

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: OVM Project
Date: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 9:47:06 AM

From: Smith, Tim [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 15, 2021 2:59 PM
To: FS-comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis <comments-southern-ozark-stfrancis@usda.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: OVM Project

The City's main concern with any activity is the water quality of both the Lee Creek and Frog Bayou watersheds. These watersheds are the source of drinking water for approximately 200,000 people. It is in our best interest to take every precaution to ensure a safe and reliable source of drinking water for these people. It is with that in mind that the following comments are made.

Our primary concern is the not the adaptability of this new vegetation management proposal to meet changing conditions on the ground but that by applying management strategies on a large scale, some of the most unique micro-climes and niches within the forest will be disturbed.

Also, when applying vegetation management strategies on the landscape scale one must remember that there can be multiple sub-basins of a single watershed all or in part within that landscape. Each of these sub-basins contribute to the whole. If the cumulative effects of management activities within the landscape have not been considered, it can have devastating effects on the downstream hydraulics, this can include but is not limited to increased basal flow, increased stream velocity, and increased sediment carrying capacity. All of these factors can increase stream bed load as well as stream bank erosion downstream of the management activities. This in turn can adversely affect water supplies, by increasing treatment costs and decreasing the lifespan of the reservoir.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Ozark Vegetation Management (OVM) Project.

Tim Smith
Watershed Supervisor
City of Fort Smith, Utility Dept.

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