

**Coeur d'Alene GA Workgroup Meeting Notes**  
**3/25/04**  
**Supervisors Office in Coeur d'Alene, ID**

**Attendance:** **Forest Service** – Linda McFaddan, Jodi Kramer, Kent Wellner, Jack Dorrell, Don Garringer and Lessa Johnson. **Public** – David Zabel, Duane Adams, Scott Bennett, Ricki Camero, Don Capparelli, Earl Castleberry, Gary Coast, Richard Good, Larry Jennings, Christian Kirsch, Chris McLaughin, Ben Millard, Michael Millward, Gwen Nessel, Joe Peak, Barry Pearson, Mike Reynolds, Don Rower, Sandy Schlepe, Mike Shelley, Mike Waldo, Bill & Barb White, Shannon Wood, Larry Yergler, Tom Crimmins, Alan Dragoo, Bill Alexander, Al Beauchene, Bob Finlay, Brian Finlay, David Silva, Rudy Toews, Jerry Willis, Terry Silva, Don Huber, Mike & Julie Davis, Harold Matthews, Spence & Carol Grafft, Bill Schwartz, Preston Joy, Barbara Hodgman, Bill Peck, Jere Chastam, Larry Kinsey, JD & Jody Scribner, Sheree Newby, Melvin Gover, Barbara Christofferson, John Bowman, Brandy & Herb Arthur, Gene Ward, Bob Hickey, Steve Brunner, Gary Widmyer, Katie Mit, Mike Piper, Rob Osmun, Tony Tvecker, and Steve & Terri Matthews.

**Welcome:** Linda welcomed everyone, asked everyone to take about ½ hour to fill out the DC statements for Vegetation, Fire and Timber Production indicating for each statement which ones you A=agree with, C=can live with or D=disagree with. After that the workgroup broke up into 4 smaller groups and were given 15 minutes at each station to add any additional DC statements for Access & Rec (Motorized/Non-motorized); Access & Rec (Dev/Dispersed Rec), Access & Rec (Motorized, wheeled cross-country travel); and IRAs and Proposed Wilderness.

**Linda also shared the Meeting Schedule for the rest of March and April. It is as follows:** **April**

**April 8<sup>th</sup>:**

- Brainstorm exercise for wildlife, watersheds and aquatic species.
- **Advance Home prework** – Review all the Desired Condition statements and come prepared to discuss at the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**April 22<sup>nd</sup>:**

- Nominal group sensing exercise for wildlife, watersheds and aquatic species.
- Review of all desired condition statements for the revision topics.

**Following are the results of the sensing process for the DC statements for Vegetation, Fire and Timber Production:**

**Fire**

**GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- Create and/or maintain a healthy, accessible Forest condition using these tools (or a combination of):
  1. Timber Management
  2. Fire Suppression
  3. Prescribed Fire (watershed protection as we use these tools)
  4. Fire Use
  5. Maintain Road Accessibility for Fire Suppression efforts in the WUI and for Timber Management to protect
    - Old Jack Waite Mine (E. Fork Eagle Creek)
    - Placer Creek
    - South of I-90 corridor to St. Joe Divide

- Communities

- Fuel loading is reduced to acceptable levels in both the urban interface and the general forest zones.
- Prescribed fire is used to reduce fire risk where needed and improve habitat.
- Insect and diseased timber is removed in a timely manner to reduce fuel loads.
- A good system of roads and trails exist to allow initial attack crews, fire patrol personnel and administrative crews to reach all areas and provide for evacuation.
- Fuelwood gathering is encouraged as a means to reduce fire risk.
- Forest Service works closely with counties to ensure private land fire prevention efforts are in place and enforced.
- Fire suppression crews are not put at risk attempting to save private structures where fire prevention efforts have not been implemented.
- Use thinning to create a natural mosaic of fire/fuel barriers.
- Smaller green slip sales for pulp.
- Alternate uses for bio-mass: e.g. hog fuels, chip slash piles for other uses.
- Identify prescribed wildfire areas.
- Return to fire tolerant stand composition.
- *FIRESMART* program should be mirrored on FS land be a priority next to private land.
- Use logging as a tool for reducing fuels:
  - Dollar return is a consideration
  - Include fuels reduction in timber sales
  - Remove dead wood (non- marketable)

WUI:

- WUI being defined by the Silver Valley group as: St. Joe Divide to Kellogg Divide and South and West borders of Coeur d'Alene
- Suppress all fires within WUI (Human and Natural Caused)
- Use mechanical treatments and prescribed fire as needed (judiciously)

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

WUI:

- Not have Wildland Fire Use Fires

Wildland Fire Use (WFU) Areas:

- WFU areas being defined by the Silver Valley group as: Backcountry, generally roadless areas.
- No suppression of natural caused fires in IRA's, dependent on fire conditions and based on that IRA direction doesn't change, which currently doesn't allow timber harvest. This would not be direction in every IRA in CDA GA. Some IRA's are within the WUI.

**GENERALLY DISAGREE**

None

**Timber**

**GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- Timber stands represent the full range of successional stages.
- Timber harvest is used as a tool to improve forest health.
- Timber harvest is used as a tool to maintain existing roads and to fund watershed improvements.
- Timber harvest is used as a tool to improve wildlife habitat for harvestable species such as elk and deer.

- Timber harvest is sustainable over time.
- Timber harvest levels are stable over the long run.
- Timber harvest is used as a tool to enhance community economic stability.
- All roads should be reviewed for recreational needs before decommissioned.
- Structure timber harvest to maintain water quality.
- Faster replant after harvesting timber.
- No closer than 1000 feet between logging roads/plots.
- Prioritize harvest with areas susceptible to fire.
- Smaller green slip sales.
- Continue with and enhance commercial fuel wood gathering plan.
- Establish strict timeline for replanting.
- Build restraining structures to address debris – selective logging practices could avoid this.
- Need to support local infrastructure and jobs.
- Need to respond to natural events (ice storm, blowdown, fires) quickly to salvage
- Consider a variety of canopy openings.

### **Vegetation**

#### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- Accessible/useable road infrastructure for now and future use.
- Healthy, green forest.
- Increase White Pine component in the forest.
- Restore the “right” vegetation in the proper land areas.
- Restore more longer-lived seral species.
- Maintain appropriate structure (size – age of trees)
- Manage/treat diseased, dying areas as appropriate.
- Noxious weeds should be a high priority issue.
- In priority areas, use Greenslip Sales to restore forest health.

### **Following are the results of the completion of the brainstorming session and then the sensing exercise for Access, Recreation, Inventoried Roadless Areas and Proposed Wilderness:**

#### **Access & Recreation: Motorized & Non-Motorized Area Allocation**

#### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- More access for disabled.
- For disabled hunters, should be able to hunt from roads, roads that are closed to everyone, because they can't hunt from designated roads (State Law)
- Make sure facilities are truly set up for handicapped.
- To provide more access, use current organizations for maintenance, policing, building trails, developing loop trails etc.
- Trail System properly designed for all uses with all areas of challenge for users.
- Look at having some trails for specific uses – have them designated (horse use, ATV use, etc.). Some trails and roads of Forest should be open to non-motorized and some should be open to motorized. Uses would be determined based on type of trail, condition of trail, etc.
- When looking at decommissioning a road, look at converting to a trail first and/or creating loop trails. Utilize old roads as trails rather than obliterate. Repair or stabilize problems while retaining trail access. Establish vegetation suitable for wildlife on the routes.
- Achieve a balanced amount of available experience for different user groups. Don't look at just miles available, but experience too. (Quality vs. Quantity).
- No net loss of recreational access for all users.
- Where legally possible, open roads that have been closed.

- Make sure consistency on a road, (open on one end need to be open on the other).
- Keep regional trail systems open – i.e. between cities and towns.
- Leave more roads open to dispersed use.
- During hunting season, would like to use closed roads to be able to retrieve game.
- Utilize fire funding to maintain roads for access.
- Maintain access for fire suppression.
- More green slip sales to keep roads open.
- Make sure to look at fire access before closing roads.
- Provide opportunities for a motorized user to be able to reach different areas designated for motorized use and take into consideration separation of areas designated for non-motorized use?
- All trails and roads of Forest should be open to all users for any type of motorized and non-motorized use without any seasonal restrictions.
- Loop roads and trails are desirable for many user groups.
- Add sections on to open road and trails to replace those lost from closures in other areas.
- Seasonal closures ... need to adopt according to the weather (i.e. if it's a dry Spring ... pull signs earlier).
- Identify areas for seasonal closures and provide reasons for closure.
- Some trails should be developed for low speed – safety concerns.
- Design trails to minimize resource damage.
- Forest Service needs to maintain trails to prevent damage – erosion.
- Not all roads are bad ... just bad spots that need attention.
- Glidden Lake to Murray link with Wallace would be a great opportunity to develop.
- Would like designated jeep trails.
- Law Enforcement must be focused where there are problems.
- Clubs and enthusiasts should be involved in helping enforce regulation and trails users. Help and be responsible for trail maintenance.
- Don't spend \$ to close roads, spend \$ to maintain them.
- Routes are clearly identified and signed with appropriate legal uses and inappropriate activities.
- Quality and accurate maps are available. What is on the maps is the correct information.
- Work with groups to achieve proper technical designations for trails.
- Reclassify roads to recognized that old logging roads should not be considered travel routes if they are grown over, washed out etc.

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

- If a jammer road dead ends ... then maybe it's OK to get rid of it.
- Trail planning should use "system" approach (grouped trails).

### **Access and Recreation: Motorized, Wheeled Cross-Country Travel**

#### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- Allowing motorized, wheeled cross-country travel to retrieve game.
- Limit wheeled, motorized travel to "existing" routes. Go to designated/system routes after site-specific analysis.
- Come up with a better system for signing routes.
- Change back to before – forest is "open" unless signed "closed"
- Winter Motorized: We want cross-country travel off groomed trails.
- Create a better and more extensive trail system, therefore need/desire to go off-trail is diminished. What is out there, roads and trails, need to be open.

- Enforcement of off-trail violators can and should be accomplished by other users who witness violations, by turning them into Forest Service Law Enforcement.
- Educate people of Policy/Rules – Users and the Public are most effective at education. Use ATV, etc. vendors to help educate. Encourage trail and road etiquette.
- Before shutting down motorized cross country travel, EIS/EA needs to be done.
- Be able to travel on motorized vehicles on closed roads to retrieve game.
- Leave everything open – don't concentrate use – more resource damage.
- Keep single tracks to single tracks.
- Equal opportunities for all uses – increase in some trails to increase dispersion (i.e. not very many ATV trails).
- Before opening an area to cross-country travel, an EIS/EA needs to be done.
- Do away with Memorial Day and Labor Day closures. Want no seasonal closures.

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

- We should not allow off-trail use anywhere for any reason except for game retrieval.
- Limit wheeled, motorized travel to existing routes, even for game retrieval.
- Bicycles and horses have to have road and trail stickers like OHV's.
- Create trail systems that are user specific (decrease conflict).
- Designate cross-country travel special areas (i.e., Moses Lake by Spokane) – concern of liability
- No horses and mechanized bikes off-trail anywhere for any reason except game retrieval.

#### **Inventoried Roadless Areas**

Following are the IRAs on the Coeur d'Alene Geographic Area: East Cathedral, Magee, Teepee Creek, Skitwish Ridge, Spion Kop, Lost Creek, Trouble Creek, Graham Coal, Maple Creek, and Stevens Peak.

#### **IRAs:**

#### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- No IRA's proposed for wilderness.
- Don't remove any current roads that are in IRA's.
- Suppress all fires within IRA's.
- Utilize public as volunteers for fire observers, suppression, etc.
- Harvest in a timely manner in a way to manage IRA's.
- Review IRAs for removal of IRA designation and do active management.
- Roadless areas should be open to all motorized and non-motorized use equally year-round.
- Motorized users should be permitted equal rights with regard to use of established roads and trails (i.e. open to snowmobiles)
- Develop more cooperative agreements with user groups for trail maintenance.
- Establish periodic meeting with user groups to establish trail maintenance plans and schedules.

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

- Utilize a Wildland Fire Use Plan and let fires burn within prescription.
- Identify specific IRAs for non-motorized and motorized users instead of mixing user types.

## **IRAs Proposed for Wilderness:**

### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- Instead of saying “Proposed for wilderness”, should be “Backcountry”, which has different management philosophies.
- Roadless areas should be designated as Backcountry and timber management allowed only for ecological issues.
- We don’t want roadless areas to become Wilderness so we can manage vegetation.
- Analyze IRA’s for non-motorized uses to distribute the use. (See explanations: - where motorized look to maintain that use. – where non-motorized now maintain that use.)
- If you can walk out in less than two days, it should not be a wilderness.
- On groomed trail systems sticker required only when groomed. Open to other uses without sticker when not groomed.
- Vegetation management should be allowed in proposed wilderness.

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

- If IRA is proposed as wilderness, manage to maintain wilderness characteristics for a certain period of time. This should be reviewed periodically.

## **Dispersed and Developed Recreation**

### **GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

- More campgrounds with fire pits.
- If a road is closed, provide a new dispersed campsite/sites.
- Dispersed sites should be spread out all over the forest.
- Provide more toilets at dispersed sites (like at the Bunco Rd.)
- Develop more Fee Camp Sites on the main CDA River like R.V. Sites, disabled facilities.
- Keep roads open where dead trees are abundant for Firewood gathering.
- Keep roads open where huckleberries and mushrooms are abundant also.
- Areas with dead timber open up to the public for firewood – NO FEE
- Restore and maintain lookouts for overnight rentals. (ie. Lunch Peak on Sandpoint District. Spyglass would be a great one to restore and rent.)
- Road is closed it should be closed to FS as well, except for Emergency Response.
- Allowances should be made for handicapped use of closed roads.
- During the time of year when snowmobile grooming is not done on closed roads, they should be open to ATV’s.
- When roads are closed area (space) should be left available near the closure to allow for dispersed camping.
- Toilets should be installed at high use dispersed sites (parking lots, trailheads, Bumblebee meadows, etc.)
- Provide year-around toilets for use at sites like Bumblebee or other high use winter areas.
- Leave developed campsites open during hunting season.
- Collections from rental units should be used for maintenance of unit only.
- Provide more dispersed and less developed campsites.
- Provide more developed parking in high use trailheads in winter. (example: Bumblebee area)
- Provide dispersed and developed campsites early Spring and Fall (Hunting Season).
- No host developed campsites should be made available during off-season. To maintain toilet cleaning could be contracted out.
- Water sources at trailheads.

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

- Designate a test area (study plot of 2+ sq. mi.) to explore the use of dispersed sites and rec. uses only (concept is to allow public use with little to no FS Mgmt.)
- Upgrade Graham Creek to a developed campground.

**GENERALLY DISAGREE**

- If roads are being closed there should be no new road development.

**Wild & Scenic Rivers**

**GENERALLY AGREE and/or CAN LIVE WITH**

It's worthy of study and if a stream or river is designated then we don't want restricted access.

**Next Meeting is April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Canyon Elementary School 7:00 – 9:00 pm.** Come prepared to brainstorm wildlife, watersheds and aquatic species.