

Community Workshop Notes

October 26, 2004

Dayton, Washington



Meeting Facilitator: Martha Bean

Meeting Participants: 14 participants signed in

Co-Convenors: Butch Aiken, Asotin County Emergency Services Director.

Forest Service Officials: Mary Gibson and Monte Fujishin Mary Gibson, District Rangers, David Hatfield, Forest Planner, Umatilla National Forest

Team Members: Elaine Kohrman, Trish Callaghan, Bob Gecy, Bob Mason, Bruce Countryman, Tami Paulsen, Dee McConnell, and Dave Schmitt.

Handouts to Each Participants: Meeting Agenda, Draft Sustainability Framework, and Worksheet: Desired Conditions and Need for Change.

Meeting Summary/Objectives:

The team and the co-conveners held Round Two in the Community Collaborative Workshop series. The purpose of the workshops was to review and discuss the draft desired conditions that were developed using, in part, the Round One vision exercise which identified what participants “wanted the Blue Mountains National Forests for”. Other factors used in developing draft desired conditions included recent science, professional knowledge and experience of team members, and the current Forest Plans. The beginning of the session was held in an open house format with displays and time to review and become familiar with the worksheet that was used later in the workshop exercise. Team Leader Dave Schmitt gave a PowerPoint presentation about the forest plan revision process and the sustainability framework, followed by a brief presentation about how the Round One input was used to draft the desired condition statements. The second half of the workshop consisted of small groups discussing what participants thought about the draft desired conditions for the Blue Mountains national forests. The purpose of the activity was to focus on a few conditions that the groups wanted to discuss and to become familiar with the desired conditions materials so people can submit comments on the worksheet at a later date if they wish to. **The team asked that additional comments be received by January 14, 2005.**

Display tables during the open house portion:

Table – Forest Planning Process:

Handouts: The Forest Plan Revision Team; Components of a Forest Plan; What a Plan Does and Does Not Do; Hardcopy of the PowerPoint Presentation; How to Contact Us.

Table – The Sustainability Framework:

Handouts: Overview of Draft Sustainability Framework

Table – Round One Workshop Results:

Handouts: Binders of the Vision Statement submitted during the Round One Workshops from the database sorted by location and criteria.

Table – Vision/Desired Conditions:

Handouts: Draft Desired Condition Narrative, Draft Current Management Situation Report.

Desired Condition Exercise: In the small groups, the worksheet was used to select the desired condition to be discussed, and guide the discussion to answer three questions:

1. Do you agree with the desired condition statement? If not, what would you like it to be?
2. Do you agree with Team's assessment of where we are today in relation to the desired condition?
3. What challenges do you see in reaching the desired condition?

The following summary of small group discussions on the draft desired condition statements were captured on flip charts by each small group and presented to the larger group:

Desired Condition for Indicator 1.2.4: Trust Responsibilities

Agree with proposed Desired Condition?

- ◆ (No comments recorded)

Agree with Revision Team's assessment?

- ◆ (No comments recorded)

What challenges do you see?

- ◆ Issues of fairness
- ◆ Mistrust between cultures
- ◆ Creating/maintaining open two-way communication

Desired Condition for Indicator 1.4.6: Access and Use

Group 1

Agree with proposed Desired Condition?

- ◆ Basically agree with Desired Condition, but trails not being maintained

Agree with Revision Team's assessment?

- ◆ Yes

What challenges do you see?

- ◆ Grazing would help keep trails open and attract game back into area
- ◆ Road closures limit access
- ◆ Lack of communication about why roads closed
- ◆ Feeling the USFS doesn't want public in forest

Group 2

Agree with the proposed Desired Condition?

- ◆ Yes

Agree with the Revision Team's assessment?

- ◆ Yes, not close.

What challenges do you see?

- ◆ Involving all user groups to resolve conflicts; may not need to resolve quickly but be inclusive
- ◆ Described wants and needs as different from ATV, motorcycle, and snowmobile planning
- ◆ Identify and rate different suitabilities

Desired Condition for Indicator 2.1.1: Disturbance Processes

Agree with the proposed Desired Condition?

- ◆ General agreement with Desired Conditions except for large fires
- ◆ Define "magnitude"

Agree with the Revision Team's assessment?

- ◆ No, we are moving away
- ◆ Existing condition is not close to Desired Condition

What challenges do you see?

- ◆ Weigh ecological and social concerns; for example, large fires up at Tollgate are historical but not desirable
- ◆ Overwhelming process and language
- ◆ Need more active management
- ◆ Don't limit tools

Desired Condition for Criteria 3.1: Capital & Wealth (Indicators 3.1.1; 3.1.2; & 3.1.3)

Agree with the proposed Desired Condition?

- ◆ Yes, in general

Agree with the Revision Team's assessment?

- ◆ No, moving away fro Desired Condition

What challenges do you see?

- ◆ Need to speed up the process
- ◆ Get more efficient
- ◆ Getting public consensus on projects

- ◆ Need to develop markets for material
- ◆ Need to re-examine laws
- ◆ Need to develop partnerships to fund work
- ◆ Add laws as a "circle" to diagram of sustainability factors

Desired Condition for Indicator 3.2.1: Production Market Goods and Services

Agree with proposed Desired Condition?

- ◆ Need to consider economic factors when considering sustainability
- ◆ Should consider all factors in cost of not harvesting (increased fire suppression costs)
- ◆ Need to know how sustainability is determined
- ◆ Look also at other considerations like payments to counties, road maintenance, and road closures

Agree with Revision Team's call?

- ◆ No, not meeting the Desired Condition or moving towards it

What challenges do you see?

- ◆ Length of time in planning process
- ◆ Keep access open
- ◆ Litigation

(Note: These summaries do not represent all of the documentation for the workshops; completed forms for each small group discussion have been placed in the project files).

Group Critique of the Meeting:

What worked and what we learned-

- ◆ Small groups – having a civil discussion
- ◆ Forest Service folks listening, contributing

What could be changed?

- ◆ Send out handouts ahead of time.

Comments from the Critique Forms:

Participants answered the following questions on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

	Average
I understand how developing a vision and desired conditions fits into the revised Forest Plans.	(4.4)
I plan to attend most or all of the Blue Mountains Community Collaborative Workshops in my area.	(4.2)
It is important that the public is involved at this early stage of Forest Plan revision.	(4.6)
The workshop format made it comfortable to discuss public land issues with people I don't know.	(4.3)
The workshop format made it comfortable to discuss public land issues with people who hold different viewpoints.	(4.3)
I am comfortable contributing to discussions in a large group setting (15 people or more).	(3.7)
I am comfortable contributing to discussions in a small group setting (6 to 8 people).	(4.5)
I am comfortable using maps to enhance the group discussions about concerns regarding the area.	(4.6)

Participants were also asked:

Is there anything in particular that you liked or didn't like about the workshop?

- ◆ I was frustrated by how talkative the Forest Service folks were in my group. They didn't solicit my opinion. Education is good but I'd like to be called on more.
- ◆ Good conversation
- ◆ Small groups are good
- ◆ Talking with Forest Service people

Was the information presented helpful to you? Is there anything that you would like to know more about?

- ◆ Many groups seemed to have trouble keeping on task of desired conditions – wandering somewhat – we needed more direction from group leader
- ◆ Put up webpage and email addresses so I can access them (maybe even put on handouts)
- ◆ The current condition in the USFS opinion

Any other comments about the workshop?

- ◆ Thanks for asking for our opinions
- ◆ Nametags are good too
- ◆ Ask speakers to go to the front of the room