

## Chapter 6 – Recommendations

This chapter synthesizes results of the ecosystem processes discussed in previous chapters and generates management recommendations responsive to issues and key questions. The goal of the recommendations is to identify changes in ecosystem conditions and functions that require management action to achieve desired ecologic, economic, and social objectives.

Recommendations are developed based on analyses and conclusions reached in previous chapters. Management recommendations are broken into the eight issue areas; *Hillslope Processes*, *Riparian and Stream Areas*, *Aquatic Dependent Species*, *Forest Health and Fire Disturbance Risk and Hazard*, *Late Successional Habitat*, *Terrestrial Wildlife and Plants*, *Roads*, and *Human Uses*. The recommendations for each issue area are displayed in narrative format as Management Opportunities in **Tables 6-1** through **6-9** in this chapter; and are visually displayed in **Figures 6-1** through **6-6**, contained in the Map Packet, located at the end of this document. Narratives are to be used in conjunction with these maps to begin to identify project locations.

In addition to identifying the management opportunities, the tables briefly describe the existing situation, desired condition, benefiting resources, project level considerations, and priority rating.

### Table Column Definitions

#### EXISTING SITUATION & DESIRED CONDITION

These narratives are qualitative and quantitative determinations identified through the analysis process. Existing Situation summary statements are generated directly from integrating information on management practices and/or ecological processes from **Chapters 3, 4, and 5**; most are situations not meeting Desired Conditions.

Desired Conditions are developed from **Chapter 5 - Interpretation** and represent a refinement of direction from the *Forest Plan*.

#### MANAGEMENT OPPORTUNITY

This is the identification of management actions, projects, and other activities that promote Desired Conditions. During the analysis process, comparisons were made between Existing Situation

and Desired Condition to determine how close a particular resource or ecological function was to achieving the *Desired Condition*. Opportunities were developed that either maintained the *Desired Condition*, or improved ecosystem trends to move towards *Desired Condition*.

#### BENEFITING RESOURCES

This column identifies a list of multiple resources that most benefit from the completion of the listed opportunity.

#### PROJECT LEVEL CONSIDERATIONS

Factors identified in this column should be taken into account when implementing *Management Opportunities*. They may include risks or benefits to other resources, or options and alternatives to consider when accomplishing the *Management Opportunity*. Comments found under *Project Level Considerations* should be reviewed during development and implementation of site-specific projects.

#### PRIORITY RATING

To assist with establishing work priorities for projects, a rating was developed for each opportunity. Analysis Team members assigned a High, Medium, or Low value to each opportunity, based on their professional judgment. The ratings were then tallied, and the rating with the highest number of like responses is shown under the "Team Rating" in the **Chapter 6** tables.

If an opportunity received a rating of "High," it implies a sense of urgency for implementation to bring an ecosystem condition or function back in balance or respond to human needs or values.

Interested members of the public also assigned priorities to Management Opportunities. At an open house public meeting, interested members of the public were requested to identify opportunities that they thought were a High priority for the Forest Service to implement. High priorities are displayed under "Public Rating" in the **Chapter 6** tables. A "N/A" rating is Not Applicable - no rating was given to this opportunity by a member of the Public.

Prioritization of the opportunities provides valuable information to forest managers. This information will be used by the Scott River Ranger District when developing and implementing activities at the project level.

It is important to note that all opportunities identified in this chapter are general in nature. The location where specific opportunities will be implemented and the specific methods used to achieve desired conditions will be developed later, at the project level, based on this analysis and subsequent project development and site-specific analyses subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and public review.