

UPDATING THE WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN (WQMP) FOR NATIONAL FOREST SYSTEM LANDS IN CALIFORNIA

Notes from May 18, 2010 Meeting

Water Quality 101 – Water Board responsibilities and authorities – Phil Wyels

Phil outlined the responsibilities and authorities of the Water Boards under the Federal Clean Water Act and the State Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. There are no notes associated with this item.

Adaptive Management Plan (AMP): Subgroup status report – Mike Chapel

Comments from the Stakeholders are currently being incorporated in the draft AMP.

Stakeholders appear confused regarding AMP scope (e.g., programmatic vs. project) and function (e.g., evaluating and refining BMP implementation, BMP effectiveness, and the BMP evaluation program approach). There was some concern that it did not ensure remediation of known problem sites (which will be dealt with separately).

Mike invited the Stakeholders to participate in the June 9th AMP meeting in CalEPA Training Room 2 (2nd Floor). There will be teleconference capabilities. During this meeting, the AMP workgroup will review the comments received, how the comment were incorporated, and put together a final AMP draft.

Gaylon Lee will send an email notifying the stakeholders of the meeting.

Forest Service Discussion – Barry Hill

USFS is incorporating stakeholder comments that have been received to date into the draft BMPs. Barry will be sending the description of the approach used to address stakeholder comments for the revision of the BMPs, as well the engineering BMPs for review. The engineering BMPs address what will be done in the construction of new roads, road reconstruction, road maintenance, and road closures/decommissioning. In order to create a minimum road network, each National Forest will look at the need for road. This will serve as a starting point in the road network planning process.

Stakeholders expressed considerable frustration with and distrust of USFS, especially at the local level. At the USFS regional level, there is a high level of dedication to working with stakeholders to improve the process and water quality on forest lands. Barry invited stakeholders to contact him if water quality concerns are not being addressed by USFS, and he will help to the greatest extent possible.

Livestock Grazing Effects

Given Stakeholder group interest in the grazing issue, staff is working with Drs. Robert Derlett, Ken Tate and Rob Atwill with the University of California, Davis to arrange a presentation for the group about their findings regarding grazing effects on water quality and their recommendations regarding the most effective practices for minimizing those effects.

John Buckley provided a draft report on water quality effects of livestock grazing in meadows of the Stanislaus Forest. He will shortly be providing the final report. Gaylon will circulate the final report electronically to stakeholders.

Action Items

- Barry Hill will send the Stakeholder group the availability for the Inventory Management System (for known problem sites).
- The next Adaptive Management Workgroup meeting is June 9th at 10am in CalEPA Training Room 2. There will be teleconference capabilities. Gaylon will send out a meeting notice.
- Gaylon will coordinate with Ken Tate and Rob Atwill to speak at June 22 Stakeholder Meeting, if there is interest among the Stakeholders.
- Gaylon will send a message to the Stakeholders, when John Buckley final water quality report on grazing will be posted on the State Boards NPS Webpage.
- The next set of revised BMPs (5 Engineering) will be available for review and comment the week of June 7. Please review these BMPs before the June 22 meeting.

Next Meeting

- The next Stakeholder meeting is June 22 at CalEPA, Sierra Hearing Room
- Proposed Agenda Items –review BMPS, complete chapter of AMP, and review timeline of the WQMP process

Possible Future Stakeholder Meeting Dates (subject to change)

- August 24th, Conference Rm 550 at CalEPA
- September 22, Conference Rm 550 at CalEPA
- October 16, Conference Rm 550 at CalEPA