

August 10, 2016

Forest Plan Revision IDT Meeting

Attendees: Michelle, Heather, Bill J., Jason, Julie, Gary, Sheryl, Holly, Rodney, Kelly B, Larry H, Amber V, James, Susan, Erik, and Tom (phone), 4 public observers

- Calendar updates
- Management Area plan components – front, mid, and backcountry
- Discussion of alternatives in terms of MA distribution

Calendars and scheduling

- There is an interest from stakeholders in hearing more on how we landed where we did on objectives, hearing more information on the wilderness evaluation and potential alternatives. Also, a need to provide pre-work for the upcoming open IDT meetings for MA mapping. Proposing to have a series of lunch-and-learn sessions on objectives, wilderness, and management areas (dates to be determined)
- An offer from Congressman Meadow's office to engage further with the local county officials. Proposed dates are Aug 30th in Franklin and Aug 31st in Marion (still not definitive).
- This will result in the MA mapping meetings being pushed back
- Open IDT meetings to discuss MA mapping– Michelle will send out a calendar after dates are confirmed with the ranger districts
- Pre-work shared with those who RSVP will include:
 - How the FS MA layer was developed
 - Description of MAs – front, mid and backcountry
 - Process for developing list of areas that will be discussed at the open IDT mtgs
 - Location of the areas that will be discussed at the open IDT mtgs

Management Areas Discussion

The IDT broke into two groups to further discuss the descriptions and desired conditions for frontcountry, midcountry and backcountry. There continues to be a lot of question on how midcountry is distinctly different than frontcountry and how we are intending to manage ecozones differently in those areas.

Brainstorm on Range of Alternatives

Alternatives are still under development as we work our way through plan development. Mapping management areas has to date focused on mapping Alternative B, but we have heard an interest from others to reflect how areas may change in different alternatives. We are exploring a conceptual framework for in which the total acres of front, mid and back country vary across alternatives.

We have a goal to move management area descriptions and DCs to the steering team prior to sharing pre-work in advance of the open IDT meetings. We need to have consistent understanding of what the MAs are when we are looking at how MAs are distributed on district maps.

Nantahala and Pisgah Forest Plan Revision

Michelle will send the updated calendar with proposed meeting dates to the team once the dates have been confirmed.