

## Yaak GA Meeting 3-11-04

### **Present:**

Keith Haggerty	Jack Young	<u>FS Present:</u>
Mike Michlig	Robyn King	Mike Balboni
Dario Scarabosio	Sharon Sullivan	Kathy Mohar
Cassia Leidigh	Mary Campbell	Mark Natale
Cherith Leidigh	Charles Leidigh	
Dominik Schmidig	Pam Fuqua	
Ron Brown	Linda Stehlik	
Jim Mayo	Wade Kidder	
Scott Daily	Jerry Wandler	
	Charlie Wilson	

Following introductions, Mike Balboni reviewed the mission statement, ground rules and noted that the KIPZ comment form is available if individuals want to submit forest plan revision comments. The notes from the 3/3/04 meeting were approved as written.

There was some discussion of the federal funds that go to counties for the RAC projects and the Title I monies for road and school funding. These programs are not dependent on timber receipts. These funding mechanisms expire in 3 years so the counties are discussing what they will lobby for after that.

### **Timber DFC**

The group developed a DFC for timber production, with some vegetation elements included. Some members had drafted suggestions prior to the meeting and these were utilized in the discussion.

There was a question about whether landowners could treat adjacent FS lands, utilizing the small diameter trees for firewood and poles. Mike explained that when the landowner has the only access to those FS lands, so there would be no competition for the material, the FS can issue a permit to the landowner to allow such use.

Mike also noted that the district will be making slash piles available to the public for firewood with the help of county funds to pay for separating, and in some cases moving, the material. The question was asked why the FS can't leave roads open following harvest to allow the public to directly cut firewood from slash piles, and Mike explained that when the FS closes a gate it is usually because of prior agreements made with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to maintain grizzly bear habitat.

### **Process**

There was some discussion about whether to develop a watershed DFC. Not much interest was expressed for another DFC development meeting, but Mike said that if that changes to let him know. So the group decided to bring the DFC process to a close with no further meetings.

At the request of the group, Mike agreed to organize a separate presentation on the TMDL water quality study for the Yaak River once that information is available. Also, prior to the release of the Forest Plan Revision DEIS, the forest planning team intends to host a meeting later this summer. At this meeting they will present preliminary alternatives to the workgroups prior to issuing the DEIS, to ensure that the workgroup's DFCs were considered.