

ARTICLE 36

SALMON HABITAT RESTORATION

SECTION 36.010, PURPOSE: The purpose of this article is to create a system for plans on lands within Wallowa County that will restore and maintain habitat for Chinook salmon and, potentially, other salmonoid fish. The goals for salmon recovery are to provide spawning, rearing, and migration habitat within Wallowa County to assist in the recovery of Snake River salmonoids. Wallowa County recognizes that suitable in-stream habitat for salmon is dependent upon conditions throughout the watershed from the stream itself to the crests of ridges. For example, adequate crown density in forests contributes to the buildup of snowpack and the slower snowmelt needed to maintain streamflows beyond the spring runoff. Without healthy vegetation, soils can erode and fine sediment can flow into streams to suffocate fish eggs and small fry. Wallowa County finds that the salmonoid ecosystem includes the entire watershed not just the in-stream habitat.

SECTION 36.015, MANAGEMENT PLANS: Management plans shall be required prior to approval of watershed, streambank, and in-stream project applications. Plans shall conform to the requirements as provided by the Planning Department for this purpose.

SECTION 36.020, DEVELOPMENT PLANS: Development plans shall be required as provided for in this ordinance and shall include consideration of the following:

01. Provisions for protection of water quantity including:
 - A. Roads shall be maintained and designed to avoid quick runoff and improve infiltration.
 - B. Roads shall be relocated outside riparian areas and placed on less compactable soils.
 - C. Healthy riparian plant communities shall be developed and/or maintained.
 - D. In forested areas, protect the shaded snowpack (tree spacing) through measures prescribed in the Wallowa County/Nez Perce Salmon Recovery Plan.
 - E. Implement and maintain measures to decrease sediment input.

02. Provisions for protection of water quality including:
- A. Develop and/or maintain thermal cover in riparian areas by planting and/or protecting conifers.
 - B. Provide filter strips along roads to help catch sediment.
 - C. Implement dust limitation measures on roads.
 - D. Design and maintain roads to prevent direct runoff from road(s) into streams which may include relocation of a road to better sites.
 - E. Protect water corridors/road fords with rock of appropriate size.
 - F. Develop and/or enhance watershed vegetation to protect banks from erosion.
 - G. Reduce fuels through controlled and/or seasonal grazing management.
 - H. Identify, monitor, and correct noxious weed problems in consultation with the Wallowa County Weed Control Department.
 - I. Improve any existing septic systems to Department of Environmental Quality Standards.
 - J. Follow current use regulations and water quality standards when utilizing herbicides and/or pesticides.
 - K. Avoid runoff into streams of fertilizer/herbicides and/or pesticides.
03. Provisions for protection of stream structure including:
- A. Add and/or preserve large woody debris in streams.
 - B. Prohibit further channelization along stream.
 - C. Develop mitigation strategies for necessary channelization and/or bank protection.
 - D. Avoid building in a floodplain.
 - E. Develop hardened fords for machinery and livestock use.
 - F. Avoid excess flow, peak flow, and bank erosion.

04. Provisions for protection of stream substrate including:
 - A. Provide passages through swimming hole dams.
 - B. Prohibit dredging in streams.
05. Provisions for protection of habitat including:
 - A. Preserve and/or restore riparian vegetation.
 - B. Avoid pesticide use.
 - C. Avoid planting competing fish species.