

# Clark Fork Working Group

## Summary for 1/22/04 Meeting (Final Notes)

**Attendees:** Brian Avery, John Fitchett, Doug Grupenhoff, Dave Haggerty, Hannah Hernandez, Judy Hutchins, Debbie Lyman, Barney McLinden, Gene Newell and Mike Miller.  
(6:30 pm -9:15 pm)

There were no revisions to the draft summary for the 1/8/04 meeting.

Brian brought a portion of the Federal Register concerning inventoried roadless areas, and several maps, including: Roadless Areas in the Kootenai and Panhandle Forests.

Vegetative Response Units  
Wildland/Urban Interface Areas

### Watershed/Aquatic Species

Mike discussed the Watershed/Aquatic Species info he prepared and several additions were made by Dave, Doug and others. The desired condition statement revised per discussion at the meeting follows.

### Wildlife

Barney and the group discussed ideas on the Wildlife. The desired condition statement follows.

### Vegetation

Hannah and the group discussed ideas on the Vegetation. The desired condition statement follows.

### Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on **February 12, 2004 at the Heron Library – Resource Room.**

Discussion topics will be:

- 1) Access & Recreation
- 2) Inventoried Roadless Areas and Proposed Wilderness Areas.

## 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 your GA:**

- Watersheds Functioning-at-Risk Condition
- Watersheds Not Properly Functioning
- 303d listed streams
- Riparian areas Not Properly Functioning

<b>Desired Condition Statement</b>	<p>All watersheds in the CFGA should be properly functioning and healthy, providing high quality water flowing into the Cabinet Gorge and Noxon Reservoirs, and providing healthy habitat for aquatic species. This could be accomplished by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Working with the LCF watershed councils, Montana Fish, Wildlife &amp; Parks, Green Mountain Conservation District, Avista Corporation and other appropriate entities to identify problem areas, and develop solutions to solve these problems.</li> <li>2. Develop stream restoration projects that can be funded by Title II (RAC) funding.</li> <li>3. Aggressively pursue USFS funding sources for watershed projects.</li> <li>4. Provide assistance with NEPA and permitting for watershed projects.</li> <li>5. Restoration projects should be monitored.</li> <li>6. Provide healthy habitat for aquatic and riparian species (animals and plants).</li> <li>7. Provide high quality habitat in lower Clark fork tributaries to benefit native aquatic species.</li> <li>8. Develop programs to minimize the spread and impact of invasive species (e.g., terrestrial aquatic weeds, whirling disease, etc.). via education, monitoring, signage, etc.).</li> </ol>
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<p><b>Identify Priority Areas</b></p>	<p>Proposed priority areas are: 1) Federal lands in drainages with 303(d) listed waterbodies in the CFGA including Elk Creek, Rock Creek, Whitepine Creek, Bull River, Trout Creek, Marten Creek, Pilgrim Creek, Vermilion River, Swamp Creek, Beaver Creek, Dry Creek (Bull River) and Noxon Reservoir. Private lands in the above listed drainages would also be a priority, especially if activities on federal lands have exacerbated problems on these private lands. Non 303(d) listed drainages that have problems should also be considered priority areas.</p>
<p><b>Describe why this is a priority</b></p>	<p>Various problems have been recently identified by the six existing LCF watershed councils (Elk, Rock, Whitepine, Bull, Trout &amp; Pilgrim) located in the CFGA via comprehensive watershed assessments. The priority drainages are listed on the Montana 303(d) list as impaired waterbodies. Project EIS's have been prepared by the USFS in other drainages (e.g., Whitepine &amp; Beaver) and problems have been identified. Also, all of the 303(d) listed streams contain a native species of concern (westslope cutthroat trout) and several contain bull trout.</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 your 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

<b>Desired Condition Statement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide an array of quality habitats well distributed across the landscape to provide for the year-round needs of wildlife, including threatened and endangered species.</li> <li>2. Enhance big game wildlife habitat through various management techniques, such as:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Prescribed burns in plots scattered in all drainages in the GA.</li> <li>b. mechanically cut thick brush fields in old clear cut areas that were never replanted (1960's clearcuts such as the area on the south east side of Gem Peak).</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Continue identifying and protecting sensitive plants and animals.</li> <li>4. Leave old growth areas alone except on sites where calculated management activity can sustain or enhance old growth.</li> <li>5. Conserve the best down woody debris necessary to provide good wildlife habitat. There is a need for quality snags (larch &amp; white pine)</li> <li>6. Some treatment may be necessary in replacement old growth stands.</li> </ol>
<b>Identify Priority Areas</b>	
<b>Describe why this is a priority</b>	

## 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 your GA:**

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

<b>Desired Condition Statement</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There is overlap to our recommendations for the Timber Production and Fire Risk topics.</li> <li>2. Riparian areas – develop healthy riparian zone vegetation.</li> <li>3. Weeds – contain invasive non-native species to areas where they can be managed as well as possible.</li> <li>4. Increase under-represented species such as whitebark pine, larch, aspen, cottonwood, birch, etc.).</li> <li>5. Encourage growth of trees more resistant to disease.</li> </ol>
<b>Identify Priority Areas</b>	
<b>Describe why this is a priority</b>	

## KIPZ Forest Plan Revision Public Involvement/Meeting Report Form

**Instructions:** Please fill out this form for each Forest Plan Revision public information meeting or public comment forum held on your forest/district. There should be one form per meeting.

Return to: Jodi Kramer, Forest Service, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815

<b>Forest/District: Kootenai NF/Cabinet RD</b>	
<b>Meeting Date: 1/22/2004</b>	
<b>Location: (city, state) Heron, MT 1830-2115</b>	
<b>Lead person of meeting etc: Brian Avery (FS rep)</b>	
<b>Number/Name of Attendees:</b> <i>(attach sign-in sheets)</i> <b>See Page 2</b>	<b>Number of Speakers: small group with open dialogue</b>
<b>Type of Meeting Format: informal; round table type</b> <i>(check appropriate type)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Information Meeting</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Public Comment Forum</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Other GA working group meeting – this is the sixth meeting (including the initial, organizational meeting)</b>	
<b>Brief Description of Meeting: Meeting hours 1500 to 1630</b> <i>(two or three sentences about the tone and any highlights of the meeting)</i>	
<p>The group reviewed the 1/8/2004 draft meeting notes, made minor edits, and approved them. Avery provided information asked for by the group at the 1/8/2004 meeting – maps showing IRAs on the IPNF and KNF; WUI delineation for the Clark GA; and a VRU map that serves a variety of purposes including extrapolation of fuel loadings. Also distributed copies of the Forest Service Roadless Rule since the group will be addressing this revision topic at an upcoming meeting.</p> <p>The group reviewed the draft DCs for watershed/aquatics; wildlife; and vegetation. The group is using the Forest Service provided examples as a template. Discussed RAC funding for watershed projects. Group decided to modify the draft watershed/aquatics DC's by adding statements related to monitoring, riparian habitat health, native aquatic species, and invasive species (public education, signing, etc.). Priority areas identified for watershed treatments.</p> <p>Wildlife discussion began with old growth characteristics being described; identification of dependant species; and actual amount of "old growth" in Clark GA that is dominated by 90 year old timber stands as a result of 1910 fire. Recognition that silvicultural treatments are needed to sustain, enhance, and develop old growth characteristics especially in replacement old growth. Discussed downed coarse woody debris, snag density and quality especially need for PP, WL, and PP snags. Need recognized for quality wildlife habitat, especially winter range for big game, across entire GA. Discussion of types of treatments in brush fields in 1960's clearcuts. Discussion of terrestrial T&amp;E species (grizzly bear, lynx, grey wolf) and need for quality habitat across the landscape.</p> <p>Short discussion on vegetation. Need for healthy forest and riparian areas; increase underrepresented species (aspen, birch, WL, WP, etc) and insect &amp; disease resistant trees. Noxious weed suppression and confinement to current areas; need to eradicate some newer invasive weed species. Brief discussion of soil productivity and nutrient cycling.</p>	

The workgroup will work on recreation and access and IRAs at the next meeting. The group will contact, encourage, and invite snowmobile club (Cabinet Ridge Riders) representatives to attend meetings. DC statements for all revision topics will be polished and finalized in upcoming weeks.

**Information requested to be provided by the Forest Service for the next meeting:**

**None requested.**

**The group's next meeting is scheduled for February 12, 2004 @6:30 PM, in Heron at the community center/school building.**

**Issues Identified or Lessons learned from meeting:** *(list any issues identified to share w/ Revision Team)*

The group continues to seek additional participation at these meetings to increase diversity of thought and values. Group is gaining an understanding of the laws, regulations and policies that direct Forest Service activities and an appreciation of the complexity involved with program and project planning. They also realize the need to aggressively work towards completing their DC statements given the FP revision timelines. **Three revision topics are too much to tackle in a 2-3 hour meeting; two would be doable.**

**January 22, 2004 Clark Geographic Area Working Group Meeting @Heron School building**

**Meeting Attendees:**

**Forest Service –Brian Avery (DR), Doug Grupenhoff (Wildlife/Fisheries/Watershed/Weeds), Gene Newell (Silviculture)**

**Private – Debbie Lyman, Judy Hutchins, Mike Miller, Barney McLinden, Hannah Hernandez, John Fitchett, Dave Haggerty**