

# **1999 MONITORING REPORT for the NATIONAL FORESTS OF THE BLUE MOUNTAINS**

## **SECTION I - INTRODUCTION**

This fiscal year (FY) 1999 Monitoring and Evaluation Report documents the monitoring results for the three Blue Mountain Forests - the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman of northeast Oregon and southeast Washington. This is the third year the three Forests have combined their monitoring information into one report. Fiscal year 1999 runs from October 1, 1998 to September 30, 1999.

The Forest Plans for the National Forests in the Blue Mountains were approved by the Regional Forester in 1990. The Forest Plans provide direction for integrated management of the resources on the three forests, and the Plans are implemented through projects designed to be consistent with that direction. Monitoring is integral to the correct and consistent implementation of the Forest Plans. Additionally, it is necessary to test the validity of the Plans themselves. Where monitoring shows a need for change, or when changes in law and regulation occur, Forest Plans may need to be amended.

### **Why Combine the Monitoring Efforts for the three Forests?**

After several years of discussion, the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests began a tri-Forest monitoring program for the Blue Mountains in 1997. The coordinated monitoring program was necessary for several reasons:

- Current monitoring questions and protocols vary widely among the Forests, so the monitoring results cannot be meaningfully aggregated to provide Blue Mountain or other subregional information. Under ecosystem management, monitoring needs to occur on a broader, landscape scale.
- The number of required monitoring items has increased (PACFISH, INFISH, Rescission Bill sales, etc.), and the requirements are likely to increase further when the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP) is completed.
- The three Forests share common publics and issues, and the Forests should be responding with similar monitoring objectives and methodology.
- Some monitoring can be done more systematically on fewer sites across a larger area, thereby reducing redundancies and costs.
- Monitoring will be the key to adaptive management under ICBEMP.

The Forests are moving to fully coordinate and standardize the monitoring program. The Forests used a tri-Forest interdisciplinary monitoring teams to review emphasis areas. The emphasis focus in FY 1999 was riparian activities.

## Organization of this Report

This monitoring and evaluation report is composed of five primary sections. The last four sections have their own Table of Contents.

**Section I:** Introduction (this section).

**Section C:** Coordinated/Consolidated Monitoring Items which the three Forests reported in generally the same manner.

**Section M:** Malheur National Forest monitoring items done independently of the other Blue Mountain Forests in FY 99.

**Section U:** Umatilla National Forest monitoring items done independently of the other Blue Mountain Forests in FY 99.

**Section W:** Wallowa-Whitman National Forest monitoring items done independently of the other Blue Mountain Forests in FY 99.