

**Coeur d'Alene GA Workgroup Meeting Notes**  
**4/8/04**  
**Canyon Elementary School off Rose Lake exit**

**Attendance:** **Forest Service** – Joe Stringer, Jodi Kramer, Shanda Dekome, Rob Davies, Gail Worden and Ed Lider, and Lessa Johnson. **Public** – Tom Crimmins, Dave Vig, Bill Alexander, Al Beauchene, Dennis Brillor, Gordon Canterbury, Suzanne Jude, Rob Osmun, Jerry Willis, Jere Chastain, Rick Cameron, Don Capparelli, Earl Castleberry, Richard Good, Melvin Grover, Harold Matthews, Chris McLaughin, Joe Peak, Barry pearson, Don Rower, Bill Schwartz, Bill & Barb White, Gary Widmyer, Larry Yergler, Don Huber, Tim & Jerri Park, and Jake & Debby Bekel.

**Welcome:** Joe welcomed everyone, and then we broke up into 3 smaller groups. There was a station for wildlife, watersheds and aquatic species and the 3 groups rotated through these stations. At each station they brainstormed desired condition statements for these topics. At the end of the meeting, everyone went through the sensing process and indicated whether they A=agree, D=Disagree or C=can live with each statement. The results of the draft desired condition statements are as follows:

**Wildlife**  
**GENERALLY AGREE**

- Manage roads and trails for hunting access.
- Improve quality of winter browse.
- Protect natural salt licks.
- Control noxious weeds and vine maple.
- Controlled burning for wildlife.
- Manage forests for historic tree species.
- Road decommissioning creates noxious weeds.
- Delist wolf and grizzly.
- Create openings by logging.
- Open public meetings with Fish and Game, Forest Service and the Public on Game Management.
- Manage roads to provide opportunities for disabled hunters.
- Provide alternate routes to minimize wildlife disturbance.
- Increase salvage of down and dead to improve habitat.
- Peer reviewed science, shared with the public.
- Manage for mule deer (want more).
- Selective harvest to improve habitat and close new roads on way out.
- Mechanical thinning (commercial) to improve habitat.
- Build elk habitat on closed roads, road prisms and skid trails especially for winter range.
- Under critical conditions, provide emergency feeding.
- Maximize edge effect for wildlife, revive decedant brush.

**GENERALLY SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**

- Manage road for wildlife.
- Short term closures for critical seasons.
- Consider wildlife transplants (mule deer).

## **Aquatic Species** **GENERALLY AGREE**

- Would like to see increases in rainbow trout population.
- More habitat improvement (improve natural habitat, such as increase LOD, shade, etc.)
- Reduce fish ducks (mergansers) on the river.
- Maintain motorized access, but also replace inadequate culverts.
- Restore riparian vegetation in areas taken over by noxious weeds.
- For instream habitat improvement structures, insure they are constructed so that the structures and the road are protected, especially at high flows.
- Maintain current distribution of brook trout.
- Build and maintain roads and trails to reduce sediment delivery to streams.
- Relocate (not close) trails that are in the riparian zone.
- More catch and take/keep ponds to reduce fishing pressure on the main river and the Little North Fork. Also provides a fisheries where people can keep fish.
- Keep pike out of high mountain lakes.
- Manage high mountain lakes for large (non-reproducing) trout (i.e. Spirit Lake)
- Replace undersized culverts to allow for fish passage.
- Deepen some of the holes in the lower river by dredging.
- Desirable non-natives:
  1. Kokanee
  2. Bass
  3. Brook Trout
  4. Rainbow Trout
  5. Chinook Salmon
- Desirable Native Fishes: Cutthroat trout
- Need to manage for species, not isolated populations (or sub-species).
- Manage to maintain native aquatic species (including freshwater mussels, amphibians, etc.)
- Work to prevent introduction of non-desirable, invasive (exotic) aquatic species.
- Concerns about recovered bull trout preying on native fish populations (esp. cutthroat)

## **GENERALLY SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**

- Landowners should be responsible for damage to the river if they remove riparian vegetation.
- There needs to be consideration of downstream cumulative effects from upstream logging.
- Treat sloughs in the lower river to eliminate non-desirable fishes.

## **Watersheds** **GENERALLY AGREE**

- PFC/FAR/NPF Map is not necessarily correct for developing strategies (check if Lost Fork trib is 303d listed)
- Method of restoration in past clearcuts – manage for correct species of vegetation, and manage the area appropriately. (Shoshone/Lost Creek area, Steamboat, Iron Honey)
- Remediation not obliteration in regards to roads. Utilize culvert improvement or new culverts; treating open road surfaces with better culverts, water bars, and erosion control.
- Protection of all community water systems, specifically Placer Creek, Hayden Lake – highest priority (get a list).
- Focus restoration in the not properly functioning watersheds first.
- Dust control, additional road surfacing to be done first so you don't close the road.
- Return selective logging as a tool to improve and/or restore watersheds.
- Time frame is too slow after harvest. Replant, thin and maintain stands sooner.

- Do more channel restoration work i.e. bank erosion, upgrading culverts; use other methods to slow water channeling through the culvert (bigger culvert or use boulder rip-rapping).
- Define erosion sites on existing roads and use hydro-mulching with netting.
- In place of new road construction, look at opening another road if you need to close a road that's impairing a watershed.
- Watershed condition classification should be based on real stream conditions, not modeling data.
- Write grants to help put good road and trail systems in.
- Utilize volunteers, user groups etc. to do road and trail management.
- Adequately maintain roads and trails to improve and/or restore watersheds.
- Don't increase road densities to harvest timber, put in temporary roads where we can and then restore to protect the watersheds.
- Convert roads to trails to reduce impact to the watershed.
- Use restoration funding in the most efficient, effective watersheds – put the dollars where you get the biggest bang for your buck!

**GENERALLY SPLIT (Disagree and Agree)**

- Short, dead-end roads that can't be connected as a loop and have failing culverts should be closed. (Remove culvert, close road and get off road inventory).
- Need flexibility to use non-native, quick growing vegetation for erosion control.

Jodi Kramer then shared at the end of the meeting what's going to happen at the last meeting on **April 22<sup>nd</sup> at Canyon Elementary School starting at 7:00 – 9:00pm.** In advance, all of the draft desired condition statements will be emailed or mailed out to all workgroup participants and then we will discuss on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. She also shared that the revision team will be using these DC statements along with other public input through the summer to develop the alternatives and the Draft Forest Plans. In the fall, we will be reconvening the workgroups to share with them how the revision team used their input and the other public comments received by the team.