

NEWS RELEASE

Pacific Northwest Region - Colville National Forest
765 S. Main Street, Colville, WA 99114, www.fs.usda.gov/colville

Contact: Franklin Pemberton, 509.684.7177

January 8, 2016

Comments Sought on Hydrologic Stabilization of Closed USFS Roads

Newport, WA (January 8, 2016)– The Newport-Sullivan Lake Ranger District of the Colville National Forest is proposing to restore hydrologic function on approximately 2 miles of closed system roads in the upper West Branch LeClerc Creek drainage.

The roads are located in the upper West Branch LeClerc Creek area approximately 40 miles north of Newport, Washington. They are two short spur roads, approximately 0.9 miles long each and are no longer shown on the Motor Vehicle Use Map or the Forest map. The legal description of the project area is sections 28-30 of T. 37N, R. 44E. The area is accessed from the Middle Branch LeClerc/Harvey Creek Road (FS Road 1935000 and Paupac Road (FS Road 1936000).

These roads were closed to motorized vehicles at least 25 years ago and receive no maintenance. The compacted roadbed and the existing log culverts are adversely affecting hydrologic function of both surface water and shallow groundwater systems. The compacted roadbed needs to be loosened to restore shallow groundwater function and natural surface water connectivity. The decompacted area would be replanted with native vegetation. The culverts would be removed to restore natural stream function and improve overall water quality and downstream fish habitat. Stream channels would be restored to mimic the up and downstream conditions at each respective site.

The road currently is not drivable due to vegetation growth over the last twenty-five plus years. The proposed work would occur in the summer or early fall of 2016. The US Forest Service desires information from all interested parties that would allow for the accurate analysis of effects to the public of this proposed work. This information would help with the design of the work to be completed on this road by considering the desired use and activities in this area.

If you have questions or would like more information concerning this project, please contact District Hydrologist, Rob Lawler, at the Colville National Forest Newport Ranger District office at (509) 447-7300 or rrlawler@fs.fed.us by March 31, 2016.

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