

GA Stakeholder Forum June 2017 Review Synopsis

BLACK MOUNTAINS Agreement	Needs Collaboration
<p>Really thorough.</p> <p>Restoration and resiliency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like that spruce-fir restoration is a priority <p>Recreation:</p> <p>Aquatics:</p> <p>Timber:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<p>Restoration and resiliency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape has adjacent protected areas.—eg Asheville watershed, full connectivity east to west • Superlative area, large tracts of OG, rare species, spruce fir forest intact in the nation • More granular standards in interface and matrix – lost cove ridge, green knob area – specific for restoration • There is a lot of existing old growth. This is the most contentious area. • Shope Creek area: closest to Asheville, lots of different users. Could have restoration and recreation together. • Would like to see a watershed action plan for Big Ivy and Dillingham creek, look at recommendations of the priority watershed working group recommendations • Like the goal for restoration in rich cove ecozones b/c it emphasizes younger structure • Would like more on emphasis on enhancing rich cove ecozone/old growth in Big Ivy • Focus in this area should be on restoration. • See a lot of roads in roadless areas • What does ecological restoration look like? • Likes that it has spruce. Here and Balsam are where you have spruce. Might be good to be more specific about best opportunities. • One thing that is missing is woodland conditions that you see in other one [GA?]. • Need for more of a mosaic layer. <p>Access/Veg Management (timber and other mgmt):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With limited access in this area, the FS should take advantage of any opps to do active mgmt. in areas that are accessible. Emphasize treatment in areas that you can access • Balancing visual concerns with treatments • Whatever timber management is, it should be clear.

- Pleased it talks about connecting people to land and discusses manufacturing, wood products, timber harvest, and mineral extraction.
- With all roadless and backcountry, needs to be more direction on roads in backcountry.

Partnerships:

- Listing some example organizations in partnership opportunities (rock climbing, mountain bike – call out specific groups).

Fire:

- WUI area south of Mackey Mtn, along NFS boundary, look at opps for controlled burns
- Opps for collaboration around WUI and fire threats
- Need something on prescribed fire. Mackey, Woods, and Heartbreak Ridge could benefit from fire.
- Backcountry management said controlled burns would be used to create hot fires. Not sure about singling out backcountry for this, but should be mentioned in interface and matrix. A lot of roadless areas are high elevation areas that do not naturally burn.
- If you can harvest timber, best not to take it out by fire.

Habitat Mngt (wildlife):

- Concern/Question the goal for restoration of Rich cove ecozones for wildlife, feel that Old Growth is a priority in rich cove ecozone
- Point of contention in the Big Ivy area regarding the need for ruffed grouse mgmt.
- The expanded SIA in Big Ivy – discuss what could be named for botanical, zoological. Do we want to included Ruffed Grouse Rough grouse – most areas are at elevations above species range but narrative said this is the best opportunity for hunting.
- wildlife viewing goal needed.

MA distribution:

- Its all IRA –so nothing you can do...
- Highest concentration of roadless, some of the wildest areas we have. A serious wilderness proposal wraps around the road in Big Ivy

- Lot of Green. Not many opportunities. Niels Creek makes sense. Mill Creek roads, all make sense.
- Small matrix slivers in southwest corner—does this make sense?
- Big Ivy is important for collaboration—the matrix and interface will have a lot of public pushback
- Question about the SIA in Big Ivy, how was this expanded from prior MA?
- A need for criteria in plan components for how mgmt. plays out in interface and matrix
- Think about compatibility of MAs around eligible WSRs [WSAs?]

Recreation:

- Hunters have said Big Ivy is a good grouse hunting area
- Would equipment for fixing trails in Big Ivy create more impacts?
- Access issue for the Buncombe horse range ---parking!!
- Black Mountain trail sustainability collaboration to maintain them.
- Recreation trail locations in Big Ivy have issues and need to be fixed –using equipment.
- In Big Ivy, 5548 needs to be excluded because there is the desire for mountain bike trails
- Like to see rock climbing community help goal - “Work with climbing communities to identify new locations of rare species.”
-