SCNM Appendix 7

A Synopsis of Management Goals and Objectives for the Proposed Karuk Cultural Resource Area *(Drawn from the Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources Eco-Cultural Resources Management Plan)*

The Karuk vision of ecosystem management is one that is adaptive, holistic, and sustainable for people and place. Ecosystem management should take care of the land, address people's needs, use resources wisely, and practice ecologically balanced stewardship.

Our ancestral homeland is slowly being stripped of diversity by former and present activities that have depleted old growth forest characteristics, resulted in loss of grasslands and open canopies, decreased fisheries and water quality, habitat loss, as well as increased unnatural abundance and distribution of conifer and shrub species.

For thousands of years we have shaped the ecological condition within carefully observed natural processes and limits. Strictly enforced natural laws govern how the land should be cared for. Slow low-intensity traditionally set fires sustain multitudes of land management benefits. By the nature of our historic domain we enhance environmental processes to perpetuate natural adaptation and diversity.

The scientific community until recently dismissed the fact that indigenous people intentionally practiced conservation (Anderson 2005, World Wildlife Fund et. al. 2000). Knowledge that Tribal elders have acquired about the past, as well as contributions and observations made by the Karuk Department of Natural Resources are essential to gaining a better understanding of the dynamics of the Klamath Siskiyou Eco-region.

As the second largest indigenous Tribe in California we have un-surrendered sovereign rights that provide for the specific protection and sustainability of our traditional uses and needs. As guardians of our ancestral land we are obligated to support practices that emphasize the interrelationships between the cultural elements and physical dimensions of ecosystems.

Traditional subsistence uses; hunting, trapping and fishing, nut and seed harvesting, mushroom and berry gathering, medicinal plant gathering, the basketry-artisan materials, have all but diminished. The quality, quantity and accessibility of subsistence resources have however declined significantly. Of great importance to sustaining traditional subsistence is the reversal of trends leading to what has happened to native anadromous fishery reserves now nearly devastated and severely threatened (Lichatowich 1999).

Karuk Goals and Objectives for Selected Management Areas

Fire/Fuels Reduction:

The restored role of both human and fire upon the landscape is the condition in which the Karuk Tribe Fire/Fuels Reduction Program is steering its management direction towards for the future. We envision an Interagency/Tribal and local community collaborative planning and implementation effort at the watershed scale.

Interagency Representatives/Tribal Resource Specialists would comprise a planning body that examines entire watersheds for prioritization of implementation efforts based on achieving multiple resource objectives while meeting restoration needs systematically. Utilization of a local workforce is a key component of implementing this strategy.

Goals:
Protect cultural/natural resources from uncharacteristically intense wildland fire. Promote fire and fuels management actions that achieve multiple resource objectives. Enhance the interconnectivity of microhabitats and improve ecosystem function. Restore traditional human interacted natural fire regimes at the watershed scale.

Objectives:
Work with Agency and/or Tribal staff to plan and implement fuels reduction and cultural burning projects based on Karuk Environmental Management Practices and principals. Coordinate with Karuk Community Development Corporation to build capacity and develop infrastructure in the interest of utilizing restoration byproducts to reduce overall treatment costs. Establish and maintain expanding wildland fire use areas within individual watersheds. Initiate/implement the appropriate management response during emergency wildland fire situations. Systematically reduce the taxpayer cost burden of wildland fire suppression activities.

Fisheries:

The Fisheries Program was the first environmental program established by the Karuk Tribe. This program conducts monitoring, research and planning in regards to projects protecting, promoting enhancing and restoring Klamath River Basin fisheries resources. Projects are planned and implemented independently and cooperatively with other agencies, Tribes and community groups within the Klamath Basin.

The Karuk Tribe believes that healthy fisheries resources are in actuality the keystone indicator species showing successful managerial practices. If core fisheries resources are in decline, the underlying management of all resources is failing.

Goals:
Protect the health and abundance of Tribal Trust Fisheries Resources. Promote an understanding of ecological processes that allow for the abundance and availability of

fisheries resources to the Tribal and local communities that depend on them for a healthy subsistence diet and/or recreation. Enhance the quality, quantity, and availability of correlating microhabitats upon which fisheries resources depend. Restore traditional fisheries harvest management practices and make them applicable to all resource users and managerial organizations claming concurrent or parallel jurisdictions.

Objectives:
Establish Tribal Ordinances relating to traditional harvest methods, timing, and area closures. Educate agencies, interested publics and youth of the importance, foundation, and purpose of traditional fishery management from both cultural and biological perspectives. Work with agencies organizations and community groups to plan, prioritize, and implement emergency and long range projects relating to fish passage, habitat improvement, holding capacity, population augmentation and monitoring.

Forestry:

The Karuk have a fire dependant and adapted culture, and as a result of economically driven forestry management, the local forest structure no longer provides on an adequate scale the diversified resource access that is vital to the perpetuation of Karuk culture. Although Timber harvesting is not a Karuk traditional cultural practice, it has become a necessary management action if completed in a fashion that augments and enhances cultural management practices in the interest of restoring fire adapted ecosystems.

The Karuk Tribe believes there is now a need to manage forest habitats in a sustainable manner which can result in the restoration of human interacted natural disturbance regimes while providing abundant cultural/natural resources, balanced ecological processes, as well as local economic opportunities and reduced cost of management activities to the taxpayer.

Goals:
Protect territorial watersheds from being adversely effected by economically driven single resource timber management. Promote sustainable timber management practices based on achieving multiple resource objectives (Kimmins 1997). Enhance the integrity of forest stand dynamics and cultural/natural resources. Restore diverse fire adapted ecosystems and correlating natural fire regimes at a reduced cost to the taxpayer.

Objectives:
Utilize silvicultural, mechanical, or hand methods to modify the composition, structure, and morphological form of forested habitats to be enhanced and maintained by a culturally defined human interacted natural fire regime. Integrate traditional ecological knowledge, western science, and departmental program objectives into forest management activities. Implement a stewardship based approach to integrated

management practices at the watershed, scale. Ensure any economic benefit from management activities transfers to additional landscape restoration actions. Plan forest stand improvement treatments to accomplish fuels reduction, wildlife habitat enhancement, cultural basketry material improvement, and traditional foods production.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation:

Goals:
Protect the human remains, funerary items, and cultural items of the Karuk People. Promote the interest of the Karuk Tribe in the event of an inadvertent discovery and intentional excavation or removal of Native American remains and objects within the Karuk Aboriginal Territory. Enhance the Tribes ability to manage Tribal and family specific cemeteries and/or ceremonial items. Restore Tribal control of items removed from the Karuk Aboriginal Territory.

Objectives:
Facilitate the return and reburial of human remains and funerary items affiliated to the Karuk Tribe. Repatriate sacred and ceremonial items, and objects of cultural patrimony, to the Karuk People. Preserve the knowledge of traditional methods of construction, style, materials, and uses of sacred and ceremonial items. Consult with relevant parties in the event that an inadvertent discovery of Native American remains takes place within the Karuk Aboriginal Territory. Prevent intentional excavation and removal of Native American remains and objects within Aboriginal Territory. Obtain complete inventories of cultural items under the control of museums and Federal Agencies. Review and prioritize the repatriation of cultural items.

Mining:

Past and current mining activities have destroyed and degraded the environmental quality Karuk People depend upon for cultural survival. The effect of past hydrologic mining has resulted in many areas that are in need of geologic stabilization and reconfiguration, vegetation management, and toxic clean up to remove mercury, acid mine drainages, cyanide spills and other contaminates. The recent onslaught of recreational suction dredging activities can threaten fisheries habitat quality, water quality and produces foreign materials and substances known to be harmful to the environment.

Goals:
Protect water quality and fisheries from mineral extraction, quarry, and soil disturbance activities. Promote intensive regulation and evaluation of mining methods and practices that can potentially degrade other resources. Enhance knowledge through monitoring of impacts and effects to the environment associated with past and current mining or aggregate activities to improve operations. Restore degraded areas affected by mining,

aggregate, quarry, or road related soil disturbance, that include but are not limited to recovery and removal of toxic contaminants, reduce soil erosion, improve natural hydrologic function, re-vegetation, and protection of cultural/natural resources.

Objectives:
Implement restoration measures that mitigate damaged areas affected by past hydrologic mining to minimize soil erosion, reconfigure topographic contours and drainage, and manage vegetation to enhance the structure and composition to accommodate natural processes (fire, hydrologic connectivity, and nutrient cycling). Remove and/or reduce the presence of toxins such as mercury, sulfuric acid and cyanide in sediment deposits and watercourses. Monitor and reduce the effects and activities associated with suction dredge mining. Inventory rock sources and mitigate for erosion potential and off site sediment delivery. Develop economically and environmentally low impact methods of aggregate removal to supply for local upgrade, maintenance and restoration activities. Work with Federal, State, and County Agencies, and community groups to ensure cultural/natural resource protection measures are adequate and in place.

Watershed Restoration:

The Watershed Restoration Program was established in 1996 in the interest of developing a programmatic approach to watershed restoration in the Karuk Aboriginal Territory. In collaboration with various partners, we have established a framework to identify, plan, and implement projects that benefit water quality and quantity. Redefining and expanding the role of the Karuk Tribe in managing traditional cultural/natural resources has brought about the development of a watershed restoration partnership between the Karuk Tribe and the Forest Service. Building the Tribe's capacity to play an integral role in ecosystem management is an effective means by which the Mid-Klamath and Salmon River sub-basins will be restored and integrated resource management achieved.

Goals:
Protect watersheds from road related erosion, water quality and/or habitat connectivity problems. Promote activities in tributaries that contribute to the quality and availability of spawning, rearing and migration habitat, for Threatened and Endangered, anadromous, and resident fish populations. Enhance the quality and quantity of water and correlating microhabitats in territorial watersheds as they relate to road related impairments. Restore hydrologic function within and adjacent to high priority roads and/or watersheds.

Objectives:
Establish and maintain beneficial partnerships through collaboration with Agency staff to plan and implement watershed restoration projects. Implement watershed restoration projects while providing job training opportunities, and community economic development. Build capacity and develop infrastructure in the interest of reducing restoration costs, while providing for timely habitat recovery. Coordinate with

departmental program staff to achieve maximum planning integration and coordinated implementation of multiple resource objectives.

Wildlife:

The Karuk culture relies upon various wildlife species as food, medicine, materials, and ceremonial regalia. Many wildlife species once historically abundant are now rare, threatened, endangered, and extinct or have experienced degradation of their population levels and correlating habitats (Noss et. Al 1999).

Of greatest concern in terrestrial environments are the management and population viability of elk and deer and the restoration of habitats needed to support these animals. Also important is the reintroduction of eliminated or extirpated species. Habitats that support the diverse multitude of culturally significant wildlife species are dependant upon fire and fire induced habitat changes at the landscape level. Elk, deer and other foraging wildlife help to maintain vegetation re-growth in between fire events. In turn, these fire events help to maintain viable populations of foraging wildlife.

Goals:
Protect wildlife and correlating habitats from further degradation, caused by post contact management practices. Promote sound management practices based on Traditional Ecological Knowledge and the best of Western Science. Enhance wildlife habitat and population viability. Restore the interconnectivity of correlating habitat types and traditional eco-cultural maintenance schedules.

Objectives:
Coordinate wildlife species habitat management and population monitoring with Tribal Federal, State, and County, governments, non-governmental organizations, and local community groups. Manage wildlife through forests, shrub, and grassland habitat restoration activities utilizing hand and mechanical treatments in conjunction with prescribed fire. Focus restoration activities on culturally significant forest, shrub, and grassland habitats through landscape level planning to support holistic ecosystem management (Hillman and Salter 1997). Re-establish inter-connectivity between various habitat types across the landscape to foster gene flow and dispersal of wildlife necessary to sustain viable wildlife populations. Where appropriate, manage for single/indicator species in an effort to prevent further habitat loss, degradation, endangerment, local extinctions, or allow for reintroductions.

Collaborative Framework:

The collaborative framework needed to appropriately plan and implement watershed scale restoration priorities, as well as maintaining these treated areas, will require collective vision and long term dedication. The National Fire Plan calls for local planning

and implementation to handle local problems.

This leaves successful collaboration reliant on long term dedication and agreement between planning partners. The Karuk Tribe believes that in order to maintain long term effectiveness there is a need to incorporate a diversely unified approach involving Tribes, agencies, local business, non-profit organizations, community groups and local citizens.

“This commitment by the Forest Service and the Karuk Tribe extends beyond our standard governmental relationships to one of a dynamic interactive partnership that seeks to meet cultural, spiritual, and environmental needs of the Karuk and other local communities by utilizing traditional ecological knowledge as a base for decision-making in the Karuk Environmental Management Practices Demonstration Area.” (KEMPDA 2005)

The Karuk Tribe believes that looking at the ecological restoration needs at the appropriate scale will help to localize prioritization and identification of multiple resource objectives, while ensuring integration of the local knowledge base.