

Please see my comments below.

Frances Forsyth

[withheld]

Compulsory Value, ecosystem health.

I agree with having ecosystem health as a compulsory value. However, when a river supports threatened species it is important to protect physical habitat as well as chemical and biological water properties. The attributes for ecosystem health currently cover only chemical and biological health and these are not always an effective proxy for habitat quality. It is important that councils are required to recognise the compulsory value of ecosystem health, including physical habitat. This is important for fully achieving Objective A1 in terms of paragraph a. The NPS needs to direct regional plans to explicitly recognise the Compulsory National Values and any Additional National Values as defined in Appendix 1. Merely covering off the attributes will not necessarily achieve Objective A1.

Human health for secondary contact

I oppose this compulsory value being set for secondary contact; boating and wading. I want it set for full immersion. I am a freshwater ecologist and spend considerable time wading in streams, sometimes up to my waist, and often at night. Slipping and falling into the water is a common occurrence for me. I mitigate the risk of illness or infection by washing my hands at the end of each session. Despite these measures I have experienced an infection resulting from partial immersion in a stream. It should not be necessary to wash your hands after contact with a New Zealand stream.