

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: Felice Pace <unofelice@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2014 12:51 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Cc: Crystal Bowman; Kayla Baker; Luke Ruediger
Subject: Integrated Report: Proposal to delist Portuguese and Fort Goff Creeks for sediment

Katherine,

In 2012 there was a wildfire in these two watersheds. In an ill advised and ineffective decision, Forest Service managers decided to build firelines along both Fort Goff and Portuguese Creeks. This included felling lots of trees effectively creating small clearcuts along the creek. Logs were cut within the channels as well. A lot of soil disturbance took place. The FS also constructed cat lines within these watersheds, reopened and used old non-system roads.

All these activities resulted in large delivery of sediment to the streamcourses. It will take 10 to 20 years for these watersheds to recover from this anthropogenic disturbance. Therefore they should not be delisted for sediment.

For more information on the anthropogenic sediment impacts to these two creeks see:

<http://klamblog.blogspot.com/2012/11/learning-from-fire-2012-fort-complex.html>

http://thesiskiyoucrest.blogspot.com/2013_02_01_archive.html

These were discretionary fire suppression impacts and can not be considered either wildfire impacts or uncontrollable. It is imperative that FS managers be made to take responsibility for ill-advised fire suppression decisions that degrade our streams.

The tributaries were not impacted by these discretionary fire suppression impacts; it would be acceptable to delist the tribs but not the main channels.

This is a comment for the record.

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Felice Pace
Klamath, CA 95548
707-954-6588

"we must always seek the truth in our opponents' error and the error in our own truth."

- Reinhold Niebuhr