



Forest Health Monitoring

Fact Sheet Series



Riparian Monitoring John Day Basin Pilot

In partnership with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest (PNW) Research Station's Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) program, the FHM riparian monitoring pilot is underway in the John Day Basin of eastern Oregon. Paul Ringold, an ecologist with the US EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP), has provided stream reach sampling locations where EMAP has done additional sampling at sites previously sampled by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality using EMAP Surface Waters Physical Habitat sampling protocols. These include vegetation characterization in addition to stream and floodplain sampling. The crew has already installed and sampled several sites, and will work through late summer.

Two modified Phase 3 plot designs are being tested: (1) circular subplots, and (2) rectangular subplots; both designs are aligned end-to-end and perpendicular to the stream. The rectangular subplots are very similar to those sampled in the Catskills in 2001. In this pilot, however, all four subplots are installed on one side of the stream. Subplot placement will alternate on each side of the streams sampled so that there will be an equal number of subplots installed on both left and right sides of the streams. Both subplot designs are installed at all sites. At every fourth site, the rectangular subplot design is installed on the second side of the stream. The goal is to sample 40 sites, an adequate sample size for meaningful analysis. This will be possible thanks to additional money from the USDA Forest Service Washington Office Ecosystem Management Coordination staff unit. In addition, the Pacfish/Infish Biological Opinion Effectiveness Monitoring (PIBO) crew (which does monitoring for threatened and endangered fish, an effort led by the USDA Forest Service Washington Office Fish Ecology Team) will sample up to 20 of these sites, using their riparian vegetation protocols. As a result, we will have several data sets with which to compare our two plot designs.

This fall a group of statisticians and ecologists from these various programs will convene to discuss data analysis and comparison of methods. We are particularly interested in what additional information is gained from working with EMAP, in terms of nonvegetative information (e.g., instream and floodplain characteristics) they collect. The results will be presented at a national FHM meeting in the spring of 2004 and synthesized into a written report.

For more information about the FHM Riparian Monitoring Project, please contact:

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