

Carter, Katharine@Waterboards

From: McFadin, Bryan@Waterboards
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2014 12:47 PM
To: Carter, Katharine@Waterboards
Subject: Canyon Creek fire impacts

Katharine,

This note is in regards to the water quality impacts of the Red Rock fire that I observed in September of 2011. Tom Williams, Mark Neely, and myself were accompanied by Greg Laurie, Stephanie McMorris of the Klamath National Forest lien staff, and Ellen, the KNF packer. We detoured from our planned route from the Lover's Camp trailhead to Sky High Lakes to inspect the impacts of the Red Rock fire burned area and spent some time walking through the burned area along Canyon Creek.

We specifically examined the northern boundary of the fire along the constructed fire line, as well as the fire boundary along the east side of Canyon Creek. My observations were that the fire line had been rehabilitated in a way that minimized the potential for sediment delivery. This was achieved by disrupting the topography of the fire line in a way that runoff would be diverted to one side or another at regularly spaced intervals. The fire line terminated at the bank of the creek after traversing a fairly steep slope. At this location there was less than a cubic yard of material that had accumulated on the flood plain at the bottom of the slope.

We also evaluated impacts on the riparian canopy and stream shade caused by the fire and suppression activities. At one location identified as the site with the greatest riparian impacts, there were a few stumps in the riparian area. The largest of these stumps was from a Ponderosa pine snag that was a few feet across at the stump. The other stumps were much smaller, in the 1' – 1.5' dbh range . The removal of the riparian trees did not create a large opening in the canopy, and based on the incremental change in shade I felt that the temperature effects were negligible. We did not observe any other canopy openings that were a result of the fire or associated fire suppression activities.

Bryan

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