COMMENT RE DRAFT REVISED FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN RW/11.19.2021

Add (about page 25)

FW-DC-FFM-02: Natural barriers combined with management actions limit extent of wildland fires avoiding huge disastrous fires which affect areas outside the forest.

FW-OBJ-FFM-03: Natural terrain and vegetation impediments to raging spread of wildland fires combined with management actions facilitate limitation of wildland fires to areas of approximately ten square miles, leaving unburned areas for wildlife and healthy watershed.

FW-GDL FFM—04: Location of timber cutting and thinning and placement of roads or other actions which provide low fire fuel areas that act as fire breaks will be sited to combine with natural terrain and vegetation conditions to limit spread of wildland fires.

Add (about page 41)

FW-DC-WTR-04: Protecting watershed quality is critical to residential, agricultural and recreational activities as well as to wildlife, aquatic life and vegetation. Wildland fires destroy watershed ability to store snow pack and soil moisture and deteriorate water quality. Limiting the spread of wildland fires to reasonable sizes, limiting damage while allowing natural fire activity, and facilitating containment of fires away from residential areas is important to the health of the surrounding communities while providing areas to which wildlife can escape.

FW-OBJ-WTR-05: Limit size of areas subject to watershed destruction by wildland fires between natural and managed fire breaks such that remaining healthy watersheds provide adequate snow pack retention and soil moisture retention for the river systems.

Page 75, FS-STND-TMBR-02: Change first sentence to read in part “restock these areas adequately with tree seedlings within ~~5 years~~ eighteen (18) months after final harvest.”

Rationale: Harvesting actions themselves may take more than one year and deforested areas subject the watershed to destructive erosion as well as loss of shade, adversely affecting snow pack storage, soil moisture retention, water quality, and run-off rate. A five-year period is far too long while erosion continues and accelerates each season. Re-seeding, especially when using aerial application, is a rapid process that need wait only for the correct season. A 12-18 month delay provides more than adequate time following harvesting operations for re-seeding.

About Page 191, in Table 35, add in the respective columns:

Protecting Watershed from over-large fire destruction.

FW-OBJ-WTR-05: Limit size of areas subject to watershed destruction by wildland fires between natural and managed fire breaks such that remaining healthy watersheds provide adequate snow pack retention and soil moisture retention for the river systems.