

08/29/05 Monday

IPNF Forest Plan Meeting  
Elks Lodge, St. Maries, ID

**Working Group Members:** Dan Wise, Joe Epler, Dale Dimico, Dave Spicer, Neil Smith, Bernie Lionberger, Dan Hanks, John Walters, Bryce Coulter, Dave Brummer, Ed Spooner, Mike Minier, Representative Dick Harwood, Blair Peet.

**Public Attendance:** Julianna Parker, Mike McLean, Dale Harwood Jr., Gary Gibson, Ken Weaver, Steve Michael, Jessie Ragan, Don Darter, Rex W. Smith, Don Capparelli, Kenneth W. Jeffrey, Dale and Becky Johnston, Robert McDonald, Mike and Jeri Gee, Reva Dockery, Donnie Ely, Bret Nelson, Tom and Natilia Christensen, Loy Christensen, Chad Short, Allen Townsend, Bill and Mary Whitney, Julie and Mike Lemke, Chad Nelson, Richard Griffin, John Ferris, Jerry and Cathy Nelson, M. L. Murphy, Richard Fuller, Steve Woodin, Tony Spooner, Tim Fleener, Darrell Dugger, Ed and Claudia Spooner, Kyle Sexton, Cherie Pratt, Greg Beplorte, Carol Martin, Dean Gentry, Gary Becktel, T.J. Grieser, Randy Croson, Roy and Linda Michael, Stan Taylor, Larry Bencik, Jay Bencik, Mae Coulter, Scott Beplate, Ralph Bartholdt, David and Kim Bencik, Colin Port, LeRoy Beckman, Paul Elders, Vanessa Edwards, Chris Lings, Debra and Clint Croson, Maurice Johnson, Troy Wise, Tim Grubham, James Mackey, Scott Manes, Don St. George, Murl Sines, Sara Bencik, Nick Gallagher, Judy Hanks, Priscilla Derry, Sherrie Lionberger, Robert Williams, Nicole Boller, Helena and James Crane, Ed Reid, Daune Chilberg, Jim Schwartzman, Michael Buell, Jack Edwards, David Schiermeister, Melissa Scheffelmanier, Norman Smeltzer, Kyle Grubham, Lloyd Grubham, Ken Bechtel, Mary Marguads, Donald Robinson, Wayne Daniel, Timothy Arnold, Marcie Fowler, Elon Gilbert, Susan Miller, Shellie Schaffer, Lance Cordle, Michelle Becktel, Karen and Fred Sindt, Ward and Bonnie Morris, Glen Talbott, John Kennon, Christina and Blake Minier, Renee Walters, Doug Nelson, Rick Huddleston, Gary Schwartz, Ken Schiermeister, Bruce and Linda Wells, J. Wesley Goodwin, Kenny Osier, Lawrence Derry, Charles Smith, Bill Barben, John Pugh, Jeff and Paula Spooner, Wade Germeaux, Doug Harwood, Pat Kesley, Tony Rothauge, Gene Peet, Christina Coll, Dick McEwan, Lawrence Banderob, Scott Sexton, David Ving, Sandra Mitchell, All Geareckene, Ronald Derry, Virgil Bailey, Kristi and Rick Reaves, Dave Overman, David O'Brian, Bill Badgley, Jack Cleavinger, Dave Nelson, Michael Edwards, Jim Hansen, Troy Sibert, Yulanda Crowe, Jeremy Brebner, Allen Shelden, Rick Haeg, Debbie Dustin, Charles Grubbs, and Randy Harpole.

**Forest Service representatives:** Ranotta McNair, Forest Supervisor, Chuck Mark, District Ranger, Jodi Kramer, Forest Plan Revision Public Affairs, Kent Wellner, Forest Recreation Planner, Gary Ford, Forest Planner Team Leader, Cornie Hudson, St. Joe District NEPA Coordinator, Mary Price, District Recreation Program Manager, Tracy Gravelle, District rails Coordinator, Denise Best (Notetaker), District Recreation.

There was a large group in attendance, approximately 100 people. Chuck Mark provided a brief overview of the Forest Plan process to date. He indicated a power point presentation, maps, etc, were available at the Federal Building for those who were new and would like to learn about to the Forest Planning process. The group preferred to remain at the Elks and participate in the meeting there. Some general discussion items and questions:

Can recommended Wilderness boundaries be changed? Yes.

Question regarding managing recommended Wilderness, i.e. excluding snowmobiling. Response: If recommended as Wilderness, it would be managed as such. Group can propose changes. There was discussion regarding what activities are allowed or not allowed in recommended Wilderness.

Inventoried Roadless Areas – how can they have roads in them?

Response: Generally these areas were designated after haul routes and old historic mining roads were developed. The Governor’s petition for Inventoried Roadless is occurring at the same time as the Forest Plan Revision, but is a completely separate process. The public will have the opportunity to provide input at the meetings held by the County Commissioners.

Jack Buell, Benewah County Commissioner stated there would be a public meeting in the near future regarding the Inventoried Roadless Areas Petition. He stated that the county does not want more Wilderness.

Ed Spooner, St. Maries City Councilman, read a letter from the council stating that the City of St. Maries is opposed to additional Wilderness.

There was a request for maps of existing conditions and Management Area definitions at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, August 30, 2005 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Elks Lodge, St. Maries Idaho

Agenda Items: Timber harvest, timber harvest in non-motorized areas, designations on the Starting Option map.

## **WORKING GROUP PROPOSALS:**

### **Mallard Larkins Recommended Wilderness Area**

1. **Proposal:** Decrease recommended Wilderness from the 1987 plan to the original Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area. The non-hatched purple adjacent to the Pioneer Area would become Management Area 5, Backcountry.

#### ***Rationale:***

- There has been a significant increase in motorized use in these areas.
- Idaho, Washington, Montana are within 1 days drive, with over 12 million acres of Wilderness available. There are 4 million acres in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness, Gospel Hump Wilderness, etc. in Idaho.
- The State of Idaho has not added any recommended Wilderness since 1987.
- There is no money derived from Wilderness for the local economy.
- Congress has not designated Wilderness in Idaho for the last 20 years.

2. **Proposal:** Retain the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area designation and expand it to the north to Surveyors Ridge, leaving FS road #395 open.

#### ***Rationale:***

- We could use motorized equipment to maintain the trails and the Mallard Peak Lookout.

3. **Proposal:** All of the 1987 recommended Wilderness, minus the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area would be designated back-country non-motorized.

#### ***Rationale:***

- The work group previously agreed to this.

*-There has been a significant increase in motorized use. This proposal would protect the back country characteristics of the 1987 recommended Wilderness area.*

## **Grandmother/Grandfather Recommended Wilderness Area**

1. **Proposal:** Change the Starting Option map designation of Management Area 1b (Recommended Wilderness) and 2b (Eligible and Suitable Wild, Scenic and Recreational Rivers) to Management Area 5b (Backcountry) or 6a (General Forest – Low Intensity Restoration). Leave motorized trails open.

### ***Rationale:***

*-Recent investment of money spent to maintain trails.  
-State OHV dollars were used on the trail reconstruction.  
-Increase in the motorized use is occurring.*

2. **Proposal:** Return back to the original Grandmother Mountain Wilderness Study Area boundary. Eliminate the recommended Wilderness shown on the Starting Option map, and manage that area as motorized.

### ***Rationale:***

*-Same as rationales listed above.*

3. **Proposal:** If Grandmother Mountain gets recommended as Wilderness or non-motorized, manage existing roads and trails to historic use.

### ***Rationale:***

*-Same as rationales listed above.  
-Negative impact to the economy if non-motorized.*

## **Management Area Designations:**

1. **Proposal:** Get rid of the “a” and “b” designations and have a straight numbering system, e.g. 1 – 17.

### ***Rationale:***

*-There is too much confusion with the “a’s” and “b’s”.  
-As the process continues, an “a” or “b” can get lost or dropped, causing problems.*

2. **Proposal:** For Management Areas 5 & 6, get rid of the “a’s” and “b’s”.

### ***Rationale:***

*-Same as above*

Website for more information: [www.fs.fed.us/kipz/ga/index](http://www.fs.fed.us/kipz/ga/index)