



Summary of Public Comments and Public Involvement

We would like to take this opportunity to provide you with a brief summary of where we've been and where we're heading in regards to how you've been involved, how we're using your comments, and how we will continue to involve you and utilize your comments in developing our revised Forest Plans.

From April 30, 2002 to May 31, 2004, we had extensive involvement from many of you, through comments that were submitted during the scoping process and through the workgroups work on Geographic Area Desired Conditions. The Revision Team carefully reviewed all of the public comments and workgroup input, summarized and considered it in development of components of the draft Forest Plans. The review of all public input has resulted in many products, including:

- What We Heard From Workgroups- comments that focused on Desired Condition (attached to this page)
- Scoping Comment Summary (Scoping Content Analysis and Summary Document – at www.fs.fed.us/kipz)
- Complete Summary of Workgroup comments (available upon request)

Your input validated the seven revision topics identified in the Analysis of the Management Situation (AMS), and provided information for desired conditions and other components of the Forest Plan. The attached document is a summary, which reflects workgroup and other public comments that were specific to Desired Conditions on each Forest and/or Geographic Area. As part of the Forest Plan components, a summary of our public involvement activities, as well as how the team and the decision-makers considered these comments will be developed.

On May 12, 2005, our planning process changed when the Regional Forester made a decision for our two Forests to use the new 2005 Planning Rule. What didn't change is that all of your comments and hard work by the workgroups over the past two years is still helpful to us in developing the components of the revised Forest Plans. Workgroup input, as well as public, agency, and tribal comments, will continue to be used by the Forest Supervisors and the KIPZ team to build and refine the following plan new components:

- Desired Conditions
- Strategy, which includes the Objectives
- Design Criteria, which includes the Guidelines
- Special areas and Suitable Uses

We cannot thank you, the public, enough for your extensive participation in making the past efforts a wonderful example of collaboration. In fact, the willingness of all participants (workgroups, public and the KIPZ Team) to be communicative, responsive, and to promote an active exchange of information, desires, and ideas has brought us to these meetings where we can start talking about the Starting Option map. We hope you will continue to work with us!



DESIRED CONDITIONS SUMMARY

YAAK GEOGRAPHIC AREA WORKGROUP

From August 2003 through May 2004, there were Workgroup meetings in which people discussed their Desired Conditions for a specific Geographic Area or the Forest. The attached Summary:

- **ONLY** reflects the workgroup comments and letters received during the scoping period that were specific to Desired Conditions on each Forest and/or Geographic Area.
- Is **NOT** a draft of the Desired Condition statements for the revised Forest Plans. This Summary is one source of information the team is using to write the Desired Conditions, both at the Forest and Geographic Area levels. We are using other information to help write the Desired Conditions (ie. Starting Option map after the public has submitted changes; specialists on-the-ground knowledge; and laws, regulations and policies we must adhere to)
- Is **one piece** of our Content Analysis of the scoping and workgroup comments. Some of the comments submitted during the Workgroup meetings and public comment process that are not addressed in the attached summary have been addressed in one or more of the following ways:
 - Incorporated into the following management direction areas: goals, objectives, guidelines, management areas/suitability, special areas, and starting option.
 - May be analyzed at the site-specific project level, where appropriate. Some comment address topics that are outside the scope of the Forest Plan revision process but that are still a Forest Service issue. However through the Forest Plan process, Management Area (MA) allocation and/or direction may or may not allow consideration of this opportunity. For example, Forest Plans will classify all National Forest System (NFS) lands as either suitable for motorized or non-motorized uses for both summer and winter seasons. Through subsequent Travel Management planning and public involvement, decisions will be made regarding individual road and trail management.
 - Addressed by laws, regulations or National and Regional Forest Service policies and are not repeated in the Forest Plan. Other comments are outside Forest Service authority and/or outside the scope of Forest Plan Revision.
- Reflects **areas of general agreement**, where possible, regarding Desired Condition statements. This does not mean these statements reflect consensus on any particular issue as this was not the goal of these meetings and it also was not a voting exercise. They simply identify areas of discussion in which general agreement occurred between the participants that attended that particular meeting.
 - IPNFs workgroups used a process called the Nominal Group Technique to help participants determine areas of general agreement within the revision topics.
 - KNF workgroups did not use this process but some workgroups did reach general agreement on some of the revision topics. However, some of the revision topics in some of the workgroups only reflect a range of desires for management.
- Consists of some Desired Condition statements that are “how to” statements instead of reflecting the condition that the group wants to see on the land or resource conditions. For example, the comment focuses on what silviculture treatments the Forest Service should use, what road improvement activities the Forest Service should implement, etc. The “how to” statements will not be included in the Desired Condition statements in the Revised Forest Plans. In general, the Forest Plan will emphasize what the Desired Condition is and leave it to project implementation to determine the appropriate tools to use to move the area toward the Desired Condition.

WHAT WE HEARD FROM THE Yaak Geographic Area (GA) Workgroup

The input in the following desired condition summaries sometimes reflect areas of general agreement but in some cases they reflect a range of desires for a specific concern statement within a revision topic. For example, within the revision topic *Timber Production*, concern statements related to the question, “*What do you see as appropriate objectives for timber harvest on NFS lands?*” may vary from a desire to utilize harvest for a range of management objectives (fuels reduction, local economies, etc.) to the desire to harvest only trees on the ground and diseased trees.

REVISION TOPIC – VEGETATION

Desired condition is to have an accessible, healthy forest with balanced structure and diverse species composition. Tools available to achieve this desired condition include, but are not limited to timber management; prescribed fire; fire use and noxious weed treatment. An emphasis on management and treatment of the existing noxious weed component and controlling its spread is a specific desire within the Yaak GA. Methods of accomplishing this may include aggressive public education and awareness programs; chemical, mechanical, and biological controls; multi-faceted partnerships; and strict management guidelines.

REVISION TOPIC – TIMBER PRODUCTION

Desired condition is to use timber harvest as a tool to achieve many objectives including healthy forest composition and structure; reduced fire risk; utilization of wood resources and economic stability; improved wildlife habitat; maintenance of existing roads; and to provide funds for watershed improvement activities. A desire to use smaller salvage sales, stewardship, and categorical exclusions to accomplish one or more of the aforementioned activities was emphasized in the Yaak GA.

REVISION TOPIC – ACCESS AND RECREATION

NOTE: It is important to note that the revised Forest Plan will classify all National Forest System (NFS) lands as either suitable for motorized uses or suitable for non-motorized uses for both summer and winter seasons. The Forest Plan will **not** make individual road and trail decisions. Travel Management Plans and project level planning will make individual roads and trails decisions. Travel Management Plans will be based, in part, on information in the Forest Plans. Specifically: 1) the motorized/non-motorized designations found in the Management Areas; and 2) the desired conditions for the Geographic Areas. These two items from the Forest Plan will be the foundation of the Travel Management Plan.

Desired conditions for **General** access and recreation include:

- Maintaining roads and trails for multiple uses including fire suppression, timber harvest, recreation, loop routes, hunting, forest rental opportunities, and firewood gathering.
- Promoting increased public awareness of regulations, diversity of users/uses, proper use techniques and reductions in user conflicts.

Summer Motorized

Desired conditions for summer motorized access include seasonal motorized loop routes and/or scenic viewing opportunities.

Winter Motorized

Desired conditions for Winter Motorized access is for safe winter motorized recreation use opportunities (snowmobile) through the maintenance of open roads year-round (e.g., brushing).

Dispersed Recreation Sites

Desired conditions for **Dispersed Recreation Sites** include adequate turnaround areas and safe parking, to include access around barriers for seasonal uses, and ensuring complimentary use of access and parking areas.