

**St. Joe Workgroup Meeting
April 1, 2004**

Work Group Members: Wes Case, John Walters, Denise Best, George Currier, Dave Galantumini

Forest Service: Chuck Mark, Gary Ford

Meeting Agenda

Chuck Mark presented the agenda for the meeting. The focus of the meeting was to be completing desired condition statements for vegetation, fire and wildlife. If time permits the group would start working on desired condition statements for watershed and aquatics.

Review and Approval of March 18th meeting notes

The group approved the Draft Notes.

DESIRED CONDITION STATEMENTS:

1) Additions to Desired Condition Statements for VEGETATION

a) Weed Risk

Priority areas: 1) Keep weeds out of Mallard-Larkins Proposed Wilderness Area, and Research Natural Areas, 2) start treatments where the greatest extent has occurred on national Forest and work back to the origin, 3) treat infestations that are adjacent to uninfested private lands, 4) along the St. Joe River corridor.

- Encourage cooperation and partnerships with user groups to address weed and invasive plant infestations. (where does this statement best go?)
- Education and info dissemination on weeds and invasive plant species (where does this statement best go?)

Describe why these are the Priority areas?

- 1) wildlife forage
- 2) (Comment on when weeds are removed/treated we should be planting desirable species to keep weeds from coming back.) Need native ground cover.

b) Insect and Disease/ vegetation condition and trend

Add the following to the last sentence in the DC (i.e. wilderness and research natural areas) by creating buffers.

Describe why this is a priority: Forest health promotes long-term sustainability, a healthy economy, and reduces risk of catastrophic wildfire.

2) Additions to Desired Condition Statement for FIRE

Change spelling from plan to play in the third bullet under Wildland Urban Interface.

Move three “focus” statements under Wildland Fire Use Areas down to the *Identify Priority Areas*

Add the following statements under Wildland Fire Use Areas

- Empower line officers to assume more risk to allow natural and prescribed ignitions to burn under prescribed conditions.
- Utilize timber harvest, prescribed fire, etc surrounding areas where prescribed fire or wildland fire use is a management option.

Discussion: USFS can use wildland fire use or prescribed fire in inventoried roadless areas.

Priority Areas (Fire Risk)

Utilize prescribed fire to address insect and disease problems.

Remove merchantable forest products before implementing prescribed fire when site conditions and management direction allows.

Describe why this is a priority. (Fire Risk)

Maintain or restore forest health

Economic benefits to local communities

Lower fire suppression costs.

3) Additions to Desired Condition Statement for WILDLIFE (DC is still on flipcharts not yet on a handout)

Allow earlier regulated access to coincide with Fish and Game predator hunting season to benefit wildlife populations.

Wildlife Priority Areas

Increase elk habitat

Predator management through increased and timely access.

Manage for featured species, like elk and deer, which are socially and economically desirable.

Chuck and Kim will put wildlife statement together for group to review at the next meeting. Will also need to finalize Fire Risk DC. Group is done with Vegetation DC.

4) Start on Desired Condition Statement for WATERSHED/AQUATICS

Group did not have time to start this one.

WRAPUP:

Homework – Chuck handed out materials for the next meeting's topics, which includes:

1. Revision Topic – Access and Recreation
2. Revision Topic – Inventoried Roadless Areas and Proposed Wilderness Areas

**Next Meeting April 14th will work on watershed/aquatics. May meet on April 22.
Will meet on April 29.**