



# Colville National Forest

## Forest Plan Revision Update Winter 2016

### A Message from the Forest Supervisor

I am pleased to report that we are making preparations for the public review phase. Amy Dillon, our Plan Revision Team leader and I briefed our agency leadership in Washington D.C. and the Department of Agriculture on the draft plan and draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) alternatives in December. That briefing went well and we are excited to get the documents ready for public review and move toward that goal. We anticipate being able to release the draft plan and analysis in February and we'll be sharing more information on how you can provide input or get involved.

At this time we are continuing to meet with state and federal agencies, tribes and counties to provide an overview of the draft plan and analysis. Our stakeholders want to ensure that the draft plan takes into consideration their plans, and also that the interests of their constituents are considered as the draft plan is developed.

It's been a substantial effort to reach this point. We'll need your continued interest to carry this plan across the finish line by working with us in determining the best strategies for managing the Colville National Forest into the future. Thank you for your interest and willingness to be part of this process.



Rodney Smoldon,  
Colville National Forest  
Supervisor

### What you can expect to see in the Draft Plan and DEIS

A draft EIS has been completed which analyzes six alternatives.

**No Action Alternative (1988 Forest Plan)** – The “no-action alternative” reflects current management practices under the existing forest plan, as amended and implemented. It provides the basis for comparing the existing condition to the proposed action and the alternatives. The interim direction provided with INFISH would be considered final direction for the CNF.

**Proposed Action Alternative** – The June 2011 proposed action addresses the need for change. It applies landscape ecology concepts to provide for ecological resilience to disturbances, including the effects of climate change and incorporates new science related to the recovery of terrestrial and aquatic threatened and endangered species. The overarching emphasis of this alternative would be to apply active vegetation management in a dynamic landscape approach to increase vegetation resilience and move the landscape toward desired conditions. The proposed action adopts the Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy (ARCS), replacing INFISH with a long-term strategy that uses best science and aligns species and water quality recovery plans.

**Alternative P** – The overall vegetation management approach, outputs in alternative P, and backcountry recreation management would be similar to the proposed action. Like the proposed action, alternative P would adopt ARCS. However, it also would expand the key watershed network, and increase riparian protection through additional plan components (ARCS-modified).

**Alternative R** – Alternative R would emphasize a large-scale reserve approach for late-successional forest structure, emphasizing a passive management approach to reach desired conditions. Alternative R would take the same aquatic strategy approach as alternative P through ARCS-modified.



for the greatest good

**Alternative B** – This alternative reflects the concerns of a public collaborative group in one alternative by balancing resource issues with public concerns received over the last few years. It attempts to balance land allocations between areas emphasizing active management (timber management zones), emphasizing a mix of active and passive management (Restoration Areas), and emphasizing passive management (recommended and designated wilderness). Alternative B would retain and integrate the INFISH, continuing riparian area management similar to the no-action alternative. Where the collaborative group did not identify plan components, the 1988 Colville Forest Plan (no-action alternative) would provide plan direction (remain unchanged).

**Alternative O** – Similar to alternative B, the intent of alternative O is to balance resource issues with public concerns, and land allocations between areas emphasizing active management (Responsible Management Areas), emphasizing a mix of active and passive management (Restoration Areas), and emphasizing passive management (backcountry and recommended/designated wilderness). Where the collaborative group did not identify plan components, the proposed action would provide plan direction. This includes the proposed action’s approach to adopt ARCS.

## Public Participation Approach

The goal of public participation during the Colville National Forest plan revision process is to provide meaningful opportunities for people to become informed and provide comments about the proposed plan and environmental analysis. We also want to enhance long-term, positive relationships for future implementation and related decisions.

Our approach for public participation throughout the public comment period is diverse and extensive, providing opportunities for the public, special interest groups, cooperating agencies, and governments to engage with the Colville National Forest and the draft documents, both online and in person.

Plans for in-person meetings include meetings with communities of interest to discuss potential effects on specific forest uses, listening sessions to hear the public’s perspective on the draft documents, and focused interest meetings by invitation from user and stakeholder groups. We also plan to attend community events that may be occurring during the comment period to provide information and receive comments.

Online opportunities will include an online open house, which provides traditional in-person open house materials in an easily accessible format, as well as digital technologies like an interactive map, online comment submittal, and material downloads. In addition to the online open house, stakeholders will also be able to participate in an online dialogue with other stakeholders and the Colville National Forest, as well as topic-specific online webinars.

**The Colville National Forest is dedicated to enhancing public understanding of the forest plan revision process before, during, and after the public comment period. Please continue to follow the project website or newsletters for updates on future engagement opportunities, and timeline details.**

## Subscribe to the Contact List

To ensure that you remain on the contact list for updates or to update your information, please sign up for our new electronic messaging system: [fs.usda.gov/goto/colville/plan](https://fs.usda.gov/goto/colville/plan)

We are shifting to the electronic message system and web postings to reduce printing and mailing costs. We’ve been working for a number of months to make this transition. To remain on the hardcopy mailing list, or to receive a CD or hardcopy of the analysis and draft plan and ensure we have your current contact information, please contact Debbie Kelly (509-664-9247).

## Timeframes and Next Steps

Timeframes	Milestones and Next Steps to a Revised Forest Plan
<p><b>2003-2011</b></p>	<p>The Forest identified a need for change and developed the Proposed Action with collaborative input from interested public, counties, tribes, and partner agencies. Initial public outreach and pre-scoping efforts were accomplished in conjunction with the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.</p> <p>Public engagement with interested citizens, tribes, counties and state/ federal agencies began in 2004, and included focused public collaboration workshops between 2006 and 2009, which helped in the development of the proposed action. Formal scoping began with the release of the Proposed Action in June 2011 for public comment. Public meetings were held, comments gathered and analyzed.</p>
<p><b>2012-2015</b></p>	<p>Revision team considers scoping comments and identifies issues. Alternatives to the Proposed Action are developed using the issues identified from scoping conducted in 2011. Issues and range of alternatives approved by regional forester. Effects to social, economic, and natural resources are analyzed. The Colville and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests separate their plan revision efforts in 2014.</p>
<p><b>Early 2016</b></p>	<p>Draft EIS and Proposed Revised Colville Forest Plan released for public comment; a 90 day comment period and information sessions are planned. All comments received during the comment period will be analyzed and considered when finalizing the Forest Plans and draft EIS. Engagement with interested parties, other agencies, Tribes, and public continues.</p>
<p><b>2016-2017</b></p>	<p>Following release of the draft DEIS (once comments and any potential changes are considered or incorporated), a Notice of Availability for the Final EIS, and Forest Plan and Objection Process Begins. Once resolution of Objections has been reached, a Record of Decision will be signed.</p>

### For More Information

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