

Environmental Assessment and River Management Plan: North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette Wild and Scenic River. USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region Willamette National Forest. January, 1992. (Reviewed by Aria DalMolin)

I found this report plan at the Eugene Public Library and I thought that it would be interesting and would pertain a lot to the Natives and Invasive subject. The plan that was proposed in 1992 was called Alternative B and it would satisfy the Wild and Scenic River act of 1968. The areas affected by Alternative B would be 1) the Wild and Scenic River corridor and 2) the view shed adjacent to the river corridor. The plan was to implement the structure of a Douglas fir old growth area in order to maintain plant diversity and wildlife habitat. Also, the objective view of the plan was to maintain the aesthetic qualities of the old growth forest. The plan would create harvesting rates of the old growth forest and return the river and the corridor to a natural appearing system.

The plan would be enacted and protected by monthly monitoring of the effects of recreation, monitoring of trails, vegetation, scenic quality, water quality, and fisheries. The vegetation in the area was originally very diverse because of the elevation change of the area and this plan would help to maintain this diversity. For instance, the upper one third of the recreation segment is old growth forest from 250 to 600 years old.

The fish in the area are also very important since previously the area supported Chinook salmon; however, they disappeared after the building of a dam in the 1920s. The other main species of fish found in the area are rainbow trout (stocked in 1950s-1970s), cutthroat trout, whitefish, and bull trout; however the latter species has almost completely been eliminated due to dams and the lack of anadromous prey base.

Critique

This plan would be a good source for the human effects or politics groups because the plan was told from a very anthropocentric point of view. The information on the specific native species such as trees, plants, vegetation, animals, and fish in the area was very vague. It would tell which species were found in the area in the past but it did not give very much concrete data on how the species were doing today (or in 1992 rather).

Although a main portion of the plan was to sustain a large old growth area that could be harvested only at a very low rate, which would in turn help the river and the plants and animals that live in and around the river, the plan seemed more based on aesthetics than anything else. The main goal of the plan seemed not to be to salvage the remaining old growth forests around the river, but to make the area around the river in that part of Oregon prettier and more aesthetically pleasing so that humans would want to frequent the area more often. Therefore, overall, if you are looking for concrete data on the native and invasive species of the area, this would be too general a source, which contains legal documents explaining the plan and how it would be implemented, but not the effects of the plan and how

the species and plants in the area would be aided or affected by this plan.

[return to info sources page](#)

[return to home page](#)