

**Notes from Lower Kootenai Geographic Area Workgroup Meeting  
April 20, 2004**

**Workgroup Members attending:** Bob Blanford, John O’Conner, Dave Wattenbarger, Don Nystrom, Cleve Shearer

**Forest Service:** Mike Herrin, Gary Ford

**Meeting Agenda** – The purpose of the meeting was to 1) the workgroup reviewed Desired Condition statements for Vegetation, Fire Risk & Timber Production.

The group wanted the emphasis mule deer in the VEG MGMT portion of the notes in the bullet statement “Veg management should improve winter habitat for **mule** deer/elk”

The group pointed out that Mike made a typo in the TIMBER PRODUCTION section, “occu” needs an “r” at the end of the word.

The group had the following additions to the FOREST HEALTH/TIMBER PRODUCTION DC

-Identify areas that can be actively managed to improve forest health.

-In general, mortality of trees should not exceed tree growth.

-Highly productive timber stands should have much more growth than mortality and should be actively managed.

These updates have been put into the DC statements below that were developed at the last meeting.

**VEG/FIRE RISK/TIMBER PRODUCTION**

**FUELS MGMT**

- Utilize site specific, sound silviculture practices
- WUI – Continue/expand the program of fuels reduction
- There is a lot of private land in WUI, FS needs educational programs to help landowners understand fire risk and management
- Expand the current work with the county and the county fire plan
- Need to explore new ways to make use of small diameter trees.

**VEG MGMT**

- Need dry site species on WUI, where appropriate
- Need a mosaic of different species and structures over the landscape
- Disturbed areas need to be monitored for weed invasion

- Veg management should improve winter habitat for mule deer/elk
- Need access for huckleberry picking, promote improved huckleberry production
- Need better management of commercial berry pickers
- Mimic natural disturbance patterns to help mule deer and other native/historical species of wildlife

## TIMBER PRODUCTION

- Identify areas where logging should not occur or can only be done with special practices
  - Alpine meadows
  - Wetlands
  - Open rocky ridges
- Seek a sustainable level of timber harvest in view of all management values
- Identify areas that can be actively managed to improve forest health
- In general, mortality of trees should not exceed tree growth. Highly productive timber stands should have much more growth than mortality and should be actively managed

The group talked about a summer field trip. They were in favor of a trip, but did not think they would attend a forestwide trip in a location outside of Boundary County. They would prefer a field trip on the Bonners Ferry District. Mike agreed to set up a trip for this summer, while coordinating with the forest. The following is a list of issues or subjects the group would like to see on a field trip;

-Examples of past good timber treatments

-a site or 2 of forested areas not suitable for logging, what do those look like

-important hydro and wildlife sites, both successful management & failures, maybe a stream rehab project &/or a current healthy stream

-The group thought the Katka Boulder area may fit the need for most or all of what they would like to see

-They would like to have the ranger, some district staff and some revision team members at the field trip

-the group thought late June may be a good time of a field trip

-the field trip does not have to focus only on the revision effort, but can be more of an overall look at past management of the district & where we see things going in the future