

Community Workshop Notes

May 4, 2005

Pasco, Washington



Meeting Facilitator: Susan Hayman
Meeting Recorder: Tami Paulsen, Kathy Campbell
Meeting Participants: 18 participants signed in

Co-Convener: None

Forest Service Official: Mary Gibson, Walla Walla District Ranger, Umatilla National Forest.

Team Members: Trish Callaghan, Bob Mason, Bruce Countryman, Tami Paulsen, Dave Schmitt, and Kathy Campbell

Handouts to Each Participant: Meeting Agenda, Worksheet for Management Categories, Worksheet for Areas with Wilderness Potential, Worksheet for Wild and Scenic Rivers, Management Categories & Subcategories, Inventory and Evaluation Process for Areas with Wilderness Potential, and Inventory and Evaluation Process for Wild and Scenic Rivers.

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; The 2004 Planning Rule, How to Contact Us.

Table – Inventory of Areas with Wilderness Potential and Wild and Scenic Rivers

Handouts: About Areas with Wilderness Potential and About Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Table – Management Categories

Handouts: None

Table – Suitability

Handouts: None

Meeting Summary/Objectives:

This was Round Three in the Community Collaborative Workshop series. The beginning of the workshop was an open house format with displays for one-on-one discussions as people arrived. The purpose of the workshops was to summarize the Forest Service's 2005 Planning Rule, introduce Proposed Management Categories for use in the Revised Forest Plan to display management guidance, and to present updated inventories for both Areas with Wilderness Potential and potential Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The Wilderness and the Wild and Scenic River presentations were focused on the inventory phase of the process; no decisions or proposals were being made. This step was only to identify what areas and rivers QUALIFIED to be considered for designation. Time was provided for questions to clarify the inventory criteria and to gain additional information from the public on current uses and conditions of specific areas and rivers. Discussions on these topics were intended to provide the public with information so they could comment on whether they thought the areas and rivers met the criteria. The Revision Team asked that additional comments be sent in by June 30, 2005.

The 2005 Planning Rule:

Team Leader Dave Schmitt gave a PowerPoint presentation about the 2005 Planning Rule.

Q. What is an example of when you would need to do an Environmental Impact Statement?

A. An Environmental Impact Statement is done for specific projects to determine if the impacts are significant and what mitigation should be done to prevent significant impacts. It may be done for any type of project: timber sale, campground construction, or trail construction road building.

Management Categories:

The Revision Team's Vegetation Specialist, Bruce Countryman, presented a PowerPoint describing a preliminary set of Management Categories that may be used to display management guidelines on the 2005_05_04_pasco_notes/K:/Revision/PlanningRecord

three Blue Mountain national forests and asked the participants to comment on the concept and suggest additional categories and subcategories they would like to be used. **The team asked that additional comments be received by June 30, 2005.**

Flipchart Comments

Q. Are you recognizing that some uses/areas that are intensely managed and take Forest Service resources? For example, Category 5 takes a lot of time and budget. Are budgets being taken into consideration?

A. Budget and future workloads will be taken into account in the desired conditions and objectives.

Q. Is the sub-category “non-motorized” and “limited motorized” one item? “Limited” implies some restrictions. I am concerned that the wording “limited-motorized” is more restrictive.

A. They are two potential categories, and yes as used here they have different limitations. “Limited motorized” would be areas closed for all or a portion of the year. Non-motorized areas would be areas where (obviously) motorized equipment would not be allowed at any time.

Q. These areas are draft?

A. Yes and no. The map shows the current forest plan direction displayed in the five categories. The five categories are draft and our initial attempt at a way to display management direction in the revised forest plan. We are open to suggestions for different ways to display direction in the revised forest plan.

Q. It appears there is a continuum from Category 1 to 5 - appears management/human interaction increases from Category 1 to Category 5, is this correct?

A. Yes, in general.

Q. Categories are not listed in order of importance?

A. That is correct. The order is only intended to show levels of management intensity.

Q. There has been no mention of how rules should be or would be enforced. It would be good to include/mention enforcement.

A. We will include desired conditions that address protection of resources and certainly consider the ability to enforce direction as we develop the Revised Forest Plans. However, enforcement of rules is another issue outside the realm of revision itself.

Wild and Scenic Rivers and Areas with Wilderness Potential:

Trish Callaghan, Recreation Specialist for the Revision Team, made two presentations: one on the requirements and process for inventory and review of Wild and Scenic Rivers and one on the process for updating the inventory of Areas with Wilderness Potential. Participants were given time to ask questions about the criteria process used and to review maps and identify rivers and areas that should be added or removed from the inventories. **The team asked that additional comments be received by June 30, 2005.**

Questions and Answers - Wild and Scenic Rivers

Q. Does the Fish and Wildlife Service enter into this designation?

A. Not really. Some of the reports from the ranger districts stated that there may be threatened and endangered species present and that may be a factor in our decision to recommend designaton. We would certainly welcome comments from the Fish and Wildlife Service on our calls

Q. Butte Creek is in a wilderness area – why consider it for wild and scenic designation?

A. The Wilderness Act states that the President can authorize water development within wilderness; Wild and Scenic River designation may be used to strengthen protection on top of the Wilderness Act for streams within wilderness as it would not allow developments.

Q. There are some rivers outside of the forest boundary.

A. Two streams that are designated may be managed by Bureau of Land Management or other agencies; we just included them on the maps for reference. We are not proposing to evaluate or designate streams off of national forest lands.

Q. Please clarify the colors on the maps.

A. Blue – already designated Wild and Scenic Rivers; Orange/Brown – Studies were initiated after the first round of forest plan decisions; Yellow – identified in the 2005 process which looked at all perennial streams across the three forests as streams which may be eligible.

Flipchart Comments – Areas with Wilderness Potential

- “Roads” defined as maintained to level to be suitable for passenger car travel.
- Desirable to recreate in roadless area rather than wilderness.
- I would like to recreate in a roadless area, but not in the wilderness.

Questions and Answers – Areas with Wilderness Potential

- Q.** Do designated snowmobile trails influence roadless?
A. Yes, knowing how much use, and where, will be important in evaluation of these areas.
- Q.** The first step in the process was done at the ranger district level?
A. Yes. Local people used the Forest Service Handbook and reviewed the information. Ranger districts evaluated whether areas meet the criteria.
- Q.** You wouldn't ask Congress to step in and suggest areas, correct?
A. That's correct, we plan to complete the inventory and evaluation steps as part of the forest plan revision process.
- Q.** The political reality is you may not recommend wilderness—what becomes the status of these areas identified in your inventory in that case?
A. They would be allocated for management under one of the other management categories. If we recommended them for wilderness and Congress decided not to designate them as such, they may also be put into one of the other management categories.
- Q.** Isn't there a time limit in effect when, if Congress doesn't act, it would go back to other management?
A. No, not that we are aware of.
- Q.** Jausaud Corral shouldn't be roadless, they have built a road in it, and it is smaller than 5,000 acres.
A. It is adjacent to the Wenaha-Tucannon Wilderness so while it is less than 5,000 acres it still meets the criteria.
- Q.** Roads must be passable by passenger vehicle to be considered a road in the criteria?
A. Yes. We are not calling these areas "roadless" anymore because they may include less-maintained roads. They are being called "areas with wilderness potential" to avoid that confusion.
- Q.** Would snowmobiling in an area have any influence in this process?
A. Yes. This and other existing uses, will be looked at in evaluation process.
- Q.** Weren't all these roadless areas in the 1990s Forest Plan? There haven't been more added have there?
A. These are all the areas from the current Forest Plan. No additional roadless areas have been added to this inventory.
- Q.** Do we need more wilderness?
A. That is what we will be discussed during the evaluation phase.
- Q.** If we write you a duplicate letter, will that count for more.
A. No, the number of comments is not important. The substance of every letter is considered.

Overall Evaluation

Comments from the Critique Forms:

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

	Average
I understand what management categories are and how they will be used in the Forest Plan.	3.6
I understand the process for Wild and Scenic River Inventory, and ways I can contribute to it.	3.8
I understand the process used to inventory the areas with wilderness potential and ways I can contribute to it.	3.9
I was comfortable discussing public land issues with people I didn't know tonight.	4.2
I was comfortable discussing public land issues with people who held different viewpoints tonight.	4.1
The workshop format was appropriate for what we needed to do tonight	4.3
I am comfortable using maps to enhance my understanding of the discussion topics tonight.	4.1
I receive useful information and meaningful opportunities to engage in forest plan revision through this collaborative process.	4.0

Participants were also asked:

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

Is there anything that you would like to know more about?

Do you have any other comments about the workshop?

- I appreciate these public involvement meetings in helping educate on this planning process. The Forest Service employees are very helpful.
- Thank you for your time and willingness to listen and explain all of this. This really helps!
- I agree—no more wilderness. I would rather the land be managed and used as roadless.