

FINAL NOTES
Forest Plan Revision Meeting – September 7, 2005

The seventh meeting of the Koozanusa/Tobacco Geographic Area (GA) collaborative effort to recommend edits to the Starting Option for revision of the Kootenai National Forest plan was held at the Lincoln County High School in Eureka on September 7, 2005. The meeting began at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was facilitated by an independent facilitator, George Gerard. Forest Service attendees were Betty Holder, Fortine District Ranger, Sandi Mason, Chris Fox, and Jamie Appelhans.

The meeting was attended by 77 people, representing a variety of interests (logging, wilderness advocates, snowmobilers, backcountry horsemen, motorized use, etc...)

There was an influx of new people that attended the meeting. There was also an independent facilitator utilized for the first time. This was in response to a request from a participant at the meeting held on August 31st. As George explained the ground rules for the meeting and what he hoped the participants would accomplish, several members of the original group chose not to continue and participate in this meeting and walked out. This seemed to be based on the fact that the meeting rules had changed and with the influx of new people there was concern the process would resort back to the beginning without the knowledge of the previous meetings.

George established smaller groups for the meeting. Each participant was randomly assigned to one of ten tables to encourage diversity in each group. The participants were asked to discuss their vision of the community for the next 10-15 years and how it related to the Ten Lakes/Whitefish Divide areas on the Fortine Ranger District. Each table was then asked to present its findings. Next, George asked each table to try to reach agreement on management plans for the Ten Lakes/Whitefish Divide areas. Those agreements are as follows:

- ✓ No recommended wilderness in Ten Lakes or Whitefish Divide – No more wilderness.
- ✓ Maintain current management practices without recommending wilderness. Keep roads open that are currently open and maintain roads. Create a buffer between the recommended wilderness areas and private property to allow fire fuel reductions with interface.
- ✓ A Special Interest Area (15 year sunset) to be managed on a site specific basis. Manage for wildlife, recreation, wilderness values, restrict numbers on a carrying capacity for users.
- ✓ 4 out of 5 can agree to a ¾ mile buffer near private lands around Ten Lakes area. (Primarily in Ksanka foothills). Existing open roads around Ten Lakes area to remain open year round. Table agrees there is some room for compromise in Whitefish Divide area on recommended wilderness.
- ✓ Agreement could not be reached for the Whitefish Divide area between managing it as 5A or 5C. Manage area northwest of Grave Creek Road as 5C. Manage present Wilderness Study Area as it is with no restoration activity but allow motorized winter recreation and public use of existing roads and cabins.
- ✓ Ten Lakes as a 5C. 4 out of 7 would like Whitefish Divide as proposed wilderness.
- ✓ All agree to have light purple (Whitefish Range) recommended wilderness. Can't agree on Ten Lakes WSA.
- ✓ Ten Lakes – National Recreation Area (managed as is now). Whitefish Divide – recommended wilderness.

- ✓ We agree to proposed wilderness in the Whitefish Divide with no additional wilderness for 25 years. We agree that dark purple (Ten Lakes) should be managed as 5C.
- ✓ Ten Lakes open for winter snow use with strict closures (seasonal), signed and respected. All other areas managed for recommended wilderness.

This was the last collaborative meeting for the Starting Option for the Koocanusa and Tobacco GA's. After the Draft Forest Plan is issued, there will be a 90 day comment period. The Final will be issued after the comments are evaluated.

List of Attendees

Steve Hawkins
 Jon Leonard
 George Williams
 Ruth Kraus*
 Wayne Finch*
 Noel Williams*
 Sharon DeLong & Colin MacLean
 Aubyn Curtiss
 Mark Horvat*
 Kathleen Patrick
 Ella Adams
 Dorothy Harless
 Traci McIntyre
 Samantha Little
 Gary Hall
 Connie Deebel
 Chris Damrow*
 John & Pat Doble*
 Tye & Michelle Keller*
 Bob & Lynette Starling*
 Nick Tomaskie
 Jim & Joyce Hollopeter
 Jack Brabender
 Mary Ellen Campbell
 Loren Campbell
 Bob Seidel
 Craig Eaton
 Pat Keller
 Sarah Anderson
 Kim Blake
 Ross Titus
 Roger & Sue Sherman
 Stephen Braun
 Peggy Jane Ousley
 Jim Voyles
 Jim Williams
 Josh Letcher
 Alice B. Elrod

Edwin Fields
 Cesar Hernandez
 Donald Gee
 Stu Levitt
 Joel Vignere
 Gerald Keller*
 Cathy Schloeder
 Carol Blake
 Alta Smith
 David & Maren Amnotte
 Rob Reynolds
 Lireva Wall
 Steve Funke
 Robert Bort
 Fred Hodgeboom
 Clarice Ryan
 Gina Klempel
 Rick Maedje & Kathy Wade
 Susie Waldron
 Don Burgard
 Valerie Kurtzhalts
 Mitch Burgard
 Kris Kindberg
 Patt Truman
 Kathryn Posten & Bob Lance
 Gary Crandall
 David Brown
 Rox Rogers
 Rex Nichols
 Linda Gerard

*Did not participate at individual tables.