

Land Allocation Committee of the Payette Forest Coalition

Wednesday, November 16 · 6:00 – 8:00pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/dyr-gvdy-zgj>

Or dial: (US) +1 225-414-2583 PIN: 242 617 592#

More phone numbers: <https://tel.meet/dyr-gvdy-zgj?pin=7947815248403>

NOTE: The PFC and LAC do not currently have the technology to allow those joining online to fully participate as if they were in the room. If you are joining the meeting online, we can not guarantee you the same experience as those who are in attendance.

Why we are here—

The Payette Forest Coalition Land Allocation Committee will review and recommend improvements to current forest designations and their boundaries in an effort to preserve and enhance recreational opportunities, economic stability, resource protection, and respect for all users.

Tonight we hope to—

- Review LAC goals and guidelines and ground rules - See [Member Packet](#)
 - French Creek - Define areas of agreement and shared interests
 - Discuss opportunity for Digital Map or Story Map - What do we want to know
-

6:00 PM Welcome

- Please make a name plaque and use the sign in sheet
- Any new introductions? Any updates to contact information
- Anything to add to the agenda?
- Are there any announcements for the group?

6:20 PM - Review Goals, Guidelines and Ground Rules

6:45 PM - Break

7:00 PM - French Creek Areas of Agreement

7:45 PM - Identify Next Steps and confirm next meeting

Next Meeting - TBD

Payette Forest Coalition Land Allocation Committee



Member Packet

Welcome to the PFC's Land Allocation Committee

The Payette Forest Coalition (PFC) is a citizen collaborative that advocates for landscape scale restoration on the Payette National Forest. Five goals of the coalition include wildlife, wildfire, watershed health, access and recreation, and restoration economics.

The PFC's Land Allocation Committee was convened in part because of the importance of recreation on the Payette National Forest and uncertainty regarding the future management of the Secesh and Needles Recommended Wilderness areas.

Background

In 1988 and again in 2003, the Forest Service designated 94,000 acres of the Needles Roadless Area and 117,000 acres of the Secesh Roadless Area as Recommended Wilderness. Within this administrative decision, some trails remained open to motorized use and some were closed.

Uncertainty about future management

These Recommended Wilderness designations were not intended to be long-term or permanent solutions. As a result, the Recommended Wilderness Areas are currently in a state of administrative limbo and not being managed for either their full recreation or conservation potential.

In addition, the current designation and boundaries do not necessarily match the current and desired uses for this area and may not even protect the most sensitive areas. Where the status quo does appear to be working, there is no long-term guarantee that this management will continue. There is significant uncertainty about whether future administrators will create a regional or national policy that either expands or eliminates motorized and mechanized use in these areas.

Solution

The committee members believe that motorized, mechanized and non-motorized recreationists deserve a place within the current Secesh and Needles Recommended Wilderness Area boundaries. Instead of waiting for a zero-sum game policy solution from the Forest Service administration or the Court that may favor one set of recreationists over another set, the committee members believe that a collaborative approach could provide a better outcome for multiple recreation interests. The committee members also believe that recreation and conservation interests can complement each other and that our group should foster policies and decisions that build upon this belief.

Goals

The committee will review the current Recommended Wilderness areas and Inventoried Roadless Areas on the Payette National Forest to see if boundary adjustments or alternative designations can better accomplish the following goals:

- Maintain or improve recreational opportunities for multiple user groups
- Seek equivalent improvements for all user groups (win-win-win)
- Maintain or improve water quality and fisheries
- Maintain or improve core habitat and corridors for big game and wildlife species of conservation concern
- Maintain or improve wild characteristics and backcountry experiences
- Maintain or improve the recreation-based economy and quality of life for residents and private property owners
- Build respect and promote partnerships among all user groups
- Take into consideration traditional and historic uses and maintain as appropriate

In addition, the group will strive to follow these guidelines:

- Emphasize shared trail use where appropriate
- Improve trail connectivity (foot, mechanized, motorized, and over snow vehicles) between communities.
- Maintain or improve access for private property owners who have inholdings
- Complement local planning efforts
- Plan for future community needs and growth in recreational use

While wilderness is often considered as the highest level of protection for an area, there are a variety of alternative designations that can also highlight the importance of recreation and/or conservation values. These include Special Management Areas, National Recreation Areas, National Conservation Areas, and Wilderness as well as removing current Recommended Wilderness from Wilderness consideration.

Public meetings

The Land Allocation Committee meetings are open to the public and are held the third Wednesday of every month from 6 pm to 8 pm at Idaho First Bank, 475 Deinhard Ln, McCall, ID 83638. The Land Allocation Committee operates by consensus. Anyone can become a voting member by attending two consecutive meetings and agreeing to participate in good faith and in support of our charter. There is time for guests to comment at every meeting for non-voting members. Recommendations from the Committee go to the PFC and then on to the Forest Service if approved.

Forest Plan path

The Forest Service will be reassessing the Recommended Wilderness boundaries in the future. A unified approach coming from a diverse set of interests would make it more likely that the Forest Service would select a new alternative that better fits community interests. One option is for the group to start crafting a National Recreation Area with trails and allocations for the various user groups as the group sees fit.

Legislative solutions

The committee may explore ways to work with local and state elected officials on a legislative solution that would prevent administrators from changing policies again and again. Any recommended designations or boundary adjustments would need to have broad community support and be passed by Congress. Similar processes have worked successfully in Idaho and elsewhere where wilderness, National Recreation Areas, National Conservation Areas issues were resolved.

To learn more about the PFC or Land Allocation Committee, go to <http://www.payetteforestcoalition.org/PayetteForward.html>

Decision Making Process

An individual would be eligible to vote having attended any **2 of the last 4** previous meetings

Voting will be done by a “Thumbs Up” (approval), “Thumbs Down” (disapproval), or “Thumbs Sideways” (Not a definite approval but can live with it. Possible comment made as for reason.)

Voting outcome would be anything between: Unanimous or Supermajority (80%) would result in recommendation to PFC. As a committee, we will strive for unanimous as the most powerful outcome.

Less than Supermajority would result in revaluation of proposal or no recommendation. Any vote against a proposal shall be explained and require an alternative, rather than simply opposing it.

Background on Decision Making in Collaborative Groups

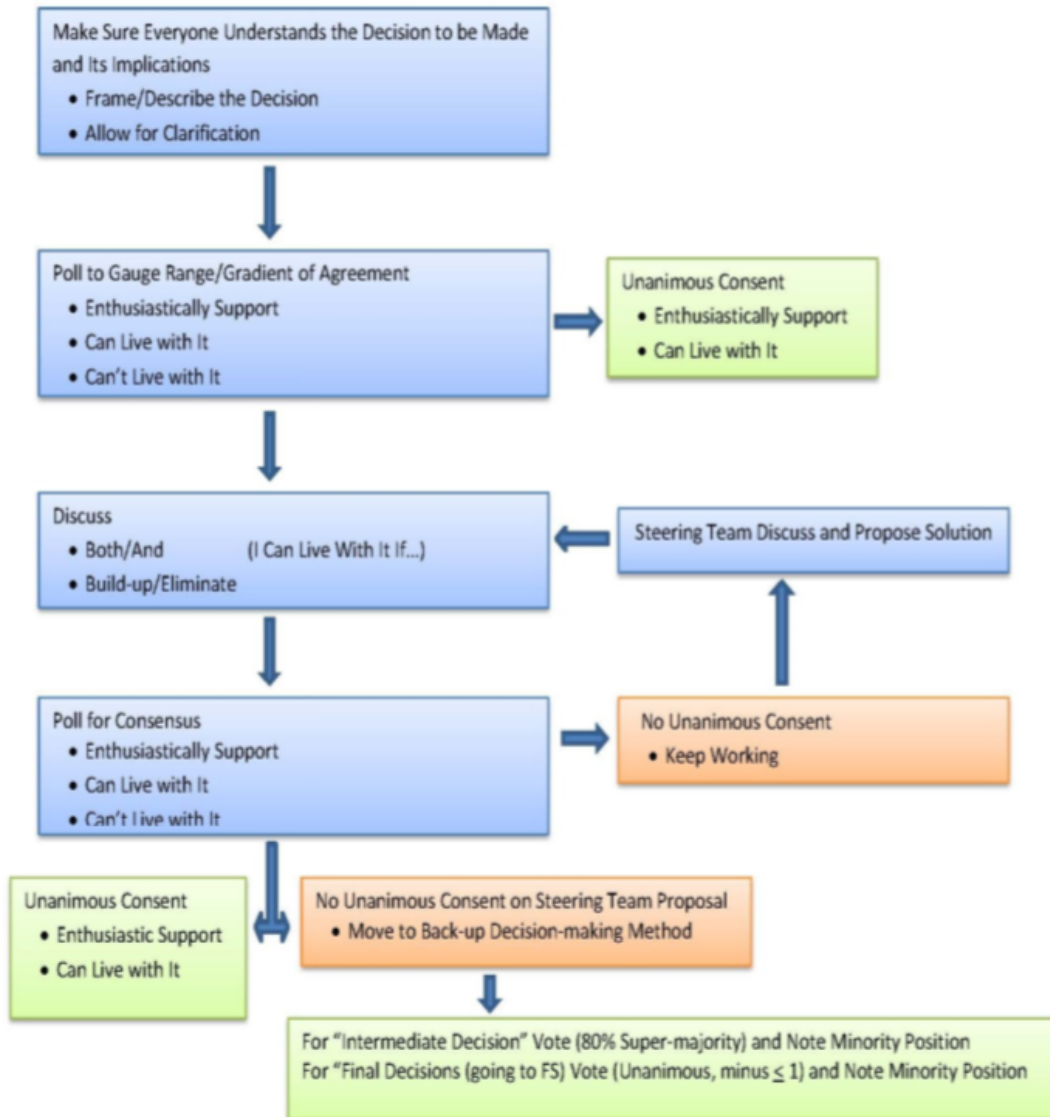
Advantages of Consensus

1. Consensus requires sharing of information, which leads to shared learning, which, in turn provides the basis for crafting workable and acceptable agreements.
2. Consensus promotes joint thinking by a diverse group, which leads to creative solutions.
3. Because parties participate in the deliberation, they understand the reasoning behind the chosen solution and are willing to support its implementation.

Principles of Consensus

- A number of essential principles underlie the practice of consensus and contribute to its success.
- To achieve consensus, everyone in the group must actively participate.
- To participate fully and freely, all group members must have a common base of information and keep up to date on the progress of the group.
- The group must create and maintain an atmosphere in which everyone feels free to state his or her views and to disagree.
- Disagreements should be respected. Disagreement can illuminate unrecognized problems and serve as a catalyst for improving the decision.
- When someone objects or disagrees, the goal of the group is to discover the unmet need that has produced the objection and to find a way to meet that need in a revised agreement, rather than to suppress the objection.

Payette Forest Coalition – Decision-making Process



Appendix

Definitions

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System of 1968: to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Rivers may be designated by Congress or, if certain requirements are met, the Secretary of the interior. Designated segments need not include the entire river and may include tributaries. For federally administrated rivers, the designated boundaries generally average one-quarter mile on either bank.

Rivers are classified as *wild, scenic, or recreational*.

Wild River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational River Areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

Regardless of classification, each river in the National System is administrated with the goal of protecting and enhancing the values that caused it to be designated.

Designation neither prohibits development nor gives the federal government control over private property.

2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule: Establishes prohibitions on road construction, road reconstruction, and timber harvesting on 58.8 million acres of inventoried roadless areas on National Forest System lands. The intent of the 2001 Roadless Rule is to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System in the context of multiple-use management.

The rule does not specifically protect roadless areas from development nor does it strictly prohibit multiple use activities on these lands. Specifically, the rule was aimed at controlling the amount of road-building activities undertaken by the Forest Service.
(Wikipedia)

Idaho Roadless Rule: The Idaho Roadless rule was finalized by the Forest Service in 2008 and guides the management and protection of more than 9.3 million acres of undeveloped national forests across Idaho. The Rule was in response to the State's petition to recommend State-specific direction for the conservation and management of inventories roadless areas within the State of Idaho. The final Idaho Roadless Rule integrates local management concerns and the need to protect these areas with the national objectives for protecting roadless areas values and characteristics.

The Idaho Roadless Rule provides five themes that each provides management direction that varies from most restrictive to least restricted and provides roadless character that varies from higher quality to lower quality. They are: *Wild Land Recreation, Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance, Primitive, Backcountry Restoration, and General Forest, Rangeland, and Grassland.*

§ 294.23 Road construction and reconstruction in Idaho Roadless Areas.

(a) Wild Land Recreation, Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance, or Primitive.

Road construction and reconstruction are prohibited in Idaho Roadless Areas designated as Wild Land Recreation, Special Areas of Historic or Tribal Significance, or Primitive. However, the Regional Forester may authorize a road to be constructed or reconstructed in an area designated as Wild Land Recreation, Special Area of Historic or Tribal Significance, or Primitive if pursuant to statute, treaty, reserved or outstanding rights, or other legal duty of the United States.

(b) Backcountry/Restoration.

(1) *Road construction and reconstruction are only permissible in Idaho Roadless Areas designated as Backcountry/Restoration where the Regional Forester determines:*

(i) *A road is needed to protect public health and safety in cases of an imminent threat of flood, wildland fire, or other catastrophic event that, without intervention, would cause the loss of life or property;*

(ii) *A road is needed to conduct a response action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ([CERCLA](#)) or to conduct a natural resource restoration action under [CERCLA](#), section 311 of the [Clean Water Act](#), or the Oil Pollution Act;*

(iii) *A road is needed pursuant to statute, treaty, reserved or outstanding rights, or other legal duty of the United States;*

(iv) *A road realignment is needed to prevent irreparable resource damage that arises from the design, location, use, or deterioration of a road and cannot be mitigated by road maintenance. Road realignment may occur under this subsection only if the*

road is deemed essential for public or private access, natural resource management, or public health and safety;

(v) Road reconstruction is needed to implement a road safety improvement project on a road determined to be hazardous based on accident experience or accident potential on that road; or

(vi) The [Secretary](#) of Agriculture determines that a Federal Aid Highway project, authorized pursuant to Title 23 of the United States Code, is in the public interest or is consistent with the purpose for which the land was reserved or acquired and no other reasonable and prudent alternative exists.

(2) A responsible official may authorize temporary road construction or road reconstruction for community protection zone activities pursuant to [§ 294.24\(c\)\(1\)\(i\)](#) if in the official's judgment the community protection objectives cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road.

(3) The Regional Forester may approve temporary road construction or road reconstruction to reduce hazardous fuel conditions outside a community protection zone where in the Regional Forester's judgment the circumstances set out below exist. Temporary road construction or road reconstruction to reduce hazardous fuel conditions under this provision will be dependent on forest type and is expected to be infrequent.

(i) There is a significant risk that a wildland fire disturbance event could adversely affect an at-risk community or municipal water supply system pursuant to [§ 294.24\(c\)\(1\)\(ii\)](#). A significant risk exists where the history of fire occurrence, and fire hazard and risk, indicate a serious likelihood that a wildland fire disturbance event would present a high risk of threat to an at-risk community or municipal water supply system.

(ii) The activity cannot be reasonably accomplished without a temporary road.

(iii) The activity will maintain or improve one or more roadless characteristics over the long-term.

(c)General Forest, Rangeland, and Grassland.

(1) A forest road may be constructed or reconstructed or a temporary road may be constructed in Idaho Roadless Areas designated as General Forest, Rangeland, and Grassland, unless prohibited in [§ 294.25\(e\)](#).

(2) Forest roads constructed or reconstructed pursuant to [§ 294.23\(c\)\(1\)](#) must be conducted in a way that minimizes effects on surface resources and must be consistent with land management plan components as provided for in [§ 294.28\(d\)](#).

(d) Temporary roads.

(1) Temporary road construction must be conducted in a way that minimizes effects on surface resources, is consistent with land management plan components as provided for in [§ 294.28\(d\)](#), and may only be used for the specified purpose(s).

(2) Temporary roads must be decommissioned upon completion of the project or expiration of the contract or permit, whichever is sooner. A road decommissioning provision will be required in all such contracts or permits and may not be waived.

(e) Road maintenance. Maintenance of temporary and forest roads is permissible in Idaho Roadless Areas.

(f) Roads associated with mineral activities. Road construction or reconstruction associated with mineral activities is provided for in [§ 294.25](#).

To see complete management guidelines for the Idaho Roadless themes, see:

<https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/CFR-2018-title36-vol2/xml/CFR-2018-title36-vol2-part294.xml#seqnum294.21>

National Recreation Area: A recreation area can be considered a recreation complex consisting of, among other things, campgrounds, day use areas, parking areas, boat ramps, restrooms, road and trail systems, and visitor centers. It usually encompasses an entire reservoir areas defined by an established boundary. A recreation area may have multiple recreation sites.

Wilderness Act of 1964: A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of development Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which:

- (1) Generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable;

- (2) Has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation;
- (3) Has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired conditions; and
- (4) May also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value.

Recommended Wilderness: Provision under the Wilderness Act that reads: The Secretary of Agriculture shall, within ten years after the enactment of this Act, review, as to its suitability or nonsuitability for preservation as wilderness, each area in the national forests classified of the effective date of this Act by the Secretary of Agriculture or the Chief of the Forest Service as “primitive” and report his findings to the President....Each recommendation of the President for designation as “wilderness” shall become effective only if so provided by an Act of Congress. Areas classified as “primitive” on the effective date of this Act shall continue to be administered under the rules and regulations affecting such areas on the effective date of this Act until Congress has determined otherwise.

Inventoried Roadless Areas: Lands that have been identified by government reviews as lands without existing roads that could be suitable for roadless area conservation as wilderness or other non-standard protections.

Primitive Area: The reference to “primitive” recreation harkens back to regulations adopted by the Forest Service in 1929 (known as the “L-20 regulations”) that designated “primitive areas” in national forests within which the agency would maintain “primitive conditions of environment, transportation, habitation, and subsistence, with a view to conserving the value of such areas for purposes of public education, and recreation.” The absence of a clear definition of primitive areas—either in the statute or in the L-20 regulations—diminishes the utility of the reference to that term in the definition of wilderness in ascertaining which areas qualify as wilderness. Current Forest Service regulations are also unhelpful, defining primitive areas as “those areas within the National Forest System classified as *Primitive* on the effective date of the Wilderness Act, September 3, 1964.” ([Lewis & Clark Law Article](#))

Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield: From the Multiple-Use, Sustained-Yield Act of 1960: “Multiple use” means: The management of all the various renewable surface resources of the national forests so that they are utilized in the combination that will best meet the

needs of the American people; making the most judicious use of the land for some of all of these resources or related services over areas large enough to provide sufficient latitude for periodic adjustments in use to conform to changing needs and conditions; that some land will be used for less than all of the resources; and harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources, each with the other, without impairment of the productivity of the land, with consideration being given to the relative values of the various resources, and not necessarily the combination of uses that will give the greatest dollar return of the greatest unit output.

“Sustained yield of the several products and services” means the achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high-level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the national forests without impairment of the productivity of the land.

Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program: The purpose of the CFLRP is to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack highlighted the need for pursuing an all lands approach to forest restoration and called for close coordination with other landowners to encourage collaborative solutions through landscape-scale operations.

Map 1. Payette National Forest Ranger Districts



Map 2. Payette National Forest Management Themes

