

July 2004

Issue 3
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USDA FOREST SERVICE



Forest Plan Revision News

Comment Results and Workgroup Input Are In Thank you for your input!

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The revision team thanks everyone for the comments you submitted and is very busy using this information to

prepare the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and proposed revised Forest Plans (PRFP). In June 2003, we held fifteen community meetings with approximately 1,500 people attending. From August 2003 to May 2004, we had 12 workgroups across Idaho, Montana and Washington meeting every two weeks with over 140 workgroup meetings in 9 months. All of the workgroup meeting notes and desired condition statements are on our website at: www.fs.fed.us/kipz.

public comments for the team to review and all comments are appreciated!

All comments that were received from April 30, 2002 to May 1, 2004 are being analyzed through a formal content analysis process (process where comments are summarized and arranged by similar topic). Through the summer, the revision team is reviewing all of these comments and considering them as they develop the two proposed revised Forest Plans and Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Want To Know More?

Where Can I Get Information and Documents?

In order to provide information in a timely and efficient manner, and to cut the expensive costs of printing and mailing, we are encouraging everyone to access our website for the most current information as well as our completed planning documents: www.fs.fed.us/kipz. Documents are and will be available on compact disc, at local libraries and all Forest Service offices within the KIPZ.

Field Trips on the IPNF

Respond by Aug. 9th

(More info on Page 2)

Bonnars Ferry:

Aug. 14th (Sat)

9:00–4:00

Coeur d'Alene/Silver Valley:

Aug. 21st (Sat)

9:00–4:00

Priest:

Aug. 25th (Weds)

9:00–4:00

Sandpoint:

Aug 28th (Sat)

9:00–4:00

St. Maries:

Sept. 11th (Sat)

8:00–4:00

REVISION SCHEDULE

August 2004

Verification of Significant Issues and Identification of Preliminary Alternatives based on public feedback.

Fall 2004

Field trips on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Public/workgroup meetings to share how public comments are being considered in development of DEIS and proposed revised Forest Plans (PRFP). Team working on DEIS and PRFPs.

Winter 2004/2005

Release Draft EIS and proposed revised Forest Plans with 90-day public review and comment period.

Winter 2005/2006

Issue Final EIS. Publish two Records of Decision (ROD) with two revised Forest Plans.

Field Trips

Idaho Panhandle National Forests:

Attendees of Workgroup meetings this past year expressed interest in having field trips on the IPNFs to look at different projects on-the-ground and see how Forest Plan direction affects project level decisions. In response to workgroup requests, field trips have been scheduled and are identified below. All of the field trips will address specific revision related topics; however, there will be opportunities to discuss all of the revision topics throughout the day. All of the field trips will generally be over by 4:00 pm. **REMEMBER: Lunch and Water.**

If you are planning attending any of the field trips, please email or call by [August 9, 2004](#):

- 1) Send an email to jodikramer@fs.fed.us (or)
- 2) Call the local District Office: Bonners Ferry (208-267-5561), Fernan (208-664-2318), Wallace (208-752-1221), Priest (208-443-2512), Sandpoint (208-263-5111), St. Maries (208-245-2531) or Supervisors Office (208-765-7223).

| <u>Community</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Where to Meet</u> | <u>Trip Destination</u> |
|--|-------------|-------------|---|---|
| Bonners Ferry | 8/14 (Sat) | 9:00-4:00 | Bonners Ferry District Office | Boulder/Katka area |
| <u>Main Topics:</u> Vegetation management and Access | | | | |
| Coeur d'Alene & Silver Valley | 8/21 (Sat) | 9:00-4:00 | Meet at Fernan FS Office @ 9:00, travel to Wallace FS Office & pickup anyone else @ 10:30 | Silver Valley Fuels Reduction Projects |
| <u>Main Topics:</u> Access/Recreation & Fuels Reduction | | | | |
| Priest | 8/25 (Sat) | 9:00-4:00 | Priest Lake District Office | Kalispell creek Watershed |
| <u>Main Topics:</u> Aquatics/wildlife restoration, & vegetation | | | | |
| Sandpoint | 8/28 (Sat) | 9:00-4:00 | Sandpoint District Office | Pack Saddle Mountain |
| <u>Main Topics:</u> Access/Recreation, IRAs, & vegetation | | | | |
| St. Maries | 9/11 (Sat) | 8:00-4:00 | St. Maries District Office | Upper Joe/Mallard Larkins |
| <u>Main Topics:</u> IRAs, proposed wilderness, access and fire use | | | | |

What to Bring on the Field Trip

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Water * Lunch * Good walking shoes * Sunscreen | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Appropriate clothing (if needed, rain gear) * Sunglasses * Hat (if needed) |
|---|--|

Kootenai National Forest:

At this time, the Kootenai National Forest (KNF) is not having field trips until interest is expressed by the public. If anyone is interested in field trips on the KNF, please contact your local Eureka District Ranger: Glen McNitt (406-296-2536), Murphy Lake District Ranger Betty Holder (406-882-4451), Troy District Ranger Mike Balboni (406-295-4693), Libby District Ranger Malcolm Edwards (406-293-7773), Trout Creek District Ranger Brian Avery (406-827-3533), or Forest Planner Kirsten Kaiser (406-283-7659).

What We Heard You Say?

The top 4 Issues that we heard a lot about through the scoping comments and at the Workgroup meetings were:

- ◆ Access
 - Motorized/Non-motorized/Cross-country travel
 - Road Management Issues
 - Related issues or impacts on (ie. wildlife, watersheds)
- ◆ Inventoried Roadless and Proposed Wilderness Areas
 - Recommendations and Management
- ◆ Contributions to Community Economics
- ◆ Timber Production/Healthy Forests



Pend Oreille GA Workgroup

Issues that generally most people agreed on were:

- ◆ Maintain access to National Forests.
- ◆ Maintain some level of contribution to local economy.
- ◆ Maintain and/or restore Healthy Forests.

Issues that generally most people did not agree on were:

- ◆ Recommendations for and management of Proposed Wilderness Areas and Inventoried Roadless Areas.
- ◆ Level of access and types of use allowed and where.
- ◆ Intensity of management and types of tools to use for management on National Forest System (NFS) lands.



Libby GA Workgroup

In general, the comments that we heard during the scoping process were very diverse, with some agreement on broad issues and very little agreement on intensity or level of management for these issues. Following are some examples of the comments we received:

Access and Recreation

- *"We want access with more ATV trails cross-country."*
- *"Motorized use should be confined to designated system roads and trails and should not be permitted cross-country."*
- *Workgroup statement: "Motorized, wheeled cross-country travel should not be allowed on NFS lands. Use should be restricted to trails or specially designated "high/concentrated use" areas. There is no location appropriate for a concentrated use area in the Pend Oreille GA."*

Watersheds and Aquatic Species

- *"Any resource extraction or road building that would damage watersheds, stream or river conditions, or fish health should be permanently and immediately halted."*
- *"Should be thinning in watersheds more to aid in watershed management."*
- *Workgroup statement: "Focus restoration in the not properly functioning watersheds first in the Coeur d'Alene Geographic Area."*

Vegetation

- *"Protect areas of old growth and retain more old trees."*
- *"Implement management practices that deter not enhance the spread of noxious weeds."*
- *Workgroup statement: "As a priority, treat weeds along roads and trails and in the WUI in the Libby Geographic Area."*

Inventoried Roadless (IRAs) and Proposed Wilderness Areas

- *"Keep the wilderness we have now but don't make any more wilderness."*
- *"The new plan must include, and actively advocate for, substantially more wilderness acres than the 1987 proposal."*
- *"Manage all IRAs as wilderness. This is particularly important in the Yaak."*
- *"The IRAs need to be managed as backcountry, not wilderness, allowing winter motorized use."*
- Workgroup statement: *"Proposed wilderness should be managed the same as IRAs, not as wilderness unless actually designated."*

Wildlife

- *"We must protect the grizzly bear habitat and all endangered species."*
- *"The grizzly bear management strategy is another area of contention where we need a standard to protect the people's needs."*
- Workgroup statement: *"Manage wildlife consistent with social and economic needs and emphasis of local social and cultural traditions in the Clark Geographic Area."*

Fire Risk

- *"Reduce the possibility of catastrophic fire immediately."*
- *"The current trend to restore the forest via increased use of prescribed fire is unfeasible and impractical."*
- Workgroup statement: *"Utilize timber harvest, prescribed fire, etc. adjacent to areas where prescribed fire or wildland fire use is a management option in the St. Joe Geographic Area."*

Timber Production

- *"It is essential that the KNF manage the developed lands so that they truly sustain long-term forest health, including water, wildlife and fiber production."*
- *"The revised forest plan should recommend fewer lands for timber production and should propose more lands for ecological restoration, including prescribed fire and road removal and Wilderness designation."*
- Workgroup statement: *"Restoration of forest health, including wildlife habitat, should be accomplished through a variety of methods including...Harvest maximum sustainable yields that support forest health."*

How Did We Analyze All the Comments?

We reviewed 1,300 letters/emails and all of the Workgroup Desired Condition statements using the Content Analysis approach. This approach does not tally the number of respondents "for" or "against" the comment. The primary intent of this method is to capture comments in the public's own language. It captures and displays public concerns and reasoning about particular issues or actions—regardless of the reviewer's opinion about its logic or worth. The result is an organized summary (Scoping Content Analysis Report) of what the public's concerns are toward forest management. The KIPZ website will soon include this Report and a Summary of how the comments were addressed by the Revision Team. All of the Workgroup meeting notes and Desired Condition statements are on the website.

The Scoping Content Analysis Report includes the following categories of comments: 1) Comments that substantiated the issues identified in the AMS and/or identified any other significant issues that should be addressed in revision; 2) Comments from the June 2003 Community Meetings, 3) Comments received from Tribes, 4) Comments that were specific to Desired Conditions for a resource within a specific Geographic Area, which is what the workgroups submitted, and 5) Comments submitted on the Caribou Strategy. The Revision Team is currently reviewing all comments in the Scoping Content Analysis Report and Desired Condition Table and considering them as they develop the Draft EIS and Revised Forest Plans. In the fall of this year, the District Rangers will be reconvening the Workgroups and having public meetings to share how the comments have been used in the draft planning documents and in the revision process.

Proposed Rules, Forest Plan Amendments, New Laws & Other Projects that Affect Forest Plan Revision

| Project Name | Project Description and Status | Comment Period Deadline Who to Contact for Info |
|--|---|--|
| State Petitions for Inventoried Roadless Areas | Published in Federal Register on 7/16/04. This proposed rule would replace the existing Roadless Area Conservation Rule with a State Petitioning Process for Inventoried Roadless Area Management. Website: www.roadless.fs.fed.us | Sept. 14, 2004 |
| Travel Management: Designated Routes & Areas for Motor Vehicle Use | Published in Federal Register on 7/15/04 (RIN 0596-AC11). The proposed rule amends regulations regarding travel management on NFS lands to clarify policy related to motor vehicle use, including the use of off-highway vehicles. Website: www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv | Sept. 13, 2004 |
| Forest Plan Grizzly Bear Amendment | Final EIS and Record of Decision released in March 2004. This programmatic record of decision (ROD) amends direction that addresses grizzly bear management in the Selkirk and Cabinet-Yaak recovery zones. Website: www.fs.fed.us/r1/wildlife/igbc | Contact: Kirsten Kaiser 406-283-7659 email: kkaiser@fs.fed.us |
| Northern Rockies Forest Plan Lynx Amendment | Draft EIS released Jan. 2004. Comment period ended 4/15/04. Proposal is to amend plans on 18 National Forests and four BLM administrative units to incorporate direction to manage lynx habitat. Website: www.fs.fed.us/r1/planning/lynx.html | Contact: Joan Dickerson 406-329-3314 email: jdickerson@fs.fed.us |
| Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA) | HFRA requires Counties to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans. See Website: www.idahofireplan.id.gov or www.fs.fed.us/kipz <u>ID Contact:</u> Peggy Polichio (208-666-8646) <u>MT Contacts:</u> Lincoln County: Dan Rose- 406-295-7492, Ed Levert- 406-293-2847 Sanders County: Kurt Werst-406-827-0712, Bill Nageli-406-827-6955 | See other column |
| BLM Resource Management Plan | The BLM, Coeur d'Alene field office will soon begin preparation of a resource management plan (RMP). Website: www.id.blm.gov/planning/cdarmp/index.htm | Contact: Scott Pavey 208-769-5059 email: scott_pavey@blm.gov |

How to Contact Us & Where to Send Your Comments:

Contacts: Idaho Panhandle National Forest - Jodi Kramer, Public Affairs
Phone: (208) 765-7235 Fax: (208) 765-7307
Kootenai National Forest - Kirsten Kaiser
Phone: (406) 283-7659 Fax: (406) 283-7709

Website: www.fs.fed.us/kipz

Comments: **Email:** r1_kipz_revision@fs.fed.us
Regular Mail: US Forest Service, Attn: Jodi Kramer
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

Note: Names of individuals commenting on Forest Service proposals may be released under the Freedom of Information Act.

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Please fill in your email address below or subscribe to this service on our web page at www.fs.fed.us/kipz (OR) if you want to receive hard mail, you need to return coupon below.

What is on the Website?

- News Releases and KIPZ News
- Documents as they are released
- Timeline and Meeting Schedules
- Background Information on Forest Plans
- Maps you can view or print
- Public comments



Fill in the information below and return this to:

USDA Forest Service
KIPZ Revision Team – ATTN: Jodi Kramer
3815 Schreiber Way
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

email address (please print carefully)

9999999999@9999999999

name_____

organization_____

street address_____

city_____ state_____ zip_____

Check here for email mailing list

Check here for regular-mail list



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