Eastern Washington Cascades and Yakima Provincial Advisory Committees (PAC) Meeting Notes

5-23-2006

Attendees: Kay Lloyd (representing Howard Briggs), Barry Donahue, Dick Rieman, Bill Ford, Dale Neuman, Arnie Arneson, Saundie McPhee, Dan Wood, Lee Carlson, Nick Martinez, Steve Buck, Susan Crampton, Mike McFeeley, Jen Watkins, Carl Bjelland, Wes Visser, Liz Tanke, Jessica Gonzales, June Helbig, Gus Bekker, and Dennis Beich.

Visitors: Charles Raymond, Alpine Lakes Protection Society.

Forest Service attendees: Margaret Hartzell Forest Plan Revision Team Leader, Phil Jahns Forest Plan Revision Recreation & Vegetation Leader, Rick Acosta Forest Plan Revision Public Affairs Leader, Bill Gaines Forest Plan Revision Team Wildlife Biologist, Robin DeMario, and Deb Kelly.

Facilitators: Susan Hayman and Paul Hart

Welcome and Introductory Remarks

Paul Hart & Susan Hayman, Facilitators

Paul Hart – Welcoming comments. Introduction of PAC members.

Objectives for today:

1. Reach closure on PAC recommendations for the vegetation and recreation management themes and desired condition statements.
2. Review and discuss preliminary subgroup recommendations for suitability criteria for recreation uses and activities, and vegetation uses and treatments within each proposed management theme.
3. Introduce the concept of prioritization criteria and define subgroup assignment to develop preliminary criteria.

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Ground Rules

1. Listen openly and actively
2. Withhold judgment until the other person's view is understood
3. Ask questions for understanding before responding
4. Give everyone equal opportunity to speak
5. Focus on concerns and interests rather than positions
6. Examine future improvements rather than dwelling on the past
7. Emphasize the situation rather than the people
8. Value disagreement and constructive argument
9. Look for ways to achieve mutual gain
10. Regard one another's views as legitimate and deserving respect
11. Respect meeting timeframes
12. Silence all electronic devices

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Agenda:

9:00	Opening, welcome, introductions
9:30	Management Themes and Desired Conditions
11:50	Observer's comment period
12:00	Lunch
12:30	Suitability Criteria Development
2:15	Introduction to prioritization criteria
2:30	Observers Comment Period
2:45	Summary
3:15	Closing remarks
3:30	Adjourn

Forest Plan Revision Team

Margaret Hartzell

What you are doing is very valuable and useful to us. You all bring enthusiasm to the meetings. Thank you for your work, we really appreciate it.

Subgroup Reports

Vegetation Subgroup Report:

Handout #5: *Vegetation Sub-group Agreements*

Liz Tanke: We tidied up the loose ends and incorporated your comments as much as possible. We clarified the management themes. There are three themes in the desired conditions.

Jen Watkins: We wrote a new desired condition for economics and cultural resources.

Recreation Subgroup Report:

Lee Carlson: The group felt good about what we came up with. We started off by trying to defining backcountry; we never did define it though. The backcountry motorized category we changed to backcountry motorized travel. We decided that front country should be changed to roaded country as that was a better management description. We maintained the community forest category. Winter recreation is an overlay that fits over the other management themes when there is enough snow on the ground. Under desired conditions, we tried to bring in all the comments that were part of the green dot exercise; we combined where we could. Over all, the desired conditions reflect what we think should be occurring. The glossary and acronym lists were helpful. We still have a couple of major items in the Bin List that are worthy of discussion.

Susan Crampton: Did subcommittees circulate any information via e-mail?

Rick Acosta: I sent the meeting notes from both the vegetation and recreation subgroup meetings out to PAC members via e-mail. I'll get hardcopies to those who need them.

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Handout #1: Recreation Desired Conditions worksheet (on yellow paper)

Handout #2: Vegetation Desired Conditions worksheet (on green paper)

Handout #3: Recreation, General Forest-Wide Desired Conditions

Handout #4: Vegetation, Forest-wide Desired Condition Statements

The group took 20 minutes to review the handouts and prepare for the next discussion.

See Appendix A and Appendix B.

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Observers' Comment Period

Charles Raymond, Alpines Lakes Protective Society member, commented on the discussion topics. An umbrella vision statement would be a good idea. Monitoring and adaptive management are very important, please seriously consider these.

Suitability Criteria

Handout #5: Veg Suitability Worksheet
Handout #6: Rec Suitability Worksheet

The PAC divided up into two recreation groups and two vegetation groups to answer questions on handouts #5 and #6.

Rec Group A: Lee Carlson, June Helbig, Gus Bekker, Dick Rieman, Bill Ford, and Kay Lloyd

Rec Group B: Saundie McPhee, Barry Donahue, Dale Neuman, and Dan Wood

Veg Group C: Liz Tanke, Scott King, Arnie Arneson, Carl Bjelland, and Susan Crampton

Veg Group D: Jen Watkins, Steve Buck, Mike McFeeley, Nick Martinez, Wes Visser, and Dennis Beich

Questions:

Recreation Suitability Worksheet:

Using the Forest Service "General Suitability" matrix as a guide (green column), which recreation activities/uses need suitability criteria? Are there others not listed on the draft matrix?

If you were the Forest Supervisor, what kinds of information would you need to determine what uses/activities would be appropriate forest-wide?

What additional information would you need to consider to determine what uses would be appropriate within a give Recreation Management Theme?

Would you be able to take the narrowed down list of "green column" recreation activities and uses and, using these criteria, make preliminary judgments about which activities and uses would be compatible with the desired conditions you have identified for each Recreation Management Theme? If so, what would they be?

Vegetation Suitability Worksheet:

Using the Forest Service "General Suitability" matrix as a guide (green column), which dry forest/WUI uses/treatments need suitability criteria? Are there others not listed on the matrix?

If you were the Forest Supervisor, what kinds of information would you need to determine what uses/treatments would be appropriate forest-wide?

What additional information would you need to consider to determine what uses/treatments would be appropriate within a give Vegetation Management Theme?

Would you be able to take the narrowed down list of "green column" dry forest/WUI uses/treatments and, using these criteria, make preliminary judgments about which uses and treatments would be compatible with the desired conditions you have identified for each Vegetation Management Theme? If so, what would they be?

Rec Group A:

Lee Carlson: The questions were not clearly understood. Our group was able to fill in the green column on the desired conditions statements. We listed recreational activities that we thought would be occurring. Plugging those activities into the desired condition themes we talked about; things to think about when developing criteria.

Rec Group B:

Barry Donahue: We started with the matrix and went backwards. We identified some uses, criteria-capacity, the amount of acceptable damage, suitability of terrain, watershed, and habitat.

Veg Group C:

Liz Tanke: Veg treatments fell into these four categories--Priority, satisfactory or generally acceptable, limited, or unsatisfactory. We could probably do this kind of work in the subgroup and fill in each box with explanations of activity levels allowed.

Veg Group D:

Jen Watkins: We filled out the green sheet and then worked on the table. We finished up talking about livestock grazing. We had three categories, yes, no and limited.

Prioritization

Phil Jahns

If you had $100 where would you allocate those dollars in the table below, or in other words, if you had resources where would you put them in the matrix below?

Jen Watkins: PAC members can fill out the suitability handout so that we can see where the sticking points are. If you have strong feelings about suitability please send them to Rick Acosta who will distribute comments to subgroup members (including rationale behind strong feelings).

Examples of Vegetation Objectives or projects

Management Themes	Fire Risk	HRV	Timber Production	Habitat	Etc.
1					
2					
3					
4					
Etc.					

Examples of Recreation Objectives or projects

Management Themes	Trail Maintenance				
1					
2					
3					
4					
Etc.					

BIN List

Define management themes

Under management theme 4 does roadless equal unroaded?

Fire suppression temporary roads → suitability (discuss at the veg subgroup meeting on May 31)

Need to clarify forested WUI setting (discuss at the veg subgroup May 31 meeting)

Define "capacities" in Rec Bin

Need to gather information (ongoing) on number of users, type of use, etc.

Action Items

1. Lee will provide veg desired conditions for treaty rights
2. Provide revised desired conditions before next sub group meeting (by May 30)
3. If you have strong feelings about suitability get them to Rick to distribute to subgroups, need rationale (veg table & rec questions) by May 30.
4. Susan Hayman will indicate points of non agreement in the notes; she will also indicate points of common ground.
5. Veg subgroup will resolve/clarify veg management themes and WUI treatments at May 31 meeting.
6. Rec subgroup will define "capacities" at the next subgroup meeting.
7. Need more glossary and acronym handouts to distribute to PAC members
8. What is the status of the vision statement? Jen Watkins will email the vision statement to PAC members and to Rick Acosta for hardcopy distribution to PAC members without email access.

Closing Remarks . . . Next Meeting Dates

- The next vegetation subgroup meeting is on **May 31** in the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests headquarters office, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA.

- The next full PAC meetings are on **June 7** and **June 21**, 2006 in the downstairs conference room at the Okanogan and Wenatchee National Forests headquarters office, 215 Melody Lane, Wenatchee, WA.

Paul Hart: Please think about monitoring and adaptive management. The Forest Leadership Team will have to make a recommendation on over 1 million acres of roadless area; are there any collaborative criteria that will be helpful in that process?

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