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Organization: Got Weeds?

Title:

Comments: I am disappointed with the TG-IRP Alternative Development Process Summary document. It details the engagement of two non-profits and commenters from academia whose input was apparently well-regarded, valued, treasured. Yet the issue of buffers showed no evolution of the management mindset; you held firmly to the broken notion that 25 feet is adequate for perennial streams / water channels. I made the point that four years of drought might instruct us to look more carefully at buffers around ALL water resources, perennial channels as well as perhaps the more intermittent ones. Why do we continue to fall back on an expired Forest Plan that calls for ridiculously miniscule buffers? 25 feet is sad and comes with no justification but plenty of opportunity for exemptions or judgment calls. Why? Why not the 100 feet that I called for? Or 200 feet? Perhaps our intermittent brooks would be more perennial if they were properly buffered to hold up under dry conditions.

My buffer question was also dismissed as an issue regarding the Research Natural Area in Compartment 109. Stands 4 and 12 are particularly problematic here, and Stand 20 is not much better. Why do we not comprehend the concept of buffers serving to mitigate noise and light interference and erosion and temperature swings? We know they protect sensitive water channels too, but only if buffers are valued seriously. It is stunning to see the USFS cling to archaic notions of thin, token vegetative strips. Equally stunning that academics and reputable non-profits do not recognize this inadequacy. This serves to illustrate how outdated the 2006 Forest Plan truly is. An update is absolutely necessary to move mindsets forward.

Perhaps I should have been invited to engage with the other parties in this development of project alternatives, but that did not happen. I probably should ask WHY? Why are some invited in, while others are not? Thank you.