

FOREWORD

This document is the result of a major interdisciplinary effort to synthesize our understanding of the cumulative watershed effects of fuel management. This document is the product of more than 20 authors and 40 reviewers including scientists from four Forest Service Research Stations and numerous universities. Chapter outlines and contents were first reviewed at a workshop in April 2005. Authors then drafted chapters that were peer-reviewed over the next two years. We edited all chapters twice before submitting them for a third round of editing by RMRS publication specialists. Chapter topics include overviews of the effects of fuel management on both terrestrial and aquatic watershed processes. The other editors and I are grateful to all authors and reviewers for their considerable efforts in the development of this document over the past four years. We wish to acknowledge the Stream Team and the National Fire Plan for financial assistance. As with all syntheses, science will continue to generate new knowledge, which will in time supersede the contents of this document. Readers are encouraged to seek updated and locally derived information to supplement the contents of this document. My personal thanks go to all the authors, reviewers, my coeditors and RMRS publishing staff for the considerable effort necessary to develop and publish this synthesis.

William J. Elliot, PE, PhD
Supervisory Research Engineer