine was the most notable chromite mine, and was located 1.5 miles northeast of the mouth of Baldface Creek. The mine was first worked in 1918, again from 1941-43, and reopened in 1951. A mill was constructed near the mouth of Baldface Creek (within the corridor) to concentrate the lower grade ore. Chromite production from the mine appears to have stopped around 1958.

Currently, there is no known exploration or mining activity occurring in the river corridor or in any of the upper reaches of the watershed.

B. Outstandingly Remarkable Values

1. Fish

The North Fork Smith River's fishery is typical of Pacific coastal river systems. Winter steelhead and sea-run cutthroat trout are the predominant anadromous fish species. Some populations of coho, chinook (both fall and spring), and summer steelhead are found in the lower reaches of the river, primarily in California.

The fishery was determined to be an Outstandingly Remarkable Value on the North Fork Smith primarily due to its substantial contribution to the world-class fishery of the greater Smith River watershed. The North Fork provides nearly seven miles of near-pristine steelhead spawning and rearing habitat and is a significant source of the high quality water on which the anadromous fishery of the Smith River depends.

Additional information on the fishery is available in the Resource Assessment and the Watershed Analysis.

2. Water Quality

The North Fork Smith is known for its outstanding water quality and for its ability to clear quickly following storms. Low turbidity and lack of pollutants contribute to the river's excellent habitat and high fisheries value. Some of the North Fork's tributaries, most notably Baldface and Chrome Creeks flow through and are heavily influenced by, the ultramafic bodies which lie both east and west of the river. These rock types contribute both dissolved minerals and suspended sediments to the North Fork, seasonally affecting its color, clarity, and nutrient supply.

The water quality was determined to be an Outstandingly Remarkable value primarily due to its substantial contribution to the river setting and to the overall functioning of the river ecosystem.

3. Scenic Quality

The scenic quality in the river corridor is a result of the combination of the colors, geology, water, and vegetation. Because much of the river lies within a narrow, deep, and well-forested corridor, there are few opportunities for long-distance views. Factors contributing to site-specific scenic diversity include large rocks, deep pools, exposed peridotite outcrops, a variety of soil types and colors, a variety of plant life, and emerald colored water.

The relatively pristine quality and primitive nature of the river area, in combination with these other factors, are the primary reasons for the scenic value to be determined as Outstandingly Remarkable.

CHAPTER III. MANAGEMENT PLAN

This chapter includes management goals and objectives, statements of the desired future condition, standards and guidelines, management actions, and a description of the corridor boundary.

The management goals and objectives section (section A) are self-explanatory. The statements of desired future condition (section B) were developed to describe the physical environment in the next decade (2000-2010). The standards and guidelines section (section C) for the Wild River segments (Management Area 2) and Scenic River segments (Management Area 10) describe the standards and guidelines to be followed when any action is proposed or implemented. The corridor boundary description (section D) is also self-explanatory.

A. Management Goals and Objectives

The overall management goal of the Siskiyou Forest Plan relevant to this River Management Plan is to protect and enhance identified Outstandingly Remarkable Values and free-flowing condition of Wild and Scenic Rivers (Siskiyou Forest Plan IV-2)

The overall management objectives of the Siskiyou Forest Plan relevant to this River Management Plan is to emphasize the maintenance of the natural/near natural character of the river corridor and to ensure the continued availability of a high quality recreation experience (Siskiyou Forest Plan IV-8).

Siskiyou Forest Plan goals and objectives for the Wild River and Scenic River Management Areas (MA) include:

a. Wild River (MA-2): The goal for this Management Area is to maintain the river environment in a natural state while providing for recreation opportunities (Forest Plan p. IV-77).

The objective for this Management Area is to maintain the natural, free-flowing, and primitive character of Wild segments of the river corridor (Forest Plan p. IV-66).

b. Scenic River (MA-10): The goal for this Management Area is to maintain or enhance the high quality scenery and the largely undeveloped character of the shorelines (Forest Plan p. IV-121).

The objective for this Management Area is to provide river-oriented recreation in an area of high quality scenery and largely undeveloped shoreline of the Scenic segment of the river corridor (Forest Plan p. IV-66).

B. Desired Future Condition

The Siskiyou Forest Plan describes a desired future condition for the Forest in 10 years and 50 years (Siskiyou Forest Plan IV-2 and IV-4). The River Desired Future Conditions listed here are common to all river segments and are consistent with the Siskiyou Forest Plan for the Forest in 10 years.

Landscape View: Foot-trails, facilities within the Sourdough Camp, and existing roads, will be the only permanent modifications. Any plans of operation for valid mining claims will incorporate mitigation techniques to minimize any visual impacts from mining activities. Overall, the area will be managed to protect and enhance the wild and primitive attributes for which it was designated. All management activities within the Scenic river corridor will meet Retention VQO's, except in dispersed recreation sites, where management objectives and facilities focus on management of people. A VQO of Partial Retention will be met in dispersed recreation sites.

River Level View: The casual observer will see little difference between the stands and vegetation as they appear now and as they will appear after a decade of management under this river plan.

Fish and Fish Habitat: Fish habitat will be maintained in its present high quality condition.

Water Quality: Water quality will be maintained in its present high quality condition.

Minerals: Mining effects will not be detrimental to the outstandingly remarkable values. Reclamation of mining impacts will restore the original appearance of the landscape.

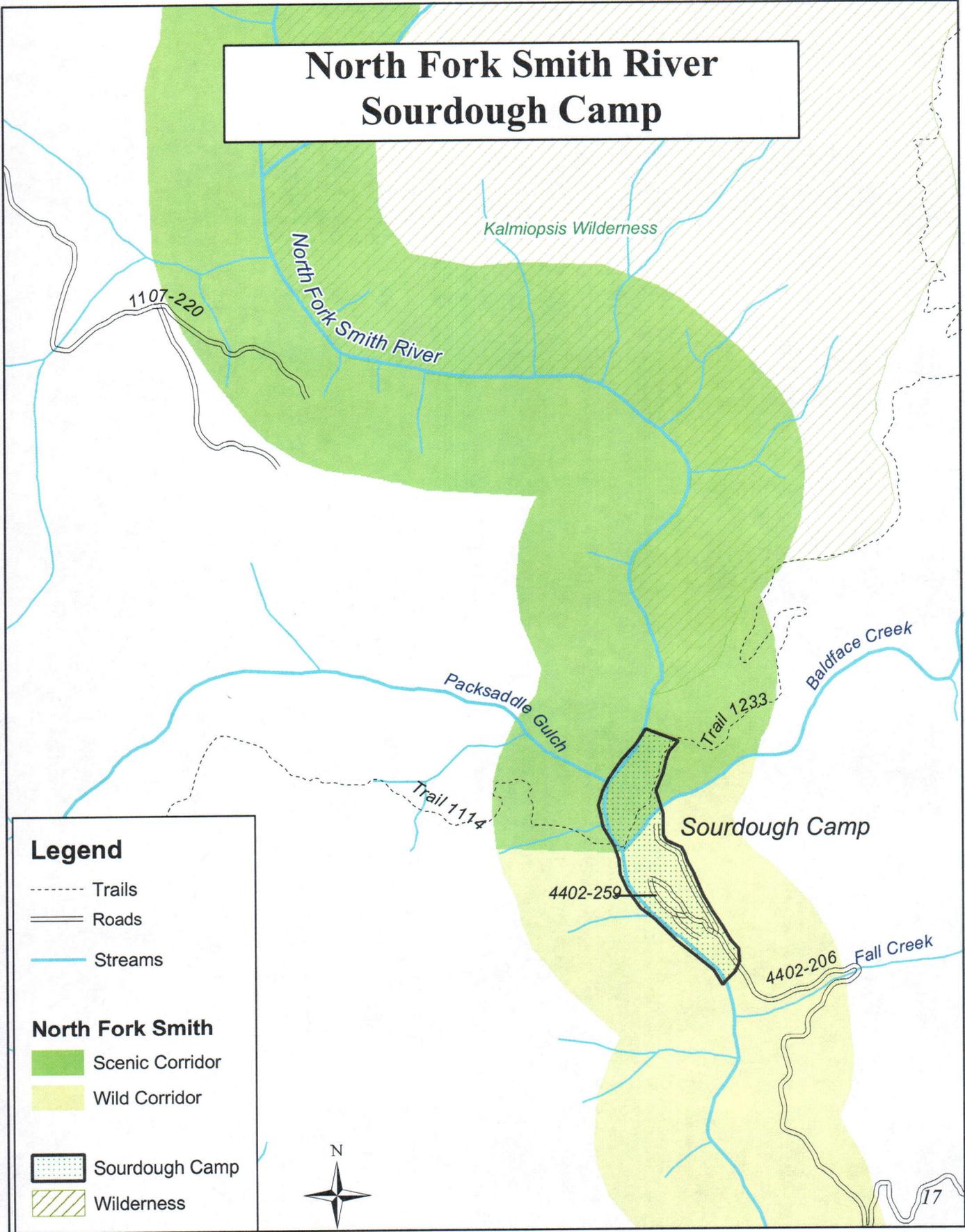
River Corridor: The existing primitive character of the North Fork Smith River will be maintained. Natural processes, including fire, erosion, plant succession, flood events, and natural stream morphological changes, will continue to be the primary forces affecting the condition of the Wild and Scenic river corridor. The river will remain free flowing and in a natural state.

Recreation: River recreation, compatible with the natural landscape and generally undeveloped character of the shoreline, will continue to occur and may increase. There will be a high probability of experiencing solitude. Recreation use will still be relatively light.

The level of facility use and development at Sourdough Camp will continue to the extent they were in 1988 when the Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was signed (refer to Sourdough Camp Map, p.17). The area will be managed to the standards of the Recreational Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) setting description of Semi Primitive Motorized. Access for people with disabilities would be of "moderate" difficulty to the site and "difficult" and challenging in and around the site.

The primary emphasis will be on improving the area to direct use to specific sites and provide for sanitary conditions to ensure protection of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values. Rustic toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, signing, and vegetative rehabilitation could all be used to help meet this objective. A predominantly natural appearing environment will characterize the area. Some vehicle use will occur and may be seen from the river. The 4402-206 road will be maintained as a Level Two road suitable for high clearance vehicles.

North Fork Smith River Sourdough Camp



Legend

- Trails
- ==== Roads
- Streams

North Fork Smith

- Scenic Corridor
- Wild Corridor
- Sourdough Camp
- Wilderness



C. Standards and Guidelines

The Standards and Guidelines listed in this section are in addition to those currently in the Siskiyou Forest Plan and are specific to the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River (Oregon section only).

These Standards and Guidelines (S&G's) state the bounds or constraints within which all practices will be carried out in achieving the planned goals and objectives for Management Areas 2 (Wild River) and 10 (Scenic/Recreation River) on the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River. The intent of these S&G's is to help the manager stay within the constraints prescribed by law, as well as to provide environmental safeguards for management activities. Specific project proposals will be planned and implemented through within the bounds of the S&G's and NEPA.

Specific terminology used in the following Standards and Guidelines identifies the type of direction and degree of compliance required. Correct interpretation of the terms is critical to understanding the intent of the direction.

The first intent is conveyed by the word "shall". With this degree of compliance, the action is mandatory in all cases.

The second intent is conveyed by the word "should." With this degree of restriction, action is required, unless justifiable reason exists for not taking action. This direction is intended to require a practice unless it entails unacceptable hardship or expense. Exceptions to "should" restrictions are expected to occur infrequently.

The third intent is conveyed by the word "practicable" and acknowledges that a given practice is not always feasible and practical in every situation. It is intended to encourage, but not require, a practice.

The fourth uses the word "may" and has to with activities that may or may not be appropriate, depending on circumstances. This direction is intended to allow for taking advantage of compatible opportunities, or to provide for exceptions when objectives of a particular standard can be met through alternate methods.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR (MA-2) WILD RIVER

In addition to the standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan for MA2 (Forest Plan p. IV-77), the following apply:

Fire Management - MA2-1N

All wildfires within the Wild river corridor inside the Kalmiopsis Wilderness Area shall follow Fire Suppression Guides for Wilderness (Natural Fire Guidelines, Siskiyou National Forest, Appendix I).

No snag falling shall occur unless necessary for human safety.

Administration - MA2-2N

Wild river segments in Wilderness areas shall follow Management Area - 1 standards and guidelines. (Forest Plan IV - 69).

Management Area - 1 standards and guidelines shall apply to the wild river segment from Baldface Creek to the California state line except where otherwise noted or clarified in MA2-3N.

Recreation - MA2-3N

The Recreation Opportunity Spectrum setting description of Semi-primitive Motorized shall apply at Sourdough Camp and along road 4402-206.

Sourdough Camp shall remain a semi-primitive site with the 4402-206 road providing access during the dry season (June 1 to September 30) for high-clearance vehicles (road maintenance level 2). It shall be improved only as necessary to direct use to specific sites and provide sanitation to ensure the protection of river values. Rustic toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, signing, barriers, and vegetative rehabilitation could all be used. Campsites should be located in areas that already receive use and that exhibit no negative effects to river values. The capacity of the camp shall not be increased.

Damage created by vehicles driving off the roads should be repaired and barriers placed to restrict vehicles to the roadway.

Motorized watercraft shall be prohibited except for emergency law enforcement operations.

Boating use should be restricted to launching of no more than 2 trips per day with a maximum of 6 people per party.

Minerals - MA2-4N

The removal of common mineral material (i.e. gravel) shall not be permitted.

River segments within the Kalmiopsis Wilderness were withdrawn from future mineral entry and location after December 31, 1983 by the Wilderness Act of September 3, 1964. The Omnibus Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers act of 1988 designated the segment from Baldface Creek to the Oregon-California state line as a Wild segment and withdrew it from future mineral entry and location.

Mining activities on existing claims may be authorized, subject to valid existing rights, in an approved Plan of Operation (36 CFR 228, Subpart A). A proposed Plan of Operation shall be analyzed to determine the effects on the river's Outstandingly Remarkable Values and other resource values. All effects shall be mitigated, to the extent possible under mining laws, to prevent degradation of river values.

Provisions in an approved Plan of Operation shall satisfy the rights of the claimant to extract valuable minerals, while creating the least impact on river values. Disturbed lands shall be reclaimed as soon as practicable during or after the mining activity. Site-specific mitigation may be required seasonally for active mining operations. Reclamation of all disturbed surface areas shall be required upon completion of all mining activities, as detailed in the Plan of Operation.

Silviculture - MA2-5N

Tree felling shall be permitted only for trail construction & maintenance or public safety in Wild river segments outside of Wilderness.

Roads - MA2-6N

The road into Sourdough Camp, road 4402206, shall be closed to motor vehicles with a gate during the wet season (October 1 to May 31) to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of Port-Orford-cedar root disease (*phytophthora lateralis*).

Motor vehicles shall be banned from the river bar at Sourdough Camp and from crossing Baldface Creek.

Improvements shall be made on road 4402206 to correct drainage problems and direct water away from Port-Orford-cedars where practicable.

Road 4402206 should be monitored yearly to ensure that it has stable drainage and that drainage structures (improvements) are in good repair. The road shall be maintained for use by high-clearance vehicles (maintenance level 2).

Motor vehicle use, except for specific emergency and administrative uses, shall not be permitted within the corridor except for dry season (June 1 to September 30) use on existing roads in the portion of Sourdough Camp south of Baldface Creek and the roads leading to it (roads 4402-206 and 4402-259).

Overland motorized use (outside Wilderness where it is prohibited) shall only be permitted for trail construction or maintenance needs, and for those needs identified in MA2-4N and MA2-5N.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR (MA-10) SCENIC RIVER

In addition to the standards and guidelines in the Forest Plan (Forest Plan IV-121), the following standards and guidelines apply:

Fire Management - MA10-1N

No snag falling shall occur unless necessary for human safety.

Prescribed fire may be used for fuels treatment, wildlife habitat enhancement and other enhancement opportunities where consistent with the Forest Plan as amended.

Facilities/Utilities - MA10-2N

Future utility corridor sitings should be excluded from this management area.

Recreation - MA10-3N

Campsites existing in the area should be maintained at a standard consistent with the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) classification of Roaded Natural for the area. New campsites may be constructed, but should also match the ROS classification and setting of the area.

Motorized vehicle use in and across the river shall not be allowed except for approved mining claim access or for emergency fire and law enforcement operations.

Motorized watercraft shall be prohibited except for emergency law enforcement operations.

Boating use should be restricted to the launching of no more than 2 trips per day with a maximum of 6 people per party.

Trails may be constructed, maintained, and managed to protect or enhance the values for which the river was designated and to meet recreational demand. The use of pack stock on trails may be permitted, depending on specific trail management objectives.

Wildlife and Sensitive Plants - MA10-4N

Management direction is to protect wildlife and sensitive plant habitats. Wildlife and sensitive plant habitat improvement work may be done, provided that activities and structures do not affect the free-flowing character of the river or its outstandingly remarkable values.

Fish - MA10-5N

Management direction is to protect and enhance fish habitat. All management activities within the Scenic river corridor shall be analyzed for effects on fish and fish habitat.

Fish habitat improvement work may be done, provided that the activities and structures are analyzed for the effects on the free-flowing character of the river and its outstandingly remarkable values.

All trees that fall in the river shall be left as large woody material for fish habitat.

Minerals - MA10-6N

Removal of common rock material (i.e. gravel) shall not be permitted.

Mining activities on valid claims may be authorized in an approved Plan of Operation (36 CFR 228, Subpart A)*. A proposed Plan of Operation shall be analyzed to determine the effects on the river's Outstandingly Remarkable Values and other resource values. All effects shall be mitigated, to the extent possible under mining laws, to prevent degradation of river values.

Provisions in an approved Plan of Operation shall satisfy the rights of the claimant to extract valuable minerals, while creating the least impact on outstandingly remarkable values. Disturbed lands shall be reclaimed as soon as practicable during or after the mining activity. Site-specific mitigation may be required seasonally for active mining operations. Reclamation of all disturbed surface areas shall be required upon completion of all mining activities, as detailed in the Plan of Operation.

***Note:** The Forest Service has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management to close the lands within the scenic corridor to surface entry and mining.

Silviculture - MA10-7N

Tree felling and removal shall only be permitted for trail construction & maintenance, wildlife enhancement, public safety, or salvage of trees after catastrophic stand-replacing events in the Scenic river segment (as provided for in the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, pages C 13-15).

Visual Resource - MA10-8N

All management activities within the Scenic river corridor shall meet Retention Visual Quality Objectives (VQO's) (AG. Handbook #462), except in dispersed recreation sites where management objectives and facilities focus on management of people. Partial Retention VQO's shall be met in these recreation sites.

Cultural Resources - MA10-9N

Cultural resource enhancement and interpretation projects may be done provided that activities and structures protect the outstandingly remarkable values.

Range - MA10-10N

Range allotments for livestock shall not be allowed.

Soil and Water - MA10-11N

Management direction is to protect and enhance water quality. Water quality protection or enhancement projects may be done, provided activities and structures do not affect the free-flowing character of the river, and that its outstandingly remarkable values are protected.

Water removal for road maintenance and repair, permanent fire pump chances, recreational, or administrative uses may be allowed after environmental analysis determines there will be no significant environmental impacts to outstandingly remarkable values.

Roads - MA10-12N

No new roads shall be constructed within this segment. All road treatments shall be analyzed for effects to outstandingly remarkable values. Outstandingly remarkable values shall be protected.

Road 1107-270 shall be closed year-round near the junction of the 1107-276 road to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of the root disease into the North Fork Smith River drainage.

Road 1107-276 shall be closed year-round near the junction of road 1107-277 to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of the root disease into the Hardtack Creek drainage.

Storm-proofing or decommissioning shall be implemented on the closed portions of the 1107-270 and 276 roads to reduce the potential for mass failure and sediment delivery.

D. Corridor Boundary Description

The established boundary of $\frac{1}{4}$ -mile on both sides of the river totals approximately 4,325 acres or roughly 320 acres per river mile and does not vary in width or follow geographic contours.

CHAPTER IV. IMPLEMENTATION

A. Management Actions

The management program includes distinct actions designed to help attain the desired future condition for the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River. The intent is that these actions be implemented as part of ongoing operations or when funding is secured through the agency's budgeting process. These are single-item decisions that affect specific areas or resources. They were developed from opportunities identified in the resource analysis, the watershed analysis, and from public involvement. Some of these actions can be merged into the Schedule of Planned Activities (Section B of this chapter) for capital investment funding, when costs and projected timeframes are known.

Recreation

Sign access roads, trailheads, and Sourdough Camp to alert users to rules and regulations.

Maintain road 4402-206 at a level consistent with a Semi-Primitive-Motorized ROS designation and setting.

Inventory Sourdough Camp and consider needs for improvements to the site and surrounding area to direct use to specific sites and provide sanitation to ensure the protection of river values. Develop a proposal based on the results of the inventory that is consistent with the desired future condition. Maintain facilities at a level consistent with a Semi-Primitive-Motorized ROS designation and setting.

Fish and Water Quality

Implement opportunities identified in the North Fork Smith River Watershed Analysis to enhance and/or protect fish habitat and water quality, where appropriate.

Develop a water-site location plan for future engineering and fire management purposes and for protection of water quality.

Port-Orford-cedar

Expand reconnaissance and mapping of POC in the drainage

Design projects to appropriately reduce the spread of POC root disease and prevent introduction in high-risk areas, where practicable and consistent with other management objectives.

B. Schedule of Planned Activities

The projects and acquisition proposals contained in this plan will be translated into multi-year program budget proposals that identify needed expenditures. The budget proposals are submitted through normal Forest Service budget processes. Since the actual amount of work that can be accomplished depends on the final budget, it is not possible to say with assurance when or if the proposed projects in this plan will be fully carried out.

The federal actions identified in this management plan have been combined into three main categories for budgeting purposes. These categories include annual maintenance, operations and program management, and facilities development.

Following are cost estimates for the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River management program based on 2002 dollars.

Annual Maintenance

The North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River Corridor has few recreation facilities. They include the Sourdough Camp site and the two trails within the corridor. Annual maintenance includes toilet repair and maintenance, repair of damage to grounds, sign replacement and repair, fire ring cleanout, routine trail maintenance, maintenance/repair gate and barriers.

Annual maintenance cost.....\$8,000

Annual Operations and Program Management

Funding for operations includes, litter pick up, security patrols and material and equipment costs. Program management includes development of education/information programs, development of maps and brochures, and other general administrative overhead costs.

Operations.....\$10,000

Program Management.....\$2,400

Facilities Development

The following table lists the projects that are identified in the plan and which will play a role in assuring that the desired future conditions will be achieved. As discussed in the introduction to this section, if budget allocations do not match requests, these projects may not be completed as scheduled.

As more experience is gained in managing the Wild and Scenic River and as various conditions change, the priorities shown in this schedule may be altered, projects may be deleted, or new projects may be added.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Fiscal Year	Description	Estimated Cost
2003	Repair damage caused by vehicles driving off the roads at Sourdough Camp and repair/reinforce barriers as needed.	\$10,000
2003	Trailhead Construction within Sourdough Recreation Area (for Trails #1114 and #1233)	\$5,000
2004	Sign access roads, trailheads, and Sourdough Camp	\$2,500
2004	Maintain road 4402-206	\$10,000
2004	Close road 1107-276 near the junction with road 1107-277. Close road 1107-270 near the junction of road 1107-276. Storm-proof closed sections of the roads.	\$20,000
2005	Inventory Sourdough Camp and consider needs for improvements to the site and surrounding area to direct use to specific sites and provide sanitation to ensure the protection of river values.	\$7,000
2007	Maintain road 4402-206	\$10,000
2008	Buttress cut slope at narrow spot on road 4402-206 near the Fall Creek Bridge	\$15,000

C. Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring prescribed in this plan is in addition to the Forest-wide monitoring already prescribed in the Siskiyou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Appendix D). It expands the Forest's monitoring program to address site-specific issues of the North Fork Smith River Management Plan.

The monitoring and evaluation of this plan will be based, whenever possible, upon the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) concept. LAC is based on the premise that change to the ecological and social conditions of an area will occur as a result of natural and human factors. The goal of management is to keep the character and rate of change due to human factors within acceptable levels that are consistent with plan objectives and protection of the river's Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

The primary emphasis of the LAC system is on the desired resource condition, rather than on how much use or abuse an area can tolerate. The management challenge is

not one of how to prevent any human-induced change in the planning area, but rather one of deciding what changes should occur, how much change will be allowed, what management actions are needed to guide and control it, and how managers will know when the established limits are being or have been reached.

Once in place and functioning the approach can alert Forest Service managers to unacceptable change in the Wild and Scenic River corridor before it is too late to react. For each river value to be monitored, one or more key indicators are selected which allows managers to keep attuned to changes in the ecosystem or social setting. For each key indicator, a standard is set. This is the threshold value that determines the amount of change that is either desired or will be accepted. The purpose of the indicators and standards is to provide managers with a tool to determine if the resource values and opportunities they are managing for are actually being provided. The standards serve as "triggers" which cause specific, predetermined management actions to be implemented when the limit is being approached.

The LAC process is designed to be the foundation for the long-term protection and enhancement of the primary river-related values in the Wild and Scenic River corridor. The process must, however, be flexible enough to allow for unique site-specific situations, and to provide ample opportunity for public involvement and adjustment as our resource and social knowledge base increases.

The following table outlines the key indicators, management standards, management actions, and monitoring frequency that will be conducted within the North Fork Smith Wild and Scenic River Corridor. Monitoring costs includes site surveys, equipment costs, and record keeping. If budget allocations do not match requests monitoring and management actions may not be completed as scheduled.

Estimated Annual Monitoring Costs = \$10,500

LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE

Value to Be Maintained	Key Indicator	Management Standard to Be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standards Are Not Met	Monitoring Procedure and Frequency
Fish Habitat	Changes to habitat due to natural or management related events.	Forest-wide S&G 4-12 Use 1994 stream survey as a baseline.	Identify cause of degradation to fish habitat and mitigate impact as practicable.	Conduct stream surveys after events that have the potential to change fish habitat.
Boating Boaters should experience a solitary trip where it is unusual to see another boating party or evidence of other users.	Number of trips launched each day and number of people in each boating party Accumulation of trash and/or human waste.	Boating trip launches not to exceed 2 per day and not exceed 6 people per party. Trash and human waste is not visible from the river or at dispersed sites.	Increase frequency of river patrols and law enforcement Implement a permit system. Educate boaters in Leave No Trace techniques. Require pack in/pack out of trash and human waste.	Monitor boating use seasonally. Monitor by interviewing boaters. Float the river and inspect dispersed sites as needed.
Sourdough Camp A clean and sanitary primitive campground free of resource damage.	Damage caused by vehicles driving off of existing roads. Accumulation of trash and human waste. New sites and/or fire rings are being pioneered.	No damage caused by vehicles driving off of existing roads. No accumulations of trash or human waste found regularly. No new sites or fire rings are permitted.	Barriers will be constructed or reinforced to prevent damage. Damage will be repaired as soon as practicable. Increase frequency of recreation patrols and public contact. Increase law enforcement Enforce pack in/pack out of trash. Maintain toilets and add toilets as needed. Close and rehabilitate new sites and remove new fire rings.	Monitor conditions monthly between June 1 and October 1.

LIMITS OF ACCEPTABLE CHANGE

Value to Be Maintained	Key Indicator	Management Standards to Be Used	Management Actions Triggered if Standards Are Not Met	Monitoring Procedure and Frequency
<p>Dispersed Campsites</p> <p>No new sites are created and existing sites are maintained.</p>	<p>New sites are being pioneered.</p> <p>Trampling of vegetation and/or loss of ground cover is occurring.</p> <p>Accumulation of trash and/or human waste.</p>	<p>No new sites are permitted.</p> <p>Existing sites are not to exceed designated area by more than 25%.</p> <p>Trash accumulations and/or human waste are not found regularly.</p>	<p>Close and rehabilitate site.</p> <p>Use barriers to control site size. Rehabilitate impacted area.</p> <p>Increase recreation patrols and public contact.</p> <p>Require pack in/pack out of trash and human waste.</p>	<p>Site condition surveys every 2 years.</p>
<p>Cultural Resources</p> <p>Cultural Site Integrity is preserved.</p>	<p>Sites are being damaged.</p>	<p>No significant Cultural Resource is being irreparably damaged by human use or natural forces to the point that it is being lost.</p>	<p>Public information and education efforts through brochures, signs, and visitor contact points will be implemented.</p> <p>Increase law enforcement</p> <p>Sites experiencing human or natural degradation would be stabilized .</p>	<p>Conduct an inventory to identify prehistoric and historic sites or features.</p> <p>Site condition surveys every 2 years.</p>
<p>Port-Orford-cedar</p> <p>Low risk of introducing POC root disease.</p>	<p>Motorized vehicles behind gates during the wet season (October 1 to May 31)</p>	<p>POC gates are closed and not bypassed by motorized vehicles during the wet season (October 1 to May 31).</p>	<p>Gates repaired and reinforced and bypass routes permanently closed within 1 month of discovery.</p> <p>Increase law enforcement</p>	<p>Inspect gate on road 4402-206 to Sourdough Camp monthly during the wet season.</p> <p>Inspect other gates every other month during the wet season.</p>
<p>Road 4402-206</p>	<p>Rutting, gullyng, drainage problems and water being directed towards POC.</p>	<p>Meets standards of a maintenance level 2 road. Water is directed away from POC.</p>	<p>Road maintenance or repair to bring the road up to a maintenance level 2 standard. Drainage is corrected to direct water away from POC.</p>	<p>Inspect the road yearly to ensure that it has stable drainage and that drainage structures are in good repair.</p>

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