

Collaborative Meetings – Documentation Form (Instructions)

Geographic Area: Yaak

Attendance and Logistics

- August 4, 2005, 6:00-8:30, Upper Yaak Work Station
- 11 attendees plus Forest Service personnel: Mike Balboni, Jodi Kramer, Mark Mason, and Kathy Mohar

Major Points

- The meeting began with introductions. Mike gave an explanation of the different levels of planning: Forest Plan revision vs. site-specific decisions, particularly in regard to access changes. Meeting rules were adopted.
- Attendees expressed their interests in participating in this part of the process:
 - In accordance with WUI-County Fire Plan, have a 10-year plan to treat a suitable number of acres to create a healthy forest, regardless of budget limitations.
 - Ensure more fuels reduction in the WUI, providing a product using small diameter trees. This could bring new businesses to area. Treat more acres while protecting wild, natural qualities.
 - Concern for loss of access in NW Peaks and Buckhorn Ridge for snowmobile use, particularly Rock Candy and Hawkins Lake areas. Hawkins Lake is a destination area. Use has been here a long time. Not against wilderness.
 - Good to see some more proposed wilderness, but would like the group to consider adding more. Concern that TES species habitat, particularly the grizzly bear, is fragmented and there should be more proposed wilderness than appears in the starting option. Proposed wilderness would provide protection as grizzlies emerge from dens.
 - There are lots of single track trails but no designated double track trails on the KNF. Would like to work towards a managed system for the increasing use of ATVs. Sees benefits for multiple use with backcountry horse users.
 - Discuss the possibility of allowing a fuels reduction entry within the Roderick proposed wilderness/WUI buffer (17 Mile Creek).
 - Snowmobile use in the south end of NW Peaks area (now appears it is 5a) should be allowed.
 - Concern about too much proposed wilderness considering all the road closures in the last 15 years.
 - Concern that no chainsaw use in proposed wilderness would make horse travel difficult, and questioned the need for proposed wilderness in the Yaak.
 - Surprised there wasn't more proposed wilderness in the starting option. Would like to see more connectivity and dispersed recreation opportunities.

Points of Agreement

- The group agreed to try to reach consensus on motorized/non-motorized areas now, rather than wait for a travel management plan process.
- Priorities for the group are to: 1) Find method to clarify 5a and 5b to avoid confusion, 2). Find consensus with Northwest Peaks and Buckhorn boundaries and snowmobile use issue; 3) Pursue suggestion about WUI fuels reduction in Roderick area.

Next Meeting

- Scheduled for August 10 from 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- Need 5 maps, preferably before the next meeting. Plot starting option and core maps with section lines, mountains, lakes, and open roads. Bring topo and travel maps.