



## Colville National Forest Firewood Meetings

7 - 9 p.m.  
November 3, 4 & 10, 2004  
Kettle Falls, Lone & Republic

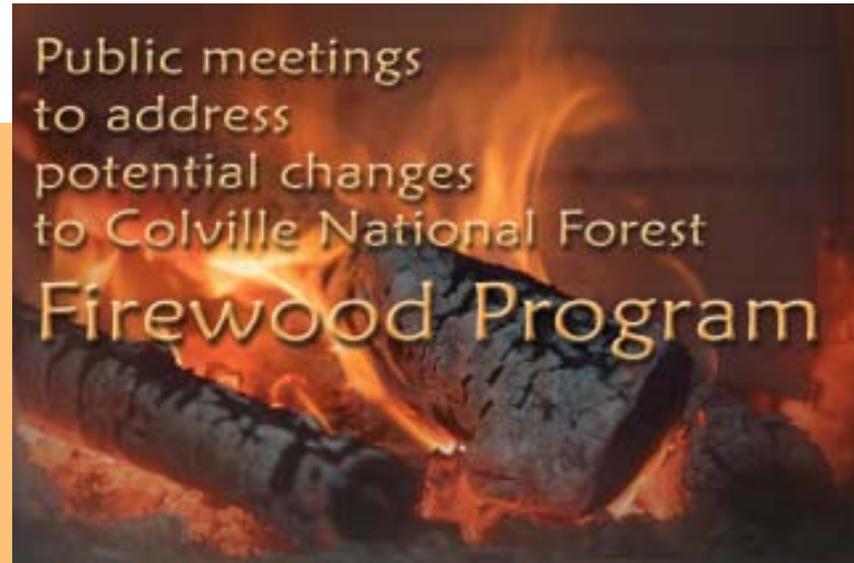
# NEWS

## Release

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### Colville National Forest

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## Firewood program seasonal closures may be considered to conserve snags, protect wildlife, reduce recreation conflicts and improve public safety

**Colville, Wash., --** The Colville National Forest will hold public meetings in three northeast Washington communities in early November to present its firewood program and offer recommendations for changes that include seasonal closures which forest managers hope will reduce impacts on and conflicts with on other natural resources, protect public safety along winter roads and reduce administrative costs.

The meetings are scheduled for 7-9 p.m., Wednesday, November 3, 2004 at the Kettle Falls High School Cafeteria, 1275 Juniper in Kettle Falls; Thursday, November 4, 2004 at the Lone Community Center, 210 Blackwell in Lone; and, Wednesday, November 10,

2004 at the Republic Elementary School Multipurpose Room, 30306 East Highway 20 in Republic.

The meetings are intended to involve communities in identifying and addressing issues associated with firewood cutting in the national forest. During the meetings, Forest Service managers will present ideas for resolving specific problems, including a significant reduction in the number of dead trees -- or snags.

Dead and partially dead trees provide valuable habitat for many forest wildlife species that use the standing habitats as a place to feed, nest, perch and roost.

The number and diversity of hole-

nesting birds, amphibians and mammals are directly related to the number of available and suitable snags.

According to Jim McGowan, wildlife biologist for the Colville National Forest, the presence of dead trees can spell the difference between local extinction and the perpetuation of some wildlife species.

"East of the Cascades, 39 species of birds and 23 species of mammals depend on cavity trees for their survival," McGowan said. "A greater number of cavity-nesting wildlife are present when large snags are available," he said, "and these same snags are preferred and selected for firewood," he said.

McGowan says the public meetings will help increase awareness of the shortages of quality snags and engage public cooperation in reducing the numbers of snags being cut.

According to McGowan, the meetings will provide a forum for discussion and an opportunity for public comment on seasonal closures or other limitations that protect or enhance forest resources.

The meetings are free of charge and open to the public. For more information about the meetings, or the Colville National Forest firewood program, contact the Forest Supervisor's Office at (509) 684-7000.

### TECHNICAL CONTACTS:

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