

## Pend Oreille GA Workgroup Meeting Notes

**April 14, 2004**

**Attendance:** Forest Service: Dick Kramer, Chris Savage, Gary Ford, Tom Martin, and Jodi Kramer. Public: Terry Capurso, Loyal Amstutz, Barb Best, John Brenner, Mike Dawson, Tammy Farmin, Pat Gunter, Monica Gunter, Becky Gunter, John Holbert, Richard & Mary Holcomb, Mark Linscott, per Mattsson, Alan McNall, Bill Murray, Bill Phillips, Logan, Reichart, Kip Smith, Ken Stevens, Kevin Stevens, Angus Travers, Don Helms, Dave Vig, Mark Sprengel, Donna Capurso, Fields Cobb, Larry Falk, Tim Farmin, John Finney, Jan Griffiths, John Linch, Jason Mavity, Shannon mavity, Marissa Mavity, Dan McNall, Jason Palmer, Nicky Pleass, Don Robson, Paul Sieracki, Richard & Marie Warren, Duane Wentz, Bob Young, Robert Bristol, Steve Kluver, Guy marks, Richard Trussell, Bud Mueller, and Gerald & Sandi Sword.

**Next meeting is April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the District office and we will be going through the sensing exercise on Vegetation and Timber production. Also summarizing all the DC statements that the Pend Oreille workgroup developed.**

Dick welcomed the group and went over the agenda for the evening. The agenda included: everyone will go over the draft DC statements for Fire Risk and Wildlife and indicate on their individual sheets the ones that they agree on (A), disagree on (D) and the ones they don't necessarily agree with but can live with (C). These were collected at the end of the evening and the results are included below:

### **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.
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**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.

**The group then divided into 4 subgroups to brainstorm DC statements for Timber Production and Vegetation and here are the results:**

**GROUP 1**

**Members:** Gary Ford-USFS, Larry Falk, Loyal Amstutz, Duane Wentz, Alan McNall, Donna Capurso, John Linch, Guy Marks, Bob Young, and Bill Phillips

Typist: Bob Young, [skunkmaster@sandpoint.net](mailto:skunkmaster@sandpoint.net), 208-265-2456

**Vegetation**

## **2-B – What is a healthy forest and what would it look like?**

- Room for trees to grow (not so dense, can't get sunlight)
- Less Disease
- Diversity of native species
- Excessive costs and/or measures may reduce diversity
- Re-introduce managed prescribed fire
- Introduction of weed species is often wind borne, by birds (minimal introduction by mechanical or horses)
- Reduce human seed introduction
- Need diversity of age classes
- Utilize mechanical, prescribed fire and other means to reduce crowding
- Allow small clear cuts to address insect and disease, clean up the ground

## **2-C – Are there specific areas or conditions in your GA where you are concerned about a healthy forest?**

- Entire area is not being managed. Too many road closures (lack of access to manage). Reduces recreation.
- Insect and disease all over, reduced huckleberries because of reduced CC, less roads (more berries, more birds and animals)
- DF, WF have taken over PP sites because of lack of fire (hot, dry)
- We need to harvest more timber, where an area is heavily impacted by invasive DF, GF, insects and diseases.
- Where we have allowed endangered species act has great negatively impacted the forest.

## **2-D – What particular areas are you concerned about weed infestation and/or invasion? What are the priority areas or situations, and why?**

- Reduce weed seed with prescribed fire.
- Limit funds – Increase weed funds by reducing road closure/obliteration
- Boulder Creek/Grouse Mountain (Let grazing back in to reduce weeds)
- Tree farm in Grouse Creek (seed orchard)
- Nearby recreational trails and areas
- RNA
- Need co-op agreement between private/fs land adjacent
- Any weed reduction is good
- More biologic control
- When graveling roads make sure weed free

## **2-E – What particular areas or situations are you concerned about insect and disease infestation and/or invasion? What are the priority areas or situations and why?**

- Manage forest by thinning, diseased tree removal
- West Nile disease in wetlands could be problem

### **Timber Production**

## **2-B – What do you see as appropriate objectives for timber harvest on NFS lands?**

- Utilize timber harvest to reduce fire danger, disease problems
- Utilize clear cut to allow huckleberry growth, grazing for elk
- All topics under vegetation apply to timber ( forest health)
- Find additional markets for small wood and woody debris
- Don't clear cut just for huckleberries
- Economics
- Allow natural vistas along recreational and travel zones

## **2-C – What are the economic issues regarding timber production for this GA?**

- Economic benefits back to schools, related jobs
- Base FS budget on economic returns (ie. timber harvest, recreation, etc)
- Recreation brings money to area ( ie. off road vehicles, and all other users)
- Utilize timber sales revenues to restore forest health without closing additional roads.
- Use more steward ship programs
- All appeals should be paid by appealers.

## **2-D – What conditions do you think might be used to define high priority areas for timber harvest: What conditions might be used to define areas of low priority for timber harvest?**

### **High Priority**

- Diseased and insect infested areas
- Salvage burnt timber
- Salvage wind damaged, snow damaged, ice or other causes
- Too heavy forest density
- Increase health of forest
- Protection of urban interface/other structures
- Protection recreational areas, RNA, municipal watershed. special mgt.

#### Low Priority

- Already will managed areas
- Wilderness
- Keep age diversity (manage with this in mind)
- There are some areas that are not economically feasible to log because of steepness, rock, etc.
- Wet lands

## GROUP 2

**Members:** Chris Savage-USFS, John Holbert, Gerald Sword, Sandi Sword, Shannon Mavity, Jason Mavity, Marissa Mavity, Logan Reichart, Jason Palmer, Bob Bristol, Monica Gunter, Tim Farmin, and Don Robson.... Also the typist: [donrobson@earthlink.net](mailto:donrobson@earthlink.net) 263-1213

### Timber Production

#### **2-B – What do you see as appropriate objectives for timber harvest on NFS lands?**

##### Fuel Reduction

- Be proactive with the timber production to control fuel buildup.
- Allow mechanical harvest-but be selective on how it is done i.e.; Clear cut may be to extreme of a process
- Use good reforestation practices- planting trees, etc.
- Helicopter logging less evasive

#### **2-C – What are the economic issues regarding timber production for this GA?**

- Jobs & timber products- high demand at this time.
- Timber production will help maintain healthy forest to help tourism that adds jobs

#### **2-D – What conditions do you think might be used to define high priority areas for timber harvest: What conditions might be used to define areas of low priority for timber harvest?**

##### High Priority:

- Access – must keep open to use
- Timber density
- Diseased- removal is needed
- Harvest from burned areas for recovery
- Fire risk

##### Low Priority

- Aesthetics
- Topography
- Wildlife, habitat, fisheries, habit

### Vegetation

#### **2-B – What is a healthy forest and what would it look like?**

- Thinned/less dense/less trees & underbrush per acre
- Curtail noxious weeds by:
  - Containment in area
  - Weed free horse feed taken into the forests
  - Spray roadsides using a targeted approach to maximize the spraying program result
  - Target specific weeds and spray at optimum times to max the benefit
  - Goals should be green, healthy, weed-free and not overgrown

#### **2-E – What particular areas or situations are you concerned about insect and disease infestation and/or invasion? What are the priority areas or situations and why?**

- Consider insects & disease impacts of wilderness areas before any further designation of wilderness areas.
- All areas need to maintain open access to control insects/disease and other management programs execution.

- Use information from forest users to help maintain forests.
- Users can spot trouble spots and should be urged and utilized in the forest management program.
- Lakeside- due to exposure & easy to spread territory
- Wildlife and winter range- need healthy forage to maintain wildlife.
- Trailheads need targeted management programs to minimize spread of noxious weeds.
- Increase awareness and education on subjects- so forest users can help control spread.
- Target specific trees that should be managed
- Birch, aspen, hemlock, white bark pine.
- Forest fires (not suppression) could help control Insects & disease.
- Mechanical thinning will help.

### **GROUP 3**

**Members:** Dick Kramer, USFS; John Finney (notetaker)\*, Pat Gunter, Per Mattsson, Barbara Best, Nicky Pleass, Jan Griffiths\*, Fields Cobb\*, Dave Vig\*, Mark Sprengel\*, Paul Sieracki\*, Eric Sieracki, Mark Linscott\*

\* Indicates these people were involved in the review of these notes via e-mail.

### **Vegetation**

**“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.

**NOTE:** There were sporadic discussions of some “Desired Conditions Statements” and discussion that generally followed the subparts of question 2)B), but much of the discussion overlapped.

#### **Desired Conditions Statements suggested:**

- Long-term management plans should consider the currently identified results of global warming as well as the future potential effects of global warming. Record high temperature as well as other noted changes in the last decade demonstrate the potential for new adverse development from global warming during the time period of this plan.
- Geologically derived nutrients and micronutrients (i.e. potassium deficient) situations need to be considered in planning or activities.

#### **2B) Based on current and historic vegetation conditions, what is a healthy forest and what would it look like?**

- A variety of species depending upon the specific site or area.
- Functionality, resilience, & redundancy. Redundancy means if you lose a species in an area, it exists in another area and can utilize the other area. Resilience means the ability to survive a disturbance.
- A mosaic of habit.

#### **2C) Are there specific areas or conditions in your GA where you are concerned about a healthy forest? (areas that unhealthy conditions presently exist)**

- Too dense a forest limiting undergrowth, caused in some areas by fire suppression and/or in some areas by logging practices (both historic and present).
- Over commercialization of huckleberry picking is impacting vegetation.
- Clear-cut legacy/history has impacted the type of forest we have.
- Ponderosa Pine, White Pine, White Bark Pine, and Larch (mistletoe) are currently lacking due to harvesting, fire suppression, and/or disease (including blister rust). This is a negative.
- Bug infestation problems.
- Clearcuts can provide space for habitats and/or species (Clearcuts can be a beneficial tool).
- Invasive non-native noxious weeds due to ATV or other motorized vehicles.
- Noxious weeds for any reason are a negative (other things can cause them, horses, winds, birds, etc.) and all need addressed.
- The predominance of more shade tolerant species compared to historic ranges of all species.
- Need to include hardwoods in the forest. Get back to historic diversity of stands.
- Tree form (a type of shrub) at Pacific Uyne should be maintained in the ecosystem to keep a variety.
- Need to take into account other lands (lower elevation private lands) and what happens there.

- Loss of soil productivity on some site due to past practices or possibility of large fire due to current conditions.
- Where are the future old growth and ancient stands going to come from? Need more forests in stages to get there (replacement planning).
- Caribou recovery areas need addressed.
- What is a definition of a “healthy forest?”
- Mining conditions need addressed.
- Develop blister rust resistant white pine (i.e. in the lightning creek drainage)
- Re-establish sub-alpine larch stands in the Selkirks.
- If plant blister rust resistant white pine, don’t harvest them.
- Remove dead or dying or infested trees.
- Re-establish historic balance of the forest by removing “off site” ponderosa pine and emphasizing blister rust resistant white pine.
- Old growth white fir decline on the NE side of Lake Pend Oreille near Becker Draw needs addressed.

**2D) Based on current and historic vegetation conditions, what particular areas are you concerned about weed infestation and/or invasion? What are priority areas or situations, and why?**

- Along roads and trails.
- In some winter range.
- Scotch Broom along the Hope face.
- Orange hock weed along the trail to Fault Lake.
- Non-native grasses, clovers, etc. are noxious weeds and should not be used.
- Need to include planting programs for wildlife use (should include non-native grasses and clovers, etc.)

**2E) Based on current and historic vegetation conditions, what particular areas or situations are you concerned about insect and disease infestation and/or invasion? What are priority areas or situations, and why?**

- Nosebag creek fire up Lightning is prone to insect infestation.
- Root rot where shade tolerant true fir and Douglas fir dominate.

### **Timber Production**

**“Draft” Forest-wide Goal 2b: Sustainable Uses, Values, Products and Services** – Improve the capability of the Forests to provide desired sustainable levels or uses, values, products, and services.

**NOTE:** The discussion followed with the questions of 2)B) through 2)D).

**2B) What do you see as appropriate objectives for timber harvest on NFS lands? (i.e. forest health, fuels reduction, etc.)**

- Need more timber cruising to identify locations of disease and infestations, and remove them.
- Increase roads and access to better provide timber management tools, in existing roaded areas and in unroaded areas.
- Only use true restoration purposes, not harvest purposes, and then only use with caution.
- Use it to increase forest health.
- Use in a manner compatible with habitat restoration and forest health.
- In WUI use timber harvest to reduce fuels.
- Use in any appropriate area to reduce fuel loads.
- Use for bug infestation or root rot to remove the stand and then replant to allow for future harvest.
- Need option to do large scale clearcuts where necessary.
- Need to protect productivity of the site.
- Modify to address nutrient limitations by limiting removal of biomass on potassium limited sites.
- Harvest after forest fires while merchantable timber remains.
- Support local economies by having timber harvests.
- Need to have federal timber sales to slow down private harvesting.
- Long term health or ecosystems impacts long term economic viability.
- Re-establish harvest for school funding if other funding sources are reduced.

**2D) What conditions do you think might be used to define high priority areas for timber harvest? What conditions might be used to define areas of low priority for timber harvest?**

High Priority:

- Increase the percentage of old growth to approximately 20%.
- Need to consider mill changes to smaller diameter logs, so harvest the larger size now before mills change.
- Maintain diverse size classes within old growth.

Low Priority:

- Areas where healthy diverse forests already exist.

**GROUP 4**

**Members:** Tom Martin – USFS, Kevin Stevens, Angus Travers, Tammy Farmin (typist), Karin Wentz, Kip Smith, Terry Capvrso, Dan McNall, Bud Mueller, Bill Murray, and Richard Warren.

**Vegetation**

**2B) Based on current and historic vegetation conditions, what is a healthy forest and what would it look like?**

- Less underbrush (shrubs)
- Disease free
- Ecological sustainability
- Historically native species (vegetation)
- Less noxious weeds more fiddle ferns
- Wildlife sustaining grasses (forest service mix)
- Orchids
- Proper vegetation based upon soil conditions
- Access to forest/vegetation for viewing (walking & motorized)

**2C) Are there specific areas or conditions in your GA where you are concerned about a healthy forest? (areas that unhealthy conditions presently exist)**

- Sundance Burn (heavy brush area)

**2D) Based on current and historic vegetation conditions, what particular areas are you concerned about weed infestation and/or invasion? What are priority areas or situations, and why?**

- Tarweed (MTF) section 21 & 22 Wrenco Loop
- Grouse Creek (increased weeds/road bldg)

**2E) Based on current and historic vegetation conditions, what particular areas or situations are you concerned about insect and disease infestation and/or invasion? What are priority areas or situations, and why?**

- Beetle infestation

**Timber Production**

**2B) What do you see as appropriate objectives for timber harvest on NFS lands? (i.e. forest health, fuels reduction, etc.)**

- Mature, diseased, and infected trees
- Meet sustainability for whole forest
- Meet objective for big game
- Harvest timber for recreational opportunities

**2-C – What are the economic issues regarding timber production for this GA?**

- Sustainability to minimize job loss, utilize smaller timber for useful production, ultimately to create new jobs

**2D) What conditions do you think might be used to define high priority areas for timber harvest? What conditions might be used to define areas of low priority for timber harvest?**

High Priority:

Mature, diseased, and infected trees.

Low Priority:

Old growth, high erosion areas.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm. Next meeting is April 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the District office and we will be going through the sensing exercise on Vegetation and Timber production. Also summarizing all the DC statements that the Pend Oreille workgroup developed.**