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

COEUR D'ALENE 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
Coeur d'Alene Geographic Area (GA) Workgroup

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 managing for historic tree species is desired, such as an increase in the white pine component of the Forest, and an increase in other longer-lived seral species.

REVISION TOPIC – FIRE

Desired condition includes trending the forest toward the fire tolerant stand composition, while maintaining reasonable access (roads and trails) for fire suppression and evacuation. Specifically:

The desired condition includes a return to a fire tolerant stand composition.

The desire for Forest-wide Goal 1c includes creating and/or maintaining a healthy, accessible Forest condition using these tools (or a combination of): 1) Timber Management; 2) Fire Suppression; 3) Prescribed Fire (watershed protection as we use these tools); 4) Fire Use; and 5) Maintain Road Accessibility for Fire Suppression efforts in the WUI and for Timber Management to protect Old Jack Waite Mine (E. Fork Eagle Creek), Placer Creek, South of I-90 corridor to St. Joe Divide Communities.

Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)
Suppress all fires within those areas. Suggested WUI borders (Silver Valley group) include the St. Joe Divide to Kellogg Divide and South and West borders of Coeur d'Alene.

Wildland Fire Use Area (WFUA)
Further discussion of this topic will be necessary; however, some discourse (by Silver Valley group) included defining this area as "Backcountry, generally roadless areas," another suggestion pertained to no suppression of natural-caused fires in IRAs, but this would be dependent on fire conditions and the management direction for the IRA (which currently doesn't allow timber harvest). This is the recommended management direction for some but not all IRAs (some are within WUI).

General Forest Area
Mechanical treatments, including thinning and firewood gathering, should be used to reduce fuels loads and provide a full range of forest wood products. Prescribed fire and Wildland Fire should also be used in the general forest area to reduce risk and improve habitats. Fire activities should maintain road accessibility for suppression efforts. Specific priorities for fire suppression access include the wildland urban interface, communities, and other forest areas such as Old Jack Waite Mine (East Fork Eagle Creek); Placer Creek, south side of I-90 corridor to St. Joe Divide.

Forest Areas with Mixed Ownership
National Forest System (NFS) lands and adjacent private lands should have similar fire prevention strategies (FIRESMART) with safety of fire crews being paramount.

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 improvements. Consideration of the green slip sale program is also desirable as a potential tool to increase desirable ecological conditions, establishing a strict replanting timeline, and timely salvage of stands and at least 1000-

foot distance between logging roads and "plots." Addressing sediment concerns in the Coeur d'Alene River is also an important issue related to timber production.

Support of the local economy by means of timber production is an important issue. A stable, sustainable timber harvest level is important to the timber industry.

REVISION TOPIC – WATERSHEDS AND AQUATIC SPECIES

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

Watershed restoration projects should be designed to:

- Protect all community water systems (specifically Placer Creek, Hayden Lake – high priority).
- Maintain access to the forest. Consider remediation not obliteration in regards to roads. Utilize culvert improvement or new culverts; treating open road surfaces with better culverts, water bars, and erosion control, and replace improperly functioning culverts while maintaining access.
- Integrate recommendations for Geological survey/Lake Management Plan for Coeur d'Alene and St. Joe Rivers regarding heavy metals and TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Loads).
- Manage for appropriate riparian vegetative species.
- Use selective logging as a tool to improve watershed conditions.
- Restore riparian conditions.
- Check accuracy of *PFC/FAR/NPF Map* it may not be correct for developing strategies (check if Lost Fork tribe is 303d listed)

Fisheries projects should consider that:

- More rainbow trout, better natural habitat, fewer mergansers, and fisheries where people can keep fish, and no pike but large (non-reproducing) trout in high mountain lakes are desirable.
- Desirable non-native species include Kokanee, bass, brook trout, rainbow trout, and Chinook salmon.
- Cutthroat is a desirable native species.
- Treating sloughs in the lower river to eliminate non-desirable fishes is preferred.
- Manage for species, not isolated populations or sub-species, is desirable.
- Managing and maintaining native aquatic species (including freshwater mussels, amphibians, etc.) while working to prevent introduction of non-desirable, invasive (exotic) aquatic species is also desirable.
- A recovered bull trout population is a desired condition.

REVISION TOPIC – IRAS AND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS

Desired condition for management of Inventoried Roadless Areas includes:

Criteria of IRAs Recommended for Proposed Wilderness
Criteria for proposed wilderness includes not removing any existing roads in the IRA's and an administrative review of IRAs for further designation or removal in order to perform active management activities.

Which IRAs Proposed for Wilderness
No recommendations of IRAs for Wilderness designation in the Coeur d'Alene GA. However, discussions of Stevens Peak and Mallard Larkin were exceptions that will require further discussion.

Management of IRAs Not Proposed for Wilderness Designation
In IRAs not recommended for wilderness, allow vegetation management and timely harvest to improve ecological conditions. In IRAs not recommended for wilderness, desired uses include allowing year-round motorized and non-motorized uses, and equitable use of established roads and trails by motorized users (e.g., open to snowmobiles).

Management of Proposed Wilderness Areas
Management of IRAs not proposed for Wilderness designation included a range of desires from keeping Mallard Larkin as proposed wilderness (until designated as Wilderness) to utilizing the term

"Backcountry" and the accompanying management philosophy to a desire for no roadless areas to receive Wilderness designation (in order to allow for vegetation management). Another desire included managing these areas to retain wilderness characteristics, to include a periodic review. Suggestions also included analyzing IRAs for non-motorized uses in order to distribute their use (i.e., where area is motorized, maintain that use and where area is non-motorized, the same); area should not be considered wilderness if a user can walk out in less than two days, and require a groomed trail systems sticker only when groomed (and open to other uses without sticker when not groomed).

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 or 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 desired conditions include:

- Maintain road and trail access to the CDA GA for a variety of multiple uses including recreation, timber harvest, fire suppression, and other activities.
- Achieve a range of access opportunities for a variety of user groups and experience levels.
- Have no net loss in recreation access.

Summer Motorized/Non-motorized

Desired condition for access includes:

- Loop roads and trails are desirable for many user groups.
- Consider converting old roads to trails and/or creating loop trails rather than obliteration. Repair or stabilize problems while retaining trail access.
- When decommissioning is being considered: review roads for recreational needs before making a final decision; include discussions regarding r dead-end jammer roads as a priority; reclassifying or decommission roads old logging roads if they are overgrown or washed out and not suitable for travel; consider converting roads to trails first and/or creating loop trails.
- Increased recreation access for disabled motorized and non-motorized users. There is a desire for handicap hunting opportunities on roads that are closed to other users.
- Clearly identify seasonal closure areas and explain the reason for seasonal closures.
- Routes are clearly identified and signed with appropriate legal uses and inappropriate activities.

Winter Motorized

Desired condition for winter access includes providing winter motorized cross-country travel opportunities off groomed trails. Provide opportunities to open roads to ATVs when snowmobile-grooming activities are not being performed.

Motorized, wheeled cross-country travel

The desired condition is to limit motorized, wheeled, travel to roads and trails. This will go into effect after site-specific NEPA analysis is completed through the Travel Management Plan. A range of exceptions to be considered in the Travel Plan include game retrieval, potential designation of specific areas for motorized cross-country travel off existing routes, expansion of existing system to diminish the desire and/or need to depart from existing routes.

Dispersed Recreation Sites

Desired condition for dispersed recreation sites is for additional designation of dispersed sites and seasonal campsites, more sanitation facilities and water sources, improved parking and turnaround areas. Specific suggestions include the placement and/or increased toilet facilities at dispersed sites (e.g., Bunco Road, parking lots, trailheads, Bumblebee Meadows), and possibly additions of water sources at trailheads.

Developed Recreation Facilities
Desired condition for developed recreation facilities is for improvement, restoration and maintenance of facilities (including lookouts and overnight rental sites), development of more fee areas and campgrounds, fewer seasonal closures (hunting season), and improved handicap access

Special Forest Products
Desired condition for special forest products is for maintained or improved access for special activities, including the possibility of the use of closed roads for firewood gathering, and huckleberry and mushroom collecting.

REVISION TOPIC – WILDLIFE

Desired condition addresses both **wildlife habitat** and **access**. The desire for wildlife habitat includes vegetation management, while maintaining access for the purpose of maintaining and improving wildlife forage and habitat. Vegetation management tools for this purpose include, but are not limited to thinning, fuels reduction, prescribed burning, and noxious weed control.

Specific **access** desires include providing recreational opportunities (motorized, non-motorized and Special Forest Products uses to include hunting) 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 and explanations of seasonal closures that are clearly explained and can be understood.

INFORMATION, INTERPRETATION , EDUCATION, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Desired condition is to utilize public education, interpretation, partnerships, and information programs ("Tread Lightly) as tools to achieve the following: better understanding of rules, regulations and responsible use; and clear, accurate, and consistent signage throughout the forest. Additional suggestions include:

- Emphasizing the use of partnerships and user groups to provide road and trail maintenance/access, volunteers as fire observers,
- Increasing awareness/information outreach of various forest uses and users (appropriate forest uses, user ethics and etiquette, and resource and habitat protection) and a better system of signing routes were desires specifically related to motorized, wheeled cross-country travel.
- Specific desires for IRAs include developing more cooperative agreements with user groups to assist with trail maintenance activities and arranging periodic follow-up meetings to prepare plans and maintenance schedules.
- Pursuing grants to assist with the improvement of road and trail systems.
- Work with users groups to achieve proper technical designations for trails.
- Utilize user groups/enthusiasts to assist with enforcement of use regulations.
- Public dissemination of peer-reviewed science.
- Opening public meetings with Fish and Game, Forest Service and the public on issues related to game management.

TOTALLY MISCELLANEOUS

Miscellaneous suggestions, not included in other revision topics include restoring riparian vegetation in areas overtaken by noxious weeds and relocation of trails away from riparian zones.