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Comments: I am working on my comments. Here are the things I have found that cause me concerns. I will finish these up, but wanted you to know what I think so far. We can submit more than one set of comments, so please copy me on what you are providing for the FS so I can also support your comments.

Deep Creek

- I am glad that the Forest Service is finally doing a plan for Deep Creek.

- I think the list of potential actions is good, but there should be some priorities it seems.

- Need to include an action item to actively coordinate with communities in the watershed to implement conservation measures to protect water quality and streamflows that contribute to the health of Deep Creek and Holcomb Creek.

- There is not an acknowledgement of how critical summer water temperatures and flows are to the stream and aquatic species that live there. During the 1990's and 2000's , we saw portions of Deep Creek dry up and this resulted in the loss of fish in the uppermost stream sections below Snow Valley Ski Area down to below Highway 18. This appears to be associated with the increased use of groundwater at the ski area and drought events.

- There needs to be an evaluation and discussion of climate change and its potential effect on Deep Creek and Holcomb Creek as was done for the Whitewater EA and Plan.It is just as important as it is in Whitewater.

- The EA and Plan do not mention Snow Valley Ski Area and its connection to flows in Deep Creek. There is no doubt that the ski area and huge amount of groundwater use for snowmaking and summer recreation use is impacting flows in Deep Creek. Although the stream near the ski area is not included in the management plan, its significance to flows needs to be discussed, and It would be appropriate for the Forest to make some management actions part of the plan. Things like working with sewer and water providers to explore the use of treated effluent to make snow and restore degraded habitats. Implement water conservation tools at Snow Valley to reduce groundwater pumping such as waterless urinals, hauling water in the summer for summer recreation needs, lining the storage reservoir and covering the surface to reduce evaporation. Explore the construction of a sewer treatment plant at Snow Valley so that the groundwater pumped could be returned to the stream rather than piped to Running Springs. Converting the sewer line from Snow Valley to a treated wastewater line bringing in treated water for use at the ski area would result in increased flows in the stream and provide a good source for snowmaking and other uses.

- The boundary of the Deep Creek WSR should include the headwaters of Deep Creek up to just below the Snow Valley Ski Area so the ski area is in the zone of influence and actions taken. This upper section is important to the stream, and its scenery viewed from the highway is very important for residents and travelers. Management of these upper headwaters is very important to downstream health of the stream. Including this area will help insure that Deep Creek health is always considered in management decisions by Cal Trans., Snow Valley Ski Area, and adjacent communities.

- Re-establishment of the Deep Creek Manager position once filled by Brad Burns, is critical to really managing Deep Creek to the level needed to protect the Outstanding Resource Values. Due to the difficulty controlling the huge recreation demand in that part of the Forest, a position whose primary job is Deep Creek is essential. The only time use was managed to a level where problems could be quickly identified and fixed, was when Brad was

monitoring and coordinating actions to remedy problems. If this is just part of someone's job, it will not get the emphasis and coordination needed.

Whitewater
- It is good to see a plan for Whitewater WSR.

- The plan and EA do not mention the substantial diversion of flows in the upper South Fork by the City of Banning and Banning Heights Water. These diversions under Special Use Permit generally dewater the stream. This has a significant effect on fish and amphibians downstream and needs to be discussed. There is a need for streambed alteration agreement and minimum flows as determined in the permitting.

- The boundary of the WSR should extend to just below the diversion so that the diversion is in the area of influence boundary and will always be addressed in permit decisions.

What we see on top does not show what goes on underneath and so the natural springs and reservoirs need to be protected as cause doesn't always show effects until it's been affected.