

Reply To: 2320

Date: May 17, 1993

Subject: SBW Public Task Force meeting May 1, 1993

To: SBW Planning Participants

Dan Ritter chaired the meeting at Three Rivers Resort, Lowell Idaho starting at 0900. Ground Rules and desired outcome:

1. Share information and ideas about planning and management of the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.
2. Decide on a strategy to resolve social monitoring difficulties.

I. **WILD & SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY STUDIES.** Dennis Griffith, Team Leader for Wild and Scenic River Suitability Studies gave a presentation on rivers under study. He gave a background review of W&SR and of suitability studies. As part of his presentation he responded to three questions about the studies and the S-B Wilderness.

- Q: Why Have W&SRs in Wilderness? 1. River system integrity; 2. More protection to river in some situations; 3. If conflict occurs with the Wilderness Act the most stringent rules apply.
- Q: What are 1982 Interagency Guides? They establish study process and management after River is established by Congress.
- Q: What is effect on private inholdings? 1. Possible scenic easements; 2. Depends on values to be protected; 3. Must display impacts on private lands.

Comments: (Worf) Interagency guidelines should be made public. A = River planning newsletter "Currents" and others provide good opportunity to do so.

Comment: (Rick Weholt) Difficult to get information from Forest Service. BLM has all wilderness information in 1 book available at local library. For FS one needs to get each forest plan which is more difficult.

Review by Complex:

Bear Creek additional values: (Dick Walker) Historic homesteads at mouth of Bear Creek; old guard station.

Moose Cr. comments: (Jim Curtis) 1. Moose habitat, (S.Walker) Cedar Groves, (Woody H.) = historic. Question (R. Weholt) does airstrip have historic value to early aviation?

Running Cr. complex comments: 1. (D. Walker) Only remaining unprotected, only barometer watershed in US. Idaho batholith = sensitive benchmark fish cooperative monitoring by Fish and Game. Critical watershed. 2. (Jayce Nygard) Historic outfitter use on all areas. 3. (B. Worf) Private land may be in conflict. Same comment with Moose Cr.

Three Links Complex comments: Hot springs values, Outfitting is historic use, all wildlife use.

Comment: Above Paradise on Bitterroot NF W&SR studies not being done because not priority on Btr NF. Comments: (Worf, Curtis) Doesn't make sense because not doing whole ecosystem.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE SITES REVIEW Margaret Gorski.

Background: 13 sites in SBW: most have use and historic values. All sites are eligible for Historic Landmark status except Hidden Peak. Must send in report by 9/30 to Chief. Will provide in state of Wilderness Report and in forest Monitoring Report.

Q = What is Historic value? A = Regional and local values.

Q = How to address Need? A = Agencies criteria of need (level of use) is comparable with what other groups would need at the same level of use. Just because a site is historic doesn't mean it should be used for administration.

Comment: (J. Curtis) concern about vested interest; ie, when people using cabins make decision on when a building is "necessary". That decision should be public, not a hidden decision.

Comment: (D. Walker) Is there opportunity to comment? A = Yes, if there is a decision made: This action is a review of existing direction. FS has not decided whether or not to have LAC group look at Administrative sites.

Comment: LAC Task Force has an expectation that they will be involved with all Forest Plan management direction in Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness.

Comment: What we have heard is that expectation is not being met specifically regarding administrative sites and maintenance to dams.

Discussion: of consultation and of not making decision with entire group.

III WILDERNESS IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE Nora Rasure.

Background: Chief's direction is to complete by end of fiscal year. District and SO people on each forest working on providing information. Handed out draft. Purpose: 1. Help set priorities across forest and district lines; 2. Identify costs; 3. Help organize work by making all work visible. It should also become a tool for wilderness advocates. We are now collecting costs.

IV. MINIMUM IMPACT SUPPRESSION TACTICS (MIST) Herb Spradlin

Guidelines developed to guide firefighters in using minimum impact techniques in fighting fires in Wilderness and other sensitive areas. Now have draft completed and should be adopted by Region this summer.

V. WILDLIFE AND VEGETATION LAC STATUS

Wildlife (Chuck Raddon): Have received some comments from Forest Service reviewers. Minor changes needed in some statements but no change in concept. Asked if group would accept changes after review by Task Force. Some discussion of proposed changes. Ecosystem management is becoming more important and will be significant in Wilderness Management.

Concern (Art) Changes from last meeting that he was not aware of.

VI. SITE AND SOCIAL INDICATORS Dan Ritter

Some social indicators are not working. Dan discussed the possibility of a Wilderness Ranger hiking through Opportunity Class 4 in the morning and meeting five groups (the maximum allowed), then after lunch taking a secondary trail in Opportunity Class 3 and meeting 2 groups (also the maximum allowed) resulting in 7 groups encountered in one day.

Camping within site and sound is measurable with qualifications.

Dan discussed a range of alternatives. The decision was to get help from the Research Lab (Aldo Leopold Wilderness Research Institute (ALWRI)).

VII. USER SURVEY (Herb Spradlin)

Exist interviews (from an approved OMB survey) were done at Blodget Canyon. Received 260 responses, mostly backpackers and day hikers. Only 4 horse people completed survey. Reasons for being in Wilderness: View Scenery; To be outdoors in fresh air, No 4 was solitude. Most have no problems attaining solitude at present but thought there should be some registration system. The survey will be continued this summer on Rock Creek.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND BIN ITEMS

- * Field review will be during the period September 9 though 15, with the location, agenda and itinerary to be determined.
- * Live stock special order: Discussed, Jaycee raised concern about tying saddled stock to a highline. For short stays such as while hunting it is not feasible to get highline high enough that saddles won't hang up on highline.
- * Trails direction does not provide limit on sustained grades.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 P.M. A total of 28 people attended.

s/Chuck
CHARLES H. RADDON
Wilderness Specialist