

Ltr #0218

**Kootenai and Idaho Panhandle National Forests (KIPZ)
Forest Plan Revision
Public Contact Record**

Name:	Mary Terra-Berns (Envir. Coordinator), J.J. Teare (Regional Habitat Biologist), Laura Wolf (Regional Wildlife Biologist)
Address:	Idaho Fish and Game
	CAREFUL WHEN ENTERING THIS LETTER IN THE DB – have to do a line at a time!
Email:	
Phone #:	 Date: 20 April 2012

Meeting Objective: Discuss/review any specific wildlife concerns in the draft Forest Plan—especially elk Management.

IDF&G Concerns: *Fire management*—why is wildland fire managed by the number of ignitions (i.e. 10 percent) rather than the number of acres?

Elk: most concerned about doing something in summer range in order to improve summer range conditions (via timber harvest, burning) as well as minimizing/eliminating over-snow motorized activities on winter range

Less concerned about roads on NFS lands due to the sharp decrease in road construction over the last two decades. Would like to see no increase in linear miles of road in important elk habitat

FS Questions/Concerns: Is use of Hillis paradigm appropriate or needed for the elk herds in units 1-7? Is security that big an issue or is vulnerability (Christiansen et al. 1993) a better way to go? Coeur d’Alene and St. Joe zones have completed their travel planning using the 1987 Forest Plan direction (based on Leege) and new potential direction in draft Plan would change that approach and make attaining the 30% secure over 80% of units unlikely. IDF&G less concerned about security given the high level of cover and how topography acts to provide secure cover for elk. Would like to discuss this further to come up with a more realistic and useful approach on objectives/guidelines/standards for elk in the plan.

Return to: Kent Wellner, Forest Service, 3815 Schreiber Way, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83815

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AGENCY CONTACT (message taken by or meeting):

Lydia Allen, Forest Wildlife Biologist (meeting at IDF&G office on April 20, 2012)