

## **CHAPTER 2 - KEY QUESTIONS-----DRAFT**

One of the purposes of a watershed analysis is to identify what is “important” within the watershed. This focuses the analysis on the most essential information needed to do ecosystem management. After these features are identified, the interdisciplinary team formulates key questions focused on producing critical information in the answering. The following questions were identified as “key” to providing important land management information for the analysis area:

### **Timber Resources**

1. What timber resources are available within the analysis area?
2. What resource protections need to be incorporated in timber harvest unit designs.
3. In light of these design criteria, how should timber harvesting be scheduled?
4. What road system is needed to achieve timber harvest goals?

### **Recreation and Cultural Resources**

1. What landscape features are important for providing various recreation experiences (e.g., roadless areas)?
2. Based on current and predicted future demand, are there opportunities to develop additional recreation resources or reorganize the existing ones?
3. What road/trails system is needed to achieve recreation goals?
4. What is the cultural importance of the watershed?

### **Watershed Restoration**

1. What was the condition of the watershed prior to land management?
2. Are there forest health problem areas within the analysis area? If so, how should they be managed?
3. What is the desired goal for restoring the watershed and where are there needs for watershed restoration?
4. How should watershed restoration be prioritized?

### **Fire and Fuels Management**

1. What is the fire history of the area?
2. How does wildfire effect the watershed?
3. Are there areas where fire needs to be reintroduced or fuels reduced?
4. What road system is needed to achieve fire/fuels management goals?

## **Private Lands and Facilities Access**

1. Which roads will be needed to access private lands?
2. What are the important administrative facilities in the watershed and what roads are needed to access them (e.g., sumps, quarries, etc.)?
3. What is the status of easements/special use permits for private lands?

## **Wildlife**

1. What wildlife species use the various forest habitats?
2. What is the status of rare, sensitive or listed wildlife populations or habitats?
3. Are there barriers to riparian and aquatic connectivity?
4. Are there barriers to other movement patterns of wildlife?
5. What opportunities exist to enhance wildlife habitats?

## **Fisheries**

1. What is the condition of fish stocks in the analysis area?
2. What is the current condition of aquatic and riparian habitats and how have they been affected by land management?

## **Hydrologic and Geomorphic Processes**

1. What are the current water quality conditions in the analysis area and how have they been affected by land management?
2. How are sediment and erosional processes affecting aquatic habitat and water quality in the watershed?
3. How are streamflow regimes influencing water quality and aquatic habitat within the watershed?
4. What are the dominant erosional processes within the watershed, where have they taken place and where are they likely to occur?

## **Botany**

1. What is the status of rare, sensitive or listed botanical populations and habitats?
2. Are there noxious weed problem areas within the analysis area? If so, how should they be managed?