

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/27/2019 4:00:00 AM

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Comments: Curry Citizens for Public Land Access is providing the following comments for the Forest Service PNW Aquatic Restoration Project. The purpose of our group is protection of access to public lands, using all forms of both motorized and non-motorized means, for recreation and other uses. Our membership represents a very broad and diverse group with varied interests, but we come together in our quest to maintain access to public land for current and future generations.

Our comments by topic:

Road and Trail Erosion Control and Decommissioning

"Road and Trail Erosion Control and Decommissioning: ARBO II addresses closing or decommissioning road and trails. The modified proposed action limits decommissioning to non-system (unauthorized) routes, consistent with each Forest's travel management decisions and associated motor vehicle use map. Travel management subparts A and B must be in place for these actions to occur and no system roads or trails would be decommissioned."

CCPLA does not support any of the Rogue River-Siskiyou N.F. Travel Analysis recommendations for closing or decommissioning roads. The analysis was arbitrary and capricious, and based on road layer data that has been proven to be extremely inaccurate. It also failed to meet Travel Management goal #2 "Maintain and/or build strong trust and relationships with communities, partners, and stakeholders at different scales," by ignoring requests for additional information required for detailed specific input, or communicating with stakeholders to develop a meaningful and usable Travel Analysis. CCPLA is interested in working with the Forest Service to develop a meaningful and usable road rating system.

Travel analysis and management did not analyzed any roads or trails that were not in the database, so historic roads and trails along with user created roads or trails, have not been analyzed. Just because a road or trail does not show on the Motor Vehicle Use Map or is listed in FS database does not mean it is cleared to be decommissioned.

CCPLA supports aquatic restoration, especially stormproofing roads while maintaining access.

Public Notification and Comment Period:

"Pre-project Notification, Public Review, and Forest Service Response: The notification process has been revised to include a step where the Forest Service unit sends (via email) interested parties pre-project notification reports at least 60 days prior to planned project

implementation. Further, interested parties would be allowed 20 days to provide site-specific comments on project design, found in appendices 1 and 2 (Aquatic Restoration Categories, Descriptions, and Design Criteria and General and Resource Project Design Criteria), and effects to communities, species, and the environment. The responsible official may use the comments to continue, modify, or stop the project."

CCPLA supports and appreciates the added public notification and comment period associated with aquatic restoration projects.

Recreation

"Reduction and Relocation of Recreation Impacts: ARBO II allows closures and relocation of recreation infrastructure along streams and within riparian areas. The modified proposed action does not include the closure and relocation of developed recreation sites or established dispersed sites established through travel management decisions."

"Provide advance notification and consultation with representatives of recreation user groups and outfitter-guides for projects occurring in/around developed and dispersed recreation areas".

"Post notification of proposed project at trailheads and river access sites."

The Siskiyou National Forest Plan, 1989, states: Recreation and tourism play a significant part in the economy, life-style, and use of southwestern Oregon. Local counties have chosen tourism as their 'Oregon Economic Comeback Strategy,' and look for support and participation by their neighboring National Forests in this strategy. Forest Plan Goals 4 and 10 support this strategy.

Forest Plan Goal # 4 states, "Fully implement the National Recreation Strategy through the development of partnerships with other local and federal agencies (e.g., counties and states), and other groups and individuals. Support local economic development strategies that focus on increased recreation and tourism."

Forest Plan Goal #10 states," Offer a wide range of dispersed recreation opportunities by providing recreational settings, access, facilities, and education necessary to meet public demand."

Curry Citizens for Public Land Access would like to continue working with the Forest Service on aquatic restoration projects.