20130112 RC Discussion: Watershed Framework

Presenter: Bill Conroy (FS)

- Powepoint Presentation on Watershed Framework
- Revision Collaborative Input (result of Small Group Discussions; Two Groups will work to finish Small Group discussions and provide additional input.

Orofino 1 Boise (VTC)

Surface Water Quality and Quantity

DFC: nothing to add a this time

Objectives:

- Add stronger language with regard to monitoring and how impt this is to loop back to ACS (stronger language to require monitoring with feedback link to the ACS)
- #5 1st sentence: where di the #500 ac come from? Change language to "at least 500 ac"; change "improvements each year, based on annual determination of priority watersheds"
- NOTE: would like to see these objectives in line/more aligned with watershed condition framework and ACS, etc.

Guidelines

- #1 eliminate the word "vegetation"
- Under transportation—wording should be consistent with travel mgmt. plans
    - Add something related to dust abatement in #4 or its own guideline
- Monitoring:
    - Surveys of culverts-not sure if this would best fit under transportation of water quality
- Timber/Veg
    - 6j-temp roads removed…would like to see a timeline added to ensure this happens
    - NOTE: lots of discussion about terminology (temp roads-decommission)
    - "remove and restore the natural condition" might be better terminology
    - #7 e. provide more clarification
    - "g" add minimum disturbance under re-entry at the end

Orofino 2

DFC

- 1st Para: Water Quality meets or exceeds historical background levels for designated and existing beneficial uses.
- 2nd Para: Add historical between "species and exist"

- Cold water biota: --more concern with what we can control locally

Objective

- The concept pof "no net"
- #5 Add relocation to road and trail reconstruction, relocation, or improvement
- #3 Add after "restore lands "safe condition", "include a safe condition"; the idea that people won't fall in holes

Standards

- Nothing

Guidelines

- #1 Sounds like it is not written like a guideline "shall not"
- #4 what is "surface water" or replace surface to "stream"
- #11 concur that it does not follow the 1872 mining law

Grangeville 1

Watershed Condition

DFC

- "Veg" is vigorous and resistant to insect attacks…Why is that stricken?
    - Strike #11: this was common to a couple of groups
- Add "where attainable"

Watershed Composition under WQ

Objective

- #3 within 3 years restore abandon mines---strike—;Is an abandoned mine necessarily a problem? Should say within 3 years restore abandon mine that is discharging hazardous pollutants

Additional Comments:

CONCERN: collaborative wants input into road density not just something that FS and Reg Agencies decide on

DFC on temperature states "…within requirements for salmonid salmon…" should say where attainable at beginning of statement---some streams never had those temperatures historically

Strike comment that withdraws lands from mining that have been already been reclaimed--#11 under Minerals

Grangeville 2

Watershed Surface Water

DFC: OK

Objectives

- Add "that are discharging pollutants to water bodies" back in to the end of 3

Potlatch, Moscow, Lapwai, Lewiston

- DFC: Good to go!

Kooskia, Kamiah, Lolo, Missoula (VTC)

Note: Pertinent Input from Kooskia, Kamiah, Lolo, Missoula member: Adam Rissen; Wildlands CPR attached to Aquatics Concept document

KKL Input: Track Changes

Desired Condition:

Water quality is maintained at levels that provides stable and productive riparian and aquatic ecosystems, such that: stream water temperatures are within the requirements for salmonid spawning and cold water biota (where these species exist); streams and lakes are free of (or strive for) man-made chemical contaminants and nutrients ***(What about fords, hotsprings, and grazing allotments);*** there are no consumption advisories;; and there is little or no evidence of acidification, toxicity, or eutrophication of lakes because of atmospheric deposition.

Water rights for consumptive and non-consumptive water uses obtained in the name of the U.S. Forest Service, support instream flows that provide for channel maintenance, water quality, aquatic habitats, and riparian vegetation. ***Add recreation***

Objectives:

1. Starting 2 years after Plan approval, implement 5 projects annually that are designed to improve water quality in water bodies that are pollutant impaired.
2. Within 15 years of Plan approval, 90% of all Clean Water Act Section 303(d) total maximum daily load implementation (TMDL) plan action items ***on national forest system lands*** will be completed. ***Bill when are the TMDL plans completed and why 15 years?? 15 years or timeframe should be in the assessment. Instead say 6% per year or graduated time frame. Do each of the listed waterbodies have TMDL plans?***

3. Within 3 years of Plan approval, restore lands at one abandoned mine every two years (one year for planning, one year for implementation). ***Be consistent to what was put in minerals***
4. Within 15 years of Plan approval, restore 2 ***or more*** valleys, floodplains, or stream channels that were dredge and or placer mined.

Standards:

1. None. ***Suggest that we have some. Why did we get rid of the ones we had?***

Watershed Framework: Additional Large Group Discussion

1. Natural Events: how are these addressed
    a. Manage our influence on these natural events? Minimize/mitigate?
    b. React/restore: "Betterment Activities:
2. Watershed Condition Framework
    a. Where does this fit it: Assessment?
    b. Management Activities: Add to handout
3. Perturbation: Define
    a. Natural range is being changed by something
4. Scale: Variety of Scale
    a. Biological Approach: evolved within natural ranges with natural events (i.e. floods, fire)
5. Watershed Geographic Area
    a. How are these broken out?
        i. USGS defines HUC scales and boundaries (smaller # = larger watershed area)
6. What happens when a person has built instream structures that now has beneficial habitat effects—now people can't use it