# DRAFT

Collaboration Meeting, Clark GA August 24, 2005

Greg DeNitto – Team Leader, State and Private Forestry, Regional Office
Greg briefed the meeting on what to expect from spruce budworm and mountain pine beetle

Western Spruce Budworm

- Native defoliator
- Hosts include Douglas-fir, true firs, and spruce
- They eat current years needles
- Begin feeding when temp. warms up in spring, late frost can kill caterpillars
- Rarely kill trees
- Combination of spruce budworm, ongoing drought, and Douglas-fir bark beetle may have a greater impact on forest

Mountain Pine Beetle

- Native bark beetle
- Hosts include lodgepole, ponderosa, whitebark, and western white pines
- They bore into the tree and lay eggs in galleries beneath the bark
- Host trees are killed by bark beetle attacks

Regional Office has a flight scheduled in about a month that will provide an estimate of the number of acres impacted by pine beetles.

- Cabinet District has scheduled a flight for 8/25 over the district.

Damaging effects of both insects may be reduced by management practices that promote vigorous stands

- Reduced stocking
- Opening up stands

Large pine beetle outbreaks are generally a salvage situation.

Bob Castaneda, Forest Supervisor, Kootenai Nat. Forest
Explained how he expected the Revision Process to work out.

- Those areas with MA designations that have community support, will receive his support.
- In areas where consensus could not be reached, the starting option designation will probably remain.
- All areas will be assessed again with elected officials and to ensure conformity with the Governor's Roadless Plan.

**UPPER VERMILION**

ISSUE DISCUSSED
FS proposal to change 5B to 6A
Allow flexibility to address insect outbreak

DISCUSSION
New Forest Plan will have enough flexibility to manage the outbreak
The ability to build some roads in there would provide alternatives
Most of the existing outbreaks that have been identified are along open roads. Treat those areas and leave the outbreaks in roadless alone. This would be an opportunity to see what happens between treated and untreated stands.
Any roads built into grizzly core would require closing a different road in the area, there would be no increase in access.

DECISIONS
No Consensus for change to 6a.

**BULL RIVER WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION**

ISSUE DISCUSSED
Bull River was identified as a candidate for Wild and Scenic River Designation in the 1987 Plan. The current plan continues that and adds portions in the upper watershed.

DISCUSSION
How would management of the river change?
There would be no change until the River is designated and a management plan developed that would guide future actions in corridor. Designation would be a public process and Congress would make the designation.
On other rivers designation as Wild/Scenic has resulted in CCRs and in some cases condemnation of land. Concerns that this could occur here.

DECISIONS
General agreement on retaining starting option proposal.

**SCOTCHMAN PEAKS**

ISSUE DISCUSSED
1B designation for area

DISCUSSION
The work group was not able to come to an agreement on this area.
The boundary of the 1B area has been moved downhill, enlarging the proposed wilderness.
There is a ½ mile buffer along private property.

The area is large enough to allow fire to play its natural role – under certain circumstances.
Is there a reason to change from the status quo?
    Limited timber potential
    Limited snowmobile access
Will designating area increase use of the area?

DECISIONS
No consensus on Starting Option

**Fatman Mountain Area**
Brief discussion of a possible 5a buffer along proposed wilderness boundary. Area currently mapped as 6b. No decision attempted or reached.

Next Meeting – Septenber 1, 2005 at 1900
Starting Topics – 6c designation in Fatman Area