

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/4/2014 7:24:48 AM

First name: Mollie

Last name: Picha

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The sections concerning aquatic ecosystems and riparian habitat are somewhat comprehensive, but do have some holes. Appendix B shows watersheds and areas that need to be addressed for restoration at varying levels of priority. This appendix gives a comprehensive look at what areas are of highest priority and why (whether they are current or potential habitat for bull trout or steelhead trout, for example). But, it fails to provide the public with any answers to "how" questions. There is no explanation of any possible strategies that could be taken in the restoration process, which is disappointing as the appendix is referenced in the body of the plan as an "Aquatic Restoration Strategy."

The desired conditions under the Aquatic Ecosystems subsection leave information to be desired. FW-DC-WTR-04 and FW-DC-WTR-03 describe how conditions should not go outside of the "natural range of variation," but is no mention of what the natural range of variation actually is. Objectives, such as FW-OBJ-WTR-02 ("...beginning 2 years after plan approval, implement 5 projects annually that improve water quality in water bodies that are pollutant impaired by the Aquatic Restoration Strategy in Appendix B") provide no idea of what possible projects this could include. At least a type or category of project should be included so that projects are not implemented that do not support the objectives regarding aquatic ecosystems or the forest plan in general.

The June 2014 Assessment "1.0 Terrestrial and Aquatic Ecosystems and Watersheds" provides a lot of good information on the current status of ecosystems and watersheds. Some of this information should be included in this document to provide a better context for the actions proposed. Additionally, collaborative sessions information outlines the need to replace PACFISH/INFISH with Aquatic Conservation Strategy, but this is not mentioned in the Proposed Action for the revision of the Forest Plan under watersheds, aquatic ecosystems or otherwise.

In general, there is much more emphasis on aquatic animal species than riparian and aquatic plant species. I have worked with the Land's Council in the past, focusing on riparian zone restoration, and know the importance of riparian vegetation in maintaining healthy water temperatures, habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species, and other services. Therefore, there should be a greater inclusion of goals for riparian and aquatic vegetation health and management. In addition, there is very little information included about wetlands. Wetlands are only mentioned in lists associated with other aquatic ecosystems and not addressed individually nor extensively. Wetlands are incredibly important and provide a wide array of ecosystem functions such as creating seed banks and filtering/cleaning water. The new Forest Plan needs to include more details about wetland management. The proposed action for revision of the forest plan does address many important issues, but more detail, as aforementioned, needs to be included in the future Forest Plan