

## GA Stakeholder Forum June 2017 Review Synopsis

<b>EASTERN ESCARPMENT Agreement</b>	<b>Needs Collaboration</b>
<p>Restoration and resiliency goals are on target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Especially considering CFLRP.</li> <li>• Like the focus on T&amp;E species, and Carolina hemlock, and shortleaf</li> <li>• Good to recognize the issue of NNIS in wilderness</li> <li>• Like how it calls out woodland restoration – driest portion of N&amp;P and has a need for controlled burns. Needs more about proximity to RDU/Triad/Charlotte.</li> <li>• Scaling back the rhododendron proliferation along stream corridors. Reversing the acidification of soils adjacent to and leaching into streams. Creating a plant composition conducive to detritus and woody debris that encourages aquatic insect diversity &amp; abundance and therefore carrying capacity (fish), recreation opportunity (fishing), etc.</li> </ul> <p>Landscape description is right.</p> <p>Proportion of MAs is okay, but the distribution might change</p> <p>Recreation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited trail (horse &amp; bike) access – appreciate that there is a goal for this.</li> <li>• Issues with eroding mtn biking trails in Wilson Creek (and other areas)</li> <li>• Recreational opportunities are well accounted for in general. Great that there is a mention of adjacent</li> </ul>	<p>Restoration and resiliency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• could all the forestwide objectives for restoration all occur here in this GA?? As there are many opportunities here.</li> <li>• Opps for ecological restoration and where that occurs in different MAs</li> <li>• What are the opportunities for American chestnut restoration? Mass production for wildlife primarily, forest volume a distant second.</li> <li>• Linville Gorge are well served by goals. Other places such as Wilson Creek are not mentioned, also no mention of Linville dolomite area.</li> <li>• Add table mountain pine in this area as underrepresented on forest. Might be worthwhile to mention as special constituent in pine oak heath.</li> <li>• A lot of room for developing an aquatic restoration plan to address sediment sources from mtn biking, hiking trails, roads. Need to think broadly about the John’s River watershed.</li> </ul> <p>Access/Veg Management (timber and other mngt):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wood products: no discussion of utilizing the wood products industry as a partner for achieving restoration activities.</li> <li>• Old growth</li> <li>• Goals does not mention timber harvest specifically.</li> <li>• Whole lot of green – game of exclusion – lot of big issues that forest health should drive. Without roads and timber suitability, hard to conceptualize.</li> <li>• Missing piece is scenery aspects of this. Without seeing scenic layer, does not know what will be affected. Big management area could be totally off limits if AT or Parkway.</li> <li>• Access for disabled hunters. Note Brown Mountain OHV area as an area for this in goals.</li> </ul>

communities.

- Have more problems with number of people, as far as streams, roads, passage. Environmental problems because of this.

Goals are aggressive for prescribed burns

Aquatic goal of focusing restoration in the John's River watershed

Partnerships:

- Connection with adjacent landowners
- Upper Globe area (Thunderhole) needs collaboration—more granular plan components for Interface and Matrix.

Fire:

- To do controlled burns, must collaborate with adjacent communities in the wilderness WUI
- Increasing capacity and utilize partnerships to increase controlled burning
- Reducing fire hazard in wildland urban interface should be a goal.

Habitat Mngt (wildlife):

- Wildlife abundance, improve wildlife habitat, and wildlife habitat diversity are important for this GA.
- Linville extension—are there wildlife openings in there? If so, would that affect the wilderness recommendation? Is there a helispot?
- Maintain open woodland and talks about game species. Other species (non-game) are not mentioned.
- wildlife viewing goal needed.

MA distribution:

- Upper Globe area –proximity to roads between the backcountry vs Interface areas should be examined
- Some areas make sense as backcountry but shows up as Interface, eg west side of Linville Wilderness
- The idea of more criteria for Interface and Matrix
- Areas that are in matrix and are also ok with wildlife management (NC Wildlife Commission) as backcountry; can there be collaboration to become backcountry MA.

Recreation:

- A goal about increasing sustainable mtn biking, reducing mtn biking in the WSAs, and providing opportunities in the eastern part of the forest
- Mtn bike recreation discussion in Lost Cove, Harper Creek
- Boone fork area, need collaboration to support some development, Mtn bike, horses, and also the thunderhole area
- Examine the specific recreation opportunities/area?
- Harper Creek/Lost Cove should not be recommended for wilderness so there can be connectivity of mountain bike trails. Looking for long “backpacking” biking trails. More of the access issues is related to lower area (Harper Creek). Look at the areas that are not in the wilderness study areas but are in the same general area.
- Look at connectivity across the entire GA for trails.
- Goals in resiliency need some kind of recreational category – sites need to be rehabed.
- No mention of trout fishing in goals
- Different views in Sugar Cove, Harpers Creek and Lost Cove (in terms of Mtn biking)
- Maple Sally Road not mapped as interface. Would like to know why.
- Inventory recreation sites/acres.
- In 90s and 00s, most controversial timber sale was in Blowing Rock (Globe 1 and Globe 2 timber sale). Needs to be in institutional knowledge – very politically connected community.
- Like to see rock climbing community help goal - “Work with climbing communities to identify new locations of rare species.”

Additional areas mentioned: Boone Fork/Wilson Creek, West side Linville, Dobson Knob, Sugar Coe, Gragg Prong