Soil Monitoring on the Kootenai National Forest:

From "unknowledge" to partial knowledge

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KNF – Forest Plan

- Forestwide Management Direction
- Goals, Objectives, Standards
- Research Needs
- Desired Future Condition
- MONITORING and Evaluation

Kootenai National Forest Soil Monitoring Summary - Units

YEAR	Line Transects	Walk-throughs	<u>Totals</u>
1988	0	10	10
1989	0	20	20
1990	0	21	21
1991	0	25	25
1992	20	6	26
1993	14	20	34
1994	3	2	5
1995	9	6	15
1996	17	22	39
1997	22	22	44
1998	20	12	32
1999	15	15	30
2000	0	6	6
2001	3	6	9
2002	26	23	49
2003	15	16	31
2004	9	7	16
2005	2	20	22
Totals	175	259	434

3

KNF - Methodology

- <u>Line Transect Method</u> a defined path across an activity unit. The path is oriented perpendicular to the operational direction of the disturbance. The purpose of the transect placement is to evenly cover, and with unbiased intent, the activity area. The line transect(s) was preceded by a general reconnaissance of the activity area, which helped to determine the number of transects. The general reconnaissance also ensured a sampling of "undisturbed" sites within the area.
- <u>Walk-through Method</u> a random, visual survey by general reconnaissance of an activity area. The visual observations are discussed in qualitative terms. Rather than establishing a monitoring point at each step, random points are evaluated for disturbance.

KNF – Monitoring Summary

- <u>Activity Area</u> A land area affected by a management activity to which soil quality standards are applied. Activity areas must be feasible to monitor and include harvest units within timber sale areas, prescribed burn areas, grazing areas or pastures within range allotments, riparian areas, recreation areas, and alpine areas. All temporary roads, skid trails, and landings are considered to be part of an activity area.
- <u>Disturbance modes</u> include compaction, displacement, erosion, severe burning, mass movement, rutting, and puddling. Also, I often included qualitative discussion of organic matter. The Forest Service manual states that at least 85% of an activity area must have soil that is in satisfactory condition.

KNF – Soil Monitoring Summary 18-Year

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sales –</u> <u>Transect</u>	<u>Units -</u> <u>Transect</u>	<u>Sales -</u> <u>Walk -</u> <u>thru</u>	<u>Units –</u> <u>Walk -</u> <u>thru</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Acres</u>
1988	0	0	4	10	316
1989	0	0	10	20	672
1990	0	0	12	21	718
1991	0	0	14	25	833
1992	10	20	4	6	637
1993	6	14	10	20	935
1994	2	4	1	2	115
1995	4	9	3	6	343
1996	9	17	11	22	1609
1997	13	22	10	22	1676
1998	11	20	8	12	1365
1999	10	15	7	15	607
2000	0	0	5	6	337
2001	1	3	3	6	520
2002	11	26	10	23	1626
2003	6	15	9	16	1263
2004	3	9	6	7	492
2005	2	3	4	20	1257
Totals	88	175	131	259	15321

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST SOIL DISTURBANCE MONITORING FORM

DISTRICT REAL diseased defended
SALE/S.ARAZAND I REATMENT
Aspect
Lisvation
DISTORBANCE (Heavy)
Past Activity
DISTURBANCE (Light)
UNDISTURBED
BURNPILE
EXCAVATED SKID TRAILSMZ/ROCK
COMMENTS (Include soil, geology, organic debris-large&small, road drainage, other pertinent info)
SUADE OF UNIT AND DATTEDN OF TRANSCOT
SHAPE OF UNIT AND PATTERN OF TRANSECT
COMPACTION (Heavy) - Any place where nuture vegetative growth will be significantly impacted, i.e. skid trails (both heavily and

<u>COMPACTION (Heavy)</u> – Any place where future vegetative growth will be significantly impacted, i.e. skid trails (both heavily and lightly used depending on amount of compaction related to soil moisture), landings, and other impacted areas. <u>COMPACTION (Light)</u> – Any other area not included in heavy COMPACTION or UNDISTURBED. <u>UNDISTURBED</u> – No signs of any machinery of skidding activity. <u>DISPLACED</u> – removal of more than 1 inch of surface horizon on a contiguous greater than 100 square feet. <u>EROSION</u> – rills, gullies, pedestals, deposition. <u>RUTTING/PUDDLING</u> – wet soil operations: ruts, standing water, soil deformation.

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST SOIL DISTURBANCE MONITORING FORM

DATE OBSERVER DISTRICT SALE/S.A.	10-16-92 Kuennen Fisher River Homesteader/Johnson	CUTTING SKIDDIN If tract HAZARD	METHOD I G METHOD G or: disperse TREATMEN	hand felled dozer skidded dX. T. dozer piled	dedicated
Unit#	29 Acres 7	SILVICUI	ON PERIOD	Eeb (92	
Slope	5%	OLLIGHT	et ENE	100. 72	
Location	NWNW S10 T26NR28V	V Elev	ation 340	0'	
DISTURBAN	VCE (Heavy)	<u>30</u>	25%		
Past Activit			(22)		
DISTURBAN	NCE (Light)	<u>75</u>	63%		
UNDISTUR	SED	14	12%		
*********	total	119	100%		
_					
DISPLACED	<u>50</u>	1	EROSION _	<u>0</u>	
RUTTING/P	UDDLING 0	1	BURNPILE		
EXCAVATE	D SKID TRAIL 0		MZ/ROCK	0	
COMMENTS	<u>(Include soil, geology, org</u>	<u>anic debris-la</u>	rge&small. r	oad drainage, other	pertinent info)
Stand: 640-0	2-007. Unit was tractor log	ged and tra	<u>ctor piled. M</u>	lachine over most	of the ground. Glacial
till – soil unit	301. Cambrian limestone.	Very little d	ebris, large (or small, Trees we	ere whole-tree yarded.
but lopped in	the unit. Operations occur	rred at the b	eginning of s	spring breakup. S	oils too wet, and ground
no longer fro	zen under equipment.				
SHAPE OF U	INIT AND PATTERN OF T	RANSECT			
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<u>COMPACTION (Heavy)</u> – Any place where future vegetative growth will be significantly impacted, i.e. skid trails (both heavily and lightly used depending on amount of compaction related to soil moisture), landings, and other impacted areas. <u>COMPACTION (Light)</u> – Any other area not included in heavy COMPACTION or UNDISTURBED. <u>UNDISTURBED</u> – No signs of any machinery of skidding activity. <u>DISPLACED</u> – removal of more than 1 inch of surface horizon on a contiguous greater than 100 square feet. <u>EROSION</u> – rills, gullies, pedestals, deposition. <u>RUTTING/PUDDLING</u> – wet soil operations: ruts, standing water, soil deformation.

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST SOIL DISTURBANCE MONITORING FORM

DATE 8-13-97 CUTTING METHOD clippered
OBSERVER Kuennen/Moeller SKIDDING METHOD RTS & Hi-Trac
DISTRICT Three Rivers If tractor: dispersed X dedicated
SALE/S.A. Zimm Hill Fire Salvage/Hommel HAZARD TREATMENT none
Unit # 40 Acres 22 SILVICULTURAL TRMT LTM Seed tree
H.T. WH/queencup beadlily OPERATION PERIOD winter '96-'97
Slope 20-30% Aspect easterly
Lecation NWSE S26 T37NR31W Elevation 3400 - 3800
DISTURBANCE (Heavy) 34 6%
Past Activity
DISTIBBANCE (Light) 153 26%
District (Dight,
<u>405 0070</u>
total 592 100%
DISPLACED 36 EROSION 0_
RUTTING/PUDDLING 0 BURN PILE 0
EXCAVATED SKID TRAIL. 0 SMZ/ROCK 0
COMMENTS (Include soil, geology, organic debris-large&small, road drainage, other pertinent info)
Stand 424-02-177, Salvage of 1994 fire, Found area of overland flow-small amount of erosion. More
ground disturbance than expected—possibly because snow was not set up when logging occurred. It
annears that ground did not freeze in main trails Several small areas of wildlife trees remain Soil is a
doen claim in with a conductive minimum trans. Soveral similar areas of whome trees remains som is a doen claim in with a conductive and the conductive strength and the second strength and the seco
deep glaciar the wind good asin cap. Lois of hear surface now intercepted in several places, while show trans,
<u>Cupper got stuck which was the start of the overland now.</u>
SHAPE OF UNIT AND PATTERN OF TRANSECT
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<u>COMPACTION (Heavy)</u> – Any place where future vegetative growth will be significantly impacted, i.e. skid trails (both heavily and lightly used depending on amount of compaction related to soil moisture), landings, and other impacted areas. <u>COMPACTION (Light)</u> – Any other area not included in heavy COMPACTION or UNDISTURBED. <u>UNDISTURBED</u> – No signs of any machinery of skidding activity. <u>DISPLACED</u> – removal of more than 1 inch of surface horizon on a contiguous greater than 100 square feet. <u>EROSION</u> – rills, gullies, pedestals, deposition. <u>RUTTING/PUDDLING</u> – wet soil operations: ruts, standing water, soil deformation.

DETRIMENTAL SOIL DISTURBANCE SURVEY

Sale/Project:		Unit:	Acres:	Date:	d V N				
Planning Area:	Slop	spect:Landty	pe(s):						
HarvestRx: R PastHarvest: Y	I Cutting Method: H N OHV Disturbance	Cutting Method: H C Fuels Rx: U EP Yarding OHV Disturbance: Y N Cattle Grazing: Y N							
DESCRIPTION	TI	RANSECT POIN	TS	TOTAL	96				
HEAVY DISTURBANCE Detrimental Compaction or Rutting LIGHT/MOD DISTURBANCE All non- detrimental disturbance	1 2 3 1 2 3	Detrimental Displacement Or Erosion Detrimental Severely Burned	1 2 3 1 2 3	Class 3 Class 1/2	Class 3 Class 1/2				
UNDISTURBED	1 2 3				Class 0				
TOTALS	CUMULATIVE FO	OR ALL TRANS	ECT POINTS AND						

1	Minimum	Sample S	ize for 950	% CI ± 59	6	NOTES/COMMENTS:						
Dist	n	Dist	n	Dist	n							
1%	16	16%	207	31%	329]						
2%	31	17%	217	32%	335]						
3%	45	18%	227	33%	340]						
4%	60	19%	237	34%	345]						
5%	73	20%	246	35%	350]						
6%	87	21%	255	36%	355]						
7%	101	22%	264	37%	359]						
8%	114	23%	273	38%	363]						
9%	126	24%	281	39%	366]						
10%	139	25%	289	40%	369]						
11%	151	26%	296	41%	372]						
12%	163	27%	303	42%	375]						
13%	174	28%	310	43%	377]						
14%	186	29%	317	44%	379]						
15%	196	30%	323	45%	381]						

KNF – Soil Monitoring Summary Monitoring Specifics

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Totals</u>
Number Sales	219
Number Units	434
- Line Transects	175
- Walk-throughs	259
Acres	15,321
Number Transects	447
Monitoring Points	123,643

SOILMON ACCESS Objects - Tables, Queries, Forms, Reports

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10-GreaterThan15%_Specified	Sale Name TWIN MEADOWS FIRE Sale Unit 1 Unit Acres 40 Sale Type FIRE SALVAGE	X Y
11-LessThan6%_HeavyDisturba	"	
12-EqualTo6LessThan10%_Hea		MA BA
13_EqualTo10LessThan15%_He	Comments WALK THROUGH: EReview of these units was part of a Sale Administrator certification for Ed Ferruzzi. Units 1, 2 & 3 were winter logged. Winter logging in units 1, 2 & 3 was excellent! The only way to determine where the skid trails were was by the	DE P
14_GreaterThan15%_HeavyDist		Nime
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16_PctHeavy_BySeason_ByMet	Transect Info	
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Expanded Comments:

Quartzite bedrock. Soil very rocky. Soil very wet. Two operations periods!? Some erosion occuring in fireline! Soils saturated. Wetspots scattered throughout unit. More in southern finger. Unit looks very good. Ash 4-10", mixed in places!HT: SAF/Alsi or Mefe

SOILMON ACCESS Data Entry/Query Form

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Expanded Comments:

Over quart of site bedrock. Lots of angular rock in soil (over 65%). Fire left most of partially decompoased O.M. Some erosion in excavator fireline. Lower end of skid trails have some erosion. Bedrock exposures in unit. Lower part of unit much steeper than upper part; except for SW corner. Wet spots in unit. Unit looks very good. Middle across middle of longer part of unit. Lower across middle of shorter part of unit. Planted ES,WL,DF HT: SAF/Alsi or Mefe

SOILMON ACCESS Data Entry/Query Form

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Displays expanded Transect Info

SOILMON Spatial Component - ArcMap



SOILMON ACCESS Reports Example - Forest-Wide

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SOILMON ACCESS Reports Example – District

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15 PctHeavy BySkid BySeason								875	11	1.26	262	29.94	602	68.80	
16_PctHeavy_BySeason_ByMet	12304104														
17_Disturbance_By_SkidMethod		INCH_MTN_PC	16-Jul-96	1	38	0001	357.9	347	2	0.58	170	48.99	175	50.43	
2_AllTransects		INCH_MTN_PC	16-Jul-96	1	38	0002	369.7	444	4	0.90	260	58.56	180	40.54	
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KNF – Soil Monitoring Summary Units by Detrimental Disturbance Category

DISTURBANCE CATEGORIES (%)	<u>TOTALS</u>
< SIX	95
SIX to TEN	51
ELEVEN to FIFTEEN	19.5
FIFTEEN PLUS	9.5
TOTALS	175

KNF - Monitoring Results 1988 - 2005

<u>Category</u>	<u>DSD</u> <u>Range</u>	<u>18-year</u>	Last 10	Last 5
Skyline/Cable	0 - 3	2	1	1
Tractor(summer)	.5 - 27	9	6	8
Tractor(winter)	0 - 10	4	4	4
Forwarder (summer)	0 - 7	4	3	4
Forwarder (winter)	0 - 4	2	2	2
Helicopter	0	0	0	0
Excavator Piling	0 - 3	2	2	2
Grazing	0 - 3	2	2	2

20

Detrimental Soil Disturbance from Management Activities on the Kootenai National Forest: 2000 – 2005.

- ¹ DSD is listed but not necessarily additive to other activities. This is because the percentages listed for each management activity included some units with excavator piling or fireline construction. In addition, disturbance from these activities within harvest units usually overlaps at least a portion of the skidding disturbance. The transformation from dozer piling to excavator piling significantly reduced soil impact.
- ² Fireline construction prior to 1995 included a dozer fireline construction while data collected after generally include handline or excavator bucket-width construction. As a result there has been a reduction of fireline disturbance in a given unit.

<u>Activity</u> <u>Category</u>	Season of Operation	<u>Detrimental</u> Disturbance (%)
Skyline	NA	1
Tractor	Summer	8
Tractor	Winter	4
Forwarder	Summer	4
Forwarder	Winter	2
Excavator Piling ¹	NA	2
Fireline Construction ¹ , ²	NA	1
Grazing	NA	2 21



SOIL

A SOIL IS A LEAKY TANK FILLED WITH SPONGES, SPRINGS, DASHPOTS, PIPES, **OROFICES, VALVES, AND OTHER FLUID CONTROL DEVICES. THE HEALTH AND** WELFARE OF PLANTS IS A FLUID **MECHANICS PROBLEM AND THE SOIL IS** THE MEDIUM WHERE THE CURRENTS. **COUNTER CURRENTS, AND RESPONSE CURRENTS OCCUR.**

Dr. James Vomocil, presented at Soil Compaction Workshop, Medford Oregon, 1979.

SOIL COMPACTION

COMPACTION BREAKS SPRINGS, JAMS DASHPOTS, SMASHES SPONGES, BENDS AND KINKS PIPES, CLOGS OROFICES, GUMS UP VALVES, AND IN GENERAL RAISES HELL WITH SOIL AS A FLUID CONDUCTOR AND AS A MEDIUM FOR PLANT GROWTH.

Dr. James Vomocil, presented at Soil Compaction Workshop, Medford Oregon, 1979.