

# **APPENDIX L**

## **CONSIDERATION OF BEST SCIENCE**



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Analysis information provided in this report was based on a variety of methodologies, models, and procedures, all of which are derived from scientific sources included in the Literature Citations section. Many of the analytical processes were based on local protocols, and documentation for them is also included in the Literature Citations section.

Forest Service policy is that proposed projects must be consistent with the Forest Plan and show consideration of “best available science” (Dillard 2007). Science is not absolute or irrefutable much of what we know in a science context is constantly evolving (Moghissi et al. 2008). This means that what constitutes best available science might vary over time and across scientific disciplines (Dillard 2007). An objective of considering best available science is for scientists “to provide a meaningful context to scientific information so that its validity might be judged and therefore useful to the policymaker” (Moghissi et al. 2008).

Best available science for South George analysis was evaluated and incorporated in specialist reports and in the Literature Citation section of this document. Personal opinions were generally judged not to be best available science. Local protocols and similar information issued by government agencies or others, which has not been subjected to an independent peer review, was evaluated for validity, meaningful context, and applicability of findings to the project area. Peer-reviewed science was evaluated, and we recognized the value of independent peer review. All Forest Service research literature is peer reviewed following UDSA Information Quality Scientific Research Guidelines.

Although many more sources were considered than what is included in the Literature Citation section, the Literature Citation section demonstrates that best available science was considered when completing analyses documented in this EIS.

Dillard, D.S. 2007 (June 20). Clarification of May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2007, advice on documenting “best available science”; 1920/1950 memorandum to Regional Planning Directors. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Washington Office. 2 p.

Moghissi, A.A.; Love, B.R.; Straja, S.R.; McBride, D.K.; Swetnam, M.S. 2008. Best available science: its evolution, taxonomy, and application. Arlington, VA: Potomac Institute for Policy Studies. 93 p.

Powell, D.C. 2009. Review of best available science for forest vegetation: South George Vegetation Management Project. Unpublished Report. Pendleton, OR: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Umatilla National Forest. 106 p.