

**5/30/06 PAC Recreation Sub-Group  
Meeting Notes**

**Attending:** Dick Rieman, Dale Neumann, Lee Carlson, Saundie McPhee, Kay Lloyd, Dan Wood, June Helbig (afternoon), Rick Acosta

**Meeting Agenda:**

**Bin Items Discussion**

**Discussion of Suitability of Uses/Activities for each Management Theme  
Prioritization of Objectives**

The group decided to deal with bin items first:

Not much information is currently available related to recreation carrying capacity. However, Rick Acosta has asked the Forest Service regional office to send a power point presentation that deals with recreation carrying capacity in a preliminary way. This presentation has not yet been received.

The 2005 Planning Rule may be viewed via a link from the Forest Plan revision web site.

Developed ski areas and heli-skiing are authorized via permitted special uses.

New proposals involve environmental analysis and public involvement.

Therefore, the recreation sub-group decided not to deal with these items.

Near the end of the last PAC recreation sub-group meeting (5/19/06) a discussion began about draft desired conditions related to snowmobile and cross country ski trail use under Management Theme #5, Winter Recreation Forest-Wide. This management theme has two sub-categories: motorized and non-motorized. **Note: please recall that this Winter Recreation management theme is envisioned to be “implemented when enough snow is present on the ground to allow winter recreation”.** This management theme would be implemented applied across the landscape as an overlay related to snow.

Due to lack of time to discuss and reach consensus, the discussion on the proposed desired conditions was tabled and put in the bin. The result of this bin item/discussion now follows.

On 5/19/06, the following desired condition was proposed for the motorized category of the Winter Recreation Forest-Wide management theme: “Some snowmobile trails are designated motorized use only”.

Subsequently on 5/19/06, the following desired condition was proposed for the non-motorized category of the Winter Recreation Forest-Wide management theme: “Some Forest Service roads are designated as non-motorized only.”

On 5/19, disagreement concerning the designation of “some snowmobile trails as motorized only” was expressed. Due to lack of time, this discussion was tabled until today, 5/30/06.

After a healthy amount of discussion between motorized and non-motorized advocates, the sub-group came to consensus on the following desired conditions with the accompanying rationale.

For the motorized category of the Winter Recreation Forest-Wide management theme, the group agreed to add the following desired condition: “Some snowmobile trails could be designated motorized use only.”

For the non-motorized category of the Winter Recreation Forest-Wide management theme, the group agreed to add the following desired condition: “Some Forest Service roads could be designated as non-motorized only.”

**Rationale for the two desired conditions:**

These proposed desired conditions are general statements that give land managers some flexibility to deal with situations such as user conflicts, high use periods of time, or high use areas.

These desired conditions address the concept of equity.

These desired conditions allow the Forest Service to meet the needs of all users.

As part of the discussion of the two desired conditions documented above, the recreation sub-group also added the following paragraph. This paragraph is to be inserted immediately after the title of the Winter Recreation Forest-Wide management theme. This paragraph applies to both the non-motorized and motorized categories. Here’s the paragraph:

A good education program is in place to help reduce user conflicts and to enhance management and availability of motorized and non-motorized winter recreation opportunities. Where mixed use of an area by motorized and non-motorized users is present, the Forest Service will explain the need for sharing a limited area. Where grooming of snowmobile and cross country ski trails exist, the Forest Service will educate users of the funding sources that allow grooming to occur. The reasoning behind emphasizing the management of trails/roads for motorized, non-motorized, and mixed/shared uses will also be explained to reduce user conflicts. Good signing of trails and posting on bulletin boards will also help explain management’s objectives, educate the public, and reduce user conflicts.

**In addition**, the word, “recreation” is now added after “non-motorized” and “motorized” in the titles of these sub categories under Management Theme #5, Winter Recreation Forest-Wide.

### **Suitability Exercise**

The sub-group then used the uses/activities listed in green on the interdisciplinary team's matrix to determine suitability. The group decided whether each use was suitable for each of the five recreation management themes. For each management theme, the sub-group agreed to label each use as either "yes" (use is suitable for management theme), "no" (use is not suitable for management theme), "limited" (use is suitable to a limited extent), or n/a (not applicable). In addition, uses not mentioned specifically by the interdisciplinary team were also addressed by the recreation sub-group in a separate matrix.

Please see the attached two matrices (sheets 1 and 2 on attached spreadsheet) to see the result of the recreation sub-group's determination of suitability.

### **Prioritization Exercise**

The sub-group reached consensus on the following objectives (focus areas). The group intends to prioritize these objectives across the recreation management themes in the near future.

1. Existing trail maintenance
2. New trail development
3. Existing road and trail head maintenance
4. New road and trail head development
5. Maintenance of existing developed and dispersed camp sites
6. Replace dispersed and developed camp facilities that were decommissioned
7. New developed and dispersed camp sites
8. Monitoring recreation for compliance with desired conditions
9. Minimize impacts to natural resources
10. Environmental education and interpretation