

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/2/2018 7:41:30 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I own and live year-round on Masterson Rd. next to where Grouse Creek meets the East Fork of the Scott River. Unfortunately I have not had time this month to compose the lengthy and detailed comments I wanted to make (with photos to prove my points), so I will just keep this brief, but I am available by phone for more information and assistance if you would like more local input. First, I'm grateful that the forest service has given some positive attention to this beautiful section of the forest that is in our care. It seems to me that main priority should be safety of the water that enters the aquifer and the Scott River, so the first priority of the project should be to clean up the mines and test all of those runoff waters and soils. People are growing food and livestock heavily in this area so we want to be sure they are not poisoned with lead, mercury, cadmium, nickel or any other chemicals that have resulted from past mining. The other priority should be the general health of the Scott River and increasing the flow to that river. Near Grouse creek at least one major outlet has been plugged by some kind of construction sentiment, these types of outlets should be opened. I would be willing to monitor the river and creek regularly for temperature and depth as well as observation of fish etc. I volunteer to do whatever we can to increase the water flow in the river and get the salmon back. In my view there should definitely be no more thinning of the trees in our Masterson Road area. A major thinning was done just a few years ago, and you can see that the workers left a lot of messes, I am always cleaning up star thistle and mustard from anywhere their trucks drove in, and it's extra sad because those non-native invasives have barely spread into the area except for where the trucks brought them in. We definitely do not want another 'temporary' road! The other thing is that the area has been so 'thinned' already that manzanita is taking over all beneath the trees where the smaller trees used to be and you can see that much of the land is being converted from pine forest to oak woodland and manzanita scrub brush land. This is not good for the "more shade" goal of the project that you have stated. Increasing the flow to the Scott River is in my view a great goal of the project. We have a lot of wildlife in our area. I had a beaver den on my property two years ago but they left. I have families of cliff swallows, toads, frogs, skunks, foxes, owls, hawks and so many other kinds of wildlife, they flock to my property because water is so scarce in the area. I have many species that are just on the edge of their natural habitat. There should be more land designated as riparian reserve, especially the land surrounding Grouse Creek, and no more 'thinning' please. On the north side of Grouse Creek nearly all the incense cedars, sugar pines and firs have disappeared because of this and all that is left is ponderosa pine and juniper with the spreading oaks and manzanitas. I hope that you will take these points into consideration and I am available to show people project managers or the forest service workers examples of the points I make here. Thank you!