

Forest Plan Revision  
Spokane Workgroup Meeting Notes  
Spokane, WA.  
February 10, 2004

**Attendees:**

Public – Dave Griffiths, John Lynch, Chic Burge, Will Deishl, Guy Richardson, Lori Jordan, Hall Rowe, Reid Ahlf, Rein Attemann, David Bauermeister, Tom Crimmins, Alan Dragoo, Roger Hickey, Patty Houff, Marsha Jones, John Latta, Walter Lindstrom, Lorna Ream, Mary Shollenberger, Jon Thorpe, Andrew Ashmore, Mary Walker, Mike Kaluza, Dave Vig, and Lisa Triesch

Forest Service – Brad Gilbert, Dave O’Brien, Art Zack, Jodi Kramer and Wendy Dougherty (notetaker)

**Introductions (Brad Gilbert)**

Brad welcomed everyone, shared that introductions will be conducted during the smaller workgroup sessions, discussed the agenda for the evening and asked the attendees to review the last meeting notes and if you have any changes give or send via email to Brad and/or Jodi and they will make the changes before finalizing the notes.

**Writing Desired Condition (DC) Statements Presentation (Jodi Kramer)**

- Distributed the following handouts: yellow copy of “how to write a DC, pink copy of Revision Topics – Vegetation and Fire Risk from AMS, yellow copy of Vegetation and Fire Risk DC template with questions, and green copy of Decision Space elements from GA Map packets.
- Presented a slideshow on Desired Condition Statements
  - What is it and how do we write it?
    - Description of ecological, economic and social conditions that are desirable now and in the future.
    - Considers current conditions
    - Recognizes limitations-both management limitations (law, direction, policies), and physical and biological limitations.
  - What scale?
    - Forest-wide(FW)
    - Geographic wide (GW)
  - What resources available? GA Maps packets, Draft Forest-wide Goals, etc.
  - What do you want it to look like, not the tools on how to get there.

**Question:** *What is the connection between forest-wide and geographic area wide Desired condition statements?*

- How do we write it? DC is written using the template provided which is by revision topic and tiered to the draft forest-wide goals. Do not have to address every FW goal. Questions on the template are provided to stimulate conversation.

Forest Plan Revision  
Spokane Workgroup Meeting Notes  
Spokane, WA.  
February 10, 2004

- In writing GA desired conditions consider:
  - Objective is to have as much agreement from the group as possible.
  - Recognize that when there are differences of opinion, we will take all comments and input, and consider and respond to all comments.
  - We will receive a variety of comments and input on plan issues. The workgroup input is one of many sources of input.
- Draft plan may include:
  - Description of GA for reference and perspective
  - Desired condition for each GA
  - Descriptive write-up for each GA
- How will we use it?
  - Review and refine forest-wide goals
  - Consider in the formulation of the alternatives for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.
- When do we need these?
  - Spring 2004 or sooner?
  - Plan to build alternatives in Summer 2004

**Question:** *Is there a glossary of terms? Would like to have one.*

**Question:** *How can we suggest direction when the Forest Service has already been thinking about what direction to go?*

**Vegetation & Fire (Forest Ecologist Presentation- Art Zack)**

Art distributed a handout of a slideshow presentation and the Planning question my help lead the workgroup in developing their desired condition statements.

**Comment:** *Suggests that the logging increases the risk for fire. Art suggested that that logging can't be generalized, that there are short term risks but the long term benefits are there.*

**Question:** *What does historic mean, before early settlers, etc? 1850's, data from descriptions of expeditions, Leiberg, and forest inventories. The climate has remained the same.*

**Question:** *What is the definition of Old Growth? R1 FS Definition, 150 years. A comment suggested that the 1987 Forest plan describes it as being 160 years old. Response was that was used as an interim definition.*

**Here is a definition of Old Growth that Art shared with another workgroup::**

"Mature forests are dominated by trees over 100 years old. Large refers to stands dominated by trees that are large for that habitat type group -- generally 15 - 20" or larger

Forest Plan Revision  
Spokane Workgroup Meeting Notes  
Spokane, WA.  
February 10, 2004

in diameter. So **large/mature** refers to stands dominated by trees  $\geq$  100 years old and equal to or larger than the 15"-20" diameter size class.

**Old growth** forest (conceptually) refers to the late stages of stand development, and are distinguished by old trees and related structural attributes. More exact old growth definitions are specific to ecosystem and forest type. The Forest Service charged each Region with developing more specific local definitions of old growth that apply to their ecological types and forest types.

The Northern Region of the Forest Service developed definitions by Habitat Type Group and Forest Type. Defining characteristics include a minimum number of trees with a certain minimum age and size, and also a minimum basal area (density measure) for the stand.

For the moist forests of northern Idaho, the most common **Old Growth minimum criteria** is at least 10 trees per acre equal to or greater than 21" in diameter, and 150 years old, plus a minimum stand basal area of either 120 or 80 square feet per acre. (A few of the less productive habitat types may have a smaller tree size threshold (cold upper elevations), or require fewer trees per acre and less basal area (dry ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir). Extremely productive riparian cedar requires larger trees size.

Other characteristics sometimes associated with old growth (canopy layers, snags, down wood, etc) are not part of the old growth definition, because these vary greatly even in stands that are clearly old growth."

**Question:** *Is Blister Rust still around? Yes, but we now have resistant stocks.*

**Question:** *Graphs are snap shots in time. Is there anything that shows change in regards to larch being hard to maintain and shade intolerant and Douglas Fir being a short lived species, because of insect and disease.*

**Question:** *Regeneration rate, example white pine? reproduces in open, which benefited by the stand replacing fires. White pine a bit more resistant to fire, but ponderosa pine most resistant*

**Comment:** 90% regeneration rate of planted trees...

**Question:** *How many years does it take for trees to develop fire resistance? Ponderosa pine takes 15 years and other species 15-60 years.*

**The workgroup then split up into 3 groups to brainstorm Desired Condition statements for Vegetation and Fire, with more discussion about fire at the next workgroup meeting on 2/24:**

Brad revisited the ground rules for each of the smaller groups and encouraged the groups to use the questions on the DC template and Art Zack's slideshow to

**Forest Plan Revision**  
**Spokane Workgroup Meeting Notes**  
**Spokane, WA.**  
*February 10, 2004*

stimulate discussion and ideas for desired condition statements. Following are the questions from the slideshow:

- In our dynamic environment what kind of forest vegetation would be productive, diverse, healthy, and resilient?
- Recognizing that historically fire was a keystone process sustaining healthy forest:
- Where and when would we:
  - Allow certain types of fire?
  - Always suppress fires?
- How do we manage disturbance and sustain healthy forests in areas where we suppress fire?

**Group 1**

*Members: Roger Hickey, Tom Crimmins, Lorna Ream, John Latta, Alan Draggoo, Andrew Ashmore, Mary Shollenberger, Jodi Kramer and Art Zack*

- Full range of successional stages
- Species diversity
- Disturbances
  - Fire
  - Timber harvest
- Return fire to the ecosystem.
- Management activities in urban interface areas to mimic effects of fire.
- Maintain the healthy forests that we have.
  - “Don’t cut the trees down”
  - “Don’t do any management” – no fire suppression, insect/disease management
- Well adapt to current conditions (climate)
- Maintain healthy forests through management activities such as:
  - thinning
  - fuels reduction
  - prescribed burning
- No chemical/mechanical controls of weeds
- Not sure about controlling weeds

**Group 2**

*Members: Walt Lindstrom, Dave Griffiths, Will Deishl, Chic Burge, Hal Rowe, Patty Houff, Lisa Triesch, Mary Walker, Reid Ahlf, and Brad Gilbert*

- **Diversity of Species**
  - What about invasive species?
    - ◆ Native (indigenous VS invasive)
  - “Age diversification...”
    - ◆ Objective: older stands?
    - ◆ “Right” species in “right” sites? (Get back to the way it was)

Forest Plan Revision  
Spokane Workgroup Meeting Notes  
Spokane, WA.  
February 10, 2004

- ◆ Historical= increase immunity?

**HISTORICAL FORMATIONS DIVERSIFIED STANDS SERVE TO INTERRELATE IN  
MAINTAINING OWN OPTIMUM HEALTH**

- **Restoration**
  - Insect resistant species (introduce)
  - Thinning (commercial goals)
  - Protect rare species/plants and communities
  - Avoid drastically destructive clearance practices, and eliminate scars from previous damage.
  - Eliminate roads/ build NO new roads
  - Maintain road infrastructure for access
  
- **Vegetation that is Resilient, Longer lasting, and Healthier**
  - Resistance
  - Diversification
  - Preservation
  
- More native trees (large) that are fire, insect and disease, and drought “resistant”
- Natural systems restored all natural elements interplaying (system resistant to insults)
- Change fire-fighting (control) practices
- Logging practices modified
- Smaller experimental forests – tests of management prior to implementing on a large scale.

**Group 3**

*Member: Rein Atteman, Marsha Jones, Mike Kaluza, Guy Richardson, Jon Thorpe, Dave Vig and Dave O’Brien.*

**IDENTIFY HEALTHY FOREST**

- Three Veggie Zones
- Maintain Old Growth & recruit old growth
- Full balance of all tree species and represented
- Allow for more natural process to occur (Insect, disease, fire...) for ecological benefits
- WUI-more focus on treatment versus backcountry
- Watershed function to retain water holding capacity
- Do we want mixed-tree/age class forest?
  - To what extent?
- Less management of lightning strikes, to let natural fire proceed.

**GA CONDITIONS**

- More browse for game forest wide
- Maintain/Improve riparian vegetation & canopy
- Less noxious weeds

Forest Plan Revision  
Spokane Workgroup Meeting Notes  
Spokane, WA.  
February 10, 2004

- Educate and prevention
- 10 mile buffer from Priest Lake to keep visual quality  
(Can go into WUI Category/reduce distance to ½ mile (says Rein))

**Wrap-up;**

**This is the model of what we will be doing for each topic in regards to developing the desired conditions statements. Do you like it?**

***Question:** What happens to these Desired Condition Statements. At some point in time before end of April, we will need to pull similarities together for each of the revision topics, agree on what we can and agree to disagree so that we can develop our desired condition statement that will go to the revision team.*

***Question:** Will we have a chance to critique? Suggestion has been made to display the above statements and have people find levels of agreement to arrive at our DC.*

***Agreement:** The consensus from the group was to have presentations from the specialists on each revision topic, brainstorm DC statements and then when the group has gone through all of the revision topics, revisit each topic to see which DC statements they want to take forward to the revision team. Seem to have consensus to listen to the specialist to gather more information prior to selecting desired conditions.*

***Question:** How do we bring new people up to speed? There is a notebook that has all the meeting notes and information in it for checkout and review and/or Dave or Brad are available to meet one on one to explain what the group has been working on.*

**Next meeting Tuesday February 24, 6:30 PM @ BLM Office,  
Fancher Road Spokane, WA.**

**>Reminder<**

**Please send email to Brad Gilbert for any edits to the last meeting's notes so they can be posted as final on the website. They are in draft on the website now.**