

I want to say “ thank you” to Katie and to Tate for organizing the meeting. Thanks for including so many groups and for the work it took to schedule the meeting at a time that worked the best for the most. I was not able to sit in on the entire meeting due to my work schedule, but I did get a briefing from 2 people who were at the entire meeting.

The Kings River is an Extraordinary Resource Waterway. I look at a beautiful river, in a sensitive region of karst geology, that doesn't need to be fixed, yet. But of course, there are issues. Development in these rural counties doesn't have a lot of oversight, and is done by contractors who do not consider a riparian zone as important. Sediment has been an issue here for some time and it get worse with more development. Could education, regulation, and enforcement around this be part of the strategy? As I look at the whole picture, I think the Roberts Gap Project the USFS plans to do will be the most damaging to the rivers in our area. This project may restart this summer. It is to be done in an area of Natural Forest that contains the headwaters of the Buffalo River, Kings River, White River and Mulberry River. As important as all these rivers are- with what these rivers bring to our state (the first national river, tourism, revenue, drinking water, hydroelectric power, recreation), I would think that protecting the Robert's Gap area would be more wise. I have emailed and spoken to Mike Mulford with the USFS, heard him say that the clear cut forest will grow back better. I do not agree. The area will have to recover from too much. The extremes of climate change could easily affect this plan. The area will never be the same and these amazing rivers won't be the same either. I bring this issue up here because I wonder if state agencies and federal agencies network about these projects at all. Does the USFS have any input on ANRS? Does the Department of Agriculture have any say about the Roberts Gap Project? Again, thank you for calling all of these volunteer groups together to work to improve the ANRS. We have to start and work forward from somewhere. But the polluters are paid for what they do, with little enforcement. Why would they stop?

Glenda Allison