

John Baas, Ph.D.
Senior Environmental Planner

Education

Oregon State University, Ph.D., Forest Resource Management, 1989

Colorado State University, M.S., Recreation Resources, 1984

Colorado State University, B.S., Wildlife Biology, 1981

Qualifications

Dr. Baas has 20 years of experience in natural resource planning and outdoor recreation planning. His skills include recreation planning and compatibility assessment, environmental impact assessment, economic analyses, and visitor and tourism market research. Dr. Baas has worked on resource management planning and NEPA compliance projects for the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management throughout the western United States. He has also worked on hydropower relicensing studies for Northern California Power Agency, Southern California Edison, Pacific Gas and Electric, and the California Department of Water Resources. Prior to becoming an environmental consultant, Dr. Baas worked for the USDA Forest Service as a researcher and a recreation planner, and conducted research as an Assistant Professor at Colorado State University. Dr. Baas currently serves on the Executive Board of Directors for the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners and is preparing a book on best practices in recreation resource planning.

Project Experience - NEPA/ Resource Management Plans

Spring Mountain National Recreation Area Landscape Assessment, Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, Las Vegas, NV - Served as Task Leader for recreation and other human uses including vegetation management activities, mining, and wild horse and burro areas to assess impacts of various lands uses on 80 special status species in the Spring Mountain NRA. The NRA is located within a 30 minute drive of Las Vegas, receives heavy recreation use pressure, and due to its multiple life zones, provides habitat for 25 species endemic to the Spring Mountains.

Worked closely with Forest Service and several other agencies (USFWS, Clark County) to develop a GIS-based multi-activities model to estimate effects of land uses on special status species' habitats. Conducted literature review to identify published information that documented effects of recreation activities on special

status species habitats. Conducted interviews with "recreation ecology" subject matter experts to better understand the relationship between recreation use and impacts to listed species' habitats. Also conducted interviews with recreation planning subject matter experts to identify recreation trends for southern Nevada. Estimated demand for future recreation use and facilities, and incorporated this information into the GIS-based model. Developed conservation measures (e.g., restrict timing and intensity of recreation use) to reduce effects of land uses on special status species habitats. Wrote Chapters 5 and 6 (Results, Recommendations) of the landscape assessment. Made recommendations for adaptive management activities that could further refine understanding of the nature of impacts of recreation uses on special status species' habitats. Presented results of the landscape assessment at the 2008 annual conference of the National Association of Recreation Resource Planners.

Environmental Impact Statement, Sagebrush Steppe Habitat Restoration, Modoc National Forest, Alturas, CA - Served as the social sciences task leader for a project to restore sagebrush steppe habitat in northeastern California. The Proposed Action involved eradicating western juniper and restoring sagebrush steppe habitat on approximately 1.5 million acres in Modoc, Lassen, Shasta, Siskiyou and Washoe (Nevada) counties. Prepared specialist reports and EIS sections for socioeconomics, visuals, and recreation resources. Major project issues included the effects of the proposed action and alternatives on air quality, wildlife habitat and on use of grazing allotments. Loss of use on grazing allotments was a major issue because prescribed burning treatments could require removal of grazing for up to five years. Prepared a detailed socio-economic analysis to estimate economic impacts (due to loss of grazing of range allotments) to the local economy. Worked with the national IMPLAN coordinator in the Forest Service and another economist to develop an input-output model and estimate economic impacts on direct sales, income, and employment. Also prepared estimates of the number of biomass plants that could be supported by the proposed action and alternatives, and the number of jobs associated with each.

Lake Davis Pike Eradication EIS/EIR, Plumas National Forest/California Department of Fish and Game, Portola, CA - Served as Deputy Project Manager for a project to evaluate pike eradication alternatives for Lake Davis. The project was highly controversial, and major issues included impacts to recreation use and the local tourism-based economy, human health risks

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associated with rotenone application, impacts to livestock grazing allotments around the lake, and compliance with Plumas National Forest planning regulations. Coordinated GIS product development with interdisciplinary team members and GIS staff. Advised interdisciplinary team on complying with Forest Service guidance with regard to the Sierra Nevada Framework Plan EIS. Prepared administrative draft and public draft EIS sections for recreation and visual resources. Supervised work of the interdisciplinary team, and coordinated document revisions with CDFG staff, Plumas National Forest staff, and their attorneys. Assisted Forest Service recreation staff with developing detailed and realistic mitigation measures. Prepared the mitigation and monitoring plan for the EIS/EIR. The EIS/EIR document was completed in one year and was not legally challenged.

Mill Creek Fish Passage Improvement EIS/EIR, Mendocino County Water Agency, Ukiah, CA - Served as Deputy Project Manager for a project to enhance fish passage and improve dam stability and safety on Mill Creek in Mendocino County. Project issues include complying with a Streambed Alteration Agreement, and regulations for Department of Safety of Dams, as well as NHPA Section 106 regulations regarding historic dams. Completed administrative draft document and wrote sections for: recreation, environmental justice, public services, and land use. Supervised and edited work of other specialists including terrestrial and aquatic biology, geology, hydrology, and cultural resources.

Daguerre Dam Fish Passage preliminary NEPA/CEQA environmental analysis, California Department of Water Resources, Sacramento, CA - Served as Project Manager for a project that evaluated alternatives to improve fish passage for salmon over Daguerre Dam on the Yuba River. Document was prepared so it could be easily "transformed" to an EIS/EIR once federal funding from the Army Corps of Engineers becomes available. Coordinated completion of fishery and terrestrial biology sections, botany, hydrology, and geomorphology sections of the document.

OHV RMP Amendment and EIS BLM, St. George, UT - Served as recreation lead for a RMP Amendment and EIS for OHV route designation throughout Washington County, Utah. This project is an amendment to the recent RMP focusing on OHV issues. The project will address several highly controversial issues including: OHV route designation, recreation use conflicts with federally-listed plants and animals. Project was canceled due to funding issues.

Environmental Assessment, Deadman Project, Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest, Yampa, CO - Prepared the recreation, visuals, and biological resource sections for a Proposed Action to remove mistletoe infected stands of lodge pole pine. Issues included impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on special status species and Rocky Mountain elk, and impacts to elk hunting and OHV use.

Environmental Impact Statement and Resource Management Plan Update, Bureau of Land Management, Arcata Field Office - King Range National Conservation Area, CA - Dr. Baas helped BLM update their Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the King Range National Conservation Area (NCA). The project area contains the longest stretch of unroaded coastline in the lower 48 states. The original plan was developed in 1974 and has been amended by several programmatic plans such as the Northwest Forest Plan in the range of the Northern Spotted Owl. Significant resource issues include protection of anadromous fish and northern spotted owl habitat, fire management, and regulation of backcountry visitor use. Conducted a review of all relevant planning decisions including the Northwest Forest Plan and their effects on future land uses for the King Range NCA. Developed and implemented a public involvement plan. Managed an interdisciplinary team of biological, geological, cultural, economics, and recreation resource specialists. Analyzed public comments, and distilled comments into major issue categories that were used to develop plan alternatives.

Rock Creek OHV Park Supplemental EIS Technical Study, Eldorado National Forest, CA - Served as senior technical reviewer for a project to further evaluate OHV use impacts on soil and water resources at the Rock Creek OHV Park. Reviewed report on field inventory results of OHV use on trail condition, erosion, sedimentation, and water quality. Conducted literature review evaluating and comparing impacts of several trail uses (mountain bikes, equestrians, and OHVs) on soil and water resources.

El Paso Pipeline EIS/EIR, California Desert District, Bureau of Land Management, CA - Served as the lead for recreation, visual and land use resource sections of the EIS/EIR. The project involves converting a crude oil pipeline for natural gas transmission. The 303 mile pipeline begins in La Paz, Arizona and traverses Kern, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties in California. Prepared existing conditions and environmental consequences sections for three alternatives.

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Environmental Assessment, Storrle-Post Fire Recovery Project, Lassen National Forest - CA - Dr. Baas was the Deputy Project Manager for this project which involved developing and evaluating alternatives for timber removal in support of forest recovery for a moderate to high intensity wildfire south of Lake Almanor in northern California. Responsible for oversight of all technical work on the Environmental Assessment, Decision Notice, Biological Assessment/Biological Evaluation, and supporting resource specialist reports. Prepared the EA to ensure conformance with resource standards and guides with the Lassen national forest Land and Resource Management Plan and two regional Forest Plan amendments. Supervised work of an interdisciplinary team that included: a forest engineer, silviculturalist, wildlife biologist, fish biologist, soils and watershed specialist, recreation and visuals specialist, cultural resource specialist, and a resource economist. Used output generated from the IMPLAN model to estimate effects of different harvest scenarios on local wages and employment. Completed all deliverables within an aggressive seven-month time frame.

Environmental Impact Statement, Viveash Fire Recovery Project, Santa Fe National Forest, NM - As the Social Sciences Task Leader, Dr. Baas assisted in developing and evaluating alternatives for timber removal in support of forest recovery for a high intensity wildfire north of Santa Fe. Responsible for oversight of all technical work pertaining to cultural resources, recreation, visuals, land use and environmental justice. Wrote and reviewed draft sections for the above mentioned resource areas. Helped develop an "Environmental Justice" alternative that focused on ensuring a long-term supply of forest products to local, impoverished communities. Used output from the IMPLAN model to estimate effects of various harvest scenarios on local income and employment. Completed all deliverables on time.

Environmental Assessments, Defensible Fuel Profile Zones, Plumas National Forest – CA - Dr. Baas served as Deputy Project Manager. The project involved completing two "fast track" environmental assessments to allow for field related project work to begin in a timely manner. Helped manage work on watershed and soils, wildlife biology, and cultural resources sections. Reviewed all major resource areas, including those mentioned above, and edited them for inclusion in the Environmental Assessment. Both documents were completed in 120 days.

Environmental Assessments, Defensible Fuel Profile Zones, Lassen National Forest - CA - The project involved completing two "fast track" environmental

assessments to allow for field related project work to begin in a timely manner. Managed work on NEPA compliance, air quality, visuals, recreation, cultural resources and public involvement. One of the major issues for the project was smoke management and effects on air quality and recreation use of the project area. Wrote sections of the EA for public involvement and air quality, and provided senior technical review for all resource sections in each EA. Both documents were completed in 75 days.

Environmental Assessment, Pastoria to Pardee Transmission Line Reconducting Project, Southern California Edison, CA - Served as deputy project manager for a proposed project to reconnector approximately 35 miles of transmission line in Los Angeles and Kern Counties. About 40% of the transmission line crosses national forest lands, and worked with Angeles National Forest staff to understand their issues about the proposed project. Wrote recreation and visual resource sections for the plan, and edited all resource sections. Submitted project deliverables on time under an aggressive schedule.

Environmental Impact Statement, Alpine Satellite Development Plan, National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, Bureau of Land Management, AK - Served as the lead author for recreation and visual resource sections of the EIS. The proposed project involved development of five "satellite" production pads in specified locations, and a "full field" development of additional production pads and a central processing facility in unspecified locations. Recreation issues pertain mostly to wildlife related use (birdwatching, fishing, and hunting) in and around the project area. The major visual issue is the appearance of proposed oil and gas infrastructure, such as roads, pipelines, powerlines, and drill rigs to recreational visitors and local native residents that use the project area. Assessing recreation impacts involved interviewing recreation outfitter-guides about where they travel and how development would affect visitor opportunities to experience naturalness and solitude. Assessing visual impacts involved identifying key observation points from which oil and gas development could be observed, and then simulating the appearance of different development scenarios. Project was highly controversial and was completed under a very aggressive schedule.

Environmental Impact Statement, South Lindenberg Timber Sale, Tongass National Forest, Ketchikan, AK.. Served as task leader for recreation and visual resources. Participated in a detailed constraint analysis of timber harvest unit cards to eliminate areas

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from further analysis that were environmentally “fatally flawed.” Evaluated effects of five timber harvesting alternatives, including development of borrow pits to mine roadbed materials on recreation and visual resources. Major issues included impacts to use of recreational cabins, impacts to outfitter-guide use, and impacts to ferry traffic traveling the Inside Passage.

Environmental Impact Statement, Northern Railroad Extension, Alaska Railroad, Fairbanks, AK. Served as task leader for recreation and visual resources. Conducted a preliminary analysis of the effects of constructing a new rail line from Fairbanks to Delta Junction on recreation and visual resources, including development of borrow pits to mine railbed materials for the proposed rail line.

Project Experience - Hydropower Relicensing and Water Resources

Merced Falls Relicensing Project, Pacific Gas and Electric, Merced, CA – Serving as Recreation and Social Sciences task leader for a project to relicense PG&E’s Merced Falls hydropower project. To date, have conducted interviews with agencies and stakeholders interested in recreational use, and prepared the aesthetics, land use, recreation, and socio-economic portions of the Preapplication Document (PAD). Relicensing studies are anticipated to be completed in 2010.

Stanislaus River Recreation Impact Assessment, Northern California Power Agency – Stanislaus River, CA - As the Recreation Planner on this project, Dr. Baas determined recreation use levels for swimming and picnicking along a reach of the Stanislaus River as part of a hydro relicensing effort. Determined the present net value of recreation activities, and estimated costs of constructing a new campground to serve as mitigation for the relicensing effort. Worked with Stanislaus national forest staff to determine appropriate mitigation strategies and costs of campground construction.

Russian River Biological Assessment, recreation and economic analyses, Sonoma County Water Agency, Santa Rosa, CA - Served as the lead recreation specialist to estimate effects of a salmonid recovery alternative on recreation use for the Russian River watershed in Mendocino and Sonoma counties. The salmonid recovery alternative was relevant since it would reduce summer instream flows that have been traditionally used by commercial and private boaters.

Collected primary and secondary data on recreation activities and use levels. Coordinated recreation data collection efforts with efforts of the team tasked with completing an economic analysis of the preferred flow alternative on recreation related spending, income and employment. Prepared recreation use data so it could be used as input to the IMPLAN model.

Santa Felicia Hydropower Relicensing Project, United Water Conservation District, CA - Advised United Water (UW) on development and implementation of recreation and visual resource study plans as part of an effort to relicense their hydropower project. The project is used primarily for municipal water supply, with hydropower generation as a secondary purpose. The project is located close to the Los Angeles metropolitan area, and as a result receives heavy recreation use (600,000 visits per year) including swimming, fishing, boating and camping. UW completed a series of recreation studies by Fall, 2004, and Dr. Baas advised them on development and implementation of a regional recreation study, a recreation survey and use study, a facility inventory study, two instream flow (boating and fishing) studies, and a visual resource study.

Kilarc-Cow Hydropower Relicensing Project, Pacific Gas and Electric, Shasta County, CA – Served as project manager for a decision process on whether or not to decommission the project. A benefit/cost analysis indicated this project was economically marginal. Assisted PG&E with strategic decision making, analyzed resource issues and costs associated with decommissioning, planned for and implemented meetings with regulatory agencies and stakeholders to gauge interest and support for pursuing decommissioning. Dr. Baas summarized and reviewed all study information for PG&E to assist other potential license applications in understanding the project and its resource issues.

Dr. Baas also implemented two recreation studies in support of relicensing the Kilarc-Cow project in northern California. One study entailed collecting recreation surveys and estimating recreation use at a Forebay, which receives light recreational use, primarily fishing. The other study involved compiling information about regional recreation resources.

Big Creek Alternate Licensing Process Project, Southern California Edison, CA - Southern California Edison (SCE) is in the process of relicensing multiple hydropower projects in the Big Creek watershed. This effort involves using the Alternate Licensing Process (ALP) and one of the major issues in the project area is recreation use. The U.S. Forest Service (Sierra National Forest) has mandatory conditioning authority

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and is a major participant in the ALP. Relative to recreation use, the project area includes numerous stream corridors, six reservoirs, and access points to three wilderness areas in close proximity to the project area. Dr. Baas lead the completion of 21 recreation studies and advised the project manager on strategies to address recreation issues. Other duties include data analysis, report writing, and senior technical review of recreation reports.

Hydropower Relicensing Project, Recreation Studies California Department of Water Resources – Oroville, CA - California Department of Water Resources conducted studies in support of relicensing the Oroville hydropower project. DWR used the alternate licensing procedure to apply for the new license. Dr. Baas was responsible for developing and implementing 19 recreation and socioeconomics studies to address broadly defined recreation issues associated with this relicensing project. The Project Area included developed recreation facilities at Oroville reservoir, and at the forebays and afterbay, the low flow channel of the Feather river, and at trailheads and other dispersed recreation sites, including an Off-Highway vehicle area and a shooting range. Interacted frequently with members of a Recreation Work Group (includes local, state, and Native American interests) to collaboratively develop studies that are responsive to broadly defined recreation issues as well as local issues and interests. Wrote and presented the highlights of 19 recreation and socioeconomic studies concerning recreation safety, facility adequacy, reservoir boating, carrying capacity, recreation use, and recreation surveys, projected recreation use, and economic effects related to recreation use. These study plans were developed with multiple levels of review under very stringent deadlines.

Upper North Fork Feather River, Hydro Relicensing Project, Pacific Gas and Electric, Recreation Studies, Chester, CA - Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) completed recreation studies in support of relicensing their Upper North Fork hydropower project located near the mountain community of Chester, which is heavily dependent on tourism. A major portion of this project involved 1) estimating the impact of project induced recreation on adjacent national forest lands, and 2) estimating the impact of developing the Dyer Mountain Ski Resort on project and national forest recreation facilities, and 3) ensuring proposed recreation developments would meet the needs of visitors and local residents. Was responsible for supervising completion of five recreation studies, which include the following topics: reservoir boating, existing recreation use, questionnaire surveys,

regional recreation assessment, and whitewater boating and fishability. Wrote substantial portions of the reservoir boating and questionnaire survey studies. Coordinated data management, analysis, and report writing tasks on five studies with recreation and editorial staff located in three offices, provided QA/QC oversight, and rewrote portions of each of the above reports as needed. Responded to comments on the draft license application, addressed issues pertaining to data collection protocols and data quality, played a major role in reducing requests for additional recreation field studies, and rewrote sections of the final license application.

Publications

Publication list is available upon request