

Hector Plan Revision Meeting Notes 12-4-03: Management Areas

Blank Pie Chart Handouts: Public Desires for Management Area Percentages

Pie Chart Future Management Allocations

25% or more special areas (no development at all), 35% or less grazing, ~5% grassland, ~10% shrub opening, ~5% mosaic even-aged forest, 25% or more interior forest

25% special area, 25% interior restoration, 25% pasture, 12.5% shrub, 12.5% grassland for wildlife

25% special areas, 25% continuous forest cover, 36% livestock grazing, 7% shrub opening, 7% grassland for wildlife

Small Group Work

Questions:

What is working, or not working, with existing management areas in the existing Forest Plan?

What uses are compatible, or incompatible, with the Management Areas?

Group #1

How accepted is grazing locally and what are the biodiversity impacts?

ELT discussion-manage land use according to ELTs-especially forested areas (only strive for beech forest where the ELT shows it should or could be)

Be careful with desired future conditions

Remember forest is small-ELTs are based on a large scale

Don't manipulate an ELT to a different forest type through management practices

What is the demand for grazing? It has changed radically over the years-growing numbers for people who do seasonal grazing as part-time, losing dairy farmers

Long range: increasing pasture could increase revenue but probably a slow evolution, no big change

LI like diversity-forest, hedgerows, grassland, shrubland

Concern: visitor center at Caywood Point would bring parking lots, etc

Important: Special area to allow Caywood Point to keep undisturbed shoreline-keep parking, etc up by the road

Like interior forest in the ravines and gorges

Expand shrubland

Would like more interior forest but don't know forest well enough to mark where on the maps

General agreement to keep overall percent of are for livestock grazing constant (36%)

Increase grassland for wildlife from 4% to >5%

Hold shrub opening at 10%

Keep special areas at 2%

Have continuous forest cover at 2%

Have even-aged management at 22%

Have interior forest at 22%

Have interior forest and trails coincide

Have interior forest along some areas of continuous forest cover

Have continuous forest cover along trails for visuals (while allowing management for safety)

Group #2

How can changes occur in management areas-forest is forest unless you cut...slow process of change.

Biggest, oldest trees along Gorge Trail-continuous forest

Timber companies having access is not proper use- have more continuous forest without timber

Need educational pathways for children and families

Need a variety of trees for education and biodiversity

Even-aged proportion of forest is too high

Move towards ecological base-what land is suited for

Two types of forest in the mapping key are different than original map

Exotic species? Yes-some pines were planted-need to return to native species

Look at forest type compared to current use

Ecological land type map that Cornell recently made-why is Forest Service doing something different from that?

Is the existing Plan geared towards timbering? Is it ultimately a commodity?

Mission: provide a variety of services for the American people

Hiking trails-within continuous forest?

There is some value in having economic benefit from forest-timber, grazing-for the community

Forest has not been cultivated for cash harvest-has been managed for diversity or habitat-when trees are harvested, it is more to create habitat

What about the future? Can one impose a condition? That won't be harvested for sale, only for habitat, etc?

Faith that the community will keep the Forest Service under control

Tax rolls matter to local people, they are upset with all this land not bringing in revenue...compromise helps. New taxes from Wal Mart alleviate the tax burden-so can't say no to timbering

What about tourism, recreation, education revenue?

Rather see 50 cows grazing than 50 trailers in a trailer park

Keep community involved-family and locally owned-viability is hay

More continuous forest

For education purposes, some of area harvests for timber should be left and explained

Drawing on maps is not the issue for our group.

Timber land could be a demonstration area for land owners

Grazing land brings in revenue-helps 40 local farms

Don't want to assign percent return of income for forest

For older trees-have interior forest or "leave it alone" rather than special area

Increase forest areas and interior forest and for educational demonstration area

Like big chunks of forest

Trails, streams could have buffer of interior forest

Significant plant map-my main concern is trees

Ground does not respond to modern technology-grazing land. Hector is Hector for a reason-cultural aspect of land is related to grazing-it is managed but to cultivated, 30-45 farmers a year participate

Want 50% forest, 50% non-forest (mostly open)

Pasturelands back to forest-increase forest to more than 50%, consider what species to increase

Leave it alone-most of the more than 50% of forest

Lot involves judgment calls-will vary from year to year, can't have a fixed annual percent

Need a fixed percent to set a limit so it isn't all cut down some year

Most of the forest is 75 years old-don't touch it for 15 years and see what happens, what it looks like

Group #3

Special area #1: protected, mixed age, lots of older trees in a drainage leading to a beautiful gorge, native biodiversity, no trails, natural process occur-very quiet area

A lot of the forest is good as is

Drainages and ravines-30-8% slope areas should be special areas with no harvesting

Existing special areas should be kept that way

Would like all MAs drawn according to ELTs so that future desired conditions are described by the Reshke Ecological Community classifications following existing cover

Grazing grasslands-keep areas that are existing with fencing as pasture-emphasis on removing invasive species

Keep wildlife shrubland areas

If 9.2 lands are fenced pastured lands, they should be kept that way

9.2 land should be managed as ELT

If successional grassland or shrubland, manage those 9.2 to ELT

If existing off-site plantation, manage that 9.2 land towards ELT-actively manage to convert to native

Manage other forested lands toward ELT veg types as in 9.2s

Special area #2-cultural historic area, trail-protect and use for education (place-based education) many historic features

Shrublands-look at 9.2 for opportunities for shrublands-keep percent the same (10%)

If you get more shrublands as newly acquired land, then some shrublands could be converted to forest lands-look for areas with best soils or new drainages to convert to forest

Existing forest should be allowed to evolve by nature, not man's hand

No internal combustion in the forest

Black is interior forest on Group 3's map

Intent of Group 3 is to have all drainages as special areas

Interior forest is ELT-driven restoration. Research could be appropriate use too-needs boundary management

Group #4

There is a little too much grazing and logging

Worried about gas drilling

Concerned that forest is not allowing natural processes to occur

Need buffers for streams and ponds

Natural forest types-go for old growth where types would naturally grow

Make whole forest into special education area

ID heritage resource areas and protect

Restore the vegetation that used to be on forest-educate public on this

Keep water systems clean

Special area designation for water and streams

Emphasis on ecological ethic-restore abused land

Need a comprehensive invasive plant control plan

Move away from trying to make money by timber sales-too small a forest

Management artificial-get into educational focus

Buffers around streams and ponds

Grow vegetation types where they grow naturally and educate people about this

Stream buffers=special area-200' plus-marked in red on Group 4 map

Not clear how grazing helps forest
Concern that pasture removes land from public use-too much pasture
Maintain all 8.1-stay 8.1 special areas
Make all trail special areas visible as special areas on maps-colored red on Group 4 maps
Make all trail corridors special areas-not just the ones already 8.1
The Forest Service should use the ELT maps from Cornell to help guide what forest types to target where
Propose minimal even-aged management-enough to maintain species diversity
Convert the current continuous forest cover MA to future old growth-8.1 special area (red on Group 4 maps)
Shift some of the rest of the forest toward uneven-age to develop old growth character...non-commercial harvesting (commercial harvesting is not cost-effective due to damage to resource)
Local mills will not close if FLNF timber does not become available
Make sure stream buffer zones are recognized within special areas
Special area SE of Burnt Hill-rare plants, medicinal values-can burn or cut non-commercially to protect values
Interior (black on Group 4 map) forest-generally exclude grasslands, pastures, shrublands except to build connections between forest patches. Exclude plantation conifers-use even-aged management there to convert to native hardwoods-or shrub openings if needed (green on map)
Pasture in middle of interior block at south end-change to either grassland for wildlife or shrubs to facilitate connection between forest blocks
In forest fragments at north end-need non-commercial timber management for wildlife habitat and ecological goals
Grasslands up north are ok
Reduce grasslands to 30%
Interior forest=30%
Special Areas=15%
Grassland for wildlife=6%
Even-aged shade intolerant=5% (only plantations)
Shrubland=9%
Uneven-aged shade tolerant=5% (only non-commercial)