

**St Joe Workgroup Meeting  
St. Maries Federal Building  
April 22, 2004**

**Work Group Members:** George Currier, Dale Dimico, Bernie Lionberger, Denise Best, Dick Harwood, Arlo Slack, Dave Spicer, Will Judge, Mike Kerttu, Joe Epler, John Walters, Wes Case, and Dave Galantuomini.

**Forest Service:** Chuck Mark, Kimberly Johnson, Kent Wellner (Core Revision Team Member for Recreation/Wilderness, and Ken Gebhardt

**Review and Approval of 4/14/04 Meeting Minutes** - Notes were approved by the workgroup.

**Wildlife Desired Condition Statement – Handout**

Dave Spicer had taken the comments and statements from the last meeting and drafted a wildlife desired condition statement. Chuck Mark asked workgroup members to review the DC statement and provide comments before the next meeting.

**Access and Recreation**

New workgroup members were present. Chuck Mark briefly reviewed the Workgroup and Forest Plan revision process. Kent Wellner briefly summarized the type of information the Core Revision Team is looking at and how they will use this information for the Access/Recreation Topic.

**Question: How will Access and Recreation DC information be used by the Planning Team?** Generally, access will be identified for each management area by motorized and non-motorized use during both summer and winter periods. The Forest Plan will set the stage for what will happen in a particular management area. The Districts will determine the specifics e.g. what trails or roads will be opened or closed to motorized or other uses.

**Question: Will backcountry airstrips be included in the Forest Plan?** Airstrips have really not been addressed in this planning process. It should be a part of the process if there is interest. If it is addressed it would probably be put into the Forest –Wide Standards and Guidelines Section.

Kent Wellner provided information on developed and dispersed sites as well as outfitter/guide and concessionaire programs.

**Question: Have management area lines been established?** No. They will be established by the Districts and will likely follow watershed boundaries.

**Question: Will larger management areas facilitate the NEPA process?** There is a chance that this will help to improve the NEPA process. The larger management areas will definitely assist the Districts during project design and implementation.

Discussion continued regarding access restrictions and management areas on the Central Zone.

**Question: Will the IPNF management areas be the same as the Clearwater and Nez Perce National Forests?** The numbers may not be the same but the Forests are trying to be consistent by starting from the same management direction template. The Rangers are already communicating a need to be consistent between and among Forests.

## **Access and Recreation (Motorized and Non-Motorized)**

### **Issue # 1 - Motorized and Non-Motorized Area Allocation - Handout**

#### Discussion Points – Handout

- Review of Congressionally designated areas that do not allow motorized access – Two areas in the St. Joe GA.
- Review of direction that prohibits or restricts motorized use within the GA (e.g. Lynx Conservation Assessment Strategy, Grizzly Bear Access Amendment Decision, Caribou Strategy, InFish, Elk Management, Inventoried Roadless Areas, proposed wilderness, etc.).

### **Development of DC Statements**

Statements developed and recommended by the workgroup:

- Participate with other agencies to establish consistent definitions for ATVs, OHVs, and single-track vehicles.
- Restrict 4-wheeled vehicles (ATVs and 4x4s) on single-track trails.
- Forest Service should maintain system roads regularly rather than waiting for a timber sale.
- Provide access for all recreation users and emphasize specific management areas that are conducive to a particular recreation use.
- Provide and/or maintain areas for intermediate to expert motorcycle use.

### **Access Opportunities in the St. Joe GA**

Areas identified by workgroup members:

- Emphasize low, summer motorized use in the Mallard Larkins Pioneer Area and Proposed Wilderness Areas.
- Maintain Slate Creek and Big Creek drainages for motorized experiences.
- Manage winter-motorized use in critical big game winter areas.

### **Homework**

- Respond to Access and Recreation Issues #2 and #3 before the next meeting. Workgroup members need to fill out the sheets for the next meeting.
- Review Wildlife DC statement.

**Next Meeting (s):** April 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Also April 29<sup>th</sup>.