

Comments on the Water Quality Management Plan (WQMP) Update

My understanding is that the State Water Board is required (by resolution #2009-0064) to update its WQMP to cover a wide spectrum of activities on NFS lands that can generate nonpoint source pollution, particularly sediment and thermal pollution. I categorize these activities as follows:

Resource extraction (Timber, Biomass, Minerals, Livestock Grazing and Water)

Recreation - Motorized (summer, winter)

Recreation - Non-Motorized (Mountain Biking, Equestrian, Hunting, Fishing, Hiking, Rock climbing, Boating, Skiing)

Natural event impacts (Climate change, Fire, Storm, Invasive species (plant, animal, insects), Hazard trees)

Legacy impacts (Toxic mining, Old growth removal, stream bed and flow alteration, non-native species introduction, in-holding cabins)

Restoration – Legacy/Post/Fire (Streams, Meadows, Riparian, Forest (Old-growth, Aspen, Hardwoods))

Each user of the forest and its resources has concerns about how their use could be impacted by BMPs. Conservation advocates may have concerns about impacts in any of the use or management areas, and want to make sure that BMPs will eliminate or mitigate these impacts. Some conservation advocates work in a special use area, and some have interests in multiple areas. And there are some that do not use the forest but solely advocate for the wildlife and ecosystem of the forest.

The goal of the Stakeholder Committee is to advise the SWB staff of issues and concerns, and to suggest modifications to existing BMPs and propose additional safeguards through new BMPs. The Committee, at a minimum, should consist of representatives of the following interests:

Resource extractors (Timber, Minerals, Grazing)

Resource Managers (Water agencies, Land trusts)

Resource Users (OHV, Mountain Biking, Equestrian, Other)

Conservation advocates (Timber, Mining, Grazing, Water management, Land management, Recreation management, Wildlife, Climate change, Native Americans, Local residents)

The staff should make available specialists/experts as requested in the following areas: fuel treatments, watershed restoration, invasive species control, fire suppression/rehab, and roads.

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