

DESIRED CONDITIONS
Libby Geographic Area

ACCESS AND RECREATION

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

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate access it provided for a range of recreation opportunities that provide for a quality of life including scenery, firewood gathering, huckleberry picking, hiking, horseback riding, snowmobile use, recreational driving, hunting and ATV use. • Snowmobile use continues in (1) areas that do not contain big-game winter range and (2) where conflicts with T & E of Sensitive species can be avoided. Gates are managed to provide safe passage for snowmobiles especially along the east face of the Cabinet Mountains (i.e. Libby, Ramsey, Poorman, Cable, Bear and Cherry Creeks). • Trail maintenance continues with the cost-efficient and practical help of chain saws and other equipment.
<p>Identify Priority Areas or Opportunities</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Entire NE slope of Cabinet Mtns. 2) Head of Pipe Cr. And Pipe cr. Summit. 3) Bear Creek road terminus in east side of Cabinets.
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The east slope of the Cabinets is one of the most highly used portions of the KNF. 2) The head of Pipe Creek (especially East Fork) is a highly popular snowmobile area. 3) Bear Creek road is the only road that elderly people can get a close up view of the Cabinet Mountain Wilderness.

Forest-wide Goal 4: Access – Ensure access to National Forest System lands through the maintenance and improvement of roads and trails, while managing within the capability of ecosystems.

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Road Access - year-round restricted, seasonally open and year-round restricted
- Road Maintenance
- Roads and Trails – winter recreation
- Roads and Trails – summer motorized recreation
- Roads and Trails – summer non-motorized recreation
- Trailhead facilities

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The current level of road/trail access is provided. (Don't close any more roads or trails) The Travel Plans match the on-the-ground situation and signing. • Maintain all existing trails to current level. Improve access to trails. • There is some type of access to all drainages. • Coordinate road management with trail use. • Provide non-ambulatory hunting areas. • Provide more handicap access and abilities to drive to the "top of the mountain". • Trailheads provide adequate turn-around for trailers (Horse/Snow). • Partnerships are established for trail maintenance or construction. • Roads and trails are not vectors for weed establishment (see Vegetation DC) • User conflict between motorized & non-motorized is minimized,
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Snowshoe road, Bear Creek Road, Flagstaff Mtn Road, River Road Trail. Possible connection to Troy along river, both for motor and non-motorized use.</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>These areas are close to town and get a high amount of use.</p>

GOAL: Provide opportunities for recreational access of ATV's

▪ **Access and Recreation – Kootenai Ridge Riders**

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<p>Adequate and proactive management of ATV recreational access is planned and provided within the Libby Geographic area.</p> <p>A. Work with user-group partnerships in evaluating, planning and maintaining an ATV road & trail system</p> <p>B. Evaluate current road closures for possible routes</p> <p>C. Provide clear signing of routes</p> <p>D. Provide opportunities for loop routes</p> <p>E. Create an ATV map for users with routes, restrictions and points of interest. (i.e. "California ATV map" example)</p> <p>F. Work with user groups to evaluate and identify a multi use motorized trail between Libby and Troy</p> <p>G. Evaluate and identify potential "loop routes" from provided maps by user groups and implement where possible taking into consideration all "filters".</p>
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Libby G.A.</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>Creating an "ATV System" will disperse use in unwanted areas and provide proper use of KNF Lands. Will benefit Libby economy.</p>

GOAL: Have in place a trail management plan, which incorporates an enforceable system for preserving historic saddle stock use travel routes in the revised forest plan

- Access and Recreation
- Trails - CBCH

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trails are the primary access routes for the public into roadless areas. The forest plan would include a scheduled maintenance program of existing and identified saddle-stock trails around road closure barricades and would provide for adequate turn-around space for trailers in proximity to the closure device.
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Access to Roadless Areas along Cabinet East Face</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>Historical significance of saddle-stock use into and within roadless areas and to provide adequate access for saddle stock use.</p>

GOAL: Have in place a trail management plan, which incorporates an enforceable system for preserving historic saddle stock use travel routes in the revised forest plan

- Access and Recreation
- Trails - CBCH

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain travel corridors on trails of 8-foot width, adequate tread-width, and remove obstacles (e.g., barricade bolts and other safety hazards) for snowmobile and horse back use.
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Access to Roadless Areas along Cabinet East Face</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>Provide safe saddle-stock use into and within roadless areas and provide adequate access for saddle stock use.</p>

GOAL: Increase public access for gathering and recreation activities

- Access and Recreation – (Hanson)

Desired Condition Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide for temporary opening of closed roads (by gate or barricade) during periods that do not conflict with closure restrictions purposes (whether wildlife or other) for various recreational activities. A minimum of two-week periods could be utilized for the opening.
Identify Priority Areas	Across the geographic area (various locations) where hiking fishing, firewood gathering or berry picking, would occur – mainly in proximity to communities. Identify roads in low to mid elevations.
Describe why this is a priority	Disperse public use during summer-to-early Fall gathering times (high use periods)

GOAL: Provide opportunities for recreational access of over the snow vehicles

▪ **Access and Recreation - SnoKats**

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<p>Adequate and proactive management of over-the-snow vehicle recreational access is planned and provided within the Libby Geographic area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Work with user-group partnerships in evaluating and planning snowmobile routes B. Evaluate current road closures for possible routes C. Provide clear signing of routes D. Provide opportunities for loop routes E. Provide safe access around closure devices F. Provide adequate parking facilities and consider parking lot size, restroom, and warming-hut facilities. G. Work towards maintaining current open-route densities at same level or above. H. Provide flexibility in changing over-the-snow routes as vegetative conditions change (re-evaluate on 10-15 year cycles)
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Maintain existing routes per the Kootenai Snow Trails Map areas 1,2, & 3.</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>Increasing demand for visitor days and facilities by user groups for snow recreation motorized activities</p>



IRAS AND PROPOSED WILDERNESS AREAS

Forest-wide Goal 2a: Wild Lands (Wilderness, Wilderness Study, Recommended Wilderness, and Wild Rivers) – Maintain and improve the capability of wild lands to provide for primitive recreation and a wide array of ecological values.

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Reduce impacts of use on sites or areas.
- Incorporate natural fire regimes in all of these areas, when conditions permit.
- Reduce acres of areas infested with noxious weeds.

Potential Descriptive Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Treatment of roadless areas and recommended wilderness
- Special Interest Areas

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p> <p><u>The group could not reach consensus on the IRAs except for the statements listed here</u></p> <p><u>No consensus on the proposed Treasure Mountain Ski area.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize IRAs to establish natural fire regimes when conditions permit, coordinated with management objectives for the areas. • The Gold Hill West IRA permits limited clearing (during the winter) of minimum-width, over-the-snow existing trails (#225, #226 and #814) open to snowmobiles. • A Recommended Wilderness proposal for the NE corner of the Cabinet Mountains has been accepted by Congress (this excludes the existing mechanized trail along historic old Hiway 2). • Trail Maintenance includes the cost-efficient and practical help of chain saws during the interim period until Congress has acted.
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Cabinet Addition recommended Wilderness.</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>Cabinet Addition is currently in conflict with the Treasure Mtn, Ski area proposal.</p>

TIMBER PRODUCTION

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

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Timber sold

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber management outside of roadless areas should continue the current level of suitable (Ma's 11,12,14,15,16 &17) timber acres except: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) West Fork Quartz Creek (Steep area with hemlock) 2) 2) Faces of ridges along East Cabinets (steep and highly visible) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of local (county) workforce for forest product industryIncreased utilization and diversification of forest productsImproved ability to react timely to catastrophic wildfire and insect/disease.Economical logging.Reduce need for road constructionEmphasize small sales, stewardship with input from local citizens.Smaller contracts to attract local industry for timber sales and reforestation and thinning.
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>All existing suitable acres except where noted above.</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>Because the maximum amount of acreage needs to be retained to provide a high level sustainable flow of timber products. To generate funds for state, county schools and roads through "Communities Self Determination Act" (otherwise through 25% funds).</p>

WILDLIFE

Forest-wide Goal 1b: Condition for Species – Provide ecological conditions to sustain viable populations of native and desired nonnative species and to achieve objectives for Management Indicator Species (MIS) and focal species.

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Terrestrial Plants and Wildlife
 - Old Growth Habitat
 - Down wood and cavity nesting habitat
 - Wildlife habitat in support of State wildlife agencies goals.
 - Threatened and Endangered Species
 - Sensitive Plants and Animals

Desired Condition Statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the existing situation regarding all of the above items. • Manage wildlife consistent with social and economic needs and emphasis of local social and cultural traditions.
Identify Priority Areas	Existing OG, GB, Lynx Wolf.
Describe why this is a priority	

VEGETATION

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.

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Weed Risk
- Insect and Disease
- Vegetation Condition and Trend

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<p>A healthy forest that includes reduced fire risk and noxious weeds (especially knapweed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggressive weed control is active on the forest, with access to weed sites available especially on closed roads and areas with activities. • The public is aware of where and when weed treatment is occurring (establish website). • Inventory will continue for all weed species. • Allowable acres of weed treatment will be maximized. • Fuels are reduces within the WUI. The small diameter ladder fuels etc. and biomass will be utilized. • See other fuels statements as well.
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Fire risk areas around Libby. 2) Low to mid elevation especially in the warm/dry areas of the GA. 3) Treat weeds along roads and trails and in the WUI as priority.
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Because of risk to private property and human life. 2) Because warmer/drier areas are intermingled with private land. 3) Roads and trails are weed vectors.

FIRE RISK

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.

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Fire Risk outside Wildland Urban Interface
- Fire Risk within Wildland Urban Interface

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the fire risk in the area around Libby (wildland /urban interface). This is duplication with the vegetation DFC. • Improve ability to treat fuels outside the WUI as a result of insects and disease. • For fuel reductions inside and outside the WUI reduce overstocking leaving all trees over 15” within the range of historic variability. • Improve and expand on notification of burning to consider public health issues. Work with EPA and hospital to create a website or notification in the media. • Encourage use (fiber) of slash and waste material from fuel treatments in an effort to reduce the amount of burning/smoke. • Increase education about the need to burn to achieve fuel reductions goals. Establish a phone contact or hot line.
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Developed areas surrounding the town of Libby. Consider public health risk of smoke.</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>This is a wildland/urban interface.</p>

WATERSHEDS AND AQUATIC SPECIES

Forest-wide Goal 1a: Watershed Conditions – Restore and protect watershed conditions to provide the water quality and quantity and soil productivity necessary to support ecological functions and intended beneficial uses.

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Watersheds Functioning-at-Risk Condition
- Watersheds Not Properly Functioning
- 303d listed streams
- Riparian areas Not Properly Functioning
- Soil Productivity and Integrity

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High quality drinking water is provided in Flower Creek, which is the water supply for Libby. • Native fish habitat is maintained and improved • Roads are left in place where possible and other alternatives utilized to improve habitat. • Encourage studies of culvert removal and road decommissioning and the related sediment delivery and evaluate the risk of sedimentation by these activities. • Bring watersheds and riparian areas to properly functioning conditions where feasible. • Encourage local workers to do the watershed improvement work.
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Flower Creek</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>Watershed for town of Libby.</p>

Forest-wide Goal 1b: Condition for Species – Provide ecological conditions to sustain viable populations of native and desired nonnative species and to achieve objectives for Management Indicator Species (MIS) and focal species.

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Fisheries – structure, composition and function of aquatic systems
- Habitat connectivity
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Amphibians and native non-salmonid fishes habitat

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain existing situation regarding all of the above.
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Existing Bull Trout streams.</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>Required by law, regulation or policy, new forest-wide management direction will be adequate for this GA.</p>

OTHER FOREST-WIDE GOALS/OBJECTIVES

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

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Grazing
- Personal Use Minerals (personal use, common rock material and recreational use)
- Mineral Withdrawals
- Abandoned Mines
- Historic Properties – identify, evaluate and nominate
- Historic Properties – protect and preserve
- Scenery Management
- Research Natural Areas
- Land Acquisition/Easements

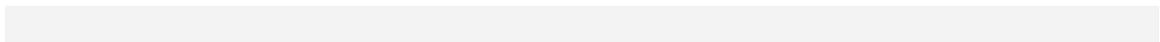
<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The viewshed around Libby provides for a high quality of life for residents. • Phase out grazing due to conflicts (noxious weeds) • Maintain existing Research Natural Areas. • Existing valid minim claims would continue with current authorized access through their Plans of Operations. • Preserve the rural character of the Libby GA by possible conservation easements and road access across Industrial Private lands as they are converted to small private tracts. Exchange is an option but no net gain of Federal property is desirable.
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Entire viewshed of Libby and entire Libby GA for access and concerns of subdivision etc.</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	<p>People value the viewshed very highly and the rural character of the Libby GA and it is one of the reasons people live here even though the economy is difficult.</p>

**Forest-wide Goal 3: Community Development and Public Involvement
 – Provide assistance to rural communities and private landowners.
 Promote better management of National Forest System lands by
 providing opportunities for public involvement.**

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Community Assistance
- Information, Interpretation and Education
- Partnerships, Volunteers and Community Groups
- Economical and Social Issues

<p>Desired Condition Statement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase education on burning and wildfire. • Increase education on weeds. • Continue the use of Stewardship authority and educate local people about stewardship projects. • Keep this working group informed of opportunities to be involved in management of the Kootenai National Forest. • Include updates of social and economic conditions of the Libby GA to improve the management of the KNF.
<p>Identify Priority Areas</p>	<p>Entire Libby GA</p>
<p>Describe why this is a priority</p>	



Forest-wide Goal 5a: Recognize and maintain culturally significant species and the habitat necessary to support healthy, sustainable, and harvestable populations. Recognize and protect traditional cultural properties.

Potential Desired Condition Topics for Libby GA:

- Consultation Agreement

Desired Condition Statement	Kootenai Falls is protected.
Identify Priority Areas	Kootenai Falls
Describe why this is a priority	Important site for Kootenai-Salish