

## Vision & History

The Chewaucan Biophysical Monitoring Team (CBMT) was created in 2002 to investigate questions the Lakeview Stewardship Group (LSG) raised concerning the then current conditions of the Chewaucan watershed and effects of management within the watershed. Permanent transects were established at predetermined sites and data captured at these sites include: soil chemistry and characteristics, vegetation analysis, canopy characteristics and site photographs.

During the first four years, under the direction of Richard Hart, hundreds of permanent transects were established in areas that were identified as characteristic of the Chewaucan sub-watersheds. These baseline transects are used as scientific controls for future studies and will become invaluable in future decades as indicators of change occurring within the watershed. Transects were established in the following Chewaucan sub-watersheds: Shoestring, South, Dairy, Elder, Coffeepot and Ben Young creeks.

In following years, under the direction of Clair Thomas, the CBMT moved beyond the Chewaucan watershed into the rest of the Fremont National Forest, while continuing to focus on the Chewaucan watershed. Emphasis has been placed on conducting matched pair studies, pre/post treatment, as well as trend studies.

### Studies include:

1. comparisons of harvest with no harvest in six catastrophic wildfires areas;
2. effects of juniper treatments on soil, water availability, plant communities and erosion;
3. impacts of slash busting on soil compaction, plant communities and canopy release;
4. analysis and validation of carbon sequestering models for southeastern Oregon forests;
5. effects of prescribed burning on soil chemistry and vegetation response;
6. effects of treatments on soil compaction, soil chemistry, vegetation and canopy release;
7. impact of conifer removal in aspen stand enhancement;
8. factors affecting Mountain Pine beetle infestations;
9. comparing recovery of roads decommissioned by subsoil ripping, scarification and blockage; and
10. effects of culvert replacements on stream characteristics and fish migration.