

Notes from Group Four

These are a range of opinions nothing here has been or should be considered consensus of the group!

4-1-06 1530 hrs

1. Review group guidelines developed earlier

2. Economics: (elaborate and design)

Discussion:

Economic themes accomplished with small operators and business in mind. The impact goes beyond just the owner to the community. It's really important to pay attention to the local community impact.

Need to find more than just a quick short term fix.

Need to have ecosystem management work hand in hand with economics. This can be done without detriment to the natural resources (soil and such)

FS needs to work with surrounding land owners to find ways that help the output of renewable resource that directly relates to sustaining communities economics.

Recreation and tourism lends to the economic benefit of the communities through many avenues. (food, water, shopping, lodging)

Wildland Urban Interface: All agree that it has its place.

Wilderness: It does not bring in jobs that support the local families the same as large industry but it can bring in people that want to live closer to wild land will bring with them the need for services. The designation of Wilderness brings with it prestige and roadless should be designated as Wilderness so that it will draw people. There are positive and negative impacts with every designation of land. There are trade offs. Economics of wilderness in some places are marginal in some of the content that other land designations need. (good growing renewable resources, operational ground and so on)

Harvest-Economics:

Firewood, timber, mining products, fish, berries,

Non-harvest Economics:

Access fees, tourism, education, recreation, outfitting, grazing, non market values (clean water, air) migration of people, heritage, NF providing jobs, survival school,

QUESTIONS:

What should stay the same?

Continue to find ways that address economic issues utilizing multi-use recreation. Need to see some growth.

What about economics do you most want to see changed?

Need an increase in both recreation and harvesting products.

Substantial Agreement that:

Better balance of forest by all recreational users.

If we do this planning process right it will provide more opportunities for all areas.

Find the areas where harvest is acceptable, appropriate and can serve a multiple benefit.

The Forest has a need to sustain an infrastructure. Predictability/investment. Allows for private (leave it for discussion at another time)

Some Agreement that:

Increase the number of small timber sales to benefit local communities.

Prioritize projects in the Wildland Urban Interface.

Wilderness has an economic benefit.

4-02-06

3. Recreation

What's good about Recreation on the Colville right now?

Motorized.

- Made some headway to ATV use on; the Colville. Counties can now assist in designated routes by identifying CO roads.
- Allow access to the user that has special needs. (accessible needs)

Non-motorized:

- There is access to solitude areas away from noise and large numbers
- Healthy for wildlife at the current time.
- Still large areas that people can find solitude, clean air and clean water.

Facilities:

- The CNF still has low numbers of use and provides a rustic atmosphere.
- There is still room for improvement

Where is there room for improvement?

Motorized:

- Better use maps
- Need more motorized trails.(Jeep)
- Clarification on trails that are in conflict with the non-motor folks.
- More LEO funded folks.
- Communicate better when planning harvest activities and its effects on recreation activities.
- Where is the end result with the OHV planning process from last year? Some of us were involved and haven't heard anything back. Talk to the public more....Don't be so secretive.
- Educate the public more on harvest activities and its benefits.
- **Enforcement needs to happen in all recreational activities.** Have the punishment fit the crime and use the \$ to fund the LOE program.
- A combination of education, signage, and enforcement are what's key. Work with the kids at the schools to help them learn young.
- Need more access.....Parking for trucks and trailers.
- Direct use away from conflicting resources.
- Need a connecting trail system. Only have a broken non usable system at the current time.
- Not able to utilize the areas that families have been using in the past to camp and use ATV's as part of the recreational experience. (broken system)
- No hunting access for ATV.

Non-motorized:

- More and better signed trails and trailhead.
- Sufficient parking for horse trailers
- Logging roads have been built on old pack trails and are now being closed. Loosing the historical value also.
- Need to reestablish old pack trails that had roads built over them where the roads are now being abandoned and the pack trails are being lost as well.
- Find ways to maintain trails. \$\$\$
- Improved maps AND signs.
- Improved harvest cleanup. Get rid of slash piles.
- Improvements to campgrounds have cut down on the abilities for trucks and horse trailers to park and access trails.

Facilities:

- No place to camp and use ATV's

4. Wilderness

What's good about:

Wilderness:

- Not overcrowded
- Wildlife diversity
- No conflicts with the motorized community
- Having protection that is designated by congress (wilderness protection act)
- Get away from violence
- Fresh water and air
- Could bring more recreation into the area.

Inventory roadless:

- Potential to be designated wilderness down the road.
- Natural process can occur on a large land base.
- Are in a position to be used in different ways and put into the best use categories.
- The Colville has an acceptable amount of acres

**What's not good.....room for improvement:*

Wilderness:

- Trail maintenance \$.
- Need Staff to manage wilderness.
- Insect and disease in the wilderness cannot be managed.
- Forest health issues may get ignored because of its designation
- Improved access into the wilderness.
- The restoration around the existing wilderness needs help.
- Guns are allowed.
- The ability to fight wildland fires.

Inventory roadless:

- It's not Wilderness yet.
- Doesn't have the designation of protection needed.
- Access for wildland fire fighting.
- Do not have ability to address forest health through harvesting methods that are economical.
- No real decision on how these areas should be managed. Make a decision and go with it. (Designate it with different areas of use.)
- In real need of fuels treatment before it burns into Canada.
- Need to deal with the noxious weeds and insects/disease before it becomes catastrophic.

(16% of the Colville is categorized as roadless.)