



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

PEND OREILLE 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 Pend Oreille Geographic Area (GA) Workgroup

REVISION TOPIC – VEGETATION

Desired condition is to have an accessible, productive, healthy forest with balanced and historic structure and diversity of species composition. Tools available to achieve this desired condition include, but are not limited to timber management; prescribed fire; fire use, noxious weed treatment, and public awareness/education programs. Emphasis was placed on utilizing mechanical treatments and prescribed fire to reduce overcrowding, reduce fuels, harvesting aggressive management for and treatment of noxious weeds to control and reduce spread (e.g., including vehicle washing, weed-free horse feed), and removal of off-site ponderosa pine.

The desire for Forest-wide Goal 1c includes increasing the amount of forests restored to or maintained in a healthy condition with reduced risk and damage from fires, insects and diseases, and invasive species. Geologically derived nutrients and micronutrients (i.e. potassium deficient) situations need to be considered in planning or activities.

REVISION TOPIC – FIRE

Desired condition includes a forest trend toward a more fire-tolerant stand composition while maintaining reasonable access (roads and trails) for fire suppression and evacuation. Specifically within:

The desired condition for a fire management plan includes natural fire regimes balanced with appropriate suppression efforts and monitoring and flexibility

The desire for Forest-wide Goal 1c - Forest Ecosystems includes increasing the amount of forests restored to or maintained in a healthy condition with reduced risk and damage from fires, insects and diseases, and invasive species.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)

Management activities should include utilizing prescribed fire, mechanical treatments, and harvest to reduce fuels near communities and revegetating areas; consider topographic features before treatment, treating areas affected by insect and disease, taking measures to reduce spread of weeds, recognizing the inherent fire risk associated with residing in an IRA (to include no expectation of fire management activities).

Wildland Fire Use Areas (WFUA)

Utilize wildland fire use plan (to include weather and topographic features), reduce fuels (mechanical and prescribed fire) prior implementing a wildland fire use plan, thin stands to historic levels and reduce fuels around power structures.

General Forest Areas

Utilize prescribed fire and mechanical treatment to reduce fuels and fire risk and return area to more natural fire regime. Specific desires included retaining access for management and recreation purposes, development of a wildland fire use plan for general forest areas, and better utilization of small wood products and hog fuel.

Forest Areas with Mixed Ownership

Management should include road access for fire suppression activities and utilization of mechanical treatments and prescribed fire to reduce fuels. The desires for fire suppression activities range from managing the same as General Forest Areas to managing the same as WUI areas.

Identify Wildland Fire Use Areas

Allow natural fires in which there are no timber products and where it won't affect natural resources (e.g., Scotchman Peak and proposed wilderness areas).

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; sustained utilization of wood resources and economic stability; improved wildlife habitat; maintenance of existing roads; and to provide funds for watershed improvement activities. Specific priorities for the Pend Oreille GA included use of stewardship programs, reducing appeals, base Forest Service budget on harvest levels and recreation, maintaining visual quality objectives, protecting vegetative and aquatic habitat, and preserving the area for public/recreation uses (e.g., hunting and special forest products).

High priorities for timber harvest include areas affected by insect and disease, urban interface areas, high fire risk areas, and salvage activities. Low priorities for timber harvest include old growth, wetlands and high-value scenic areas.

REVISION TOPIC – WATERSHEDS AND AQUATIC SPECIES

Desired condition addresses two major issues **Watershed Restoration (to include water quality/quantity and soil productivity)** and **Fisheries**.

Specific **Watershed Restoration** desires include:

- Prioritize Not Properly Functioning (NPF) and Functioning At Risk (FAR) watersheds.
- Trend all watersheds toward Properly Functioning Condition (PFC) and/or removal of streams from the 303d list.
- Prioritize streams/habitat containing T&E species.
- Prioritize, maintain, and protect all community drinking water systems (e.g., Priest River watershed).
- Maintain access to forest.
- To reduce erosion and soil loss and maintain fish populations.
- Balance between preserving public uses and managing for wildlife.
- Integration with resource management (e.g., harvest, mining, recreation, fire and road management).
- Utilize input from users/user groups.
- Reduce aquatic noxious weed populations and restore wetlands.

Specific **Fisheries** desires include:

- Restore streams to support fishable native fish populations (e.g., Pack River, Lightning Creek, Caribou Lake and Porcupine Lake).
- Restore bull trout population and other aquatic life in the following areas (e.g., Trestle Creek, Pack River, Lightning Creek, Grouse Creek).
- Improve fisheries without limiting access and/or removing dams, bridges etc.
- Maintain current areas and levels of fishable populations.
- Utilize best available science for management decisions.
- Maintain access while providing habitat protection.
- Desires for non-native fish ranged from no non-native fish to the following list of desired non-native fish Kokanee, tiger muskee, bass, lake trout, brook trout, German browns, and rainbow trout.
- Desire for a predominance of native species with no new non-native introductions.
- A recovered bull trout population is a desired condition.
- Desired amphibian populations and species include species of crawdads, crayfish, frogs, turtles, salamanders and macroinvertebrates.

REVISION TOPIC – IRAS AND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS

Desired condition for management of Iventoried Roadless Areas includes:

Criteria for IRAs Recommended for Wilderness Designation

Criteria include presence of adjacent wilderness, unique and/or rare plant species, fragile ecological areas, and historical and archaeological sites. Specific emphasis areas include planning and prioritizing wildlife corridors and associated linkages, watershed preservation, and controlling and/or reducing spread of noxious weeds in these areas

Which IRAs Proposed for Wilderness

Desired conditions included a range from no IRAs proposed for wilderness to IRAs contiguous to proposed wilderness.

Discussions of specific IRAs to propose for Wilderness designation included Pack Saddle, Buckhorn, Scotchman Peak and Selkirk Crest Cabinet Mountains; however, this topic will require further dialogue.

Management of IRAs Not Proposed for Wilderness Designation

Management of IRAs not proposed for Wilderness designation included a range of desires including retaining existing IRAs, managing roadless activity, vegetation management, managing for non-wilderness uses (e.g., harvest), allow motorized and mechanized uses, management as Wildland Fire Use Areas, added recreation opportunities and mixed trail use, and selecting areas for specific recreation uses.

Management of Proposed Wilderness Areas

Management should include development of Wildland Fire Use plan; maintain current level of uses, continuation of winter motorized uses, time limit placed on whether or not a proposed area becomes wilderness.

REVISION TOPIC – ACCESS AND RECREATION

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.

General Access and Recreation (includes general summer and winter uses (directly below) and summer/winter motorized uses, and summer/winter non-motorized uses) desired conditions and related discussions include the following:

- The desire for Forest-wide Goal 4 is to ensure access to NFS lands through the maintenance and improvement of roads and trails, while managing within the capability of ecosystems.
- Maintaining road and trail access to the Pend Oreille GA for multiple uses including recreation, vegetation management, fire suppression, and evacuation routes.
- Considering access changes at Pack River.
- Manage motorized and non-motorized recreation uses to maintain access while protecting all ecosystem resources (including T&E species) and related habitat areas.
- Reducing user conflict and promote respect for various forest uses/users.
- Increased winter non-motorized trail access and recreation uses.
- Considering increased motorized use on existing roads in Talache/Pearl/Packsaddle and Kilroy Lake areas and southeast side of Lake Pend Oreille.
- Development of OHV opportunities to enhance local economies.
- Managing for multiple use.
- No development of motorized recreation opportunities until restoration goals are met.
- Allow motorized and non-motorized recreation access on officially established roads and trails only.

Summer Motorized

Desired condition for summer motorized access includes providing adequate/improved access to Green Bay and Upper Pack River, currently open roads for use by OHVs, explore closing old roads and converting to ATV use (while protecting watershed and wildlife interests), and prohibit ATV use on single track trails.

Winter Motorized

Desired condition for winter motorized ranges from managing proposed wilderness as wilderness (e.g., no winter motorized use of Scotchman Peak area) to allowing winter motorized use of these areas. Suggestions also included restricting snowmobile use in areas of new tree plantings and wildlife habitat.

Summer Non-motorized

Discussions ranged from allowing some motorized use to allowing no motorized use in IRAs in the Pend Oreille GA.

Motorized, Wheeled Cross-Country Travel

Desired condition for motorized, wheeled cross-country access includes no restrictions on motorized, wheeled cross-country travel to roads and trails.

Developed Recreation Facilities

Desired condition for developed recreation facilities is for improvement, expansion and restoration of existing facilities and development of a facility at Beehive Lake trailhead.

REVISION TOPIC – WILDLIFE

Desired condition addresses both **wildlife habitat** and **access**.

Specific **wildlife habitat** concerns include managing vegetation within its historic range of variability (HRV) for both habitat and security needs; monitoring habitats and populations; restoring and maintaining T&E habitat; maintaining habitat for viable populations of caribou; and developing and maintaining habitat linkages and corridors. Vegetation management tools for these purposes include, but are not limited to thinning, integrated timber management practices, fuels reduction, prescribed burning, noxious weed control, use of youth to perform some work, and use of best available science.

- For the well-being of wildlife habitat areas, reduce populations of wild turkey and whitetail deer (e.g., issue more hunting tags).
- Do not introduce grizzly bears, wolves, mountain lion, and lynx to the Pend Oreille GA and allow for population control in certain situations (to include a balance between human and animal interests).
- Improve mule deer habitat and consider issuing more moose hunting tags to improve mule deer population.
- Bald eagle populations are adequate.
- Desirable (e.g., elk) and undesirable (e.g., black bear and grizzly bear) populations of wildlife in the Pend Oreille GA appear to be rising.
- Restore at-risk forest habitats identified in the AMS.
- Utilize cooperative efforts with agencies to coordinate management efforts.
- Reduce predator populations in the Pend Oreille GA.
- Provide increased notification related to the release of dangerous species (e.g., grizzly bears).
- Reopen areas closed in relation to caribou populations for winter motorized uses.
- Utilize and incorporate information and data gleaned from recreationists, users, and user groups in management decisions.
- Consider climate changes in relation to big game winter range (e.g., elk) in urban interface areas.
- Management decisions related to elk should incorporate property and agricultural damage sustained by their increasing presence (e.g., Boundary County).
- Utilize wildland fire use (to include a wildland fire use plan) to manage big game winter range in the WUI.

- All species of wildlife are important to future generations and should be managed (e.g., big game, raptors, songbirds, and predators). No new species, and no more grizzly bears, caribou or wolves.

Specific **access** concerns include providing recreational opportunities (motorized, non-motorized and Special Forest Products uses) while protecting habitat and security. Management tools to accomplish this may include short-term and/or seasonal closures and consistent access policies in habitat management areas.

INFORMATION, INTERPRETATION, AND EDUCATION

Desired condition is to utilize public education, interpretation, and information programs ("Tread Lightly") as tools to achieve the following: better understanding of rules, regulations and responsible use; clear, accurate, and consistent signage throughout the forest; increased awareness of various forest uses and users (appropriate forest uses, user ethics and etiquette, and resource and habitat protection). Emphasize use of information gathered from forest users.