Attachment B
Criteria for the Prioritization of EAWS
For the Watershed, Fish and Vegetation Resource Categories
November 17, 2000

As agreed to at the October 21, 1998 Level One meeting and directed by the BOD, the Forest was divided into 60 watersheds (primarily 5th and 6th HUC) and rated for each of the categories: watershed, fish and vegetation. The criteria established at meeting was used with some refinement by the SO specialists, Dick Jones, Jim Mital, Pat Murphy, and Bill Wulf. For each category, each drainage rating was used to rank the drainage from #1-60 with #1 ranking the highest priority for that resource area. The three resource rankings were added and a final overall ranking was given to each drainage. The criteria and ratings were documented on November 17, 1998 and distributed for comments via cover letter, dated December 21, 1998.

The drainages were reviewed and ranked again using the following criteria on November 16, 2000. The same criteria used in the initial ranking (conducted in 1998) were used for the watershed and fish categories. The criteria for the vegetation category were refined for this rating to reflect more of a landscape perspective.

Watershed Category:

1. Rating #1: **Recovery Potential.** We based the recovery potential on the road density of the watershed. Watersheds with high road densities have the greatest potential for recovery. The watershed with the highest road density, Lower Crooked Fork Creek, was rated 60; the watershed with the lowest density, Fire Creek, was rated one.

2. Rating #2: **Watershed Condition.** The watershed condition was based on the May 1997 Watershed Condition report. The watersheds with the lowest condition (i.e. Upper North Fork - Kelly to Long) was rated highest. The watershed in the highest (best) condition (Upper Kelly Creek) was rated lowest.

3. Rating #3: **Watershed Sensitivity**. Watershed sensitivity was based on the amount of hazardous landtypes located in the watershed. Landtype hazard was based on mass wasting potential, debris avalanche potential, and sediment delivery efficiency. The watershed with the highest percentage of hazard landtypes (Boulder Creek) was rated highest. The watershed with the lowest percentage of hazard landtypes (Palouse River below Laird Park) was rated lowest.

Numeric ratings 1-3 were added together. The highest total number became Watersheds #1 recommendation for EAWS development. The watershed with the lowest total number became Watersheds #60 recommendation for EAWS development.

Fish Category:

1. Rating #1: **Fish species present in drainage**; bull trout =5, steelhead trout =4, spring chinook salmon = 3, and westslope cutthroat=1. As listed species, bull trout and steelhead trout were rated higher. Due to the sparse populations of bull trout across the Forest, bull trout were rated higher than steelhead.

2. Rating #2: **The potential habitat conditions for bull trout and steelhead trout** were assessed; information was based on species presence, survey info and professional judgment. The best habitat was designated focal habitat: Focal habitat for bull trout=5 and focal habitat for steelhead trout=4. Adjunct habitat is defined as habitat containing very few bull trout and/or steelhead trout, but has potential to become focal habitat: Adjunct habitat for bull trout=3 and adjunct habitat for steelhead trout=2.

3. Rating #3: **The amount of habitat and/or population restoration work completed** in each drainage was assessed; work includes fish habitat restoration/enhancement work, watershed restoration work including road obliteration, fish supplementation efforts. High=5; Moderate=4, Low=2 and None=0.

4. Rating #4: **The presence of private land inholdings within the upper parts of the drainages** were identified. If private lands were present, a high priority was given. Private lands present=2; no private lands=0.

The four ratings were totaled and a final fish ranking (#1-60) was given to each drainage. Professional judgment was used to rank the drainages that had similar total ratings.

Terrestrial Vegetation Category:

1. Rating #1: The percentage of each watershed occupied by landtype associations (LTAs) dominated by **warm, dry forest types** (Douglas-fir, ponderosa pine). These primarily include stream breaklands, warm aspects of colluvial midslopes, and mass wasted sites. These forest types have short-interval, mixed lethal/non-lethal fire regimes and fire suppression has had a major impact on current species composition, structure, and process. The greater the percentage of the watershed in these warm, dry forest types, the higher the priority.

2. Rating #2: The percentage of each watershed occupied by LTAs dominated by **mesic forest types** (western white pine, western larch, grand fir, western redcedar). These primarily include low-relief rolling hills and moist portions of colluvial midslopes. These mesic forest types have been impacted by exotic disease introductions and timber harvest to the extent that current forest composition, structure, and processes have been significantly altered from historical levels. The greater the percentage of the watershed in these mesic forest types, the higher the priority.

3. Rating #3: The percentage of each watershed occupied by LTAs dominated by **high elevation, cold temperature forest types** (whitebark pine, lodgepole pine). These primarily include alpine glaciated ridges and troughs, alpine icecap areas, and high elevation frost churned ridges. These high/cold forest types have been primarily impacted by exotic disease introductions and fire suppression to the extent that current forest composition, structure, and processes are significantly different from historical levels. The greater the percentage of the watershed in these high/cold forest types, the higher the priority.

Each of the above three factors was weighted (L=1, M=2, H=3) based on the historical levels of those forest types in each watershed. The three weighted factors were then summed and an overall composite

terrestrial vegetation ranking was given to each watershed. The watersheds were prioritized from 1 to 60 based on the composite rankings.