August 2, 2017

Plan Revision IDT Meeting

Attendees: Logan Free, Erik Crews, Holly Stratton, Steve Little, Allen Nicholas, Brady Dodd, Julie Moore, Sheryl Bryan, Heather Luczak, William Davis, Alice Cohen. Phone – Susan Parker, Tom Collins

Public observers: Julie White

Review of Recreation Plan Components

- Logan consolidated to Recreation Settings, Developed Recreation and Dispersed Recreation
- Desired conditions are based off of ROS components.
- Need to still add rock climbing as a niche and to add motorized trails to the roaded natural section
- Feedback we heard – need more language surrounding mitigating resource damage. Added language regarding not degrading aquatic habitat.
- Added DC to address Social sustainability "Recreation settings retain their natural character as development and populations in the region continue to grow…."
- Added DC for high-quality accessibility opportunities in response to public comments

Objectives – primarily remain the same

New obj - "Identify areas where tools can be used for recreation mineral collection."

Standards

- Do we need to include language addressing drones? There is a recreational drones Tips that we provide to the public. Need to further review the FAA regulations regarding drones
- Geocaching – restricted unless approval is obtained. Virtual geocaching is allowed. Look into what other forests are doing for geocaching – follow up with Susan
- Need follow- up on non-commercial mineral collection areas
- Need to include something on suction dredging – 'no digging tools including suction dredging'
- Really need to examine the last bullet under mineral collecting. Should be more permissive for educational purposes. Need more discussion on this.

Management Approaches

- Addition of "Forest coordinating with NC Wildlife Resources Commission"
- Last bullet included in response to Forum input 'special recreational significance'
- Last bullet under DC for Developed recreation – applies both to developed and dispersed. "Accurate high quality visitor information is available…"
- Alice - Where do we address the unique opportunities that the FS provides to the public, in contrast to National Parks or Cty parks? This is addressed in Recreation Settings but may need to be more specific. Maybe add something to first DC under Developed Recreation.

Standards

- Added standard to analyze impacts to visitor experience before site decommissioning
- Changed the 100 year floodplain to the 500-year floodplain. Included language to document rational if relocation is not feasible.

- Discharging firearms – is it appropriate to reiterate the law here in the Forest Plan? What purpose does this serve in the plan? Is this in here at the request of law enforcement?
- Use of equestrian camps? How to address this in Forest Plan. Talk with Jeff Owenby. There were specific recommendations by the equestrian community
- Tom - Need to include something on geological hazards including waterfall hazards in management approaches.
- Need restriction on not allowing camping in wildlife openings. Perhaps a seasonal closure
- Maybe include an objective to assess dispersed campsites.
- Need something more definitive on user-created trails. Need to incorporate the most current version for user-created trails into the dispersed recreation section.
- How many developed sites are in the matrix? Virtually all developed rec sites are in the interface MA but some remain in their own MA as developed sites.

Allen - How will recreation vary by alternative? Primarily in terms of access.

**How do we reflect our objectives in terms of what we can do and what we can do with partners. Paint the picture of the critical nature of our relationship with partners. What is our capacity to achieve versus our capacity with the help of partners.