

**Yaak GA Meeting in Yaak, MT
Public Comments
June 26, 2003**

Topic	Number of Sticker Dots	Comments from Meetings in June 2003
IRA/Wild	42	We need designated wilderness in roadless areas North of the Kootenai River; there is none yet protected
Wildlife	42	More gateless areas – less roadless areas
Access/Rec	38	Leave the roads open; take out gates – need access for fire and other resources
Timber	31	Salvage areas affected by insects while there is still value in the wood and before damage takes place
IRA/Wild	30	Roadless areas provide valuable wildlife diversity – including trophy animals – need more wilderness
Access/Rec	25	Open more roads for seasonal use (i.e. hunting and fishing)
Wildlife	19	No more grizzly bears
Access/Rec	18	Don't close any more National Forest roads
Timber	17	More timber sales
Timber	16	Manage forests on a sustainable yield basis
Access/Rec	15	Provide ATV/Snowmobile loop trails
Wildlife	12	Increase griz core areas
Access/Rec	11	Would like to see more seasonally open roads to accommodate firewood cutting (windthrown)
IRA/Wild	11	Too much roadless area
Access/Rec	10	Open more roads on a year-round basis (gated roads and bermed roads) and perform maintenance to maintain reasonable use
Access/Rec	9	Don't recontour any more National Forest roads
Fire Risk	9	More aggressive fuel reduction throughout the area
Timber	9	Groups appealing or litigating timber sales (large and small) should be held liable for lost revenue and resource value (Post a bond)
Access/Rec	8	We don't have enough wilderness
Timber	8	In this timbered area, timber production should be a high priority for the economy of the
Wildlife	8	Recover grizzly populations
Wildlife	8	No wolves
Access/Rec	7	STOP Tearing Out (Recontouring Roads Quit Spending Taxpayer Money twice!)
Fire Risk	7	Reduce fuels build up near communities
Other Issues	7	Forest Plan should protect the heritage and culture and custom of communities adjacent to
Timber	7	More small sales for local community
Wildlife	7	Transplant elk from Yellowstone
Wildlife	7	People back east want bears and wolves, let's give them some
Other Issues	6	How can people live here, make a living and enjoy the surroundings? The Forest Plan goes against all these things.
Other Issues	6	People need jobs and jobs can be found in restoration of the forest and weed control, including monitoring, biological data gathering, etc.
Vegetation	6	Close roads to help control weeds
Wildlife	6	More elk - more deer – more bears
Access/Rec	5	More motorized access
Access/Rec	5	Keep Little Spar & Buckhorn Ridge areas available for snowmobile use. Designate the use areas by mode (i.e. snowmobile, skiing)
Access/Rec	5	Keep traditionally utilized snowmobile areas unrestricted

The numbers in the above table simply indicate the level of interest in the topics identified by the meeting participants.

**Yaak GA Meeting in Yaak, MT
Public Comments
June 26, 2003**

Topic	Number of Sticker Dots	Comments from Meetings in June 2003
Access/Rec	5	Don't take out any more roads behind the gates
Fire Risk	5	Open the roads so you can get in and clean out the dead trees underbrush
Timber	5	More local input into very small sales, such as identification of areas and sale design
Timber	5	Small sales have a local operator preference
Timber	5	No clearcuts
Timber	5	More firewood cutting areas identified that include green & dead trees (need thinning)
Vegetation	5	Control bugs
Wildlife	5	Close more roads for animals, expand Endangered Species Act, manage for animals in Roadless Areas
Access/Rec	4	Wilderness should have NO motorized access/use
Access/Rec	4	Decommission more roads
IRA/Wild	4	How will wildfires be managed in IRAs? Concerned about poor roaded access to fight fires
IRA/Wild	4	Connect IRAs for wildlife movement – Linkage zones and the IRAs inherent wildness
IRA/Wild	4	Manage areas around IRAs to promote habitat connectivity between areas
Other Issues	4	If the Forest Plan leads to economic and/or social jeopardy for our communities, what is
Timber	4	Thinning-reducing fire risk-improving health
Timber	4	Legal action needs to be take against destructionists groups shutting down salvage and dead timber sales to charge them with destruction of public property
Vegetation	4	Manage for more old growth, it seems to be more fire resistant
Access/Rec	3	More wilderness, once it's gone it's gone forever
Access/Rec	3	No fees for parking on National Forest lands (Ex. Oregon, Washington)
Access/Rec	3	Address concerns with people who are non-local because it is their land too
Access/Rec	3	Would like to see better enforcement of existing restrictions (ie. OHV violating current restrictions)
Access/Rec	3	Maintain road access for fire suppression
Fire Risk	3	More salvage to reduce wildfire
Fire Risk	3	Harvest trees before they burn up
Fire Risk	3	More salvage to reduce fire hazard (dead & down) also to supply raw materials to mills
IRA/Wild	3	Allow snowmobile use in Scotchman Roadless Area/Proposed wilderness
IRA/Wild	3	Manage IRAs as wilderness
Other Issues	3	Miners need respect for their rights under 1872 Mining Law and any other law
Timber	3	More to help local communities, timber, etc
Timber	3	Leave large trees
Timber	3	Explore possibilities for non-degradational resource extraction (e.g. botanicals, selective timber harvest as a means of economical development, which is coincidental with forest health and ecosystem vitality)
Timber	3	Manage for timber harvest and fish and wildlife habitat
Vegetation	3	No logging in old growth
Water/Fish	3	Stop removing brook trout
Water/Fish	3	Remove protection for bull trout
Wildlife	3	Need to give more habitat consideration to birds, neotrops, small forest carnivores, amphibians, etc.

The numbers in the above table simply indicate the level of interest in the topics identified by the meeting participants.

**Yaak GA Meeting in Yaak, MT
Public Comments
June 26, 2003**

Topic	Number of Sticker Dots	Comments from Meetings in June 2003
Wildlife	3	More common sense – Forest Service more authority
Wildlife	3	Don't manage National Forests/let wildlife take care of themselves (hiking – non-motorized)
Access/Rec	2	More designated wilderness areas in the Yaak area
Access/Rec	2	Don't close any more of the National Forest to snowmobile use
Access/Rec	2	Provide ATV/Snowmobile loop trails and maps
Access/Rec	2	Construct turn-around facilities at trailheads and gates (horse, pull-campers, motor-homes)
Access/Rec	2	Keep harvest of mushrooms and huckleberries local
Access/Rec	2	The larger population centers associated with the Idaho panhandle NF may overwhelm the influence and input from the smaller communities in the Kootenai NF
Access/Rec	2	Local comments should receive more consideration than non-local comments (especially back East)
Access/Rec	2	Limit comments to only people who have been here and seen the area
Fire Risk	2	Let natural fires burn to return to a natural cycle
Fire Risk	2	Update fire management plan to allow wildland fire for resource benefit
Fire Risk	2	Create a natural looking mosaic through management that would limit the spread of large fires. Take a proactive planning and mechanical treatment strategy
Fire Risk	2	Manage for actual forest health, not insatiable consumer appetite for wood products
Fire Risk	2	Salvage bug-killed down timber, it is a fire hazard
Fire Risk	2	Do not use fire as justification for logging under the euphemisms of salvage & restoration
Fire Risk	2	People that live in the National Forests should realize that fires are a natural process and
Fire Risk	2	Firewood in slash piles
IRA/Wild	2	Hidden cost to Roadless areas need to be considered – i.e. loss of watersheds/wildlife – results of catastrophic fire from lack of management
IRA/Wild	2	Roadless areas are too fragmented, need to be kept connected
Other Issues	2	Beginning of the Forest Plan Policy stating that the Forest is being managed for multiple use and public access
Timber	2	Look into providing wood fiber for biomass – provides income to Forest Service & cleans
Timber	2	Manage for more dead and dying timber harvest
Timber	2	Manage overstocked forests harvesting <=17" dbh
Timber	2	Appeals and litigation groups should be held liable
Vegetation	2	Control weeds after prescribed burning – seed with native vegetation right away
Vegetation	2	We need to take care of invasives locally and internally and not let it become a cumbersome mandate like the ESA
Vegetation	2	Need to control ATV access better to prevent weed intro and spread
Vegetation	2	Integrate more weed programs and do not spray as much. Yaak does not need as much spray-type control of weeds
Vegetation	2	Thin the forest – let it breathe
Wildlife	2	Address connectivity in forest plan revision between small populations (recovery zones)
Wildlife	2	Increase core area for grizzly bear
Wildlife	2	Lynx is B.S.- Humans don't impact
Wildlife	2	Manage land to maintain wildlife corridors

The numbers in the above table simply indicate the level of interest in the topics identified by the meeting participants.

**Yaak GA Meeting in Yaak, MT
Public Comments
June 26, 2003**

Topic	Number of Sticker Dots	Comments from Meetings in June 2003
Wildlife	2	Road density requirements for grizzly bear and other species mitigation and habitat
Wildlife	2	Would like to see public involved in road access for disabled
Wildlife	2	Would like to see wildlife management standards more specific to GA
Wildlife	2	No collars on animals
Wildlife	2	Would like to manage for people before wildlife
Wildlife	2	The two above is idiotic – manage so people and animals can exist side-by-side or in
Access/Rec	1	The forest is becoming too small, too tame; we need more wilderness
Access/Rec	1	The wilderness & IRAs need fire plans
Access/Rec	1	There is adequate amount of wilderness now, no need for additional wilderness
Access/Rec	1	Enhance driving for pleasure - #1 Recreational use of Forest
Access/Rec	1	Existing snowmobile routes (i.e. roads) are starting to become less usable due to
Access/Rec	1	Snowmobile access to Ten Lakes area should not extend beyond Therriault Lakes (exhaust fumes produce hydrocarbons at rate of 250 times greater than a single car
Access/Rec	1	Would like to see designated OHV routes and areas
Access/Rec	1	Keep all hiking trails clean
Access/Rec	1	Keep historical horse use in KNF
Access/Rec	1	No motorized use at all on existing roads. Allowed non-motorized use only
Access/Rec	1	No more fee areas on roadside campgrounds
Access/Rec	1	Keep motorized and non-motorized uses very separated
Access/Rec	1	Provide maps that display designated areas for winter activities.
Access/Rec	1	If there is a road in place – open it if there is no road in place – do not construct one
Access/Rec	1	Maintain current open road densities in the Yaak and identified recovery zones while increasing core area
Access/Rec	1	Adhere to RS 2477
Access/Rec	1	Do not obliterate/reconstruct roads that are already vegetated over
Access/Rec	1	Decommission roads along streams to protect water quality and fisheries (roads by streams increase fishing pressure)
Access/Rec	1	Decommission roads increases sedimentation and wastes Federal tax dollars
Access/Rec	1	Design plans to allow local managers to be more flexible and site specific
Access/Rec	1	Better enforcement of current restrictions (i.e. weekend presence)
Access/Rec	1	Do not convert any more roads to trails
Access/Rec	1	Increase access to firewood to reduce fuel, heat homes, provide jobs
Access/Rec	1	Wants road signs w/names instead of numbers so you know where you are
Access/Rec	1	Would like our maps to show where handicap accessibility exist
Access/Rec	1	Think of the disabled!
Access/Rec	1	Provide more access for handicapped especially fishing
Access/Rec	1	Access for disabled fishing – like disabled hunting
Access/Rec	1	Establish winter education program for skiers and snowmobilers (i.e. avalanche awareness)
Access/Rec	1	More public education and defensible space program
Fire Risk	1	Use in place inventories of vegetation classified into fire classes to show the public where and how serious the risk is
Fire Risk	1	Use slash, dead and down fuels as alternative energy sources to produce forest products. This will be a return on investment.

The numbers in the above table simply indicate the level of interest in the topics identified by the meeting participants.

**Yaak GA Meeting in Yaak, MT
Public Comments
June 26, 2003**

Topic	Number of Sticker Dots	Comments from Meetings in June 2003
Fire Risk	1	Address the fuel build-up in the new plan
Fire Risk	1	When stand plots show excess fuels, open so people can take dead trees for firewood
Fire Risk	1	Manage timber for healthy forests
Fire Risk	1	More aggressive effort to revegetate burned areas not just to include trees
Fire Risk	1	Do more harvesting followed by prescribed fire vs. just prescribed fire
Fire Risk	1	Develop effective community evacuation plans w/open roads coordinated to facilitate people leaving
Fire Risk	1	Privatize fire suppression/RD Fire
Fire Risk	1	Develop local facilities for burning excess fuel for heating and energy
IRA/Wild	1	Open Roadless areas to motorized vehicles (50/50)
IRA/Wild	1	Close additional roads to add/encourage wildlife habitat and add to Roadless Areas
IRA/Wild	1	Allow for communication in Roadless Areas for emergencies i.e. cell phone towers, radio,
IRA/Wild	1	No more management on National Forest lands
IRA/Wild	1	Protect Roadless Areas 1000 acres and greater
IRA/Wild	1	More varied habitat types represented in the wilderness system
IRA/Wild	1	Protect trails in roadless areas
IRA/Wild	1	Protect/manage roadless areas of >1000 acres as they would have been under the
IRA/Wild	1	Take out areas that have had roads, out of IRAs
IRA/Wild	1	If we implement more IRAs we reduce the ability to manage the IRAs for timber and recreation
IRA/Wild	1	Helicopter timber sales should be allowed in roadless areas
Other Issues	1	Will need two separate sets of alternatives for the two forests.
Other Issues	1	Why are we zoned with the IPNF?
Other Issues	1	Want to see no management on this National Forest
Other Issues	1	No management no motorized, no firefighting leave it alone
Other Issues	1	Seasons now used for research studies don't allow accurate data collection. Need to change when they do the surveys because of high use times hucks/mushrooms
Other Issues	1	Send invitations to local officials, public interest groups, academic institutions, (within the zone) to form collaboration groups to work with the Forest Service throughout the planning process on all issues. Public needs to understand the process, data, analysis, etc
Other Issues	1	Revise the "dot" process to something more accurate and less skewed.
Other Issues	1	Support community building events such as puppet shows.
Other Issues	1	It's not the job of the Forest Service to provide people with logging jobs.
Timber	1	Increase annual sale volume
Timber	1	Utilize timber products before burning an area
Timber	1	Maintain a stable timber program
Timber	1	Stop subsidized logging
Timber	1	Zero cut on all national Forests
Timber	1	To allow 9'3" firewood/deadwood to be removed by general public
Timber	1	Manage less for timber harvest and more focus on fish and wildlife habitat restoration
Timber	1	Forests always changing, need to manage old growth also – utilize timber harvest
Timber	1	Plant more trees

The numbers in the above table simply indicate the level of interest in the topics identified by the meeting participants.

**Yaak GA Meeting in Yaak, MT
Public Comments
June 26, 2003**

Topic	Number of Sticker Dots	Comments from Meetings in June 2003
Vegetation	1	Want the continued commercial harvesting of mushrooms
Vegetation	1	Use logging/other tools to eliminate danger of fire to aquatic resources
Vegetation	1	Stop clearcutting and reduce erosion
Vegetation	1	Allow cutting of down trees in old growth stands
Vegetation	1	Increase weed management requirements (2 to 5 yrs after harvest)
Vegetation	1	Winter log only to help control weeds
Vegetation	1	Weeds – all projects should have a management plan
Vegetation	1	Do something about the knapweed! And other weeds that are increasing –cooperate with the State
Vegetation	1	After logging, close roads and decommission to prevent weed spread
Vegetation	1	Deal with noxious weeds by cover crop of clover to exclude weeds before they establish
Vegetation	1	We need to spray for weed control and to have access to spray and to have access behind closed roads and need a program for spraying behind decommissioned roads
Vegetation	1	Watch out for weeds spread from airports to helispots on fires
Vegetation	1	Use portable blow-torches to scorch weeds and seeds and plant right away – try to spray less or in combo – especially behind closed roads
Vegetation	1	Want both orange and yellow hawkweed dead and out – get a grip on it now while we can
Vegetation	1	Plant with native vegetation especially cedar instead of treating species like this as a weed
Vegetation	1	Restoration initiative that addresses all of 7 issue topics equally
Vegetation	1	Have very little management. Leave the forest alone.
Vegetation	1	We need a forest plan that provides sustainability within the designated GA while maintaining sound, practical scientifically based forest management practices
Vegetation	1	Get a healthy forest, then worry about recreation, etc.
Vegetation	1	Need vegetative buffers for fish protection
Vegetation	1	Need precommercial thinning trees (young) from old cuts & thinning of underbrush for wildlife
Vegetation	1	Sediment issues related to road decommissioning needs to be quantified
Vegetation	1	Need to do something about tent caterpillars
Water/Fish	1	Keep water quality high and restore where impaired
Water/Fish	1	Base WQLS info on quality information
Water/Fish	1	Focus on a terrestrial (riparian) and aquatic restoration alternative that does not focus on
Water/Fish	1	Maintain healthy riparian and improve damaged riparian
Water/Fish	1	Restoration initiative that focuses on landscape by watershed to determine proper function
Water/Fish	1	Manage watershed with watershed analysis and planning based on restoration which includes extraction when appropriate
Water/Fish	1	Tear out dams – build nuclear power plant in Noxon
Water/Fish	1	Let FS manage fisheries rather than USFWS
Wildlife	1	Linkage carnivores (restoration, habitats, prioritize)
Wildlife	1	Develop more winter range
Wildlife	1	Let MTFWP manage game in MT not Forest Service. Get them working together
Wildlife	1	Don't transport/transplant griz
Wildlife	1	Reduce fuel accumulations to protect T & E
Wildlife	1	Educate public about grizzlies and leave the bears alone-no research

The numbers in the above table simply indicate the level of interest in the topics identified by the meeting participants.

**Yaak GA Meeting in Yaak, MT
Public Comments
June 26, 2003**

Topic	Number of Sticker Dots	Comments from Meetings in June 2003
Wildlife	1	Management for griz not needed – they can take care of themselves
Wildlife	1	Manage as if grizzly in NCDE is recovered, so don't need connections between
Wildlife	1	Why hasn't the issue of mortality on grizzlies during hunting season been considered more seriously rather than closing roads
Wildlife	1	Alternate opening roads
Wildlife	1	Forest Service management of roads needs to change. Opening some roads and closing others to maintain ORD doesn't work. Animals stay in the area. Need longer timeframe for closures to be effective.
Wildlife	1	More access for seniors (residents/nonresidents)

The numbers in the above table simply indicate the level of interest in the topics identified by the meeting participants.