

Pend Oreille Workgroup Desired Condition for Watershed and Aquatic Species

Watershed Desired Condition Statements

GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH

2b) Based on current condition and decision space, which of the watersheds, or watershed conditions, would you aggressively restore 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. and why?

- Maintain status quo for 'at risk' & 'properly functioning'. Maintain 1987 Forest Plan watershed management guidance (without amendments) for watershed restoration.
- Focus watershed restoration on repairing the cause of the problem while maintaining access.
- Streams that support T&E fish species should be a high priority for restoration – especially proposed bull trout critical habitat.
- Restore larger streams that are NPF or FAR before smaller streams.
- Restore tributaries first, to eliminate/ reduce impacts to downstream waters.
- Municipal watersheds should be a high priority for restoration.
- Priest River watershed should be a high priority for restoration.
- Aquatic corridors, such as the one between Lake Pend Oreille and Priest River watershed should be restored.
- Allow uses in NPF and FAR watersheds that will not further degrade them and avoid uses that will.
- The most severely degraded watersheds should be the highest priority for restoration.
- Restore the following areas for bull trout repopulation as well as other aquatic life. (Keeping in consideration the ability for human use to continue to co-exist in those areas.)
Trestle Creek, Pack River, Lightning Creek, Grouse Creek
- Focus on 303d listed streams to Lake Pend Oreille.

2c) Under what circumstances or conditions should watershed restoration be a primary focus and why?

- Continue to use active management as a tool to restore watersheds.
- Preserve public use and wildlife -find a balance
- To address erosion and/or loss of soil.
- To maintain access to forest.
- To improve, maintain, stabilize diverse fish populations.
- Avoid degradation (increased sediment, increases in peak flows) in tributaries to Lake Pend Oreille to avoid impacts on the lake fishery.

2d) How should watershed restoration be integrated with other resource management and activities?

- Land management practices must not adversely affect watershed, wildlife, flora, etc.
- Integrate with fish protection.
- Incorporate watershed restoration with resource management (logging, mining, recreation, fire management, and/or road improvements).
- User groups help with restoration in conjunction with maintaining use of areas. (Take responsibility to help with the restoration.)
- Make sure you include wetlands in restoration activities.
- Integrating the elimination of aquatic noxious weeds with watershed restoration.

GENERALLY ARE SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)

2b) Based on current condition and decision space, which of the watersheds, or watershed conditions, would you aggressively restore 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc. and why?

- Restore 'at risk' streams before more human use (recreation, commercial).
- Any stream 'not functioning' should be closed to access until fixed.
- Streams that are Not Properly Functioning (NPF) or Functioning at Risk (FAR) in proposed Wilderness areas should be a high priority for restoration.

<u>Priorities for Restoration</u>	<u>Historic Cause</u>
1. North Gold Creek	Mining
2. Trestle Creek	Erodable geographic features
3. Lightning Creek	Erodable geographic features

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|------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 4. Grouse Creek | |
| 5. Gold Creek | Fire & Logging |
| 6. Granite Creek | |
| 7. Pack River | Erodable geographic features & fire |

2c) Under what circumstances or conditions should watershed restoration be a primary focus and why?

- Avoid reductions in forest canopy that will result in increased peak flows, in order to avoid stream channel destabilization.
- Maintain upstream/downstream connections, to allow re-colonization of upstream reaches. Connectivity is not only disrupted by physical barriers, but by warming of the lower reaches.
- Integrate and coordinate restoration efforts with the Columbia Basin Subbasin planning efforts that are currently going on in all the major drainages in the area.
- By enforcing Forest Best Management Practices standards on Private, IDL, FS, etc.
- No mining should occur since mining proves to be excessively damaging to all regional watersheds, rivers, lakes, marshes, lake bottoms, wetlands and streams beyond repair or sufficient restoration.

2d) How should watershed restoration be integrated with other resource management and activities?

- Consider interactions among keystone species in wetlands and riparian areas, e.g., large carnivores may maintain beaver-based wetland complexes, these carnivores, through their impact on ungulates may help maintain the integrity of riparian habitats.
- Maintain/increase terrestrial aquatic linkages. (eg. Grizzly – salmon) (grizzly – cutthroat)
- Place additional consideration for streams with breeding populations of harlequin ducks.

GENERALLY DISAGREE

2c) Under what circumstances or conditions should watershed restoration be a primary focus and why?

- Avoid all ground disturbing (resource extraction) activities, except for stream restoration, ie. road obliteration, in NPF watersheds.
- Obliterate roads (where necessary) in existing and historic bull trout and westslope cutthroat watersheds in order to achieve road densities established by USFWS as thresholds for avoiding negative impacts to bull trout habitat.

Aquatic Species Desired Condition Statements

GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH

2b) Based on current condition and decision space, where do you want to see fishable populations or changes to what is currently fishable?

- Restore streams so they support an abundance of fishable native fish populations.
- Fisheries should be restored to the fullest extent possible without removing improvements (dams, bridges, some culverts).
- Restore fisheries without limiting access, where possible. Fishable populations should continue to exist in the currently fishable regions with appropriate accessibility.
- Adhere to existing laws and regulations that protect fisheries and their habitat.
- Decisions regarding actions that have potential for impacting fish habitat must be based on the best available science.
- Restore streams and avoid degradation (increased sediment, increases in peak flows, channel instability) from future actions so they support an abundance of fishable (not just “minimum viable”) native fish populations.
- Pack River, Lightning Creek, Caribou Lake, and Porcupine Lake
- Dust abatement programs while maintaining access.
- Lake Pend Oreille: Provide positive ecological conditions and protection for aquatic populations in Lake Pend Oreille, and in all streams, lakes, rivers and all watersheds in the region.

2c) What are your desired native and non-native species and why? Which fish species are important to you and why?

- No non-native species

- Prefer Native species over Non-Native species
- Desired non native species include:
 - ✓ Kokanee
 - ✓ Tiger Muskie
 - ✓ Bass
 - ✓ Lake Trout
 - ✓ Brook Trout
 - ✓ German browns
 - ✓ Rainbow Trout
- Desired Native species include:
 - ✓ Cutthroat
 - ✓ Red band
- Torrent Sculpin

2d) What do you want to see as far as the mix of species, native vs. non-native?

- Predominately native species -no new species (non native)

2e) If bull trout were recovered would this be a desirable fishable fish?

- Bull trout –yes

2f) What would you like to see for amphibian populations and species?

- Maintain current populations
- Crawdads, crayfish, frogs, turtles, salamanders – they all fit into the system.
- Macro Invertebrates (the indicator species for healthy fisheries).
- As far as restoring the historical populations of these amphibians, some historical restoration is not feasible. Historically, the population of amphibians was greater before the dam was created. In order to continue that sort of amphibious population that would consequently place our more recent restoration endeavors in jeopardy.

GENERALLY ARE SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)

2b) Based on current condition and decision space, where do you want to see fishable populations or changes to what is currently fishable?

- Fishable populations everywhere while managing the resources.

2c) What are your desired native and non-native species and why? Which fish species are important to you and why?

- All fish species are important.

2d) What do you want to see as far as the mix of species, native vs. non-native?

- Non-native species that compete with native species should be reduced or eliminated.

2f) What would you like to see for amphibian populations and species?

- Monitor native amphibians and reptile populations; avoid actions that would impact their habitat and reduce populations.
- Leopard frog
- Boreal toad
- Coeur d'Alene salamander

GENERALLY DISAGREE

None