

Part 5
PLAN AREA OBJECTIVES
AND
ALLOWABLE PRACTICES

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PLAN AREA OBJECTIVES

The signatories to this plan recognize that the McCloud River Basin is one of those few remaining areas within the State of California with outstanding natural resource values. Fisheries, geology, scenery, cultural, and historic values are all considered outstandingly remarkable. In recognition of these values and the fact that the McCloud River at certain locations may be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the signatories hereto have joined together to effectuate protection of the river's pristine resources by utilizing a mechanism to protect its resources which is, in their opinion, more effective than Wild and Scenic designation, namely the Coordinated Resource Management Plan.

The intent of the CRMP is to coordinate large-scale resource planning. The Coordinating Group evaluates projects to be implemented according to the consensus of group members on long range goals, principles, and strategies. Agencies and private landowners cooperate in individual project planning and implementation.

The main objective of this process is to assure that projects are compatible with the objectives and allowable practices identified in this CRMP.

Consistent with the Memorandum of Understanding, this CRMP can be used as an acceptable alternative to Wild and Scenic River Designation for the McCloud River.

I. Objectives

The primary objective of the CRMP is to preserve the pristine quality of the river resources described herein.

The CRMP area includes significant recreation and visual resource values. Objectives for management are:

- (a) maintenance of a predominately natural appearing area;
- (b) provision for public use consistent with wildlife and watershed protection and the rights of private landowners.

The CRMP area includes significant vegetation resources. The objective for management is:

- (a) vegetation use consistent with watershed, viewshed and fisheries values protection.

Portions of the McCloud River have been designated by the Department of Fish and Game as wild trout waters under the California Wild Trout Program. The general fisheries management objectives of the Wild Trout Program are:

- A. Maintenance of wild trout populations at levels necessary to provide satisfactory recreational angling opportunities.
- B. Maintenance and enhancement, where appropriate, of the habitat required for optimum wild trout production.
- C. Preservation of the natural character of the streamside environment.]

These objectives are appropriate for land management practices adopted pursuant to this management plan since they relate to the central issues of the McCloud watershed, including recreation management, timber management, wildlife management, watershed protection, and fisheries management.

II. Management Practices

A. Logging and Road Construction

Minimize new road construction and locate new roads away from stream courses by designing mid-ridge and ridgeline roads. Locate roads across stream courses only in areas where water quality and fisheries impacts will be minimized. Avoid significant wetlands and wet meadows wherever possible.

Except for necessary road crossings as noted above, no logging or road construction will take place within riparian areas. These riparian management zones are defined as 50/100 feet from ephemeral and key intermittent streams, significant wet meadows, and marshes and 100/250 feet from perennial streams, lakes, and reservoirs depending on slope and stability.

In the remainder of the CRMP area, timber management activities will not be more intensive than prescription VI (Wildlife Management) of the proposed Shasta-Trinity Forest Plan. All parties to this plan will be consulted during the planning phases of both private and public timber sales.

B. McCloud-Pit Dam Operation

The operation of the McCloud-Pit Dam has direct influence on the McCloud River Basin. Any changes in the operation of the dam will be a subject for study by the CRMP coordinating group.

C. Recreation Development

Sanitation and support facilities may be developed between reservoir and Ah-Di-Na Campground.

Development of the upper McCloud will be according to the Upper McCloud River Management Plan.

On the lower river, existing, developed and dispersed recreation sites on public lands (Ah-Di-Na, Star City Creek and Ash Camp) will be maintained. Development of public use facilities on private lands will not be encouraged.

D. Road and Trail Access

Public access within the lower McCloud area will be primarily by trail. Forest Service will develop an overall trail system for the area. Current, existing, and planned trails on National Forest lands will be incorporated, including the Pacific Crest Trail, Tom Dow Trail, Tom Neal Trail, and the Squaw Valley Creek Trail. The Tom Dow Trail will be rerouted so that it does not cross privately owned property.

Roads necessary for administrative use, and those acceptable under logging practices described earlier, will be allowed. Initially, additional road access for public use will not be made available.

The Forest Service will analyze the need for trailheads and road access within the area and will first present any proposals for additional public access to all involved landowners. Protection of resource values and respect for private property rights will be prime considerations when proposing any additional motorized access to the area.

E. River Use

The Forest Service may manage use of the river through a permit system. The United States Forest Service will determine whether commercial or noncommercial white water boating is an acceptable public use. The determination will be based upon appropriate studies to establish the suitability or unsuitability of the McCloud River for such use. This provision shall not be construed to require the Service to conduct such studies in the absence of a specific application to permit such use.

Public use of hiking trails, recreational camping, and fishing will be encouraged consistent with types, levels and locations of use to be determined by the Coordinating Group consistent with the principles herein and stated in the Memorandum of Understanding.

F. Fisheries

The Coordinating Group shall encourage reduced legal fishing limits on streams through public and private lands.

G. Wildlife Habitat Management

Management activities within identified Threatened, Endangered, or Sensitive species habitat will emphasize enhancement of habitat for target species. Consumptive harvests of game consistent with California Department of Fish and Game population objectives will be allowed. Nongame species habitat will be emphasized throughout the area with special concern in riparian zones.

H. Wildfire and Fuels Management

Wildfires will continue to be suppressed at a level consistent with protecting high value resources found throughout the area. Prescribed fire

will be an acceptable tool to reduce wildfire hazard and improve wildlife habitat where protection of aesthetic values is assured.

Maintenance of existing helispots, trails, and roads will be encouraged to provide access for wildfire suppression.

I. Soil and Watershed Management

All management activities will recognize potential effects upon soil and water resources and attempt to minimize any significant adverse impact. Watersheds will be monitored on the subdrainage unit with any activity designed to remain below the "watershed threshold of concern".

J. Range management

Domestic livestock use of commercial dimensions will not be permitted throughout the Lower McCloud area. Use may be permitted within the Upper McCloud area but utilization will be managed to ensure consistency with wildlife forage needs. Range habitat and structural improvements will not be encouraged except where consistency with resource values can be ensured.

K. Private Management

No private management activity of an landowner will be required to be undertaken unless specifically set forth in the CRMP or subsequently agreed upon by a vote of the members as set forth herein.

No private management activity of a landowner consistent with the principles herein and in the Memorandum of Understanding will be prohibited by the CRMP unless such prohibition is specifically set forth in the agreement or is subsequently agreed to by a vote of the members as set forth herein.

