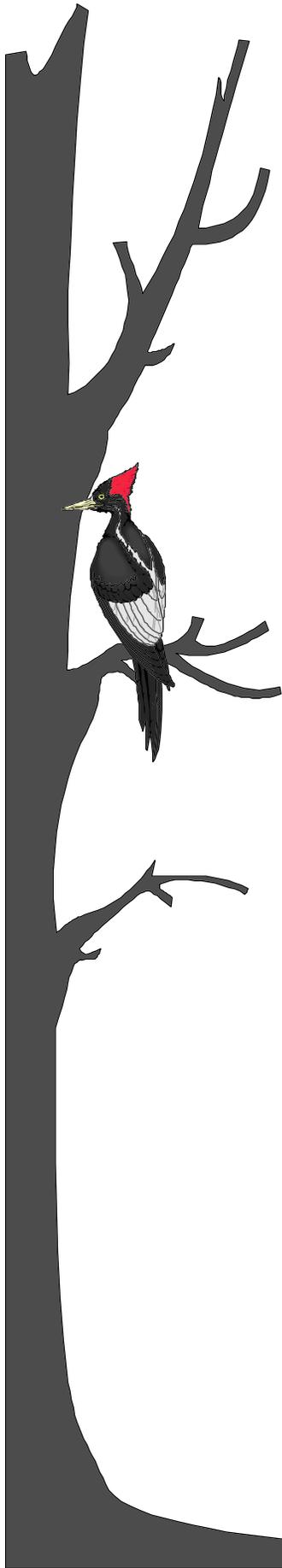


# ***Appendix D***

## ***UCRB Public Involvement***

***(Comparable to Eastside Appendix 1-3 and Appendix 1-4)***



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# **Introduction**

This appendix describes the public involvement activities that occurred during the development of the Upper Columbia River Basin (UCRB) Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Public involvement efforts that occurred in conjunction with other components of the Interior Columbia Basin Ecosystem Management Project (ICBEMP)—specifically, with development of the project's science projects and with the Eastside Draft EIS—are described elsewhere. The efforts between the teams were coordinated and sometimes combined.

The overall goal for public involvement was to have an open process by which people were involved early and often, sharing information available at the time even if it was in draft form. It meant reaching out to a wide spectrum of the public interested in management of public lands using some non-traditional methods.

## **UCRB Scoping**

Scoping is a process required in the early stages of preparing an EIS to solicit public input on the scope and significance of the proposed action (NEPA, 40 CFR 1501.7). Comments received during scoping are important to help determine what level of analysis is required, what data is needed, and what issues are to be considered in development and analysis of a range of alternatives in the EIS. For this project, the Forest Service and the BLM sought information, comments, and assistance from Federal, tribal, State, and local agencies, and from other groups and individuals interested in or affected by the proposed action.

Scoping for the UCRB EIS formally opened with publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) in the *Federal Register* on December 7, 1994. Previous announcements of the project had been made via news releases and a press conference during July and August, 1994 (see "Mailings" below).

## **Video Teleconference**

Given the holiday season, the wide geographic scope of the project (Idaho, Montana, and parts of Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah), time constraints, and the expense and difficulty of winter travel, a decision was made to conduct simultaneous scoping meetings throughout the region on the same day using satellite technology to present information, link meeting sites, and solicit feedback. Participants were asked to register in advance because of limited seating in some locations; if a site filled, additional locations were secured to accommodate all who wished to participate. The teleconference (originating from Boise State University in Idaho) and the meetings (in 27 locations) were held on January 28, 1995. The following communities hosted facilitated sessions (numbers of participants in parentheses):

*Idaho*

Boise (75)  
 Bonners Ferry (25)  
 Butte (20)  
 Coeur d'Alene (41)  
 Council (9)  
 Elko (43)  
 Grangeville (17)  
 Hailey (16)  
 Idaho Falls (24)  
 Lewiston (38)  
 McCall (34)  
 Moscow (44)  
 Orofino (18)  
 Pocatello (15)  
 Rexburg (16)  
 Sandpoint (45)  
 St. Maries (14)  
 Stanley (17)  
 Twin Falls (31)

*Montana*

Hamilton (39)  
 Helena (16)  
 Kalispell (58)  
 Libby (36)  
 Missoula (65)

*Washington*

Walla Walla (18)

*Wyoming*

Jackson (16)

*Other*

Washington, DC (5)

The teleconference medium allowed a great number of individuals and communities to participate in scoping in a short amount of time. Project managers, team leaders, and staff were present in Boise to participate in the live broadcast and provide information about a specially prepared video on the purpose of and need for the project. After the first hour of live broadcasts, local BLM and Forest Service staff members facilitated discussions at the meeting sites, collecting comments about the purpose and need (which had been mailed in advance), the proposed action (which was distributed at the door), and any other issues raised. The live satellite link resumed later in the day for an additional hour and half of discussion with Project Manager Steve Mealey and Boise State University political science professor John Freemuth, who discussed a sampling of comments that had been mailed electronically to Boise throughout the day. Participants were advised that additional comments would be accepted by mail or phone until April 15.

The facilitated discussion sessions on January 28 were attended by a total of 795 people. In addition, the satellite coordinates were published so that anyone in the continental United States with access to a satellite dish was able to view the program and mail in comments. Three local cable access channels in Idaho and Montana carried portions of the teleconference, potentially granting access to thousands of people in the UCRB planning area.

Comments made orally during the facilitated sessions were recorded and transmitted verbatim to the EIS team. Participants attending the sessions also were invited to submit written comments at the close of the session or to mail their comments to the EIS team. All oral and written comments from the teleconference were analyzed and used in preparing the Draft EIS.

Participant comments evaluating the use of the teleconference method for scoping are summarized in the Summary of Public Comments section of this report.

## ***Other Scoping Meetings***

Public scoping meetings were held in Challis, Idaho, on February 21, 1995, and Salmon, Idaho, on February 22. The Salmon/Challis National Forests had made a decision to postpone the meeting and not participate in the January 28 teleconference to avoid potential hostilities related to a legal injunction against the Forest Service. The February meetings were attended by 133 people (64 in Challis, 69 in Salmon). Project Manager Steve Mealey and EIS Co-Team Leader Cindy Deacon Williams attended, and all comments were recorded.

A public scoping meeting was held in Coeur d'Alene on March 13, 1995 to provide additional clarification as requested by individuals in that city. Project Manager Steve Mealey attended, and all comments were recorded.

# Public Briefings and Presentations

## Project Briefings

Beginning in March 1994, the Project held monthly briefings hosted by the Science Integration Team and the Eastside EIS Team. The Upper Columbia River Basin EIS Team joined the monthly briefings in January 1995. The purposes of the briefings were to provide an update on the progress of the science and EIS products, answer questions, and provide a continuing public dialogue between the public and the Project staff. Beginning in 1996 briefings were held as new information became available, generally every two to four months.

Science Integration Team members representing the Aquatic, Terrestrial, Landscape Ecology, Social Science, Economic, and Spatial staff areas, and EIS Team representatives made presentations followed by a question and answer session. The format of the briefings changed in 1995 to include an open house segment where the science staff areas and EIS Team members could meet with the public one-on-one. The briefings were held in Walla Walla, Washington; Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; Missoula, Montana; and Boise, Idaho. There were over twenty Project briefings held from March 1994 to February 1997.

The EIS Team used these briefings to present pieces of the EIS that were being worked on at the time. Draft versions of the Purpose and Need, Proposed Action, and the various components of alternatives were presented at these briefings. The Team answered questions and accepted feedback.

The briefings were open to everyone. Notices containing the date, time, location and a brief agenda were sent to the Project mailing list 2-3 weeks prior to the briefings. News releases were sent out to the local media where the briefings were held. The briefings were generally a day or a day and a half long. There were some evening sessions that presented special topics related to the Project, such as the economic life in rural counties, an American Indian perspective of natural resource management, and a history of the Columbia River Basin. Attendance at the briefings and evening sessions varied but was generally between 40 and 100 people.

For those people who could not attend the briefings, the general content of the presentations, and the questions and answers were recorded and made available to the public through the electronic library, local information binders, and by request.

## Social Science Symposium

The project's social science team held a day-long symposium on the *Social Implications of Ecosystem Management* in Spokane on April 29, 1995. The symposium was free and widely advertised, including an announcement of the session to everyone on the Project mailing list. The purpose was to share ideas and research results, demonstrate how research applies to peoples' practical needs, and provide a forum for discussing social aspects of the Project.

The symposium, attended by 80 people, consisted of 13 separate presentations about social research and analysis being conducted for the project; much time was devoted to question and answer sessions. Topics discussed by the 26 social scientists included community health and resiliency, scenery and recreation, and public participation techniques and principles. Evaluation forms completed by the attendees suggested that the symposium was a useful approach in exchanging information and making science more accessible to people. A full report on the symposium, including the evaluation forms and abstracts of all presentations, is available from the Project office in Walla Walla.

## ***Special Presentations***

The Project responded to over 70 requests for presentations from other federal agencies, state, county, and tribal governments, forest and rangeland user groups, conservation and environmental organizations, professional societies, and civic organizations. Over 2,800 people attended the various presentations. Most presentations gave overviews of the Science and EIS components of the Project. Depending on the audience, some presentations focused on specific aspects of the Project.

## ***Sources of UCRB EIS Information***

### ***Electronic Library***

During the first round of meetings, many people suggested setting up an electronic bulletin board as a way to facilitate public involvement. The Project took a first step in that direction by developing an electronic library where Project information was stored. People with personal computers and modems could connect directly with the Project computer system to read and download documents. The electronic library was not interactive but it did provide another means for making information more accessible. As of August 1996, approximately 350 individual users had accessed the electronic library.

### ***Internet***

In October 1995, the information from the electronic library was made available on Internet through the Forest Service Home Page system. Similar to the electronic library, information was available to read and download. This allowed many more people local access to the Project information through their local Internet servers without having to call long distance. This helped expand the public's ability to access the Project's information.

In August 1996, Project staff developed a World Wide Web site where Project information now resides. The Web site address is <http://www.icbemp.gov> and was expanded to include the following information:

- ◆ Geographic Information Systems data and themes;
- ◆ Science Integration Team reports;
- ◆ Eastside and Upper Columbia River Basin EIS public involvement, documents, and status; and
- ◆ Project personnel.

As of February 1997, more than 1,800 people had visited the Project's homepage.

### ***Toll-Free Telephone Number***

A toll-free number provided another means for people to access Project information. People calling the number were provided a menu of topic items which contained current information about the

Project. The information was updated once or twice a month and included a list of upcoming events and a report on Science and EIS progress. People calling the toll-free number during business hours could talk to the receptionist to obtain additional information.

## *Mailings*

The mailing list for the UCRB EIS consists of 2,277 addresses, compiled originally from Forest Service and BLM office mailing lists in Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Idaho, and Utah, and from the PACFISH mailing list. Other names were submitted from interested individuals and were collected from various public scoping and informational meetings.

The following mailings were sent:

### *Local and Regional Media Mailing List*

- ◆ News release (July 1994) ~ BLM and Forest Service announce Columbia Basin Environmental Study.
- ◆ News release (August 23, 1994) ~ Press conference with Idaho State Governor Cecil Andrus announces the project.
- ◆ News release (January 1995) ~ Teleconference scoping meeting is announced.

### *UCRB Mailing List*

- ◆ Brochure (January 1995) ~ Teleconference scoping meeting information is announced.
- ◆ Verbatim teleconference comments (April 1995) ~ Booklet provides verbatim comments from all teleconference sessions.
- ◆ Goals brochure (May 1995) ~ Describes how goals were developed from public comments. This brochure was prepared jointly with the Eastside EIS team and mailed to both EIS mailing lists (more than 5,000 addresses combined). A response form was included for people to send comments on the goals. More than 140 responses were received.
- ◆ Comments-to-Issues brochure (July 1995) ~ Tracks how comments were collected, analyzed, and how the comments contributed to issue, goal, and alternative formulation.
- ◆ Themes-for-Alternatives brochure (September 1995) ~ Describes how public comments, issues, and goals contributed to alternative theme formulation. This brochure also was developed jointly with the Eastside EIS team and was sent to the combined mailing list.

# Briefings and Consultations

Meetings, briefings, and consultations with numerous individuals, agencies, and organizations were held throughout the development of the UCRB Draft EIS. The following lists the meetings or briefings held from August 22, 1994 through May 7, 1996.

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING WITH	UCRB PERSON
8/22/94	Ogden, Utah	Forest Service Intermountain Regional Directors	Steve Mealey
8/23/94	Boise, Idaho	Governor's Press Conference	Steve Mealey
8/23/94	Boise, Idaho	ICBEMP Executive Steering Committee	Steve Mealey
8/25/94	Boise, Idaho	Mary Gaylord, BLM	Gary Wyke/ Cindy Deacon Williams
8/25/94	Boise, Idaho	Kim Eckhart, <i>Idaho Statesman</i>	Steve Mealey
8/29/94	Boise, Idaho	Senator Craig ~ Forest Health Appeals Hearing	Steve Mealey
8/31/94	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Division of Environmental Quality	Steve Mealey/Tom Quigley et al.
9/2/94	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Department of Water Resources	Steve Mealey
9/8/94	Spokane, Washington	Inland Western Forests Symposium	Steve Mealey
9/8/94	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Rivers Working Group	Gary Wyke/ Cindy Deacon Williams
9/14/94	Boise, Idaho	Forest Service Planning and Fisheries Staff	Steve Mealey
9/14/94	Boise, Idaho	Paul Seronko, BLM Environmental Protection Specialist	Gary Wyke/ Cindy Deacon Williams
9/21/94	Hayden Lake, Idaho	Idaho Forest Products Committee	Steve Mealey
9/27/94	Walla Walla, Washington	ICBEMP Executive Steering Committee	Steve Mealey
9/30/94	Boise, Idaho	National Wildlife Federation	Steve Mealey
10/4/94	Powell, Idaho	Forest Service Northern Region Leadership Team	Steve Mealey
10/3/94	Boise, Idaho	Sierra Magazine	Steve Mealey
10/3-4/94	Ogden, Utah	Forest Service Intermountain Region Leadership Team	Steve Mealey
10/7/94	Boise, Idaho	Dominick Dellasalla, World Wildlife Federation	Cindy Deacon Williams
10/7/94	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Department of Fish & Game	Steve Mealey
10/12/94	Boise, Idaho	Line Officers	Steve Mealey
10/13/94	Boise, Idaho	Boise State University ~ Symposium	Steve Mealey

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING WITH	UCRB PERSON
10/20/94	Boise, Idaho	Don Martin, Environmental Protection Agency	Steve Mealey
11/2-4/94	St. Maries, Idaho	Forest Service Northern Region Leadership Team	Steve Mealey
11/1-3/94	Carson Valley, Utah	Public Affairs, Intermountain Region	Carl Gidlund
11/4/94	Moscow, Idaho	Moscow Intermountain Research Station	Steve Mealey
11/7/94	Billings, Montana	Rangeland Reform Implementation	Gary Wyke/ Kathy Cushman
11/12/94	Missoula, Montana	University of Montana ~ International Temperate Forest Conference	Steve Mealey
11/14/94	Missoula, Montana	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
11/15/94	Hamilton, Montana	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
11/16/94	Helena, Montana	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
11/16/94	Helena, Montana	Governor of Montana	Steve Mealey
11/17/94	Kalispell, Montana	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
11/17/94	Libby, Montana	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
11/17/94	Boise, Idaho	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
11/18/94	Moscow, Idaho	University of Idaho, Forestry, Wildlife & Range Guidance Council	Steve Mealey
11/18/94	Boise, Idaho	Northwest Woodworkers	Steve Mealey
11/18/94	Boise, Idaho	Dave Vandegraaf, Boise Cascade Corporation	Steve Mealey
11/21/94	Boise, Idaho	Governor Andrus	Steve Mealey
11/23/94	Boise, Idaho	Dave Vandegraaf, Boise Cascade Corporation	Steve Mealey
11/23/94	Boise, Idaho	Senator Craig	Steve Mealey
11/28/94	Boise, Idaho	Forest Service Intermountain/ Northern Regions Planners	Steve Mealey
11/28/94	Helena/Missoula, Montana	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
11/29/94	Hamilton, Montana/ Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
11/30/94	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Rangeland Committee	Gary Wyke
11/30/94	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Intermountain Forest Industry Association	Steve Mealey

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING WITH	UCRB PERSON
12/1/94	Houston, Texas	Boone and Crockett Annual Meeting	Steve Mealey
12/5/94	Boise, Idaho	Outfitters & Guides	Steve Mealey
12/6/94	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Idaho Panhandle National Forest	Steve Mealey
12/7/94	Orofino, Idaho	Forest Service and External Groups	Steve Mealey
12/8/94	Lewiston, Idaho	Forest Service and External Groups	Steve Mealey
12/8/94	Boise, Idaho	Policy Analysis Group, University of Idaho, College of Forestry, Range and Wildlife	Steve Mealey
12/9/94	Boise, Idaho	Dominick Dellasalla, World Wildlife Foundation	Gary Wyke/ Cindy Deacon Williams
12/13/94	Boise, Idaho	Liz Merrill, Conservation Coordinator, North Rockies Campaign	Steve Mealey
12/16/94	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Idaho Forest Products Commission	Steve Mealey
12/16/94	Boise, Idaho	Paul H. Calverly, State Conservationist	Gary Wyke
12/21/94	Boise, Idaho	Winston Wiggins, Idaho Department of Lands	Steve Mealey
1/6/95	Boise, Idaho	Senator Craig	Steve Mealey
1/9/95	Dubois, Idaho	Jim Fitzgerald, USDA, Agri Research Service/US Sheep Experiment Station	Steve Mealey
1/10/95	Salt Lake City, Utah	Governor's Office of Planning & Budget, Resource Development Committee	Steve Mealey
1/10-11/95	Jackson, Wyoming	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
1/11/95	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Coeur d'Alene Tribes	Gary Wyke
1/11/95	Plummer, Idaho	Coeur d'Alene Tribes	Gary Wyke
1/12/95	Idaho Falls/ Pocatello, Idaho	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
1/13/95	Boise, Idaho	Congressional Briefing ~ Governor Batt's Staff	Steve Mealey
1/13/95	Boise, Idaho	Gallatin Group	Steve Mealey
1/17/95	Boise, Idaho	R.C."Bob" Sears, Idaho Cattle Association	Steve Mealey
1/17/95	Burley, Idaho	Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management	Gary Wyke/ Cindy Deacon Williams
1/19/95	Fort Hall, Idaho	Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	Andy Brunelle
1/20/95	Salem, Oregon	Associated Oregon Loggers	Steve Mealey
1/20/95	Seattle, Washington	Pacific Northwest Endangered Species Group	Cindy Deacon Williams

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING WITH	UCRB PERSON
1/20/95	Boise	Idaho Department of Lands/Idaho Fish Game, & Department of Environmental Quality	Gary Wyke/Trish Carroll/ Andy Brunelle
1/23/95	Salmon/Challis	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
1/24/95	Elko,Nevada/ Twin Falls, Idaho	Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and External Groups	Steve Mealey
1/25/95	Poulson, Montana	Flathead Basin Committee, Missoula Intergovernment Organization.	Andy Brunelle
1/26/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Today Talk Show	Steve Mealey
1/27/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho State Senate Resources and Environmental Committee Testimony	Steve Mealey
1/28/95	27 sites	Scoping Teleconference	UCRB Team
1/31/95	Boise, Idaho	CH2M Hill	Gary Wyke
2/2/95	Boise, Idaho	Cecil Andrus, Andrus Center for Public Policy	Steve Mealey/ Andy Brunelle
2/2/95	Boise, Idaho	State Resource Committee	Steve Mealey
2/4/95	Lewiston, Idaho	ROOTS ~ Dinner Speaker	Steve Mealey
2/6/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Outfitters and Guides	Steve Mealey
2/7/95	Missoula, Montana	Forest Service, Northern Region Leadership Team	Steve Mealey
2/7/95	Missoula, Montana	<i>Missoulian</i> Editorial Board	Steve Mealey
2/8/95	Boise, Idaho	Coeur d'Alene Basin Interagency Group	Andy Brunelle
2/8/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Outfitters and Guide Panel	Steve Mealey
2/10/95	Boise, Idaho	Jim Lyons, Undersecretary of Agriculture	Steve Mealey
2/10/95	Nampa, Idaho	Idaho Rural Development Council	Andy Brunelle
2/13/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Conservation Strategy	Andy Brunelle
2/15/95	Boise, Idaho	Chuck Lobdell, US Fish & Game	Steve Mealey
2/16/95	Boise, Idaho	<i>Idaho Statesman</i> Editorial Board	Steve Mealey
2/17/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Department of: Fish and Game, Environmental Quality, and Lands - Watershed Anaysis	Andy Brunelle/ Trish Carroll
2/18/95	Idaho Falls, Idaho	Senator Craig	Steve Mealey
2/21/95	Challis, Idaho	Scoping Meeting	Steve Mealey
2/22/95	Salmon, Idaho	Scoping Meeting	Steve Mealey
2/23/95	Boise, Idaho	Governor Batt and Dale Bosworth, Intermountain Regional Forester	Steve Mealey

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING WITH	UCRB PERSON
2/24/95	Walla Walla, Washington	Eastside Ecosystem Coalition	Andy Brunelle
3/1/95	Boise, Idaho	Hydrologists and Biologists Meeting	Cindy Deacon Williams/ Trish Carroll
3/2-3/95	Las Vegas, Nevada	Forest Service Intermountain Region Leadership Team	Steve Mealey
3/3/95	LaGrande, Oregon	Northwest Woodworkers	Andy Brunelle
3/7/95	Boise, Idaho	Kurt Mutchler, National Geographic	Steve Mealey
3/7/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Department of Fish & Game	Steve Mealey/Gary Wyke/ Cindy Deacon Williams
3/8/95	Boise, Idaho	Bob Doppelt, Pacific Rivers Council	Steve Mealey
3/9/95	Boise, Idaho	Mark Dunn, Simplot Corporation	Steve Mealey
3/14/95	Missoula, Montana	Forest Service Northern Region ~ Silvicultural Workshop	Steve Mealey
3/13/95	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	George Babb, Kootenai Environmental Alliance	Steve Mealey
3/16/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Chapter of American Fisheries Society	Cindy Deacon Williams
3/20/95	Boise, Idaho	Nate Fisher, Governor Batt's Natural Resource Advisor	Steve Mealey
3/20/95	Boise, Idaho	Neil Sampson, American Forests	Steve Mealey
3/22-23/95	Boise, Idaho	Public Science Integration Team	ID Team
3/22/95	Libby, Montana	Lincoln City Commissioners	Steve Mealey
3/23/95	Missoula, Montana	Chris Frissel, Pacific Rivers Council	Trish Carroll/Gary Wyke/ Cindy Deacon Williams/ Andy Brunelle
3/24/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Forests Industry Association, INFISH	Andy Brunelle
3/24/95	Portland, Oregon	National Marine Fisheries	Steve Mealey/Tom Quigley/ Jeff Blackwood
3/24/95	Minneapolis, Minnesota	Wildlife Management Institute and Boone & Crockett	Steve Mealey
3/29-31/95	Walla Walla, Washington	ICBEMP Executive Steering Committee and Consultation with Nez Perce Tribe	Steve Mealey
3/31/95	Walla Walla, Washington	Eastside Ecosystem Coalition	Andy Brunelle
4/2-5/95	Washington DC	Subcommittee on Forests and Public Land Management ~ Testimony	Steve Mealey
4/3/95	Boise, Idaho	Gene Persha	Andy Brunelle
4/5/95	Boise, Idaho	Northwest Power Planning Council	Gary Wyke/ Cindy Deacon Williams/ Andy Brunelle

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING WITH	UCRB PERSON
4/6/95	Boise, Idaho	Governor's Office, Idaho Fish and Game, & Northwest Power Planning Council	Steve Mealey
4/10/95	Elko, Nevada	Elko County Commissioners and Public	Steve Mealey
4/11/95	Boise, Idaho	US Fish & Wildlife	Steve Mealey
4/12-13/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Affairs Meeting	Steve Mealey/ Andy Brunelle
4/17/95	Denver, Colorado	Planning Workshop	Andy Brunelle
4/18/95	Boise, Idaho	Boise National Forest ~ Hazard Risk Model Meeting	Steve Mealey
4/19/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Mining Association	Andy Brunelle
4/20-21/95	Moscow, Idaho	Policy Analysis Group/University of Idaho College of Forestry, Wildlife and Range Guidance Council	Steve Mealey
4/21/95	Orofino, Idaho	James W. Grunke, Orofino Chamber of Commerce	Steve Mealey
4/21/95	Orofino, Idaho	Orofino Chamber of Commerce and Clearwater Resource Coalition	Steve Mealey
4/26-27/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Forest Products Commission	Steve Mealey
4/26/95	Boise, Idaho	Rick Bloom ~ LaGrande Radio Talk Show	Steve Mealey
4/28/95	Missoula, Montana	FS Northern Region Leadership Team	Steve Mealey
5/1/95	Kennewick, Washington	Northwest Pulp & Paper Workers Resource Council	Steve Mealey
5/5/95	Boise, Idaho	Dave Vandegraaf, Boise Cascade Corporation	Steve Mealey
5/10/95	Boise, Idaho	Julie Knutson ~ Interview	Steve Mealey/ Andy Brunelle
5/11/95	St George, Utah	National Association of Counties 1995 Western Interstate Regional Conference	Steve Mealey
5/12/95	Spokane, Washington	Governor's Offices Meeting ~ Washington, Montana, Idaho, and Oregon	Steve Mealey/ Andy Brunelle
5/16/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Environmental Professionals Seminar	Steve Mealey
5/17/95	Boise, Idaho	UCRB Field Advisory Team	Gary Wyke
5/18/95	Boise, Idaho	SIT Public Open House	UCRB Team
5/19/95	Redfish Lake, Idaho	Idaho Conservation League	Cindy Deacon Williams
5/20/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Trails Council	Andy Brunelle
5/22/95	Walla Walla, Washington	Consultation Meeting	Gary Wyke/Andy Brunelle/ Cindy Deacon Williams

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING WITH	UCRB PERSON
5/23/95	Portland, Oregon	Portland Rotary Club	Steve Mealey
5/24/95	Boise, Idaho	American Pulpwood Association	Steve Mealey
5/30/95	Philipsburg , Montana	Granite County Board of Commissioners	Steve Mealey/ Andy Brunelle
5/31/95	Missoula, Montana	Spudzone Meeting	Cindy Deacon Williams
6/1-2/95	Boise, Idaho	Andrus Center for Public Policy ~ Bull Trout Conference	UCRB Team
6/5/95	Boise, Idaho	Doug Tims, Idaho Outfitters & Guides Association	Steve Mealey
6/7/95	Spokane, Washington	UCRB Field Advisory Team and Eastside Line Officers	Andy Brunelle/Gary Wyke/ Cindy Deacon Williams
6/14/95	Priest River, Idaho	Chamber of Commerce	Steve Mealey
6/15/95	McCall, Idaho	Idaho Cattle Association	Steve Mealey
6/22/95	Boise, Idaho	Lions Club	Andy Brunelle
6/23/95	Walla Walla, Washington	Eastside Ecosystem Coalition	Andy Brunelle
6/24/95	Caldwell, Idaho	Albertson College Western States Conference	Steve Mealey/Tom Quigley
6/28/95	Boise, Idaho	Jim Riley, Intermountain Forest Industries Association	Steve Mealey
6/29/95	Boise, Idaho	<i>Idaho Statesman</i>	Steve Mealey
7/5/95	Portland, Oregon	Region VI Meeting	Andy Brunelle/ Trish Carroll
7/7/95	Portland, Oregon	Northwest Forestry Association	Steve Mealey
7/12/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Cattle Association	Steve Mealey
7/12/95	Boise, Idaho	Environmental Community	Steve Mealey
7/12/95	Boise, Idaho	Governor Batt and Natural Resource Advisors	Steve Mealey
7/12/95	Boise, Idaho	<i>Idaho Statesman</i> Editorial Board,	Steve Mealey
7/12/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Association of Counties	Steve Mealey
7/12/95	Hayden Lake, Idaho	Intermountain Forest Industries Association Board of Directors	Steve Mealey
7/13/95	Spokane, Washington	<i>Spokesman Review</i> Editorial Board	Steve Mealey
7/13/95	Spokane, Washington	Eastside Coalition of Counties Committee	Steve Mealey
7/13/95	Helena, Montana	Governor Rociot and Directors of Fish, Wildlife Parks and State Lands	Steve Mealey
7/14/95	Lochsa, Idaho	Northwest Timber Workers	Steve Mealey
7/26/95	Baker City, Oregon	Boise Cascade Corporation	Steve Mealey/ Jeff Blackwood

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING WITH	UCRB PERSON
8/2/95	Boise, Idaho	Northwest Mining Association	Steve Mealey
8/2/95	Portland, Oregon	Planners Contingency Meeting	Andy Brunelle
8/15/95	Seattle, Washington	Pulp and Paper Workers Resource Council and Western Region Meeting	Steve Mealey
8/17/95	Boise, Idaho	Governor Batt's Natural Resource Agencies Meeting	Steve Mealey/ Andy Brunelle
8/21/95	McCall, Idaho	Valley County Commissioners	Steve Mealey
8/21/95	Council, Idaho	Adams County Commissioners	Steve Mealey
8/25/95	Post Falls, Idaho	Idaho Mining Association	Steve Mealey
8/28/95	Murphy, Idaho	Owyhee County Commissioners	Steve Mealey/ Andy Brunelle
8/29/95	McCall, Idaho	State Water Quality Meeting	Andy Brunelle/ Steve Mealey
9/7/95	Boise, Idaho	US Fish & Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service	Steve Mealey/ Andy Brunelle
9/8/95	Boise, Idaho	University of Idaho, Policy Analysis Group, College of Forestry, Range & Wildlife	Steve Mealey
9/12/95	Riggins, Idaho	Idaho Forest Products Commission ~ Idaho Forests "Miracle at Work" Field Tour	Steve Mealey
9/13/95	Corvallis, Oregon	Oregon State University ~ Ecosystem Management Conference	Steve Mealey
9/14/95	Missoula, Montana	Northwest Power Planning Council and Boone & Crockett	Steve Mealey
9/18/95	Billings, Montana	Montana Association of Counties	Steve Mealey
9/19/95	Salmon, Idaho	Idaho Forest Supervisors	Steve Mealey
9/20/95	Hayden Lake, Idaho	Idaho Forest Products Commission	Steve Mealey
9/20/95	Boise, Idaho	UCRB Field Advisory Team	Gary Wyke/Jeff Walter
9/21/95	Boise, Idaho	Lorna Jorgensen, Idaho Association of Counties	Steve Mealey/ Andy Brunelle
9/24-25/95	LaFayette, Louisiana	National Association of State Foresters	Steve Mealey
10/10/95	Murphy, Idaho	Owyhee County Commissioners	Steve Mealey
10/12/95	Boise, Idaho	Boise Rotary Club	Steve Mealey
10/24/95	Boise, Idaho	UCRB Field Advisory Team	Gary Wyke/Jeff Walter/ Andy Brunelle
10/25/95	Boise, Idaho	Governor Batt's Bull Trout Conservation Strategy Meeting	Andy Brunelle/ Steve Mealey
10/25/95	Boise, Idaho	Ada County Fish & Game League	Steve Mealey
10/27/95	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Rangeland Resources Committee	Steve Mealey

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING WITH	UCRB PERSON
10/31/95	Boise, Idaho	Kiwanis Club	Steve Mealey
11/1/95	Boise, Idaho	Timber Measurements Society	Steve Mealey
11/9/95	Corvallis, Oregon	Starker Lecture Program, Oregon State University	Steve Mealey
11/13/95	Boise, Idaho	Bonneville Power Administration	Gary Wyke/Jeff Walter/ Andy Brunelle
12/4/95	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Western Forestry Association	Steve Mealey
12/7/95	Spokane, Washington	Northwest Mining Association	Steve Mealey
12/7/95	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Intermountain Forest Industries Association	
12/8/95	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Idaho Forest Products Commission	Steve Mealey
12/18/95	Boise, Idaho	Governor's Bull Trout meeting	Andy Brunelle
1/9/96	Boise, Idaho	Boise State University panel	Andy Brunelle
1/10/96	Boise, Idaho	Governor's Bull Trout meeting	Steve Mealey
1/11/96	Boise, Idaho	Lynn McKee, Environmental Protection Agency	Steve Mealey
1/16/96	Boise, Idaho	Regulatory Agencies	Steven Mealey/Tom Quigley
1/17/96	Boise, Idaho	Norm Arsenault and Missy Guisto ~ Senator Craig's staff	Steve Mealey
1/24-25/96	Boise, Idaho	Aquatic Conservation meeting	Steve Mealey
2/2/96	Boise, Idaho	BLM and USFS employees	Steve Mealey
2/8/96	Missoula, Montana	USFS Region 1 leadership meeting	Steve Mealey
2/8/96	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Association of Counties	Steve Mealey
2/9/96	Boise, Idaho	Eastside Coalition of Counties	Steve Mealey
2/19/96	Boise, Idaho	Secretary Glickman briefing	Steven Mealey
2/19/96	Boise, Idaho	Governor's Bull Trout meeting	Steve Mealey
2/22/96	Boise, Idaho	Northwest Power Planning Council	Steve Mealey
2/28/96	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Forest Supervisors	Steve Mealey
2/28/96	Boise, Idaho	Bob Dale, AFSEE	Steve Mealey
2/29/96	Boise, Idaho	Public Meeting	Steve Mealey/Tom Quigley
3/5/96	Murphy, Idaho	Owyhee County Commissioners, Public, and USFS/BLM	Steve Mealey
3/6/96	Walla Walla, Washington	Umatilla Tribe	Steve Mealey/Steve Kozel/ Andy Brunelle
3/13/96	Boise, Idaho	Idaho BLM Retiree's Association	Andy Brunelle
3/19/96	Dubois, Idaho	Clark County Commissioners, Public, and BLM/USFS	Steve Mealey

DATE	LOCATION	MEETING WITH	UCRB PERSON
3/19/96	Challis, Idaho	Custer County Commissioners, Public, and BLM/USFS	Steve Mealey
3/20/96	Boise, Idaho	Boise National Forest Leadership Team	Steve Mealey
4/3/96	Burley, Idaho	Cassia County Commissioners, Public, and BLM/USFS	Steve Mealey
4/4/96	Missoula, Montana	Granite County Commissioners	Steve Mealey
4/4/96	Missoula, Montana	Public Meeting	Steve Mealey/Tom Quigley
4/4/96	Missoula, Montana	Montana BLM/FS personnel	Steve Mealey/Tom Quigley
4/9/96	Moscow, Idaho	Wilderness Colloquium Panel	Steve Mealey
4/11/96	Walla Walla, Washington	Eastside Coalition of Counties	Steve Mealey/ Andy Brunelle
4/13/96	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	National Association of Counties	Steve Mealey
4/16/96	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Natural Resource Conference	Andy Brunelle
4/17/96	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Natural Resource Conference	Steve Mealey
4/17/96	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Forest Products Commission	Steve Mealey
4/18/96	Boise, Idaho	Idaho Attorney General	Steve Mealey
4/22/96	Bonnors Ferry, Idaho	Boundary County Commissioners, Public, and BLM/USFS	Steve Mealey
4/22/96	Sandpoint, Idaho	Bonner County Commissioners, Public, and BLM/USFS	Steve Mealey
4/23/96	Orofino, Idaho	Clearwater National Forest Leadership Team	Steve Mealey
4/24/96	Boise, Idaho	Viability Task Force with Regulatory Agencies	Steve Mealey/et al.
4/30/96	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	Intermountain Forest Industries Association	Steve Mealey
5/7/96	Washington, D.C.	House Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations	Steve Mealey

## Resource Advisory Councils

Resource Advisory Councils are groups that advise the BLM and Forest Service on land management programs and issues. Chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, these advisory bodies are made up of local citizens representing a diversity of public land interests. The advisory committees have been briefed by the Project and provided draft versions of the EIS for their review and comment.

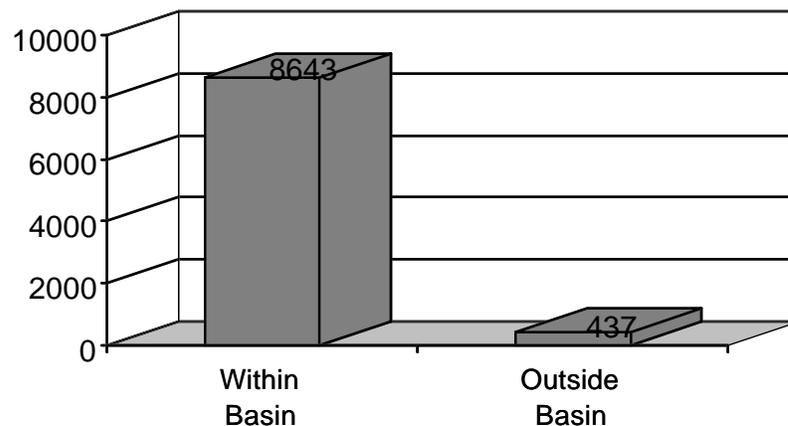
## Analysis of Scoping Comments

A total of 9,080 comments were received by the UCRB EIS team by the formal closing of scoping, April 15, 1995.

A Content Analysis Team (CAT) was selected through a letter request to the BLM State Directors and Forest Service Regional Foresters of the upper Columbia Basin. The CAT team read every comment within every letter and classified the nature of the comment as belonging to one of approximately 275 subject categories. The categories had been established in advance by using previous forest and resource management plans and assigning code numbers to primary categories. These codes were used to categorize the substance of the comments in the letters. The code book used by the UCRB CAT team was based on a similar code book developed for the Eastside EIS, with minor adjustments made to suit local needs. Additional numerical codes were used to categorize where the comments came from. The information was entered into a computer data base, which allowed sorting and grouping the comments.

Because of the quantity of material, the process of analyzing the content of the public comments was divided into two sessions. The first session analyzed 5,442 written and oral comments from the beginning of the project through the comments received during the facilitated teleconference meetings. The second session analyzed 3,638 letters or comments generated in response to the teleconference or received between the time of the teleconference and the formal closing of the scoping period on April 15, 1995. It took a total of 792 hours to analyze and code the comments, and 464 hours to enter the data into the computer. All scoping comments were made part of the project planning record.

**Comment Distribution: Within/Outside the Columbia River Basin**



Comments and information received after April 15 were made part of the planning record and were considered and used by members of the EIS team as appropriate.

Members of the CAT team included the following:

Andy Godfrey (first session);  
Pat Utick, Salmon/Challis National Forests (first session);  
Camilla Cary, Priest Lake Ranger District (first session);  
Christine Cary, volunteer for the first session, Forest Service contract for the second session;  
Rob Jagers, Pocatello Resource Area (both sessions);  
Kimberly Hackett, Shoshone District Office (first session);  
Pete Van Wyhe, Burley District Office (both sessions);  
Bill Galligan, North Fork Ranger District (both sessions);  
Venetia Gempler, UCRB Public Affairs Team (second session);  
Norma Staaf, Salmon/Challis National Forests (first session); and  
Sue Tholen, UCRB Public Affairs Team (second session).

Data input specialists hired through a Forest Service contract included:

Sandy Little (both sessions);  
Debbie Dye (both sessions);  
Lydia Barbee (first session only);  
Maxine Erdahl (first session only); and  
Carol Kilgore (first session only).

## Geographic Distribution of Comments

### Number of Comments by State:

Alaska	27	North Carolina	1
Arizona	3	North Dakota	1
California	105	Nevada	226
Colorado	96	New Mexico	4
District of Columbia	66	New York	1
Florida	4	Ohio	8
Georgia	7	Oregon	412
Idaho	4,742	South Dakota	11
Illinois	7	Tennessee	4
Iowa	16	Texas	11
Louisiana	3	Utah	34
Maryland	15	Virginia	1
Massachusetts	12	Washington	399
Michigan	6	Wisconsin	25
Mississippi	3	Wyoming	212
Montana	2,618	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,080</b>

## Summary of Scoping Comments

From more than 2,000 pages of computer printouts of the recorded data, a 41-page Scoping Comment Summary report was prepared for use by the EIS team in developing issues, goals, and alternatives. The complete report is available from the UCRB project office. The following is a summary of the Scoping Comment Summary.

### Purpose & Need

#### Basic Assumptions/HRV/Mistrust/Ecosystem Management

Most people who participated in scoping acknowledged there are changes happening in the ecosystem but disagreed on exactly where, what, why, and how these changes translate into “problems” and disagreed on what should be done about it. A great many comments expressed *disagreement* with the purpose and need, such as: “It doesn’t convince me,” or it’s too detailed, too narrow, shortsighted, misses the point. Fewer but still numerous comments *agreed in general* with the purpose and need as “doing a good job of describing the need for action,” but expressed skepticism about whether it is realistic to implement or whether politics won’t interfere.

One of the biggest concerns in this area was skepticism over the **basic assumptions** about forest and ecosystem health. Some people denied there are any problems at all-- “things are improving... waterways are perfect... some people are taking good care of the land....” Most comments seemed more to want clarification of exactly what and where the problems are. For example, some acknowledged they are seeing “changes” in the ecosystem but that “changes are natural and not necessarily symptoms of ill health” or that we should not imply that all components everywhere are at the critical point. Some people agreed there are problems but didn’t agree with the causes-- some felt management was to blame and shouldn’t be used to make things worse, while some felt the “paralysis of no-action” is to blame, that things have gone too far to let nature take its course. (See Active/Passive Mgt.)

Another big concern expressed was over the use of **Historic Range of Variability (HRV)** in defining the purpose and need. There seemed to be a lot of confusion over exactly what it meant, and most people seemed to be taking it to mean “restoring the ecosystems to pre-European condition.” Based on that perception, the majority of comments were concerned about the validity, rationale, and science of HRV and said that returning to HRV is “unrealistic, undesirable, and impossible to achieve.” They don’t want us to assume a “past ecotopia where everything was in harmonic balance,” and many people stressed the dynamic nature of ecosystems and that “Things change over time... we can’t go back.”

Another element in the comments related to purpose and need was a basic **mistrust** -- of government in general, of the Forest Service and/or BLM, of the team leaders and members. A lot of comments asked why we’re doing this, since we already have plans that are ignored and not implemented. Some saw the project as an excuse to continue management status quo or to justify accelerated timber harvest and roading. Some insisted the project is a “political sham” and a smokescreen for various hidden agendas.

This mistrust seemed to be the focus for those comments that *generally didn’t like* the **ecosystem management approach** at all. Many comments said they want the Forest Service to go back to old management regimes with rangers and local people managing certain specific areas. Some expressed the opinion that ecosystem management must be “proven” before implementing; some expressed a fear that ecosystem management means shifting from a concept of “working forests” to one of “national parks;” and some questioned whether scientific data is sufficient for ecosystem management. Many people also had questions about how something at this broad a scope could and would work at the local level. However, there were many more comments that expressed *general support for ecosystem management* and for conserving, restoring, and maintaining biodiversity and ecosystem health. BUT--even among those supporters were quite a few who still were concerned that we not narrow the focus too much, that we truly consider the whole system, and that we “walk the walk not just talk the talk.” Many comments questioned the roles of various agencies in an ecosystem management approach.

A key part of many comments on ecosystem management focused on **disturbance mechanisms** and regimes, including fire, disease, and climate change. Many said they recognized the role of natural disturbance but questioned how we could know historic levels of disturbance. While many expressed a desire to see natural disturbance regimes emphasized; others suggested that disturbances must be controlled to allow for crop yields, commodity production, biological diversity, or protection of human property. Numerous comments focused on the role of fire and fire management, ranging from “Leave the forests alone” to “We need to implement immediate active management.” Much debate focused on fire vs. logging as management techniques to mimic natural disturbance. Some asked for identification of socially acceptable patterns of social, economic, and biophysical disturbances and a discussion of levels of risk.

## **Communications and Public Involvement**

A strong concern was expressed for better communications, better explanation of terms and concepts, better and earlier public involvement. Most people who participated in the **video teleconference** liked the format, though there were many constructive criticisms for next time. A major problem identified with the scoping process was not enough time for people to review documents before the teleconference event. Many cited inadequate notice and media coverage of the teleconference and other project activities.

Regarding **terminology**, many comments indicated concerns similar to: “the technical language appears to the public as a scientific mask that the establishment is hiding behind.” Among the terms and concepts frequently mentioned as needing explanation were biological diversity, community stability, disturbance, ecosystem, ecosystem/ecological integrity/health, ecosystem process/function, human needs and desires, resiliency, restoration, riparian zone, sustainability,

wetland. Many comments indicated a need for clarification on the NEPA process, public forest and range management policy, ecological and biological concepts, studies and research in forest health and other topics, the roles of Federal and State agencies in the ecosystem management process, and the decision-making process, among other topics.

Quite a few comments addressed **education** as a communications tool, suggesting a need for aggressive education programs for rural and urban public audiences about resource management and consequences, multiple benefits of habitat protection for humans as well as wildlife, logging methods, community cultures and social issues, economics, role of fire, role of insects and disease, impacts of human activities, and ecosystem principles.

### ***Active Management/Passive Management/ Adaptive Management***

Many felt that “human management should be minimal--the goal should be to eliminate it” and that we should *let nature take its course*, not interfering with natural processes. Some said to stop active management and “overmanaging” and instead manage the people who would damage public lands. Some stated it’s impossible to generate a natural system by manipulation and that we should “adopt benign neglect as the preferred alternative.” Many called for analysis of ecological damage due to past management activities. Many other comments *avored actively managed ecosystems* where we plan for active and intensive forest and range management and recovery of resources. Among these comments, several noted we can have healthy ecosystems with reduced risks (including fire and disease) with good active management. Many stated that proper management must mean long-term sustainability and must recognize the dynamic nature of ecosystems over time. A number of comments called for neither active nor passive management but rather holistic and *adaptive management* with extensive monitoring in order to deal with scientific uncertainty and changing conditions.

There was a wide spectrum of public views specifically focused on **road management**. Many people expressed a desire for more emphasis on access to public lands for their livelihood and recreation, more roads constructed, and more roads kept open and repaired. Others suggested that road densities should be reduced, with priorities and guidelines established for road reductions, better enforcement and monitoring of closures, reclamation, no new roads, and staying out of roadless or unroaded areas to prevent further habitat fragmentation and other effects. Controversy exists over the damage roads have caused in the past and over the potential environmental risks from using existing roads or constructing new roads to accomplish future restoration and management versus the risks associated with lack of road access.

### ***Wildlife/Vegetation Diversity/Habitat/Core Reserves***

Concerns ranged from requests to make the preservation or conservation of all **native species** a priority, to requests that humans be the only organisms considered to be of consequence in management of public lands. The conservation of *all existing native species* was a priority with many who saw human health linked with that of the land and all organisms on it. Some favored a less comprehensive approach, emphasizing *recovery of declining species*, such as salmon, and especially those species listed as threatened or endangered. Many saw the maintenance of viable populations as a means to avoid future T&E listings. Many urged *management of habitat and the ecosystem, not the individual species*. Others were more concerned with the costs associated with species viability issues, and urged that economic impacts to human societies be carefully considered and given preference over species viability concerns. Some comments expressed the belief that there is *too much emphasis on non-human organisms* and not enough consideration being given to people.

The use of **large wild areas with connecting corridors, unique areas, and core reserves** to protect species and habitat viability is viewed by some as both desirable and consistent with ecosystem management. Strong feelings were expressed about protection of the “Big Wild” complex in the northern Rockies. Some comments provided extensive suggestions for design, placement, and management of core reserves, buffers, corridors, and other protected areas. Others saw reserves as undesirable and inconsistent with ecosystem management and natural processes, and they suggested that special reserve areas not be used as a tool to restore ecosystem integrity. Many suggested that “conservation not preservation” should be the goal and that the EIS should consider all Federal lands for management and commodity outputs even if current management is wild, roadless, Wilderness, or riparian.

## ***Size/Scale/Scope/Priorities/Timelines***

A great many comments addressed the **scale and scope** of the project. Many comments expressed the opinion that the project *scale is too large* to make meaningful conclusions about ecosystem health and that there is a need for additional planning and public involvement at more site-specific levels. Many said that “one size doesn’t fit all” and several questioned whether the broad scale will actually solve the problems. Numerous other comments suggested that the scope of the project is *too small* and that the entire river basin should be considered as a whole, not split between Eastside and UCRB, and that the analysis should not be too site-specific but leave flexibility for local managers. Many pointed to a need to have the analyses consider the whole picture, including landscape mosaics and the whole ecosystem, basin wide and at multiple scales. In some comments the scale was said to be *appropriate*, positive, and “long overdue,” but concerns were expressed that “what is feasible and realistic” be diagnosed and that we “take the time to do a good job.”

**Priorities and time frames:** Comments indicate controversy over whether any single resource such as declining species should be given top priority and focus for recovery, or whether the entire ecosystem should be managed with equal emphasis. (See Wildlife/Vegetation Diversity/ Habitat.) The controversy includes questions regarding which resources or what species should be given focus, and where or which part of the ecosystem is more or less important. For example, some commented that streams, watersheds, riparian areas, fisheries, and water quality have the most important need for restoration; others said the ecological importance of unroaded areas is key and should be given top priority; some said economic needs and needs of humans should be given more priority over other ecosystem needs; others suggested that priority be given to areas highly affected by past management activities. Many suggested the time frames are too long; others questioned how restoration objectives could be achieved “in only 20 years.”

## ***Human Needs/Communities/Social-economic Concerns***

A great many comments expressed a concern that *human needs have been underestimated* and should be considered a first priority or a more important component and analyzed in depth in a meaningful way. Stability of human communities, social and economic concerns, human health and social needs, and availability of resources for public use were among the major concerns expressed. Some expressed a concern that a regional ecosystem approach will mask local economic and community impacts. A great many other comments expressed the opinion that *resources and long-term sustainability should have first priority* over human needs, agendas, commodity targets, and special interests, and asked that the area “be protected from humans.” Many comments addressed the idea of *balance and cooperation* between the needs of all users and between human needs and ecosystem integrity, tying human and ecosystem health closely together. Many asked that the multiple-use vision of both agencies be maintained, but opinions of what “multiple-use” means differed among respondents.

In particular, many comments expressed a desire for management of public lands to meet current economic needs and sustain rural communities by: (1) managing for predictable or stable output levels; (2) maintaining traditional enterprises including timber, grazing, and mining; (3) helping to

maintain the rural way of life, customs and culture; and (4) finding ways to offset local governmental revenue losses when traditional economic activities are reduced to remedy ecosystem health problems. Many others favored diverse economies, amenity-based recreation and tourism, and other businesses based on quality of life and amenity values. Many want the agencies to enhance environmental health without losing the cultural heritage of rural settings by managing for both healthy ecosystems and a robust economy, suggesting that enhancement of environmental conditions means more jobs in recreation and tourism (and, over the long run, more predictable employment in commodity production) and that restoration work will create jobs. Many comments disagreed emphatically with the latter approach stating that recreation, tourism, and restoration jobs do not compare favorably with commodity-based jobs. Others objected to an emphasis on recreation because of impacts to the environment.

A major concern was expressed over impacts of ecosystem management on **private lands**, including inholder rights and investments, water rights, compensation, protection of private property, and infringements on private, state, county, or local rights, privileges, and programs. A number of other comments addressed the impacts from private lands on effective ecosystem management and asked that this be evaluated in the EIS.

Numerous comments focused on **local values, conditions, and control** of management. Some asked how conflicts between local and downstream concerns will be resolved. Many asked for *more local input*, local surveys, local and cultural needs to be a priority, more and better public involvement, and putting “the people and communities back in control of planning.” Some felt there is “too much emphasis on urban public perceptions;” some asked about effects on local ranger districts and preferred local authority for decisions be left in the hands of the forest supervisor with local input. Many others suggested a need to *emphasize regional, national, and other* values in the EIS, specifically: “Emphasize the needs of the nation over the desires of a few who want to return the area to pre-European intrusion;” “Local control would not provide protection but be managed for profit;” “Use geographical comparison to determine suitability of the industries now in the study area;” and “Stop timber and mining contracts until cleanups and compensation to State and Federal treasuries are complete.”

## ***The Role Of Science***

Many comments supported the scientific approach but insisted that it be the “best science... truthful, unbiased, and kept separate from politics.” There were many comments that expressed dissatisfaction with the proposed action having specific numbers and outputs before the Assessment is complete. There also were quite a few comments that expressed a need for more emphasis on experience, local knowledge, and common sense rather than “book learning.” Some took issue with the scientific information about ecosystem health decline (see assumptions, above). A few suggested you can’t combine science with spiritual and cultural needs and you can’t combine “real science” with economics. Quite a few comments simply asked for clarification of the role of science in the process and how the public could be more involved.

## ***Input on a Preferred Alternative for the Draft EIS***

The Project’s Executive Steering Committee decided to solicit input on a preferred alternative as part of their intergovernmental coordination efforts before making their selection. Preliminary copies of the DEIS were shared with States, tribes, Resource Advisory Councils, Provincial Advisory Committees, and the Coalition of Counties. The Executive Steering Committee met with most of these groups to solicit their input. Some groups recommended that a specific alternative be selected as the preferred; they also included changes or issues they wished to have addressed. Other groups chose to list the concerns they had with one or more of the alternatives and did not recommend a preferred alternative.

