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Organization: Scott River Watershed Council

Title: Board Chair

Comments: Scott River Watershed Council (SRWC) applauds KNF for this comprehensive and detailed plan.

The East Fork of the Scott River offers extensive ecological benefits to the public, and this project will enhance those benefits. We would, however, like to suggest including lower Grouse Creek in the Riparian Reserve Designation and encourage restoration actions be extended to the creek. Several years ago, SRWC performed some preliminary analysis on the private land holdings on lower Grouse Creek and found significant restoration potential. The reach is known to be a cold water refugia for rearing coho, where-as much of the East Fork Scott has excessive temperatures. Enhancing the potential of Grouse Creek is of high importance to provide critical refugia and offers the opportunity for a private/public partnership.

Additionally, we would like to request that a larger palette of restoration treatments be included in this NEPA document and be available into the future. These might include Beaver Dam Analogues (BDAs), floodplain excavation, and off channel pond creation.

Again, thanks for the efforts of KNF to preserve and improve our public lands.

Betsy Stapleton