

Libby Geographic Area Notes
February 23 2004
6:30PM Ponderosa Room – Libby

Attendance: (Edwards & Bond (FS)), Barnes, Windom, Howells, Chandler, Jackson, Smart, Cronenwett, Leimbach, Auer, Clark, O’Neil, & Eggleston

Agenda: Review prior meeting

Sub-Group Reports

Review Treasure Mt Ski Area Proposal from 1999 document

Desired Condition Statements for roadless, recommended wilderness, etc.

Next Meeting scheduled Monday March 8th 6:30 PM Ponderosa Room

Discussion on proposed TM Ski Area: water quality issues, impact on roadless boundary, approx 950 acres adjacent to wilderness, viewshed concerns, and listed species issues. At this time we will defer a DFC statement on the proposed TM Ski Area, although it was suggested: “...under one Forest Plan *alternative*, designate the suitable Management Area for Treasure Mt Ski Area consideration”... (no consensus yet, this will be recommended/not at a later meeting)

A subgroup working group is designated to present a recommendation next meeting on roadless, wilderness recommendations, and other verified roadless areas within the GA (assignment: Smart, Leimbach (lead), Cronenwett, O’Neil, & Chandler – to report to group on March 8th)

Timber Mgt outside of roadless: “continue with sustainable current levels of SUITABLE timber acreage and areas” (eg, MA’s 11,12, 14, 15, 16 & 17). Some concerns and discussion on sustained economic levels for schools and roads (ie, 25% fund or Community Self Determination Act).

WUI (Wildland –Urban Interface) management: concentrate on thinning around communities within the WUI, done on a site-specific basis with valid silvicultural prescriptions.

Forest Thinning: “continue throughout other forest areas.

Other **DC** statements:

“Encourage local workforce (ie, County) for forest products industry

“Increase utilization and diversification of forest products

“Emphasize small sales, stewardship with input from local citizens

”Need improved ability to react timely to catastrophic wildfire and Insect/Disease infestations.

“Utilize down/dead materials and treat fuels buildup.

“Use economical logging (ie, no “below-cost” sales)

“Reduce road construction in logging practices.

“Use small contracts to attract local timber industry in reforestation and thinning.

NEXT MEETING MARCH 8th 2004.....