

Plumas-Sierra Stakeholder Concerns Focus Meeting December 2010

- 1 How come no one from the agriculture community was involved in creation of the NFWF Business Plan?
- 2 Concern with definition of meadow...is irrigated pasture included? Plan includes 900 ac in Sierra Valley?
- 3 The term restoration is unclear...restore back to what? Enhancement is a better word.
- 4 Focus should be improved watershed function and enhancement vs. just meadow restoration, ie: include timber management, noxious weed encroachment, roads/bridges/culverts, ag use efficiency of water, etc.
- 5 There are an array of watershed enhancement tools in the toolbox, concern that pond and plug appears to be the only one being used... each site should be reviewed to determine the appropriate enhancement tool.
- 6 Do we have the science to determine how long it will take to recharge different types and sizes of meadows; how do we know if late season flows will really increase vs. possibly decrease in different locations?
- 7 Unclear about who analyzes or needs to be involved in analyzing potential impacts prior to restoration project construction and want to know if the process is different on private land vs public land?
- 8 Concern with potential negative impacts, at least in the short-term, to downstream water rights users.
- 9 There doesn't appear to be an identified Plan B to mitigate potential reductions in flow to downstream users. Should not have to wait until 'harm occurs' before alternatives are identified.
- 10 Concern with restoration efforts leading to changes in land use designations, ie: wetlands delineation and the associated use restrictions this carries with it , at least on private lands.
- 11 If public dollars are used for restoration, do Valley/Bay Area interests have increased rights to our water?
- 12 We learned from Irrigated Lands monitoring that functioning meadows help improve water quality. Is there a way for landowners in the upper watershed to be compensated for good stewardship/ecosystem services?
- 13 Concern that pond and plug design may be detrimental to fish/aquatic habitat, gravels for spawning, temps., etc.

14 The permitting process isn't clear....is the process the same for private land and public land projects?

15 Is a diversion permit from SWRCB required for pond and plug projects...is it the same on private/public land?

16 The US Forest Service has Federal Reserved Water Rights...what does that mean? Are permits exempt?

17 In doing the economic analysis of meadow restoration it is important to include consideration of valley and foothill ranches and how seasonal meadow/pasture grazing is an integral part of the entire operation.

18 How are infrastructure problems (roads, bridges, culverts, etc.) which impact fish passage, meadow function, etc. dealt with in the restoration process?

19 How is local knowledge (ie: ranchers, fishermen, etc.) incorporated in the project development process on public/private land projects funded with public dollars?

20 We want to see future watershed enhancement projects on private and public lands; but want to ensure stakeholders are involved at the onset, impacts to downstream water rights are considered and potential mitigation measures identified and appropriate monitoring is implemented to assess impacts and that the failures as well as success stories are shared so we make future decisions based upon what we've all learned.

Thank You!!