

## **Pend Oreille Workgroup Desired Condition for Fire Risk and Wildlife**

### **FIRE RISK**

#### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- “Draft” Forest-wide Goal 1c: Forest Health – Increase 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.
  - Change “Forest Health” to “Ecosystem Health.”
- Establish a comprehensive fire plan to include natural fire regimes in appropriate areas of the forest balanced by appropriate suppression efforts in other areas. Establish specific procedures suitable to each area’s unique priorities. Monitoring and flexibility should be considerations in plan implementation.
- Manage fire that allows for re-population of all types of species from surrounding areas.
- Fire management use plan must take criteria into account.
- Fire is a tool to manage among many tools, as integrated with other tools (logging, thinning, etc.).
- Different management options must be available because we have diverse management areas on the forest.

#### **GENERALLY ARE SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**

- All infrastructure built in the National Forests should be designed and built to let fire burn over it (houses, pipelines, and roads, etc.).

### **Wildland Urban Interface (‘WUI’)**

#### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- Stick to the goal or charge of the WUI – protection of human life and property.
- Engage in activities for fuel reduction (thinning, prescribed burning, stand management)
- Take care to mitigate the spread of noxious weeds.
- Concerned with having a set range or distance of a WUI – consider topographic features and wind/weather patterns (i.e. Hope area topography).
- Mechanized fuel reduction shouldn’t decrease forest health.
- Mechanical treatment certainly should be used.
- Coordinate with other funds/funding available (i.e. funds for trailheads, access points, recreation opportunities).
- Suppression of all unnatural (human caused) fires.
- Manage some fires to restore habitat to include winter range for big game habitat.
- Manage some fires if in pre-approved prescription status – wildland fire use fires.
- Prescribed fire management certainly should be used but be sure to keep it in control of designated areas.
- Consider logging for mechanical treatment.
- When prescribe burning, consider risk for existing structures and personal property.
- Need to address the restoration and management of those areas so ecosystem is balanced as well as urban areas protected.
- Make funds more available and create more awareness for private property owners about those funds and grants if they help in conjunction with Forest Service management policies.
- Address insect infestation issues more effectively by allowing timber harvest in those infected areas.
- Better access to urban interface areas for fire suppression. Increase the number of access roads to urban interface areas.

- Remove dead and dying timber, rid major fuels via prescribed burn, then vegetate soil w/native short grasses.
- GENERALLY ARE SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**
- Viewsheds protection – aesthetic appeal of area has direct economic impact, so WUI may need to extend beyond two mile area presently under consideration by Bonner County.
- Two miles may be excessive – alternative suggested of 1 mile.
- Suppression with-in 2 mile radius of private structures.
- Don't divert government funds to protect people with private property who decide to live in or next to the forest.
- The Idaho Panhandle is narrow with cities or towns on each side of a mountain range, so the whole width may be appropriate as WUI.
- Suppression of fires is good and necessary.
- Adopt County Plans and continue with existing plans.
- Should consider alternative whether it would be manual and/or horse labor.
- Consider cost when determining between mechanical or manual/animal labor.
- GENERALLY DISAGREE**
- Decreased access as it addresses forest fire management where access is not needed.

### **Wildland Fire Use Areas (WFUA) – “Let Burn – Managed Fires”**

- GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**
- Manage reduction in fuels prior to adopting a let-burn plan for an area (i.e. do logging, thinning first, prescribed burning) to prevent catastrophic fires and reduce fuels. Also do ongoing reviews of existing fuel loads.
- Natural fires should be allowed in proposed wilderness areas.
- Consider topography, weather, etc. when writing a Wildland Fire Use Plan.
- Consider suppression around power lines.
- Allow where it does not greatly effect natural resources i.e. Scotchman Peak.
- Incorporate managed fire programs in disturbed areas.
- Use mechanical treatment. Mechanically remove dead/dying timber beforehand.
- Wilderness Areas should be treated the same as Wildland Fire Use Area by letting it burn, or treating through Logging and Prescribed Burns.
- Harvest burnt timber in burned areas as soon as possible, don't wait until the timber is infested, or rotten, no timber value.
- Let naturally occurring fires burn in areas, which are full of fuels prone to burn quickly.
- In areas that don't have timber products, allow to burn.
- Thin forest to its traditional historic levels, ten to twelve trees per acre.
- GENERALLY ARE SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**
- Human caused fires should be suppressed because not similar to natural fires.
- Let all natural fires burn in Wilderness areas.
- Let all natural fires burn in WFUA within a management plan.
- Let all natural and human caused fires burn within a management plan.
- Suppression of all natural and human caused fires.
- Do not use Forest Service funds to protect private transmission facilities (they should do right of way management).
- Suggest the Upper Pack River to the Selkirk Crest area is a Wildland Fire Use Area.
- GENERALLY DISAGREE**
- Include all IRAs as WFUA and exclude commercial logging or thinning from those areas.
- Never, take care of fires immediately.

## **General Forest Areas**

### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- Natural and human caused fires should let burn but monitor them.
- Put fire back into the forest as much as we can, including prescribed burns.
- Depends on what management area(s) are involved on what type of fire management to do.
- Maintain access for use in fire plans.
- Wildland land fire use fires are ok but would need a wildland fire use plan.
- Use prescribed fire.
- Use mechanical treatment, such as timber sales, thinning.
- Look for new methods to use small wood products & hog fuel.
- Stop removing roads, stop putting up gates, and earthen barriers, in order to provide better access, and remove dead and dying timber.
- Keep roads open from drainage area to drainage area for fire access and escape purposes.
- High drive area – remove thinning personnel and employ professional loggers to do it properly.

### **GENERALLY ARE SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**

- Suppress all human and natural caused fires.
- Natural and Human Caused Fires should let burn.

## **General Forest Areas with Mixed Ownership**

### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- Include mixed ownership checkerboard in WUI.
- Use prescribed fire management
- Use mechanical treatment
- Manage Suppression the same as General Forest Areas, excluding those properties that are privately owned.
- Treat similarly as Wild Urban Interface areas, but with higher priority than general forest areas.
- Ensure road access in these areas to accomplish fire efforts here.

### **GENERALLY ARE SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**

- Adopt all general forest area policies (see comments above).
- Unless a co-op agreement exists ... Put the fire out

### **GENERALLY DISAGREE**

- Suppress all fires.

## **WILDLIFE**

**There are almost 350 species of wildlife on the KIPZ. What changes in species have you seen over the past 20 years? Are these changes desirable or undesirable and why?**

### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- The number of species listed under ESA has increased and is not desirable.
- Caribou appear to no longer be a sustainable species.
- Minimize species that threaten humans, deer, or elk (i.e. wolves, grizzly bear).

- Better education or notice to the public is needed when transplanting grizzly bears or other dangerous species.
- Maintain the multiple use of the forests.
- Too many turkeys that are undesirable in big numbers and in need of a management program.
- Reintroduction of grizzly bears, wolves, and lynx is not needed. Human population more important than grizzly bears.
- Grizzly, wolf, lynx, should be hunted if they cross the line of human safety.
- A balanced program between cats (predators) and ranchers should be developed.
- The decline in mule deer is associated with increase in moose population so more moose tags should be issued. Drastic decline in mule deer populations.
- More white tail deer tags should be issued to include Does and a longer hunting season. There are too many whitetail deer.
- Bald eagle program is effective at its current levels.
- More wildlife is here now than ever before.
- More elk here now and is desirable.
- More black and grizzly bear here now and is undesirable.

**GENERALLY ARE SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**

- Forest Service take effort to maximize, not just recover or compromise species for timber management. Don't use minimum viable populations as the standards (use maximum). Maximize at all costs.
- Look at all native species and restore to healthy populations.
- More turkey and geese here now and that is desirable.
- Too many moose here now, general hunting season should be allowed.
- More moose here now and is desirable.
- More caribou here now and is undesirable.
- More wolves here now and is undesirable.

**GENERALLY DISAGREE**

- Increase habitat to connect Yellowstone to Yukon corridor proposed by Wildlands project.
- Protect Grizzly Bear habitat.
- Protect Lynx habitat.
- More caribou here now and is desirable.

**What changes in habitat conditions have you seen over the past 20 years? Are these changes desirable or undesirable and why? What restoration or other management actions can be used to improve habitats?**

**GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- General goal to restore forested habitats that are most at risk of destruction as listed at page 48 of the AMS Technical Report:
  - Reductions in early and late succession habitats
  - Loss of fire-killed trees, large snags and down wood.
  - Significant reductions of western white pine, white-bark pine, western larch, sub-alpine larch, and ponderosa pine forest cover types.
  - Increases in the extent of Douglas-fir and grand fir, and cedar/hemlock on the IPNFs.
  - Increases in the density of trees and a shift to a largely mid-seral structure stage.
  - Reduction in riparian, wetland and lakeshore habitat (due to road construction and development) and vegetation composition changes in riparian areas (due to noxious weeds).

- Changes in vegetation composition on big game winter ranges due to noxious weed encroachment.
- Maintain multiple use programs and integrate with ecosystem management.
- Re-open caribou closed areas to snowmobiling.
- Forests are becoming too dense with vegetation and forest growth, which is undesirable. Forests need to be actively managed.
- Increase prescribed burning in the forest.
- Increase mechanical thinning in the forest.
- Use more wildfire thinning in the forest.
- Utilize youth work programs to thin forests.
- More noxious Weeds – which is undesirable.
- Log more habitat areas to create more food supply for the animals.
- Brush needs to be cleared since it's overgrown in many of the roads, to improve wildlife corridors.
- No obliteration of any more roads, as it creates additional siltation, and harms fish habitat.
- Dead, dying and dense tree areas compromise the habitat.
- Keep good communication between Fish and Game and USFS.

**GENERALLY ARE SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**

- Develop a plan to replace old growth stands damaged or lost to fire or harvest (protect developing old growth stands).
- Use education and enforcement of regulations to minimize impact of motorized use to all species.
- Use education and enforcement of regulations to minimize impact of all uses to all species.
- Re-designate management areas to avoid fragmenting habitat.
- Improve corridor habitat between Selkirks & Cabinets.
- Special emphasis on restoring white bark pine in all habitat as a food source for bears and clark's nutcrackers (they help disperse seeds).
- Maintain and restore habitat corridors between all areas throughout the forest, including designations as corridors.

**GENERALLY DISAGREE**

- End all multiple use programs and prioritize ecological and wildlife values.
- Reduce road densities to improve all wildlife habitat.

**How should we manage for big game winter range in the urban interface?**

**GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- There is an untapped resource of recreationalists for user input and information. Establish methods to gather and extrapolate information before making decisions.
- Climate change needs to be a consideration.
- Need to address elk in the urban interface and damage to farmers' land. For farmers in Boundary county, elk herds are a problem and too prevalent, and need to be managed.
- Use prescribed burning
- Use Wildland fire use fire with a Wildland Fire Use Plan.
- Use mechanical treatments.
- Use thinning with prescribed burning for elk and deer habitat and follow the WUI.

**GENERALLY ARE SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**

- Reduce road density in low elevation habitat and avoid further habitat fragment and disturbance.

- Use the land purchase or exchange programs.
- GENERALLY DISAGREE**
- Include ungulates (caribou) winter range in consideration (ridges, mountain basins, high elevation old growth).

**What species or groups of species are especially important to you? Are all species important for future generations to enjoy?**

**GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- All species of wildlife are important to future generations and should be managed.
- Moose
- Mule deer
- Elk
- Raptors
- White tail deer
- Black bears
- Song birds
- Coyotes
- Natural predators should be managed and included.
- Do not import additional species
- No More Grizzlies
- No more Caribou
- Caribou, grizzlies, and wolves are a negative species for us here and are undesirable.