



United States Department of Agriculture

DRAFT Colville National Forest Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan



for the greatest good

colville NATIONAL FOREST

January 2016

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Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan Colville National Forest

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Located in the northeastern corner of Washington State, the Colville National Forest lies within a remote area of wild beauty and rich history. Encompassing 1.1 million acres, the Colville occupies nearly one one-third of the total area of Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties. To the north, the national forest is bordered by British Columbia; to the west by the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest; to the east by the Idaho Panhandle National Forest; and to the south by a portion of the Colville Confederated Tribes Indian Reservation. Lincoln and Spokane Counties, though not immediately adjacent, are within the Colville National Forest's area of influence. If these two counties are included, the influence area of the national forest accounts for almost 10 percent of the total state population. Visitation from other areas, such as Okanogan County, may also be substantial and, if considered, would enlarge the Colville's area of influence.

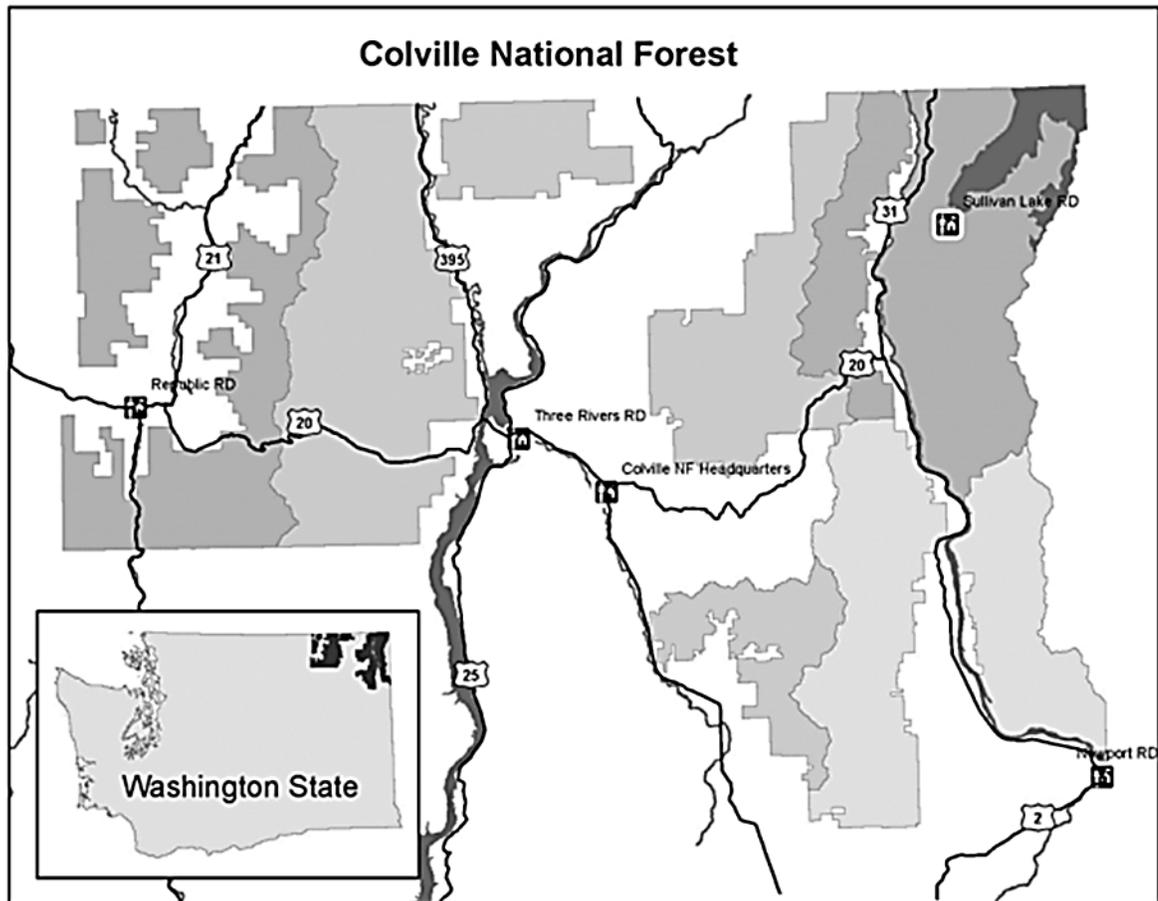
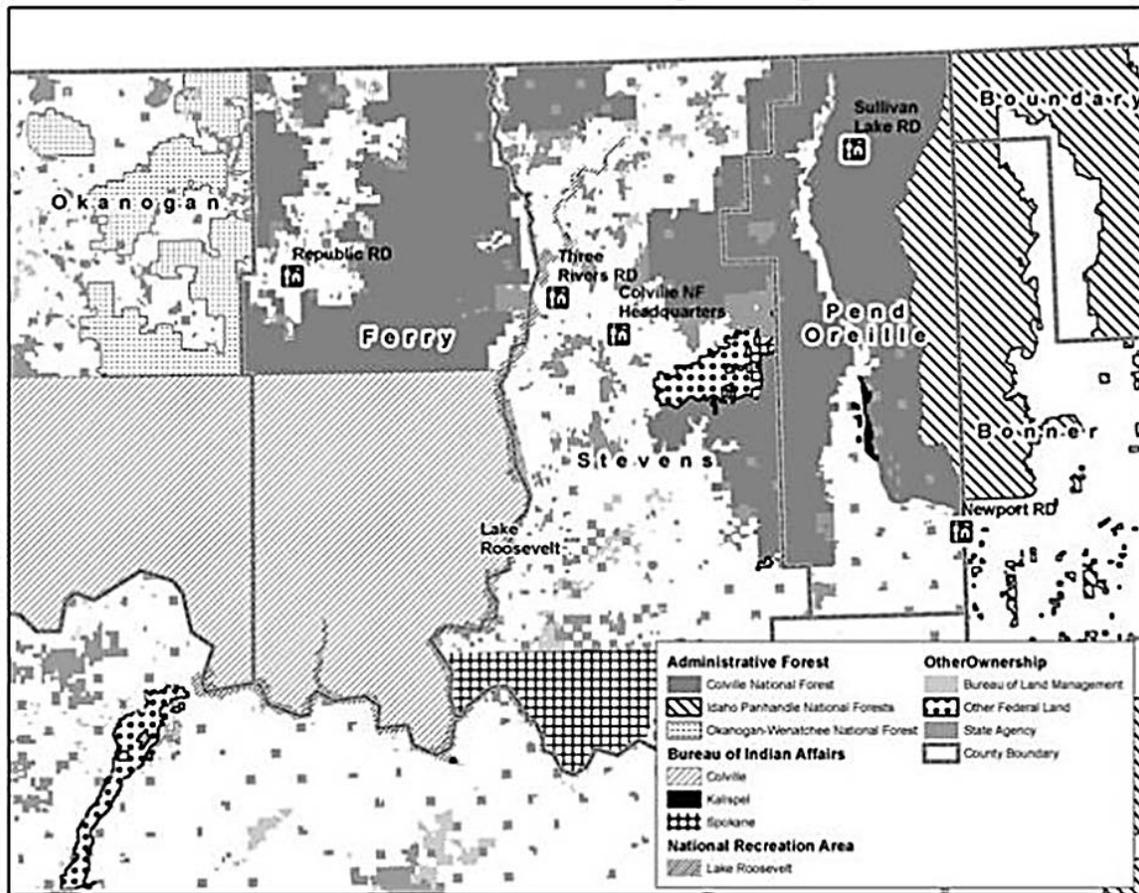


Figure 1. Vicinity map of the Colville National Forest

Visitors access the Colville National Forest from one Federal (U.S. 395) and three State highways (Highways 21, 25, and 31) that mostly follow the north–south drainages, and from State Highway 20, which transects the middle of the national forest in a west–east direction. Three

19 recognized scenic byways bisect the Colville: The Sherman Pass and North Pend Oreille National
20 Scenic Byways and the International Selkirk Loop (designated an All-American Road). Numerous
21 National Forest System roads and trails provide access to gathering sites for forest products and
22 a diversity of developed and dispersed, outdoor, rustic recreation opportunities.

23 Two north–south oriented mountain ranges comprise the bulk of the Colville National Forest:
24 the 7,000-foot Selkirk Range (featuring the outstanding high-country Salmo-Priest Wilderness)
25 and the Kettle River Range. The Pend Oreille River, surrounded by mostly private land, runs
26 along the western edge of the Selkirks. The 130-mile-long Lake Roosevelt National Recreation
27 Area, a segment of the Columbia River reservoir created by Grand Coulee Dam, divides the
28 national forest. The National Recreation Area draws thousands of visitors to this remote corner
29 of Washington State each year.



30
31 **Figure 2. Colville National Forest counties and neighboring lands**

32 Three vegetation zones comprise Colville National Forest, each with a unique climate and
33 topography. Dry forests of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir dominate the rolling landscape of the
34 Okanogan Highlands west of the Kettle Crest. The subalpine fir types along the Kettle Crest
35 separate the western portion of the national forest from the lush valleys and richly forested
36 mountains to the east where rainfall reaches 50 inches a year in the Salmo-Priest Wilderness.
37 Western redcedar and western hemlock forests are comparable to those on the west side of the
38 North Cascades Range. Wildlife including bull trout, grizzly bear, woodland caribou, moose,
39 wolf, and bald eagle inhabit regions of the Colville.

40 All water flowing from the Colville National Forest eventually drains into the Columbia River.
41 Major drainages include the Pend Oreille, Colville, Kettle, and Sanpoil Rivers. The national forest
42 contains approximately 500 miles of fish-bearing streams and about 100 lakes and ponds.

43 Principal ecosystem services are timber, wildlife, fish, water, forage, and recreation. Timber
44 harvest remains one of the primary ways the Colville National Forest meets economic needs.
45 Between 1988 and 2014, timber harvest levels averaged 47.6 million board feet (MMBF) per
46 year. The amount of timber sold has declined over the life of the 1988 Forest Plan from a high of
47 134 MMBF in 1989 to a low of 18 MMBF in 2005 (with an average of 43.5 MMBF per year
48 during the last 5 years). Approximately 10 percent of the annual volume the national forest sells
49 is non-commercial material such as firewood or biomass. During the most recent 10-year
50 period, the Colville supported an average of 29,500 animal unit months of forage for cattle
51 grazing. The national forest currently has a total of 58 grazing allotments that cover
52 810,000 acres. Grazing on the Colville National Forest generally occurs from June through
53 October.

54 With an estimated 336,000 visits per year, the Colville National Forest is a popular retreat for
55 activities including camping, winter sports, forest product gathering, off-highway vehicle use,
56 four-season trail use, driving for pleasure, snowmobiling, backcountry travel, hunting, fishing,
57 and wildlife viewing. Combined, day-use and overnight recreation opportunities contribute an
58 estimated \$7.5 million (in 2003 dollars) in annual revenues to communities located within
59 50 miles of the national forest. (2009 NVUM Master Report)

60 Approximately 4,000 miles of National Forest System roads provide access to recreation areas
61 and places to collect renewable forest products such as firewood, berries, mushrooms, and
62 Christmas trees. The Colville National Forest manages 32 campgrounds, 2 eligible wild and
63 scenic rivers, the Salmo-Priest Wilderness, 197 miles of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic
64 Trail, 49 Degrees North Mountain Resort, and 15 recreation residences.

65 MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES

66 Managing the Colville National Forest to continue providing public benefits includes making
67 available recreation access, facilities, and services; supplying renewable and non-renewable
68 forest products; and providing roads, services, and accommodations to support local
69 economies. It also encompasses protecting clean water sources, aquatic and terrestrial habitat
70 for species of fish, plants, and wildlife; and preserving heritage resources. And, each year, forest
71 managers focus more on providing quiet, natural places for personal renewal while emphasizing
72 planning and restoration of forest ecosystems to make them more resilient to changing
73 climates.

74 Challenges forest managers face in providing these benefits include population growth,
75 urbanization, appropriate recreational use, access, climate change, vegetation and wildlife
76 diseases, wildland fire, invasive non-native species management, and protection of natural
77 resources. Discussion of these challenges follows.

78 CLIMATE CHANGE

79 Projected climate changes, based on current knowledge, information, and data presents
80 complex challenges in predicting long-term changes. Additional information is located in the
81 draft Programmatic Land Management Plan EIS.

82 **ECOSYSTEM SUSTAINABILITY**

83 Our national forests are valued for large areas of naturally functioning ecosystems. However,
84 climate change, spreading invasive plant and animal species, and human activities threaten
85 these same ecosystems. Demand for natural resources, whether for recreation or commodity,
86 places additional pressure on ecosystem sustainability. We need to find balance between
87 demand for social and/or economic use and maintaining functioning aquatic and terrestrial
88 resource habitats over the long term. Imbalance affects water quality and soil productivity; fish,
89 plant, and wildlife habitat; and our overall enjoyment of national forests. Fragmentation of
90 plant and wildlife habitat resulting from growth patterns on lands adjacent to national forests,
91 management activities, and increased use of National Forest System lands is affecting our ability
92 to manage for federally protected species, such as the grizzly bear, woodland caribou, and bull
93 trout.



94
95 **Hanley Meadow (photo courtesy of Brandon Weinmann)**

96 **INSECTS AND DISEASE**

97 We have identified wildfire exclusion, historic grazing practices, and historic timber harvesting
98 as the principal factors resulting in increased live tree stocking levels, increased levels of mid
99 and late seral species, and homogenization of spatial patterns. These factors contribute to
100 uncharacteristic conditions that support larger scale and more persistent insect outbreaks
101 (Hessburg et al. 1994). Acreage affected by insects and disease has consistently exceeded
102 acreage affected by wildfire in the Colville National Forest.

103 The interaction of increased tree density increased insect levels of both defoliators and bark
104 beetles, increased fuel levels, and climate change impacts such as water stress¹ are influencing
105 the levels of current late forest structures and will continue to influence future late forest
106 structure development.

¹ Water stress is primarily caused by a water deficit (where there is a lack of water to fully meet the needs of the vegetation)

107 **FIRE MANAGEMENT**

108 Wildland fire is an essential disturbance process in dynamic and resilient ecosystems. However,
109 the potential for uncharacteristic wildfire that is more severe, dangerous, and difficult and
110 costly to suppress, concerns forest managers.

111 Fire played an important role in the historical development of both forested and non-forested
112 vegetation across northeastern Washington. Fire, was generally either low or mixed severity
113 across much of the Colville National Forest. It created a mix of structural stages (forested
114 vegetation); removed understory trees in dry forest types; resulted in a mix of opening sizes
115 creating locations for establishment of shade-intolerant tree species and increased ground-level
116 forage; regenerated shrubs and understory plants for wildlife forage; and created snag habitat.

117 However, uncharacteristic wildfire may contribute to the spread of invasive plant species,
118 reduce habitat for federally listed terrestrial and aquatic species, and cause damage to the
119 Forest’s infrastructure and adjacent property values. Uncharacteristic wildfire is often
120 associated with high to moderate fire intensity and burn severity, which could result in
121 accelerated erosion, loss or impairment of soil productivity, potential to increase peak flows,
122 reduce water quality, and decrease aquatic habitat function. Uncharacteristic wildfires are also
123 associated with increasingly high levels of dead and downed fuel, overstocked forests, drought,
124 disease, and insect outbreaks. Development of structures in the wildland interface areas
125 adjacent to national forest lands adds to the complexity and danger of wildfire suppression.

126 **WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE**

127 Wildland-urban interface (WUI) will continue to change over the life of the forest plan. As
128 communities update their wildfire protection plans, additional WUI area can and will be added.
129 The trend indicates that people will continue to build adjacent to national forest lands. This will
130 affect wildland fire and fuels projects through public input in support of, or against those
131 projects. It will also affect wildland fire limits in some areas because of social and political
132 concerns related to individual perceptions of wildland fire risk and fuel management.

133 **RECREATION**

134 Recreational use of the Colville National Forest is projected to increase due to population
135 growth, more people seeking outdoor activities, and increased participation in popular
136 activities. Increasing numbers of residents of communities surrounding the national forest seek
137 healthful, outdoor-oriented lifestyles. Changing use patterns suggest the need to provide more
138 specific infrastructure, such as facilities for large group use. Some activities have surged in
139 popularity since the current plans, such as mountain biking and off-highway vehicle use. As
140 development of private land continues, the Forest Service anticipates a greater dependence on
141 the Colville for nature-based activities and experiences that are becoming less accessible
142 elsewhere. In some locations, resource impacts and crowding associated with recreational use
143 are growing, and damage to riparian areas and unauthorized trail development are of particular
144 concern.

145 Maintaining recreation infrastructure and providing opportunities for a broad cross-section of
146 the public will strengthen the national forest’s relevancy and contribute to future generations’
147 appreciation and support of the National Forest System.

148 **ACCESS SYSTEM**

149 Issues surrounding access to and through the national forest are complex. The Colville National
150 Forest administers over 4,000 miles of system roads. The cost of managing this extensive road
151 network while providing public and administrative access, habitat for fish and wildlife, and
152 preservation and improvement of water quality presents challenging resource trade-offs.

153 Additional private landowners adjacent to national forests means more neighbors with whom
154 the Forest Service needs to coordinate access for public recreation and other management
155 activities.

156 **RENEWABLE FOREST PRODUCTS**

157 The Colville National Forest provides water and renewable forest products such as timber,
158 firewood, forage, huckleberries, mushrooms, material for floral arrangements, Christmas trees,
159 native plants and seed, and medicinal plants. Managers must effectively communicate with an
160 increasing diversity of people with varying knowledge of national forest management objectives
161 to encourage responsible stewardship of the national forest.

162 **IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES**

163 A final challenge is maintaining relevancy of the national forests to the American people. Our
164 success in achieving desired conditions depends on recognizing these challenges, some of
165 which may be beyond our management capability, such as uncertainties around climate change,
166 unforeseen environmental disturbances, and budgetary fluctuations. These challenges may
167 mean it will take longer and more work to achieve the desired conditions. Congress allocates
168 the Forest Service budgets on an annual basis, which may or may not be sufficient to implement
169 proposed annual activities or meet desired conditions.

170 **INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN**

171 The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the
172 Nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The
173 phrase, “Caring for the Land and Serving People” captures the Forest Service mission. As set
174 forth in law, our mission is to achieve quality land management under the sustainable multiple-
175 use management concept to meet the diverse needs of people. The overall goal of managing
176 the National Forest System is to sustain the multiple uses of its renewable resources in
177 perpetuity while maintaining the long-term productivity of the land.

178 **PURPOSE OF THIS LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN**

179 Based on current information and guidance, this Land Management Plan (Plan or Forest Plan)
180 provides responsible land management direction for the Colville National Forest by guiding
181 programs, practices, uses and projects. For ease of discussion throughout this document, the
182 Colville National Forest will be referred to as Forest when referencing the single administrative
183 unit, the staff that administers the unit, or the National Forest System lands within the unit.

184 On March 23, 2012, the agency established a new planning rule (the 2012 Planning Rule). The
185 2012 Rule also provides transition language at 36 CFR 219.17(b)(3), allowing the responsible
186 official to elect to use the provisions of the prior planning regulations to prepare plan
187 amendments and revisions. The responsible official has elected to continue to follow the
188 provisions of the planning regulations in effect prior to May 9, 2012, as indicated in the 2011
189 Notice of Intent.

190 This Plan provides broad guidance and information for project and activity decision-making for
191 approximately² the next 15 years.

192 **Forest Plan Characteristics**

193 ***The Plan is strategic in nature.*** It does not include project and activity decisions. Those
194 decisions are made later, only after specific proposals are made and analyzed and there is the
195 opportunity for public involvement.

196 ***The Plan includes plan components.*** These are desired conditions, objectives, suitability of
197 areas, special areas, monitoring, and standards and guidelines. Plan components are
198 distinguished from other parts of the Plan because they can only be changed by a plan
199 amendment.

200 ***The Plan is adaptive.*** New knowledge and information can be analyzed and the Plan changed, if
201 appropriate, at any time. Changes to plan components are made by a formal amendment
202 process.

203 ***The Plan honors the continuing validity of private, statutory, or pre-existing rights.***
204

²May be revised sooner if needed because of important changed conditions.

205 The Forest Plan provides guidance for project and activity level decision-making on the Colville
206 National Forest for approximately the next 15 years. This guidance includes:

- 207 • Forestwide multiple-use goals (listed as desired conditions) and objectives, including a
208 description of the desired condition of the Forest and an identification of the quantities of
209 goods and services that are expected to be produced during the planning period, as
210 required by 36 CFR 219.11(b);
- 211 • Forestwide standards and guidelines to fulfill the requirements of 16 United States Code
212 (U.S.C.) 1604 applying to future activities and resource integration requirements in 36 CFR
213 219.13 through 219.27;
- 214 • Management Area (MA) direction (multiple-use prescriptions) with associated standards
215 and guidelines, including possible actions (see appendix A), as required by 36 CFR
216 219.11(c);
- 217 • Monitoring and evaluation requirements that provide a basis for a periodic determination
218 and evaluation of the effects of management practices, as required by 36 CFR 219.11(d);
- 219 • Recommendation of wilderness to Congress, as required by 36 CFR 219.17(a); and
220 recommendation of rivers eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System as
221 described by 16 U.S.C. 1271-1287, 36 CFR 297, and 47 FR 39454; and
- 222 • Determination of suitability and potential capability of lands for resource production
223 (timber and grazing), as required by 36 CFR 219.14 and 219.20.

224 Life and safety of forest users is important. However, it is not necessary to provide management
225 direction for safety in a Forest Plan. Numerous regulations, codes and policies provide for
226 human health and safety.

227 SUMMARY OF THE ANALYSIS OF THE MANAGEMENT SITUATION

228 The management situation is described in the Comprehensive Evaluation Report (CER) (2006).
229 This document meets the content requirements of the Analysis of the Management Situation
230 (AMS) as required by the procedures of the 1982 Planning Rule, by describing the social,
231 economic, and ecological conditions and trends in and around the Colville National Forest. The
232 CER notes where the former land management plan (the 1988 Plan) does not provide adequate
233 management guidance for the present and future, and it identifies where the conditions and
234 trends indicate a need for change from the 1988 plan. A summary of the AMS is in the Planning
235 Record.

236 The CER/AMS identifies three primary areas, or revision topics, where there are priority needs
237 for change in program direction.

- 238 1. Vegetation and Fuels Treatment
- 239 2. Aquatic (Fish and Water) Systems
- 240 3. Wildlife Habitat

241 MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

242 Management of National Forest System lands occurs in a larger context and geographic
243 landscape. National laws, regulations, and policy guide the Forest's interaction with local, State
244 and Federal agencies. The Colville National Forest covers a wide geographic landscape and is a

245 neighbor to many entities, ranging from the private landowner, to State and Federal lands, to
246 tribal lands, and a foreign country to the north (Canada). The management of the Forest is set
247 within this complex regulatory and geographic environment and is guided by numerous laws,
248 regulations, executive orders, treaties, and agreements. Following is a brief overview of this
249 complex situation.

250 **CONSULTATION, COOPERATION AND COORDINATION**

251 The Colville National Forest contains lands adjacent to other national forests, national wildlife
252 refuges, U.S. Department of Interior (USDI) Bureau of Land Management lands, tribal lands, and
253 lands managed by the State, in addition to others. Through mandatory requirement or
254 agreement, the Forest consults, cooperates, and/or coordinates with many local governments
255 (especially counties), state agencies (including the Washington State Historic Preservation
256 Office), Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology or WADoE), Washington Department of
257 Fish and Wildlife (]), Federal agencies (including the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Department
258 of Homeland Security, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission), and American Indian tribes,
259 as well as communities, private entities, individuals, research institutions, and organizations.
260 These relationships help improve management efficiency, achieve management goals, improve
261 overall resource management, foster consistent land management at larger scales, and reduce
262 potential conflicts. If these requirements or agreements change, the Forest will comply with, or
263 adapt to the changes as needed. The Forest considers these consultation, cooperation and
264 coordination activities as standard operating procedure, and, therefore, they are generally not
265 restated as direction in the Forest Plan.

266 **INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY WITH CANADA**

267 The Colville National Forest’s northernmost boundary is the international boundary with
268 Canada. A 60-foot wide reservation strip, the “Taft Reservation” of May 3, 1912, runs along the
269 border. Activities by the Forest and other Federal agencies within the reservation strip are the
270 subject of numerous agreements and understandings between Federal agencies as well as
271 treaties between the United States and Canada. The Plan does not address management within
272 the 60-foot reservation or activities within the national forest related to the international
273 boundary as treaties and related agreements and understandings cover those areas.

274 **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

275 State and local government resource management and land use plans provide guidance for
276 management of lands in those jurisdictions. Community wildfire protection plans provide well-
277 defined avenues for coordination. County land use plans describe local government goals and
278 objectives for land management and provide opportunities for coordination between the Forest
279 Service and local governments.

280 **FEDERAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITY AND TRIBAL RIGHTS AND INTERESTS**

281 American Indian tribes are sovereign nations. They are government entities with which the
282 Forest Service has established and continues to maintain government-to-government
283 relationships. In government-to-government consultation, the Forest Service acknowledges the
284 sovereignty of federally recognized American Indian tribes, and the special government-to-
285 government relationship between the tribes and the United States through Executive Order
286 13175 (November 6, 2000).

287 The U.S. Government has a trust responsibility to federally recognized tribes. While Federal laws
288 apply to all federally recognized American Indian tribes, each tribe or confederation of tribes is
289 different and is recognized as a separate and unique government. There are differences
290 between tribes and in historic relationships between tribes and lands on and near their current
291 reservations. In some cases, several tribes may have legal interests in the same lands because
292 they each may have occupied or otherwise used those lands prior to relocation on reservations.
293 These factors and others result in unique relationships with each tribe.

294 Tribes have reserved rights and privileges for their tribal members on any off-site reservation
295 lands ceded through executive orders to the U.S. Government. The Forest Service manages
296 some of those off-reservation lands ceded through executive orders. Therefore, the agency has
297 certain legal responsibilities to American Indian tribes. The Forest Service is required to manage
298 the lands under their stewardship with full consideration of the Federal trust responsibility and
299 tribal rights and interests, particularly reserved rights where they exist. In meeting these
300 responsibilities, the agency consults with the tribes whenever proposed policies or
301 management actions may affect their interests. American Indian access to sites is protected as
302 well as the use and possession of sacred objects, the freedom to worship through ceremonial
303 and traditional rites, and collection of native plant and animal resources for traditional cultural
304 purposes. Appropriate protection of these areas is coordinated with the leaders of the tribes.
305 On some occasions, access or use by the public may be temporarily denied to allow tribal
306 members to exercise their reserved rights in privacy and solitude. When such uses or temporary
307 closures occur, participating tribal members are typically required to verify their membership in
308 a federally recognized tribe.

309 While this Plan does not attempt to define the legal obligations of the Forest Service under the
310 Federal trust responsibility, the Plan reflects a commitment, whether as a legal obligation or a
311 matter of policy, to address tribal concerns and interests.

312 Further, the Plan reflects consideration of Federal legal responsibilities to both tribes and
313 American Indian people as expressed through executive order, Federal laws (such as Civil Rights
314 Act, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), National Historic Preservation Act, and Native
315 American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act), executive orders, and federal court
316 judgments.

317 More specifically, government-to-government consultation is ongoing between the Forest
318 Service and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Kalispel Tribe, and the
319 Spokane Tribe of Indians.

320 The tribes and Executive orders are as follows:

- 321 • Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation: Executive Order of 1872; North-Half
322 Agreement of 1891
- 323 • Kalispel Tribe: Executive Order of 1914
- 324 • Spokane Tribe of Indians: Executive Order of 1881

325 CONSISTENCY WITH PLAN COMPONENTS

326 Under the National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976, a project or activity must be
327 consistent with plan components as follows and as described in the Consistency with Plan
328 Components Appendix of this Plan. As projects and activities are planned, an interdisciplinary

329 team assesses the potential environmental, physical, biological, aesthetic, cultural, engineering,
330 and economic impacts on the area.

331 Projects and activities include all actions under 16 U.S.C. 1604(i). A project or activity must be
332 consistent with the plan by being consistent with applicable plan decisions.

333 Plans also contain other content (see the “Other Content” section). Projects and activities are
334 not required to be consistent with this other content.

335 Where a proposed project or activity would not be consistent with a plan decision, the
336 responsible official has the following options:

- 337 • To modify the proposal so that the project or activity will be consistent;
- 338 • To reject the proposal; or
- 339 • To amend the plan at the same time as the approval of the project or activity so that the
340 project or activity is consistent with the plan as amended. The amendment may be
341 limited to apply only to the project or activity.

342 These plan components apply only to National Forest System lands and are measured at the
343 forestwide scale unless specifically stated otherwise. The timeframe to achieve objectives is 10
344 to 15 years unless stated otherwise. These plan components do not alter any legal or statutory
345 rights such as mineral development or private lands access or reduce the need to provide public
346 or employee safety. These goals (hereafter identified as desired conditions), objectives,
347 standards and guidelines do not supersede law or regulation in the event of conflict between
348 them. Standards apply only to management actions.

Plan Components

**Desired Conditions
(Goals)**

Social, economic, and ecological attributes toward which management of the land and resources of the plan area is to be directed. Desired conditions are aspirations, are not commitments or final decisions approving projects and activities, and may be achievable only over a long period of time. Desired conditions are aspirations and are not commitments or final decisions approving projects.

To be consistent with the desired conditions of the plan, a project or activity, when assessed at the appropriate spatial scale described in the plan (e.g., landscape scale), must be designed to meet one or more of the following conditions:

- Maintain or make progress toward one or more of the desired conditions of a plan without adversely affecting progress toward, or maintenance of, other desired conditions; or
- Be neutral with regard to progress toward plan desired conditions; or
- Maintain or make progress toward one or more of the desired conditions over the long term, even if the project or activity would adversely affect progress toward or maintenance of one or more desired conditions in the short term; or
- Maintain or make progress toward one or more of the desired conditions over the long term, even if the project or activity

Plan Components	<p>would adversely affect progress toward other desired conditions in a negligible way over the long term.</p> <p>The project documentation should explain how the project is consistent with desired conditions and describe any short-term or negligible long-term adverse effects the project may have concerning the maintenance or attainment of any desired condition. This description of the desired conditions for the Forest fulfills the requirement of section 36 CFR 219.11(b) of the 1982 planning regulations.</p>
Objectives	<p>These are concise projections of measurable, time-specific intended outcomes. Objectives are the means of measuring progress toward achieving or maintaining desired conditions. The objectives represent just some of the expected outcomes or actions required to accomplish movement toward desired conditions.</p> <p>Variation in achieving objectives may occur during the next 10 to 15 years because of changes in environmental conditions, available budgets, and other factors. Objectives are strongly influenced by recent trends, past experiences and anticipated staffing levels, and short-term budgets.</p> <p>A project or activity is consistent with the objectives of the plan if it contributes to or does not prevent the attainment of any applicable objectives. The project documentation should identify any applicable objective(s) to which the project contributes and document that the project does not prevent the attainment of any objectives. If there are no applicable objectives, the project must be consistent with the objectives of the plan, and the project document should state that fact.</p> <p>The objectives section provides a description of the potential outcomes or results that may be expected to be provided during the planning period, as required in 36 CFR 219.11 (b) of the 1982 Planning Rule.</p>
Standards	<p>Standards are constraints upon project and activity decision making. Standards are established to help achieve desired conditions and objectives and to ensure project activities on NFS lands comply with applicable laws, regulations, Executive orders, and agency directives.</p> <p>A project or activity must be consistent with all standards applicable to the type of project or activity and its location in the plan area. A project or activity is consistent with a standard when its design is in exact accord with the standard; variance from a standard is not allowed except by plan amendment. The project documentation should confirm that the project is consistent with applicable standards. Standards are explicitly identified in the Plan (36 CFR 219.11).</p>

Plan Components

Guidelines

Guidelines provide operational practices and procedures that are applied to project and activity decision making to help achieve desired conditions and objectives, to avoid or mitigate undesirable effects, or to meet applicable legal requirements.

A project or activity is consistent with a guideline in either of two ways:

1. The project or activity is designed exactly in accord with the guideline; or
2. A project or activity design varies from the exact words of the guideline, but it is as effective in meeting the purpose of the guideline to contribute to the maintenance or attainment of the relevant desired conditions and objectives.

Guidelines are explicitly identified in the Plan (36 CFR 219.11). When a project varies from the exact words of the guideline, the project documentation must specifically explain how the project design is as effective in contributing to the maintenance or attainment of relevant desired conditions and objectives. When deviation from a guideline does not meet the original intent, however, a plan amendment is required.

Suitability of Areas

National Forest System lands are identified as “generally suitable” for various uses. Suitability describes the appropriateness of applying certain resource management practices (uses) to a particular area of land. An area may be identified as generally suitable for uses that are compatible with desired conditions and objectives for that area.

A project with the purpose of timber production may only occur in an area identified as suitable for timber production (16 U.S.C. 1604(k)). The documentation for the project should confirm the project area meets the suitability requirements.

Except for projects with a purpose of timber production, a project or activity can be consistent with plan suitability determinations in either of two ways:

1. The project or activity is a use identified in the plan as suitable for the location where the project or activity is to occur; or
2. The project or activity is not a use identified in the plan as suitable for the location (i.e., the plan is silent on the use or the plan identifies the use as not suitable), but the responsible official determines that the use is appropriate for that location’s desired conditions and objectives.

The project documentation should describe that the project or activity is either: (1) a use for which the area is specifically identified in the plan as suitable or (2) not a use for which the area is specifically identified in the plan as suitable, but it is nonetheless appropriate for that location.

349 Changes such as updates of data and maps, typographical errors, the monitoring program and
 350 monitoring information, and other non-substantive changes in this document, may be made
 351 with administrative corrections. The public will be notified of any future amendments or
 352 administrative corrections to the plan.

353 **PLAN STRUCTURE**

354 This Plan is organized into several major divisions: Chapter 1: Introduction; Chapter 2: Forest-
 355 wide Direction; Chapter 3: Management Area Direction; Chapter 4: Monitoring; Appendices;
 356 and References.

357 The Maps, Glossary and Bibliography are all-inclusive for the Plan Set of Documents and exist as
 358 separate documents. The official electronic maps and data that support the Plan are found at
 359 <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/colville/landmanagement/planning>.

360 The following discussion briefly describes how the plan components are distributed among the
 361 parts of this Plan. For a quick preview of the Plan structure, glance at the Table of Contents.

Parts of the Plan	
Background Information (Chapters 2 and 3)	This plan also includes material that is not a plan component and appears in light grey boxes. This information is background and typically clarifies limits of authority, definitions, application of management guidance, and applicability of analysis. Projects and activities are not expected to be consistent with this material.
Chapter 2: Forestwide Direction	<p>This chapter contains direction that applies forestwide unless more stringent or restrictive direction is found in chapter 3. Forestwide direction includes desired conditions, objectives, standards, and guidelines. Other Forest Service direction including laws, regulations, policies, executive orders, and Forest Service directives (manual and handbook), is not repeated in the Forest Plan.</p> <p>The chapter is organized by resource, under the following two major categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Landscape Features and Dynamics</i> <p>This section includes components for air; aquatic and riparian components including key watersheds (networks of watersheds that provide crucial habitat for threatened and endangered fish and aquatic species); soil; vegetative systems including vegetation disturbance, biological legacies, plant habitats including habitats for threatened and endangered plant species, and species of conservation concern; and wildlife habitats including habitats for threatened, endangered, management indicator, focal, and ungulate species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Social Systems</i> <p>This section includes components for the access system, lands and special uses, commercial livestock grazing, minerals, public awareness, recreation, renewable forest products, scenery, and source water protections areas.</p>

Parts of the Plan

Chapter 3: Management Area Direction

Management Area (MA) allocations are specific to areas across the Forest that have similar management needs and desired conditions. Each MA has a certain emphasis which will direct management activities on that piece of land.

This chapter includes the following for each MA:

- A brief description of the management area; and
- Management direction in the form of desired conditions, objectives, standards, and guidelines.

This chapter also includes tables showing suitable uses that may or may not be authorized within a management area. For each table, an “x” indicates suitability of the management area for that use, when consistent with forestwide and management area direction. Some uses are qualified by constraints or exceptions as shown in the table.

Chapter 4: Monitoring

Monitoring is used to determine the degree to which on-the-ground management is maintaining or making progress toward desired conditions. The monitoring strategy includes questions and performance measures designed to inform implementation and effectiveness of plan decisions. It helps ensure that the plan remains adaptive, in that new knowledge and information can be analyzed and the plan modified as needed. Every monitoring question links to one or more desired conditions, objectives, standards, or guidelines. However, not every plan component has a corresponding monitoring question.

362 **OTHER CONTENT – MATERIAL THAT IS NOT A PLAN COMPONENT**

363 This plan also includes material that is not a plan component. This information is background
364 and typically clarifies limits of authority, definitions, management guidance, application of
365 management guidance, and applicability of analysis. Projects and activities are not expected to
366 be consistent with this background material. Changes to this material do not require a Forest
367 Plan amendment. Other content that is not considered plan direction includes roles and
368 contributions, management challenges, possible management actions, or strategies.

369 All maps and photos within the Plan are for reference unless otherwise noted as a plan
370 component.

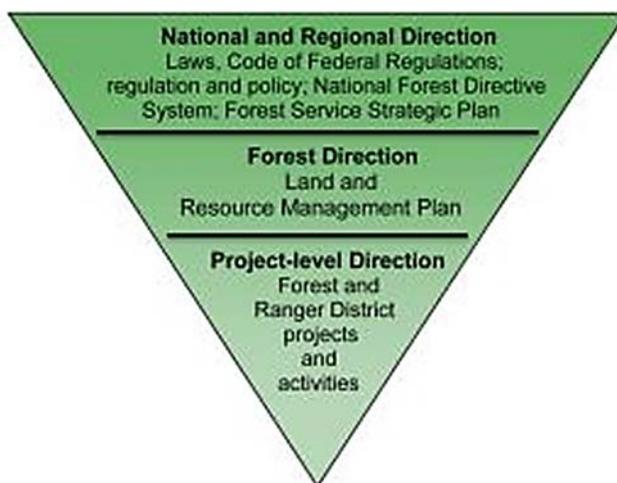
371 **RELATIONSHIP OF THE FOREST PLAN TO OTHER STRATEGIC GUIDANCE**

372 **Forest Service Management Direction**

373 Forest Service direction for managing National Forest System lands comes from several levels.

374 National and regional direction includes laws, executive orders and regulations. Forest Service
375 policy guides activities on national forests. All forest activities must comply with national
376 direction and reflect national policy.

377 The hierarchy of management direction ranges from national and regional direction to site-
378 specific, project-level direction when the Forest Plan is implemented. Figure 3 shows the
379 primary levels of direction.



380
381

Figure 3. Hierarchy of management direction for all national forests

382 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE

383 All land management plans must meet the requirements of the National Forest Management
384 Act of 1976. This Plan was revised under the transition provisions of the 2012 Planning Rule (36
385 CFR 219). Under the 2012 Planning Rule (Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 219–
386 Planning), the responsible official may complete and approve plan revision in conformance with
387 the provisions of the prior planning regulation, including the transition provisions of the
388 reinstated 2000 rule (36 CFR part 299, published at 36 CFR parts 200 to 299, revised as of July 1,
389 2010). The transition provisions allow the use of the 1982 planning procedures (see CFR parts
390 200 to 299, Revised as of July 1, 2000). See the following hyperlink for the 1982 procedures
391 <http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/includes/nfmareg.html>.

392 Direction for land management plans is to focus on outcomes achieved over time (desired
393 conditions) instead of outputs (products, goods, and services) as in previous plans. In addition,
394 plans must guide development of a budget and project activities that bring about desired
395 outcomes. Rather than making project-level decisions or commitments to implement specific
396 projects, a land management plan provides the context for project development.

397 Guidance for forest plans is from the USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan
398 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/plan/>). This national-level plan is a framework for the National Forest
399 System annual performance plan. It guides units such as individual national forests or ranger
400 districts in proposing project-level work, while considering the opportunities and challenges
401 detailed in their local unit plans. Like individual forest plans, the strategic plan focuses on
402 outcomes or results that are to be achieved over time. Forest plans consider the National
403 Strategic Plan in developing desired conditions and objectives.

404 As a Federal land management agency, the Forest Service must follow all applicable Federal
405 laws and regulations. If these laws change or are amended, or if new laws are enacted, the
406 Forest administration will comply with the changes or additions. The same situation applies to
407 executive orders and to agency policy, as expressed in Forest Service Manual and Handbook
408 directives. This direction does not need to be restated in the forest plan. Wherever the laws,

409 regulations, or policies have more stringent requirements than forest plan direction, the Forest
410 must and will comply with those requirements.

411 Examples of Federal laws with which forest plans and revised forest plans must be consistent
412 are the Endangered Species Act (ESA), the National Historic Preservation Act, the Wilderness
413 Act, the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, and the National Forest Management Act (NFMA).
414 Guidance for these laws comes from the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), and the Forest
415 Service Directive System (the Forest Service Handbooks and Forest Service Manuals). That
416 material is not repeated in the Forest Plan, but a summary of these may be found on the Forest
417 Service national Web page at <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/planning/index.html>

418 Overarching national policies, such as the Healthy Forests Initiative or the National Fire Plan,
419 also guide development of forest plans and management activities. These laws, regulations, and
420 policies are not repeated in the Forest Plan but may be found on the National Forest Web Page
421 at <http://www.fs.fed.us/>

422 **FOREST DIRECTION**

423 A forest may have a forestwide plan, such as a fire management plan or access and travel
424 management plan, which serves to implement the forest plan. These plans are consistent with,
425 and subordinate to, the forest plan.

426 **PROJECT-LEVEL DIRECTION**

427 Project-level plans are on-the-ground projects and activities designed to accomplish
428 management objectives and move the planning area toward desired conditions. Most site-
429 specific projects and activities are designed to meet the objectives of the land management
430 plan while reflecting current local issues and needs. Projects and activities are subject to the
431 National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable laws and regulations. The same
432 situation applies to executive orders and to agency policy, as expressed in Forest Service Manual
433 and Handbook directives. Wherever the laws, regulations, or policies have more stringent
434 requirements than forest plan direction, the Forest must and will comply with those
435 requirements. The level of required environmental analysis and planning to carry out a project
436 is dictated by the scope and complexity of the project, public issues, and the project's potential
437 effects on the human environment.

438 **DECISIONS MADE IN THE PREVIOUS FOREST PLAN**

439 Decisions made in the previous Forest Plan, such as resource management standards, will no
440 longer be binding unless they are explicitly carried forward by inclusion in this plan. Note that
441 laws, regulations, and directives are not repeated or summarized in this plan (unlike the
442 previous forest plan), but are still in force.

443 **PLANNING RECORD**

444 A variety of documents, including the Forest Plan, make up the Planning Record. Aside from the
445 land management plan, these include the final environmental impact statement, record of
446 decision, and the project record. Following is a description of the most prominent documents.

447 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

448 The preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS) disclosing a preferred alternative
449 and a range of alternatives is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (1969) and the

450 implementing regulations of NFMA (36 CFR 219). The final EIS (FEIS) also provides information
451 on the existing conditions and the environmental effects associated with the alternatives.

452 **RECORD OF DECISION**

453 A record of decision (ROD) follows the FEIS. The ROD documents the selection of an alternative
454 and the rationale for that selection to be the Land and Resource Management Plan for the
455 Forest.

456 **PROJECT RECORD**

457 The project record consists of the relevant decision documentation and pertinent records
458 documenting the planning process. All references used throughout the planning process are
459 included.

460 **GLOSSARY**

461 The glossary is a separate companion document that supports the entire Planning Record. It
462 provides definitions of select words from this Plan.

463 **ABOUT THE APPENDICES**

464 **Appendix A: Consistency with Plan Components**

465 This appendix explains how projects and activities must be consistent with this Plan.

466 **Appendix B: Proposed and Possible Management Actions**

467 Appendix B describes proposed and possible that the staff of the Colville National Forest
468 anticipate to occur over the life of the Plan, which show the variety of multiple-use
469 opportunities or resource management programs that the Forest expects to provide (36 CFR
470 219.11(b)).

471 **Appendix C: Sensitive Species Summary**

472 Appendix C provides a summary of sensitive plant species known to occur on the Colville
473 National Forest.

474 **Appendix D: Scenic Integrity Objectives**

475 This appendix provides a map displaying scenic integrity objective designations across the
476 Colville National Forest.

477 **Appendix E: Recreation Opportunity Spectrum**

478 This appendix provides a map displaying recreation opportunity spectrum designations across
479 the Colville National Forest.

480

481 **ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE COLVILLE NATIONAL**
482 **FOREST**

483 **INTERNATIONAL LEVEL**

484 **Contains the International Selkirk Loop.** This designated All-American Road is one of 31
485 in the Nation. It winds through northeastern Washington, northern Idaho, and
486 southeastern British Columbia. The loop received the national Rural Community
487 Assistance Action Award from the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service for 2000 to 2001.

488 **Shares an international boundary with Canada.** The Colville National Forest shares
489 50 miles of border with Canada. Visitors cross the U.S. and Canada border through six
490 international gateways that allow access through the national forest (these include,
491 from west to east: Ferry, Danville, Laurier, Frontier, Boundary, and Metaline Falls).

492 **Hydroelectric power production.** Waters from the Colville National Forest drain to Lake
493 Roosevelt on the Columbia River, which is impounded by the Grand Coulee Dam, the
494 largest power supplying dam in the United States. The Grand Coulee Dam generates
495 21 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity per year, supplying power to Washington,
496 Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah,
497 Arizona, and Canada. In addition, there are two hydropower projects with acreage on
498 the Colville National Forest on the Pend Oreille River. Boundary Dam generates one-
499 third of Seattle City Light's power, and Box Canyon Dam supplies power for Pend Oreille
500 County. Both dams also supply power to other western states and Canada at times of
501 peak production.

502 **NATIONAL LEVEL**

503 **Provides habitat for three federally protected terrestrial wildlife species.** The U.S.
504 Department of Interior (USDI) Fish and Wildlife Service lists the grizzly bear and Canada
505 lynx as threatened species and woodland caribou as an endangered species. The very
506 eastern portion of Colville National Forest is included in the Selkirk Grizzly Bear
507 Recovery area. The recovery area supports a small population of grizzly bears. The
508 Colville contains recovery area and proposed critical habitat for the last remaining herd
509 of woodland caribou in the continental U.S. The recovery area for the Selkirk Mountain
510 Woodland Caribou, the most endangered mammal in the continental U.S., includes a
511 portion of the Colville National Forest and public lands in northern Idaho and southern
512 British Columbia. In 2013, only 18 animals were counted in the entire recovery area.
513 The Colville does not contain designated critical habitat for Canada lynx, but follows
514 current science direction for managing Canada lynx habitat. The Kettle Crest is
515 identified as a Core Area that is important for the recovery of Canada lynx in
516 Washington.

517 **Contains one of six nationally designated grizzly bear recovery areas.** The Selkirk
518 Grizzly Bear Recovery Area is home to a population of approximately 30 grizzly bears.
519 The recovery area is one of two in Washington State and one of six in the Nation. It
520 includes the Selkirk Mountains ecosystem of northern Idaho, southern British Columbia,
521 and northeastern Washington. The northeastern part of the Colville National Forest
522 contains the Washington portion of the recovery area.

523 **Provides habitat for one federally protected species of fish.** The bull trout is federally
524 listed as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. Portions of streams
525 on the Colville National Forest are designated as critical habitat for the recovery of this
526 species.

527 **Contributes one wilderness to the National Wilderness Preservation System.** The
528 Salmo-Priest Wilderness (31,400 acres) is an example of the Okanogan Highlands
529 landform and is the only wilderness in the northeastern section of the state.

530 **Contains four national recreation trails (NRT).** The Colville National Forest hosts
531 80 miles of NRTs. Two of the longest trails are the Kettle Crest (44 miles) and the
532 Shedroof Divide (21.8 miles). The other two NRTs are the Lakeshore Trail, also known as
533 Sullivan Lake (4.3 miles), and Pass Creek-Grassy Top (7.8 miles).

534 **Contains approximately 140 miles of the 1,200-mile Pacific Northwest National Scenic**
535 **Trail on National Forest System lands.** The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail
536 crosses seven national forests and ranks among the most scenic trails in the world. The
537 trail begins at the Continental Divide and ends at the Pacific Ocean, passing through the
538 Selkirk and Kettle River Range Mountains on the Colville National Forest.

539 **PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL LEVEL**³

540 **Provides habitat for regionally rare plant, animal, and fish species.** The Colville
541 National Forest provides habitat for 4 fish species, 38 plant species, and 27 wildlife
542 species considered sensitive by the Forest Service.

543 **Supports the most concentrated milling area in the state.** The Colville timber
544 processing area (composed of three Washington counties and three northern Idaho
545 counties) includes 22 milling facilities, 11 of which are sawmills. Some of these facilities
546 specialize in using small-diameter timber that abundant on National Forest System
547 lands in northeastern Washington. This concentration of industrial activity contributes
548 to local economies and to the character of communities.

549 **STATE AND LOCAL LEVEL**

550 **Showcases Sherman Pass Scenic Byway and North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway.** These
551 national forest scenic byways showcase historical sites, views of rivers and mountains,
552 and offer varied vegetation including stunning fall foliage and view of past burns.

553 **Provides a continuous supply of high quality water.** Brown and Froemke (2009)
554 estimated the annual contribution of water supply for all national forests in the
555 contiguous United States based on data from 1953 to 1994. Water supply estimates
556 were calculated as “precipitation minus natural evapotranspiration” with the
557 assumption that water that infiltrates into the soil is not evaporated or transpired is
558 eventually available as surface water (Brown and Froemke 2009). Estimated annual
559 contribution to water supply from lands within the Colville National Forest
560 administrative boundary is 65,121 million cubic feet per year. Estimated annual
561 contribution from lands within the Colville National Forest ownership boundary is
562 51,525 million cubic feet per year.

³ Pacific Northwest Region, or Region 6, refers to all National Forest System lands within Washington and Oregon.

563 **Contains an important diversity of wildlife species.** Three hundred twenty-three
564 known species of vertebrate wildlife occur in Colville National Forest, including 73
565 species of mammals, 234 birds, 9 reptiles, and 7 species of amphibians. Thirty-one
566 species or sub-species of fish inhabit Colville National Forest waters. Unique wildlife
567 species such as red-tailed chipmunk, northern bog lemming, and woodland caribou live
568 on the national forest. The Selkirk Mountains and Kettle River Range are also the only
569 place in America where woodland caribou, moose, elk, mule deer, and white-tailed deer
570 share the same habitat. Northeastern Washington harbors the largest white-tailed deer
571 populations in Washington. White-tailed deer provide an important recreational,
572 economic, and ecological resource, contributing to local economies by attracting
573 hunters to the area. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife identifies two
574 areas that are managed for white-tailed deer that include portions of the Colville
575 National Forest : the Okanogan Highlands is composed of 25 percent National Forest
576 System land and the Selkirks contain 26 percent National Forest System land.

577 **Contains a significant diversity of plant species and communities.** Herbaria data
578 include about 2,400 vascular and nonvascular plant and fungi taxa that occur on the
579 Colville National Forest and vicinity. Of those, 38 have been identified as Region 6
580 sensitive species. The moonwort species, *Botrychium lineare*, occurs here at the only
581 site in Washington State; the moonwort genus thrives on the Colville National Forest. In
582 addition, there are two wildflower viewing sites documented and described for public
583 recreation opportunities. The wide range of geological and soil types, precipitation, and
584 elevations spanning from warm valley bottoms to cold mountain peaks supports a
585 diverse assortment of plant communities.

586 View and download detailed assessments, evaluations, reports, and documents associated with
587 the Plan on the land management plan development website:
588 <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/colville/landmanagement/planning>

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589

Chapter 2

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FORESTWIDE DIRECTION – INTRODUCTION

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Desired conditions: A project or activity must be consistent with desired conditions as described in appendix A.

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Forestwide desired conditions apply only to National Forest System lands and are measured at a forestwide scale unless otherwise stated.

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Management area desired conditions (chapter 3) are specific to each management area.

596

Forestwide desired conditions apply to these areas. Some management direction, such as riparian management areas, overlays parts of other management areas. The applicability of plan direction is guided by the principle that, where management direction overlaps, and depending on site-specific conditions and the activity or use, the most restrictive plan direction applies. Using the most restrictive plan direction provides guidance and protection for resource-based or socially sensitive functions provided by National Forest System lands.

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Objectives: A project or activity must be consistent with objectives as described in the Consistency with Plan Components Appendix (appendix A of this Plan). Objectives do not imply a program of work, a list of projects, or a minimum or maximum amount to be accomplished. Accomplishing the objectives depends on availability of resources, including budget, to complete the work. The amounts shown reflect current budget trends and available resources on the Colville National Forest. Objectives provide information on outcomes and are not mandatory tasks. The national forest engages in tasks beyond those shown in the Plan that also move the Forest toward desired conditions.

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Management activities used to accomplish objectives are not included in the plan components, as a variety of tools or techniques may be used by staff of the Colville National Forest and serve to accomplish the objective. A description of tools and techniques likely to be used is found in Appendix C, Possible Management Actions. Design criteria found in chapters 2 and 3 of this Plan constrain the range of possible management actions available for use.

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Design criteria include guidelines and standards applicable to project or activity design and execution. Design criteria are sideboards for projects and activities to help achieve the desired conditions and objectives.

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Forestwide guidelines apply in all management areas, unless specifically identified as not applicable. Some management areas, such as riparian management areas, overlap or overlay other management areas.

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Combinations of activities or uses are dependent on site-specific conditions, making it unreasonable to include all combinations and the applicable plan direction within the forest plan. Therefore, applicability of plan direction is guided by the principle that where management areas overlap, the most restrictive plan direction applies, depending on site-specific conditions and the activity or use.

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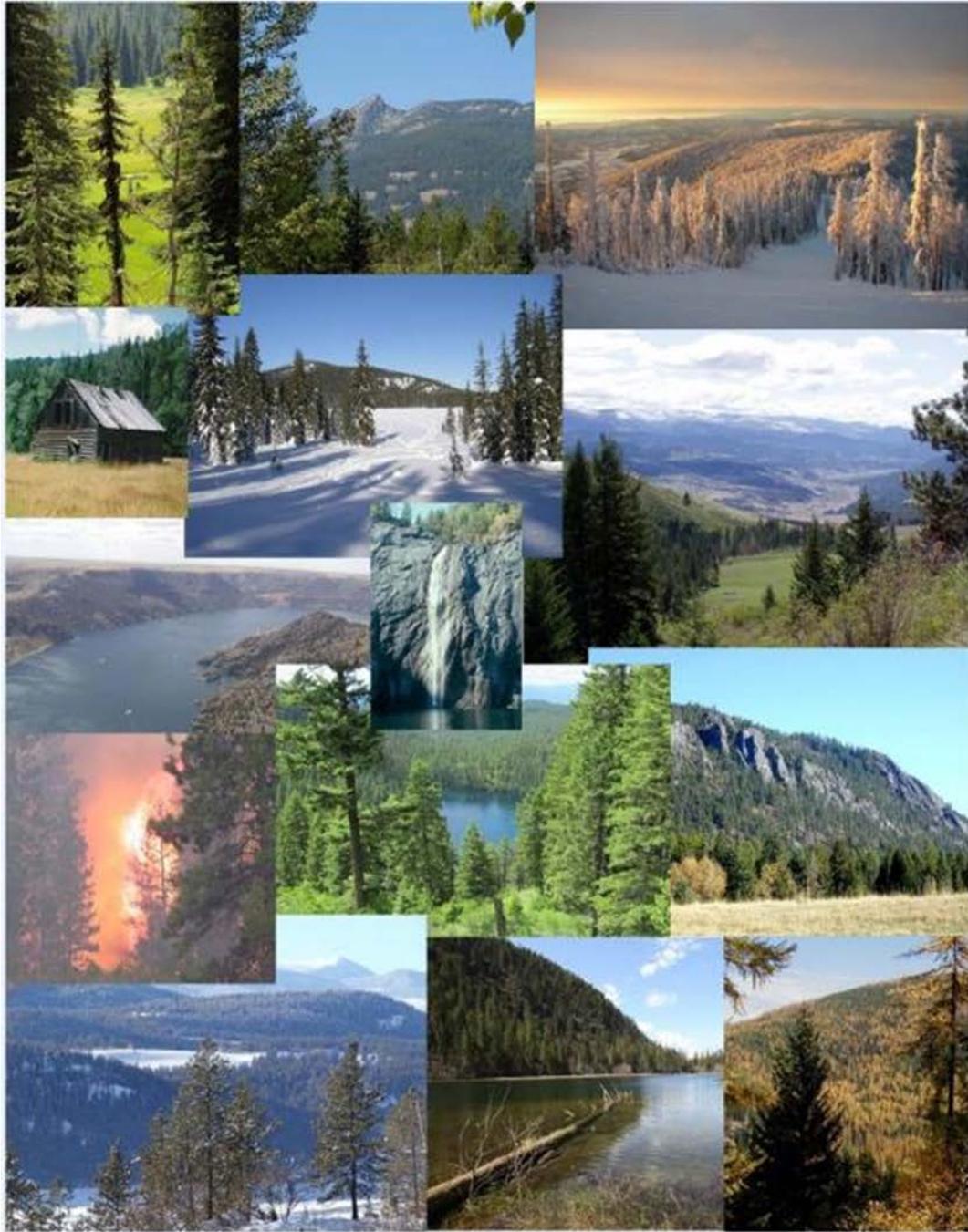
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626 FORESTWIDE DIRECTION – LANDSCAPE FEATURES AND
627 DYNAMICS

628 This section contains desired conditions for the following resources:

629 Air, soil, vegetation, water resources, and wildlife habitats.



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631

632 **AIR (AIR)**

633 The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for protecting national forests and surrounding
634 areas from the adverse effects of air pollution that are sourced from Forest Service
635 land. This is predominantly accomplished by working with Washington State
636 Department of Natural Resources Smoke Management to plan prescribed burning
637 when weather conditions would prevent smoke impacts from exceeding established air
638 quality standards.

639 The U.S. Forest Service is responsible for protecting national forests from the adverse
640 effects of air pollution.

641 The most stringent areas for air quality are the Class 1 areas. These are special areas of
642 natural wonder and scenic beauty, such as national parks and wilderness areas, where
643 air quality should be given special protection. These areas are subject to maximum
644 limits on air quality degradation called air quality increments.

645 The Colville National Forest does not have any Class I wilderness areas.

646 An illustration of Class I desired conditions can be seen on the following USDA Forest
647 Service air quality image web site: <http://www.fsvisimages.com/>

648 The National Ambient Air Quality Standards can be found at
649 <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/>

650 **Desired Condition**

651 *FW-DC-AIR-01. Air Quality Protection*

652 Air quality on National Forest System lands is protected, maintained and/or improved at the
653 Forest scale over the life of the Plan. Management activities contribute to conditions that meet
654 or exceed National Ambient Air Quality Standards on the Forest, as well as other Class I and II
655 wilderness areas and other Federal Class I areas that may be affected.

656 Forest visitors and/or residents living adjacent to the national forest experience clean air and
657 clear views as would occur under natural conditions. They are aware of short-term impacts to
658 air quality due to wildland fires.

659 The Class II wilderness area managed by the Forest (Salmo Priest Wilderness) has visibility that
660 is clear and unimpaired by human-caused pollutants.

661 Class II lands – the remaining Forest Service System lands – have only moderate deterioration of
662 air quality, meeting or exceeding the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

663 **SOIL (SOIL)**

664 Soils are an integral part of ecosystems, their function, and the above and below
665 ground interaction of organisms. These functions all contribute to ecological resilience.
666 Soil conservation and protection is needed to effectively maintain soil quality and
667 productivity and improve or protect watershed conditions. Generally, soil productivity
668 standards and guidelines are not applied to administrative sites or dedicated use areas
669 (such as roads, recreation sites).

670 Desired Condition

671 *FW-DC-SOIL-01. Soil Productivity and Function*

672 Soil productivity and function contributes to the long-term resilience of ecosystems.

673 Management activities occur on soils with the inherent capability to support those activities.

674 **Table 1. Soil ecological functions with attributes and indicators for long-term soil productivity**

Soil Function	Selected Attributes	Soil Quality Indicator	Desired Condition
Biological	Roots	Root growth and distribution	Root growth, both vertically and laterally, is not impeded by land management actions. Root distribution and depth is at expected levels for vegetation type and successional stage.
	Plant Community Potential and Thermodynamics	Plant Community Composition	The soil is capable of supporting a distribution of desirable plant species by vegetative layer (i.e., trees, shrubs, herbaceous) as identified in the potential plant community.
		Canopy Cover and Soil Cover	Soil temperature and moisture is maintained in conditions to support desired floral and faunal communities.
Hydrologic	Infiltration	Surface Structure	Surface structure is as expected for the site (e.g., granular, subangular blocky, single grain).
	Water Absorption and Storage	Available Water	Site water is as expected for the soil type or has been improved.
		Volcanic Ash Cap	Soil ash cap is intact and as expected for the site.
Water Transmission	Subsurface Flow Connectivity	Maintain subsurface flow connectivity (i.e., subsurface flow is not obstructed or intercepted).	
Nutrient Cycling	Organic Matter Composition	Surface Organic Matter	The amount of organic material on top of the mineral soil is maintained at levels to sustain soil microorganisms and provide for nutrient cycling. The size, amount, and distribution of organic matter maintained on the mineral soil on a long term basis is consistent with the amounts that occur given the local ecological type, climate, and normal wildland fire return interval for the area.
		Fine Woody Material	Fine woody material is on site in various stages of decay in amounts appropriate for habitat type.

Soil Function	Selected Attributes	Soil Quality Indicator	Desired Condition
Nutrient Cycling (continued)		Coarse Woody Material	See FW-DC-VEG-05. Snags and coarse woody debris
	Nutrient Availability	Surface (A) horizon or mollic layer	The amount of organic matter within the mineral soil, indicated by the color and thickness of the upper soil horizon, is within the normal range of characteristics for the site, and is distributed normally across the area. ⁴
		Nutrient Deficiency	Soil nutrients are maintained at levels to support desired vegetation.
Carbon	Carbon Storage Potential		The soil's ability to store carbon is not reduced from current levels.
Support and Stability	Stability	Surface erosion (wind, rill, or sheet)	Erosion is occurring at natural levels or not evident and an adequate level of soil cover is maintained to prevent accelerated erosion.
	Support	Site support (mass erosion, landslide prone)	Site stability potential is unchanged or stability has been improved. Soil stability varies from minor soil creep to active land flows dependent on soil characteristics, soil moisture, and triggers. Management activities avoid or do not accelerate underlying soil movement rates.
	Deposition	Soil deposition	Deposition is at natural levels and recent depositional material is vegetated.
Filtering and Buffering	Filtering	Soil contamination	The soil acts as a filter and buffer to protect the quality of water, air, and other resources by immobilizing, degrading or detoxifying chemical compounds or excess nutrients.

675 *FW-DC-SOIL-02. Detrimental Soil Conditions*

676 Surface erosion rates are within the natural range of variation for a given biophysical setting.
 677 There is no degradation of aquatic habitat and water quality from surface erosion rates
 678 resulting from permitted uses and management actions. Ecological and hydrologic functions are
 679 not impaired by soil compaction.

680 *FW-DC-SOIL-03. Soil Stability*

681 Soil stability varies from minor soil creep to active land flows dependent on soil characteristics,
 682 soil moisture, and triggers. Management activities avoid or do not accelerate underlying soil
 683 movement rates.

⁴ Soil characteristics are defined by Natural Resources Conservation Service SSUGRO (Soil Survey Geographic Database) soil data layer

684 Objectives

685 *FW-OBJ-SOIL-01. Soil Productivity and Function*

686 Within 5 years of plan implementation, stabilize, rehabilitate, or restore natural processes that
687 support soil productivity and function on 20 to 30 acres per year.

688 Guidelines

689 *FW-GDL-SOIL-01. Total Soil Resource Commitment*

690 The Total Soil Resource Commitment is no more than 5 percent of the forest. The soil stability
691 and support function is maintained within the Total Soil Resource Commitment.

692 Total Soil Resource Commitment is the conversion of a productive site to an essentially non-
693 productive site (0 to 40 percent of natural productivity) for a period of more than 50 years.
694 Examples include system roads, administrative sites, developed campgrounds, rock quarries,
695 mine sites, livestock watering facilities.

696 *FW-GDL-SOIL-02. Effective Ground Cover*

697 Minimum effective ground cover following any soil-disturbing management activity should be
698 as shown in the following table.

699 **Table 2. Minimum effective ground cover following any soil-disturbing activity**
700 (source for erosion hazard classes: Forest Service Manual 2520)

Erosion hazard class	Minimum percent effective ground cover	
	1st year	2nd year
Low (very slight-slight)	20-30	30-40
Medium (moderate)	30-45	40-60
High (severe)	45-60	60-75
Very High (very severe)	60-75	75-90

701 *FW-GDL-SOIL-03. Native Topsoil*

702 Native topsoil should be used where practical to meet restoration project objectives.

703 **VEGETATION (VEG)**

704 CONIFER SYSTEMS

705 Vegetation in the planning area is classified into plant association groups that are based
706 on potential natural vegetation. Plant association groups are aggregations of plant
707 associations defined in the plant association guide developed for the Colville National
708 Forest. The five groups and are listed in table 3.

709 **Table 3. Forest vegetation types for the Colville National Forest**

Douglas-fir dry
Northern Rocky Mountain mixed conifer
Western hemlock / Western redcedar
Subalpine fir / Lodgepole pine
Spruce / Subalpine fir

710 Structure: Identifies ranges of tree sizes and canopy cover within the various vegetation
 711 types. Table 4 shows the five different structure classes and associated definitions.

712 **Table 4. Forest structure classes**

Structure	Definition
Early	Trees less than 10 inches d.b.h. or canopy cover less than 10 percent
Mid Open	Trees 10 to 20 inches d.b.h., canopy cover 10 percent up to 40 percent
Mid Closed	Trees 10 to 20 inches d.b.h., canopy cover 40 percent or greater
Late Open	Trees 20 inches or greater d.b.h., canopy cover 10 percent up to 40 percent
Late Closed	Trees 20 inches or greater d.b.h., canopy cover 40 percent or greater

713 **FEDERALLY THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND PROPOSED SPECIES (TES), AND REGIONALLY**
 714 **SENSITIVE AND STRATEGIC PLANT SPECIES**

715 Federally threatened, endangered and sensitive plant species are those formally listed by
 716 the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service under the Federal Endangered Species Act. The R6
 717 Regional Forester Special Status Species List includes federally threatened, endangered and
 718 proposed threatened; and regionally sensitive and strategic plant species. Although no
 719 federally listed plant species are currently known from the Colville National Forest, 38
 720 regionally sensitive plant species do occur on the Forest. Locations for many TES plant
 721 species include unique habitats that may be rare or represent a small portion of a particular
 722 landscape. Meadows, wetlands (marsh, bog, fen, carr, swamp, spring, and seep), riparian
 723 areas, alpine fellfields, rock outcrops, cliffs, or talus are suitable TES plant habitat. Appendix
 724 D provides a list of the sensitive plant species discussed in this plan.

725 **NON-CONIFER SYSTEMS**

726 Non-forested communities and deciduous forests are described by Clausnitzer et al. 2006
 727 and literature cited there.

728 VEGETATION WITHIN THE WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE (WUI)

729 Wildland-urban interface (WUI) is defined as “the line, area, or zone where structures and
730 other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative
731 fuels” (NWCC 2012).⁵ See glossary for specific definition.

732 The prioritization of fuels treatments with WUI will follow the National Fire Plan, the
733 Healthy Forests Restoration Act-PL108-148, and individual community wildfire protection
734 plans. Individual fuels reduction projects and their relationships to WUI are defined on a
735 project basis.

736 **Desired Condition**

737 *FW-DC-VEG-01. Plant Species Composition*

738 Native species and native plant communities are the desired dominant vegetation. National
739 Forest System lands contribute to the diversity, species composition, and structural diversity of
740 native upland plant communities. The full range of potential natural vegetation is maintained on
741 the Forest where it supports plant and animal diversity including pollinators and other
742 invertebrates, and robust ecological function.

743 *FW-DC-VEG-02. Insects and Diseases*

744 Native insects, diseases, fungi, bacteria, and viruses engage in their natural (endemic) role in
745 contributing to ecosystem processes such as pollination, food webs, decay and nutrient cycling,
746 providing habitats, and functioning as natural control agents. Landscapes provide a patchwork
747 of varied structural, compositional, and successional stages that ensure the continuation of
748 these processes.

749 *FW-DC-VEG-03. Human Disturbance*

750 Human influences play major or substantial roles in plant community composition, structural
751 distribution, and disturbance intensities, patterns, and duration. Human activities (such as
752 wood product removal, wildland fire use, vegetation treatments, forage utilization, or
753 recreation) are designed to meet desired conditions, move toward desired conditions, or not
754 impair desired conditions.

755 *FW-DC-VEG-04. Forest Structure*

756 Forest structural classes are resilient and compatible with maintaining characteristic
757 disturbance processes such as wildland fire, insects and diseases. Habitat conditions for
758 associated species are present. Structure contributes to aesthetic settings, particularly along
759 scenic byways and highways.

760 Forest openings would be commensurate with historical conditions for size and distribution to
761 reflect natural disturbance processes. The historical range of variability for forest structure is
762 the desired condition. Historical range of variability will be evaluated on National Forest system
763 lands at the appropriate scale given vegetation type and natural disturbance history. Table 5
764 contains desired conditions for each vegetation type.

⁵ National Wildfire Coordinating Group.

765 **Table 5. Desired condition for forest structure***

	Early %	Mid Open %	Mid Closed %	Late Open %	Late Closed %
Douglas-fir dry	6–16	2–8	4–13	38–78	1–32
Northern Rocky Mountain mixed conifer	9–25	1–3	18–30	4–6	44–60
Western hemlock / Western redcedar	4–24	0	7–27	0	55–83
Subalpine fir / Lodgepole pine	45–65	0	33–53	0	3
Spruce / Subalpine fir	14–46	0	13–41	0	29–57

766 * ST-Sim state and transition model software was used to provide values for the historical range of variability (HRV)

767 *FW-DC-VEG-05. Snags and Coarse Woody Debris*

768 This desired condition for snag and woody debris levels applies forestwide within forested
 769 habitat types with the exception of the Administrative and Recreation Sites Management Areas.

770 **Table 6. Snag and woody debris level requirements**

Forest vegetation Group	Snag DBH Class	Snags Per Acre (100-acre basis)	Downed logs CWD Per acre (100-acre basis)	Log size
Douglas-fir Dry Forest	10–20 in.	4–7	3–7 tons	<i>Minimum</i> 10 in. large end x 16 ft. <i>Preferred</i> 16 in. large end x 33 ft. or larger
	> 20 in.	2–3		
Northern Rocky Mountain Mixed Conifer Forest	10–20 in.	4–40	5–10 tons	<i>Minimum</i> 10 in. large end x 16 ft. <i>Preferred</i> 16 in. large end x 33 ft. or larger
	>20 in.	2–11		
Western Hemlock/ Western Redcedar	10–14 in.	10–15	25–40 tons	<i>Minimum</i> 10 in. large end x 16 ft. <i>Preferred</i> 16 in. large end x 33 ft. or larger
	15–19 in.	2–6		
	21+ in.	2–4		
Subalpine fir/ Lodgepole pine	10–14 in.	13–26	16–40 tons	<i>Minimum</i> 10 in. large end x 16 ft. <i>Preferred</i> 16 in. large end x 33 ft. or larger
	15–19 in.”	3–6		
	20–24 in.	3–4		
	25+ in.	2–4		
Spruce/ Subalpine fir	10–14 in.	4–15	5–12 tons	<i>Minimum</i> 10 in. large end x 16 ft. <i>Preferred</i> 16 in. large end x 33 ft. or larger
	15–19 in.	2–11		
	20+ in.	3–8		

771 (CWD = coarse woody debris 3-inch diameter or greater)
 772 (Sources: Reynolds et al. 2013, Graham et al. 1994, Harvey et al. 1987, Kovalchik and Clausnitzer 2004, Mellen-McLean
 773 et al. 2012, Green et al. 1992, USDA-FS-R6 1993)

774 *FW-DC-VEG-06. Biological Legacies*

775 Large trees, snags, and down material are represented across the landscape and large tree
 776 habitat is maintained to support wildlife, aquatic and soil resources and support recovery
 777 processes in the post disturbance ecosystem.

778 Examples of biological legacy components. Not all components will be present within an
 779 individual site-specific project area.

780 **Table 7. Biological legacy categories**

Legacy Category	Examples
Organisms	Sexually mature and intact live trees
	Tree reproduction (seeding and sapling banks)
	Vegetatively reproducing parts (e.g., roots)
	Seed banks
	Shrub, herb, bryophyte species
	Mature and immature animals and microbes
Organic matter	Fine litter
	Particulate material
Organically derived structures	Downed trees and other coarse woody debris
	Root wads and pits from uprooted trees
	Hollow live trees
	Trees with mistletoe brooms or other features important for wildlife habitat
Organically derived patterns	Soil chemical, physical, microbial properties
	Forest understory composition and distribution

781 (Franklin et al. 2007)

782 *FW-DC-VEG-07. Native Plant Materials*

783 Locally collected native plant materials are incorporated into project planning and
 784 implementation when restoration, rehabilitation, and revegetation goals support ecosystem
 785 integrity and resilience. Locally adapted plant material inventories are maintained to provide for
 786 revegetation project needs.

787 *FW-DC-VEG-08. Native Plant Seeds and Other Genetic Material*

788 Seeds and genetic material from native vascular and non-vascular plants are available for the
 789 purposes of genetic or trait testing, climate change provenance trials, species identification,
 790 restoration, or rehabilitation activities. Seeds and other genetic materials are stored in both

791 secure off-site facilities and on-site in existing seed orchards, select trees, evaluation
792 plantations, and other established genetic resource test sites.

793 *FW-DC-VEG-09. Invasive Plant Species Integrated Management*

794 Forest terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems are in an ecological condition that resists introduction,
795 establishment, and spread of invasive plant species (from private lands to National Forest
796 System lands, from National Forest System lands to private lands and from different areas
797 within the boundaries of the Colville National Forest). Established invasive plant infestations are
798 not increasing in number or size, occur at low densities, and are reduced or removed. Risk of
799 invasive plant infestations is maintained at a low level due to the effectiveness of prevention
800 actions and the success of restoration efforts.

801 *FW-DC-VEG-10. Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plant Species – Special and*
802 *Unique Habitats*

803 Special and unique habitats support threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species
804 populations and contribute to high quality suitable habitat for these species. Degraded or
805 diminished special and unique habitats are restored within their natural range of variation.

806 *FW-DC-VEG-11. Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plant Species – Management-*
807 *Related Disturbance*

808 Ecological conditions and processes that sustain the habitats currently or potentially occupied
809 by threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant species are retained or restored. The geographic
810 distributions of sensitive plant species in the Forest Plan area are maintained. This includes
811 sufficient seed or vegetative reproduction to maintain existing plant populations and associated
812 native plant community biodiversity. Soil disturbance is managed to avoid degradation of
813 threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species and their habitat as well as plant
814 community composition, structure, and productivity.

815 *FW-DC-VEG-12. Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plant Species – Habitat and*
816 *Population Trends*

817 Population trends, amount of occupied habitat, and amount of unoccupied suitable habitat are
818 stable or increasing for threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species.

819 *FW-DC-VEG-13. Fuels Treatments in Wildland-urban Interface*

820 Fuel treatments continue to reduce surface, ladder, and crown fuels that lower the potential for
821 high-severity wildfires while providing for diversity within the stands. Generally, treated areas
822 consist of open understories with overstory trees (conifers and hardwoods) populated by
823 predominately fire resistant species, with scattered individual or small patches of shrubs and
824 small trees in the understory, maintaining some cover in important wildlife corridors. Surface,
825 ladder, and crown fuels have been treated and maintained to allow low-intensity surface
826 wildland fires (flame lengths of 4 feet or less). Vegetation has been modified (interrupted) to
827 improve community protection and enhance public and firefighter safety.

828 Crown base heights (height from the forest floor to the bottom most branches of the live tree
829 crown) are managed to avoid crown fires. Crown cover of forest stands allow for adequate
830 spacing between crowns to reduce crown fire potential while minimizing effects on surface
831 wind speeds and drying of surface fuels.

832 *FW-DC-VEG-14. Snags and Coarse Woody Debris in Wildland-urban Interface*

833 Snag levels would follow desired conditions for snags within the specific vegetation type unless
834 there are site-specific safety concerns (ex: within 1.5 to 2 tree lengths of structures). Coarse
835 woody debris levels would generally be at the lower end of desired conditions for the specific
836 vegetation type to reduce fuel load and wildfire risk.

837 *FW-DC-VEG-15. Treatment Priorities in Wildland-urban Interface*

838 Fuel treatments are emphasized in wildland-urban interface and areas that exhibit the potential
839 for high-severity fire behavior that could impact private or other agency lands.

840 *FW-DC-VEG-16. Maintenance in Wildland-urban Interface*

841 A pattern of treatments are established and maintained that are effective in modifying fire
842 behavior as identified in individual community wildfire protection plans.

843 Objectives

844 *FW-OBJ-VEG-01. Restoration*

845 Initiate active management activities on 6 to 12 thousand acres per year over the next 15 years
846 to move structure toward desired conditions at landscape scales in order to have landscapes
847 dominated by Fire Regime Condition Class I, with the remainder in Fire Regime Condition Class
848 II trending toward Fire Regime Condition Class I.

849 *FW-OBJ-VEG-02. Native Vegetation Restoration and Invasive Plants Prevention*

850 Within 15 years of plan implementation, actively restore an annual average of 50 acres of native
851 vegetation consistent with site capability and integrated resource management objectives.
852 Restoration could include mulching, seeding, or planting to promote revegetation of native
853 plants to help resist introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive plant species.

854 *FW-OBJ-VEG-03. Invasive Plant Treatment*

855 Protect ecosystems from the impacts of invasive plants through an integrated approach that
856 emphasizes prevention, early detection, and early treatment. Conduct invasive plant treatments
857 in an effective manner that minimizes adverse effects on human health, non-target plants, fish
858 and wildlife and their habitats. Reduce reliance on herbicides over time. Within 15 years of plan
859 implementation, control an average 2,000 acres per year.

860 *FW-OBJ-VEG-04. Non-Forest Habitats*

861 Increase restoration so that 5 to 10 acres of special and unique habitats are treated annually
862 within 15 years of plan implementation.

863 Standards

864 *FW-STD-VEG-01. Wildland Fire – Protection of Natural Resources and Property*

865 Protect human life as the single, overriding priority. Set priorities among protecting human
866 communities and community infrastructure, other property and improvements, and natural and
867 cultural resources based on the values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs
868 of protection. Once people have been committed to an incident, the highest value to be
869 protected is human resources. After protection of human life, all other protection decisions are

870 to be made based on values to be protected, human health and safety, and the costs of
871 protection.

872 *FW-STD-VEG-02. Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plant Species – Surveys*

873 Surveys for threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species shall be conducted in suitable
874 habitat on National Forest System lands before habitat-disturbing activities to identify and
875 protect vulnerable populations. All existing sites are identified and managed to support rare
876 species recovery on National Forest System lands. Suitable habitat shall be managed to enhance
877 or maintain rare species occurrences on the Forest.

878 *FW-STD-VEG-03. Potential Invasive Plant Risk Factors*

879 Gravel, fill sand, and rock used for roadwork shall be deemed to be weed free. Pit materials
880 from infested sources shall be treated before use. Use only pelletized or certified weed-free
881 feed on all National Forest System lands.

882 Use weed-free straw and mulch for all projects, conducted or authorized by the Forest Service,
883 on National Forest System Lands.

884 Prior to entering National Forest System lands, clean all vehicles and equipment that will
885 operate outside of the road prism for actions authorized or conducted by written permit to
886 remove invasive plant seeds and plant material.

887 *FW-STD-VEG-04. Timber Production*

888 Regulated timber harvest activities shall occur only on those lands classified as suitable for
889 timber production.

890 *FW-STD-VEG-05. Harvest Openings*

891 If individual harvest openings created by even-aged silvicultural practices are proposed that
892 would exceed 40 acres, then NFMA requirements regarding public notification and approval
893 shall be followed. These requirements do not apply to the size of areas harvested because of
894 catastrophes such as, but not limited to, wildfire, insect and disease attacks, or wind storms.

895 *FW-STD-VEG-06. Restocking*

896 Timber harvest activities shall only be used when there is reasonable assurance of restocking
897 within 5 years after final regeneration harvest. Restocking level is prescribed in a site-specific
898 silviculture prescription for a project treatment unit and is determined to be adequate
899 depending on the objectives and desired conditions for the Plan area. In some instances, such
900 as when lands are harvested to create openings for fuel breaks, wildlife habitat, and vistas or to
901 prevent encroaching trees, it is adequate not to restock.

902 *FW-STD-VEG-07. Even-aged Management*

903 Even-aged stands shall generally have reached or surpassed culmination of mean annual
904 increment (95 percent of CMAI, as measured by cubic volume) prior to regeneration harvest,
905 unless the following conditions have been identified during project development:

- 906 • When such harvesting would assist in reducing fire hazard within the WUI [wildland-
907 urban interface]; and
- 908 • When harvesting of stands will trend landscapes toward vegetation desired conditions.

909 *FW-STD-VEG-08. Even-aged Management*

910 Even-aged prescriptions (clearcut, seed tree, shelterwood, etc.) shall be used when appropriate
911 to meet Forest Plan direction.

912 *FW-STD-VEG-09. Harvest Systems*

913 Harvesting systems shall be selected based on their ability to meet desired conditions and not
914 strictly on their ability to provide the greatest dollar return.

915 **Guidelines**

916 *FW-GDL-VEG-01. Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Plant Species – Disturbance*
917 *in Occupied Habitat*

918 Soil and habitat disturbance should be managed within occupied habitat to the extent
919 practicable to maintain or enhance threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant populations
920 and avoid invasive plant species establishment or spread. Consequently, occupied habitat
921 should not be used for timber harvest, fuel breaks or developments associated with wildfire
922 suppression, delivery of fire retardant or petroleum products, placement of stock-handling
923 facilities, recreation, or special use developments. A 100-foot buffer between the occupied
924 habitat and these management activities should be maintained.

925 Trees in occupied habitat that are felled for safety reasons should be retained on site as needed
926 to maintain, protect, or enhance habitat unless such action is detrimental to the threatened,
927 endangered, and sensitive species population or habitat and represents a threat through
928 physical impacts or potential uncharacteristic wildfire.

929 All new road and trail construction should be designed to avoid the occupied habitat of
930 threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species (minimum 100-foot buffer).

931 Use of prescribed fire should be avoided in occupied habitat except in areas occupied by fire-
932 dependent or fire-tolerant species. Habitat restoration activities may proceed when designed to
933 avoid impacts to threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species.

934 Slash piles and other fuels should be managed to avoid the occupied habitat of threatened,
935 endangered, and sensitive species (minimum 100-foot buffer).

936 Grazing management (including timing, intensity, duration, frequency of use, and type and class
937 of livestock) should allow for completion of threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species
938 annual life cycle and development and dispersal of reproductive materials like seed and spores.
939 Salting or water developments should not be authorized or allowed such that they reduce
940 threatened, endangered, or sensitive plant populations.

941 Mining operations should be authorized or allowed only if activities are planned to avoid
942 threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant species.

943 *FW-GDL-VEG-02. Plant Material Collection for Conservation Purposes*

944 Commercial or non-commercial permits or authorizations should generally be issued for
945 collection of seed or plant materials when project objectives are consistent with rare species
946 conservation practices (these practices could include seed storage in recognized seed banks, or
947 collection of plant material for restoration and rehabilitation purposes, or scientific research
948 that benefits species viability).

949 *FW-GDL-VEG-03. Potential Invasive Plant Risk Factors*

950 The method, timing, and intensity of land use activities should not promote the introduction,
951 establishment, or spread of invasive species.

952 *FW-GDL-VEG-04. Habitat Rehabilitation*

953 Appropriate seeding, planting, or mulching methods should be used to rehabilitate degraded
954 sites resulting from invasive plants, forest activities, or other disturbances when necessary to
955 prevent reinvasion and promote ecosystem resiliency. Rehabilitation seeding and/or planting
956 using native plants can be used for invasive species projects in habitat occupied by threatened,
957 endangered, and sensitive species or in species management areas where appropriate.

958 *FW-GDL-VEG-05. Invasive Species*

959 Infestations of invasive species should be prioritized for treatment at the landscape, watershed
960 or larger multiple forest/multiple owner scale. Utilize a combination of available tools including
961 manual, cultural, mechanical, chemical, and biological methods to control invasive and
962 unwanted native plants.

963 *FW-GDL-VEG-06. Invasive Species – Early Detection and Rapid Response*

964 Principles and processes of early detection and rapid response (EDRR) should be utilized to find,
965 identify, and quantify new invasive species occurrences. EDRR can be coupled with other
966 integrated activities to rapidly assess and respond with quick and immediate actions to
967 eradicate, control, or contain invasive species.

968 *FW-GDL-VEG-07. Invasive Species – Pesticide Use*

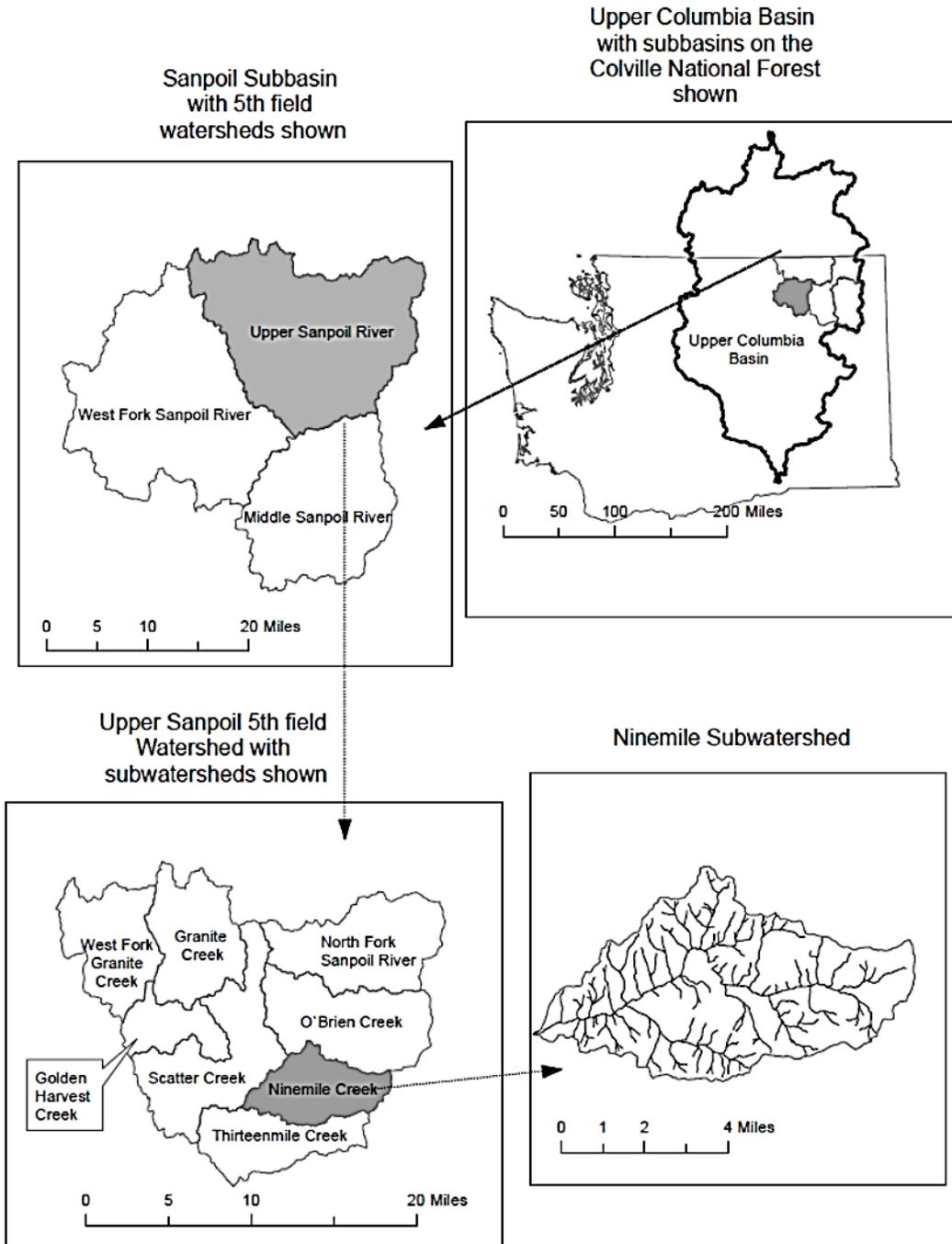
969 Minimize use of pesticides (including herbicides), formulations or tank mixes where plausible
970 exposures indicate potential harm to human health, wildlife, or fish. Design projects to minimize
971 or eliminate risks of adverse effects from chemical use. Notify the public prior to using
972 pesticides (including herbicides) within the national forest.

973 *FW-GDL-VEG-08. Native and Non-native Insects and Pathogens*

974 Intervention may occur when native and non-native insects and pathogens are not operating in
975 their characteristic role or when site-specific objectives (ex: impacts to key watersheds,
976 increased wildfire hazard, potential impacts to the recovery of threatened or endangered
977 species, or maintaining late and old forest structure) are at risk.

978 **WATER RESOURCES (WR)**

979 This section includes background information and plan components for forestwide aquatic
980 and riparian systems, and management direction specific to source water protection areas,
981 key watersheds, and focus and priority watersheds. Plan components throughout this
982 section are applied at different watershed scales depending on the resource, and are
983 identified in each plan component, where applicable. Generally Forest planning is at the
984 subbasin scale, and project planning is at the smaller 5th field watershed or subwatershed
985 scale. Figure 4 illustrates the hierarchy of different watershed scales and terminology used
986 throughout this document.



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Figure 4. Illustration of watershed hierarchy from the basin to subwatershed scale for the Ninemile subwatershed

990

AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN SYSTEMS

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Aquatic and riparian direction focuses on maintenance and restoration of the ecological processes responsible for creating and sustaining aquatic and riparian ecosystems across National Forest System lands. Aquatic and riparian plan direction is expected to contribute to networks of properly functioning watersheds, recovery of Endangered Species Act (ESA)

995 listed fish, healthy populations of fish and other aquatic and riparian-dependent organisms
996 and provide a basis for meeting water quality standards.

997 SOURCE WATER PROTECTION AREAS

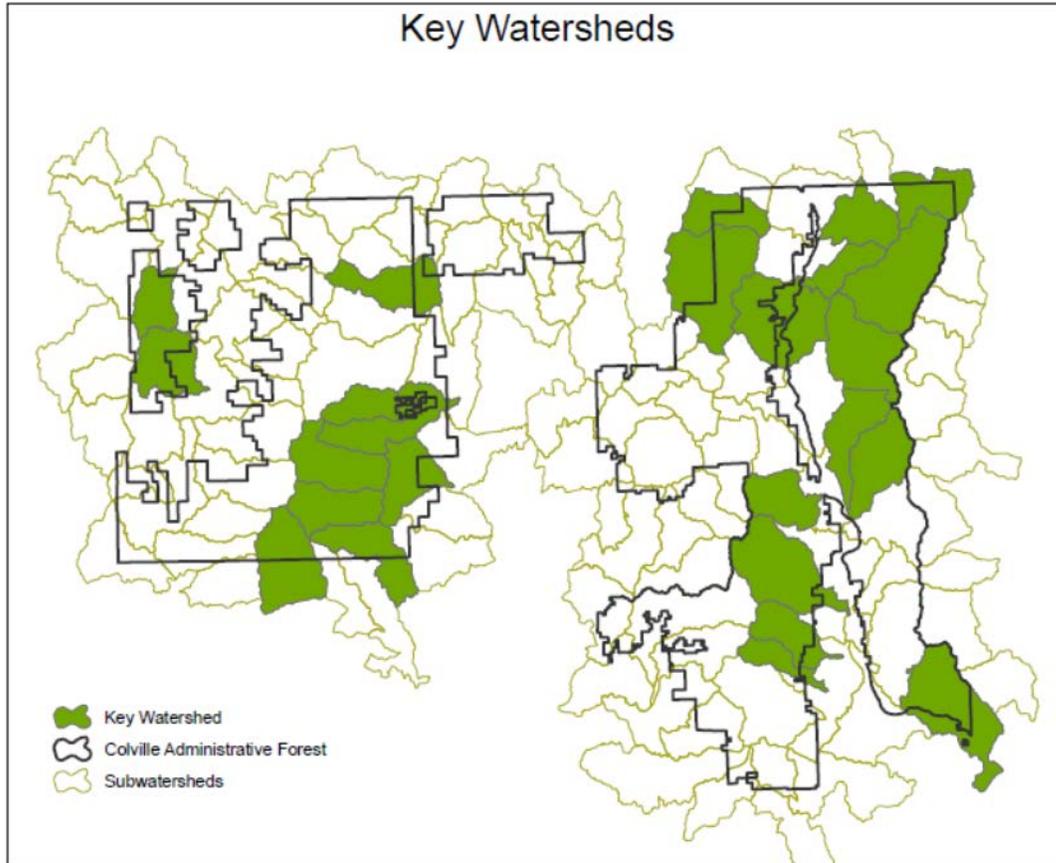
998 A 1996 amendment to the 1974 Safe Drinking Water Act requires identification of both
999 surface and groundwater source water protection areas upstream of drinking water
1000 systems that serve more than 25 individuals. Source water protection areas on the Forest
1001 are delineated by the Washington Department of Health Office of Drinking Water.

1002 Source water is untreated drinking water from streams, rivers, lakes, springs, and aquifers
1003 that provides public drinking water. The goal of source water protection is to provide long-
1004 term safe, reliable drinking water. Source water protection areas are those that are
1005 delineated and mapped by the State of Washington for each federally regulated public
1006 water system. Waters of the Colville National Forest are upstream of surface water systems
1007 that service Cusick, Grand Coulee, Kettle Falls, Metaline, Metaline Falls, Orient, and
1008 Riverbend.

1009 Management direction underlying the source water protection areas is to be followed in
1010 addition to providing for water quality. Management guidance for aquatic and riparian
1011 ecosystems and key watersheds, and implementation of national best management
1012 practices provide for water quality protection.

1013 KEY WATERSHEDS

1014 Key watersheds are a subset of the watersheds across the Colville National Forest and are
1015 designated at the subwatershed scale (figure 5 and table 8). They are a network of
1016 watersheds that serve as strongholds for important aquatic resources and are crucial to
1017 threatened and endangered aquatic species and provide high quality water important for
1018 maintenance of downstream populations. Management in key watersheds emphasizes
1019 minimizing risk and maximizing passive and active restoration or preservation of watershed
1020 function and aquatic and riparian habitat.



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1022

Figure 5. Key watersheds

1023

Table 8. Key watersheds on the Colville National Forest

Key Watershed Number	Key Watershed Name	Total Subwatershed Acres	Colville National Forest Ownership Acres
170102160102	Winchester Creek	10,482	5,628
170102160103	Smalle Creek	17,754	11,058
170102160201	Exposure Creek-Pend Oreille River	41,224	14,463
170102160206	Tacoma Creek	39,519	27,182
170102160302	West Branch Le Clerc Creek	21,672	15,099
170102160303	East Branch Le Clerc Creek	26,663	11,145
170102160304	Ruby Creek	19,597	18,385
170102160401	Harvey Creek	32,999	27,554

Key Watershed Number	Key Watershed Name	Total Subwatershed Acres	Colville National Forest Ownership Acres
170102160402	Headwaters Sullivan Creek	45,516	45,417
170102160403	North Fork Sullivan Creek	12,709	11,259
170102160702	Headwaters South Salmo River	20,697	12,472
170102160902	Sweet Creek-Pend Oreille River	41,832	28,890
170102160903	Slate Creek	20,195	19,907
170102161003	Cedar Creek	17,209	5,359
170200011004	North Fork Deep Creek	49,257	26,634
170200011301	South Fork Sherman Creek	22,004	21,899
170200011302	Upper Sherman Creek	26,381	26,260
170200011303	Lower Sherman Creek	20,987	15,998
170200011306	Barnaby Creek	23,108	14,299
170200011401	Upper Hall Creek	31,648	13,786
170200021301	Trout Creek	23,435	14,122
170200021701	Tonata Creek	14,453	13,781
170200021907	East Deer Creek-Kettle River	23,385	15,443
170200022002	North Fork Deadman Creek	13,450	13,185
170200022003	Deadman Creek	26,518	22,300
	Total	642692	451,525

1024

FOCUS AND PRIORITY WATERSHEDS

1025

Watershed, riparian, and aquatic habitat restoration has been a priority in Region 6 for a

1026

number of years. The region recognized that the most efficient and effective way to

1027

improve watershed conditions and riparian and aquatic habitat would be to work with

1028

partners to target restoration efforts in specific watersheds, identify restoration needs, and

1029

focus restoration efforts on the factors degrading watershed, riparian and aquatic habitat

1030 conditions within the identified watersheds that were technically feasible and socially
1031 acceptable before moving to restore other watersheds. To that end, the region developed
1032 the Region 6 Aquatic Restoration Strategy (ARS) in 2005. The ARS was developed to provide
1033 guidance for watershed, riparian and aquatic habitat restoration at a regional scale using
1034 both passive and active restoration.⁶

1035 Through implementation of the ARS, the region prioritized basins for active restoration.
1036 Forests identified focus watersheds at the 5th field watershed scale to be priorities for
1037 active watershed, riparian, and aquatic restoration. The Colville National Forest identified
1038 three focus watersheds: Le Clerc-Pend Oreille River, Upper San Poil and Chewelah Creek-
1039 Colville River.

1040 In 2010, the national forests throughout the U.S. were mandated to assess the current
1041 condition of NFS watersheds utilizing the Watershed Condition Framework (WCF). The
1042 results of the WCF were used to identify priority subwatersheds where focused
1043 management over a 5- to 10-year period would improve impaired watershed condition.
1044 The Colville identified three priority subwatersheds through this process; the West Branch
1045 Le Clerc Creek, East Branch Le Clerc Creek, and Ninemile Creek. Once essential projects in
1046 existing subwatersheds are completed, additional priority subwatersheds will be identified.

1047 The priorities for watershed, riparian, and aquatic habitat restoration have been further
1048 refined through the identification of Key Watersheds during the forest plan revision
1049 process. As discussed above, Key Watersheds are identified at the subwatershed scale to
1050 aid the conservation and recovery of aquatic focal species. In some cases, Focus
1051 Watersheds (e.g., Le Clerc Creek-Pend Oreille River) include Key Watersheds and priority
1052 watersheds overlap with the identified Key Watersheds (West Branch and East Branches Le
1053 Clerc Creek). Specific restoration objectives have been identified for Key Watersheds in the
1054 Plan and the Key Watersheds are the priority for active restoration. The Focus and Priority
1055 Watersheds that are not in the Key Watershed network are used to target implementation
1056 of short-term, opportunistic restoration work such as in subwatersheds that are a
1057 restoration priority for partners but not necessarily a priority to benefit the aquatic focal
1058 species.

1059 WATERSHED CONDITION

1060 Measurement of improvement in watershed condition in this Forest Plan revision is
1061 through improvement in watershed condition class measured through the WCF procedure.
1062 The WCF process identified current conditions of subwatersheds on NFS lands. The results
1063 of the assessment were used to identify priority subwatersheds where focused
1064 management over a 5- to 10-year period could improve constituent elements that impair
1065 watershed function.

1066 Subwatersheds are classified by WCF based on geomorphic, hydrologic, and biotic integrity
1067 relative to potential natural condition, which relates to geomorphic, hydrologic, and
1068 biological watershed function. Integrity is evaluated in the context of the natural

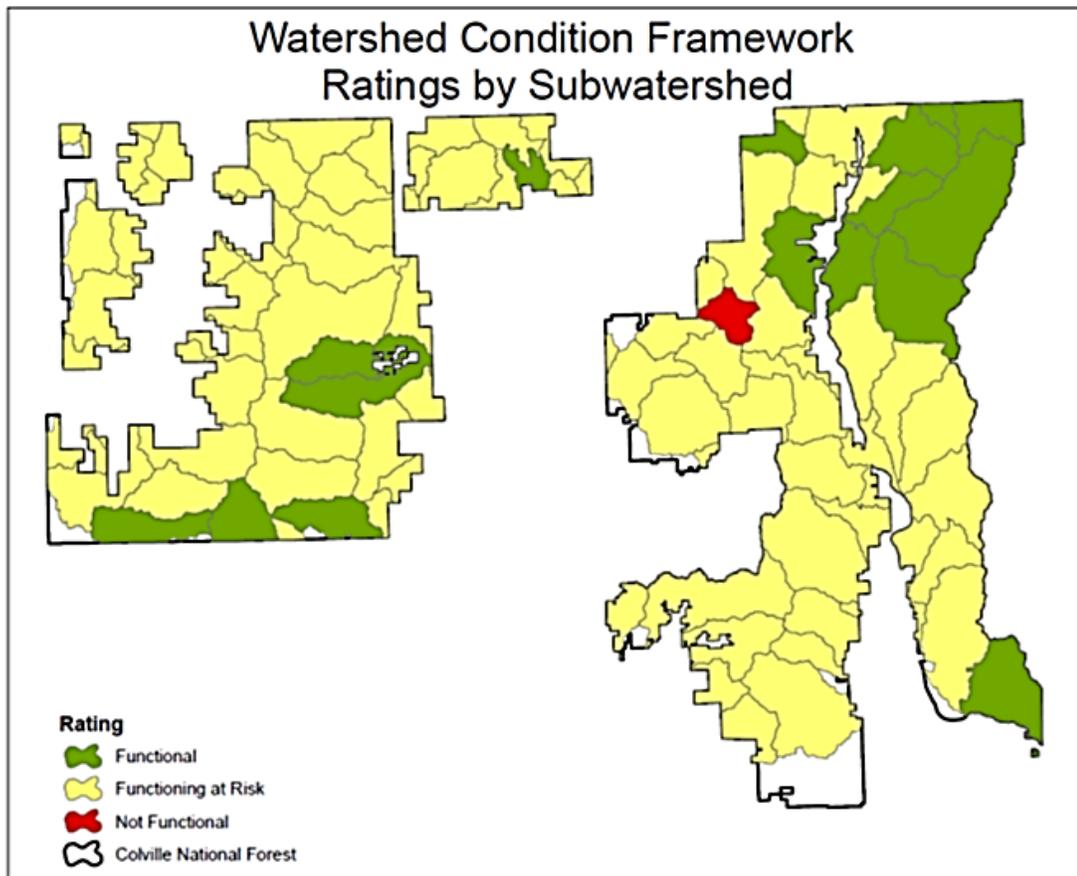
⁶ Passive restoration is the broad-scale natural recovery of the ecosystem and includes coordination, analysis, planning, and design activities to maintain or improve habitat conditions while implementing projects across multiple resource areas.

Active restoration includes management actions with the specific goal of restoring the watershed processes that improve aquatic and riparian habitat function. Active restoration is focused on a more limited scale than passive restoration.

1069 disturbance regime and geoclimatic setting and includes aquatic and terrestrial
1070 components because water quality and aquatic habitat are related to the integrity and
1071 functionality of the upland and riparian areas across the watershed (Potyondy and Geier
1072 2010).

1073 Subwatersheds on the Colville National Forest were classified into three categories
1074 (watershed condition classes) through the WCF

- 1075 • Class 1: Functioning Properly—SWSs [subwatersheds] that exhibit high geomorphic,
1076 hydrologic, and biotic integrity relative to natural potential conditions. The watershed is
1077 functioning similar to natural wildland conditions (Karr and Chu 1999, Lackey 2001). There
1078 are minimal adverse human impacts on natural physical or biological processes, and the
1079 watershed is able to naturally recover to previous condition in response to natural and
1080 human disturbance (Yount and Neimi 1990);
- 1081 • Class 2: Functioning at Risk—SWSs exhibit moderate integrity as described above;
- 1082 • Class 3: Impaired Function—SWSs exhibit low integrity as described above. Adverse
1083 human impacts have caused a threshold to be exceeded where the watershed is no longer
1084 as resilient to physical and biological processes.



1085
1086 Figure 6. Current watershed condition class for subwatersheds across the Forest

1087 **Desired Condition**

1088 *FW-DC-WR-01. Natural Disturbance Regime of Aquatic and Riparian Systems*

1089 National Forest System lands contribute to the distribution, diversity, and resiliency of
1090 watershed and landscape-scale features, including natural disturbance regimes, of the aquatic,
1091 riparian, and wetland ecosystems to which plant and animal species, populations, and
1092 communities are adapted. Subbasin scale is used for Forest planning and 5th field watershed or
1093 subwatershed scale is used for project planning.

1094 *FW-DC-WR-02. Hydrologic and Aquatic and Riparian Habitat Connectivity*

1095 National Forest System lands contribute to uninterrupted physical and biological processes
1096 within and between watersheds. Floodplains, groundwater-dependent systems, upslope areas,
1097 headwater tributaries, and intact habitat refugia provide vertical, horizontal, and drainage
1098 network connections. These network connections provide chemically and physically
1099 unobstructed routes to areas critical for fulfilling life history requirements of aquatic, riparian-
1100 dependent, and many terrestrial species of plants and animals. Subbasin scale is used for Forest
1101 planning, and 5th field watershed or subwatershed scale is used for project planning.

1102 *FW-DC-WR-03. Self-Sustaining Native and Aquatic and Riparian-Dependent Species*

1103 National Forest System lands contribute to habitat and ecological conditions that are capable of
1104 supporting self-sustaining populations of native aquatic and riparian-dependent plant and
1105 animal species. Subbasin scale is used for Forest planning and 5th field watershed or
1106 subwatershed scale is used for project planning.

1107 *FW-DC-WR-04. Physical Integrity of Aquatic and Riparian Habitat*

1108 National Forest System lands contribute to the physical integrity of the aquatic system and
1109 riparian habitat, including banks and floodplains. Fifth field watershed scale is used for Forest
1110 planning and 5th field watershed or subwatershed scale is used for project planning.

1111 *FW-DC-WR-05. Water Quality*

1112 National Forest System lands contribute to water quality necessary to support healthy riparian,
1113 aquatic, and wetland ecosystems. Water quality is within the range that maintains the
1114 biological, physical, and chemical integrity and benefits survival, growth, reproduction, and
1115 migration of individuals composing aquatic and riparian communities. Subbasin scale is used for
1116 forest planning and 5th field watershed or subwatershed scale is used for project planning.

1117 *FW-DC-WR-06. Sediment Regimes*

1118 National Forest System lands contribute to the sediment regime within the natural range of
1119 variation. Elements of the sediment regime include the timing, volume, rate, and character of
1120 sediment input, storage, and transport. Watershed scale is used for Forest planning and 5th
1121 field watershed or subwatershed scale is used for project planning.

1122 *FW-DC-WR-07. In-stream Flows*

1123 National Forest System lands contribute to in-stream flows sufficient to create and sustain
1124 riparian, aquatic, and wetland habitats and to retain patterns of sediment, nutrient, and wood
1125 routing. The timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows
1126 functions in concert with local geology, valley types, soils and geomorphology. Subbasin scale is

1127 used for Forest planning and 5th field watershed or subwatershed scale is used for project
1128 planning.

1129 *FW-DC-WR-08. Floodplain Inundation*

1130 National Forest System lands contribute to the timing, variability, and duration of floodplain
1131 inundation that are within the natural range of variation. Fifth field watershed or subwatershed
1132 scale is used for both Forest and project planning.

1133 *FW-DC-WR-09. Wetlands, Seeps, Springs, and Other Groundwater-Dependent*
1134 *Systems*

1135 National Forest System lands contribute to the timing, variability, and water table elevation in
1136 wetlands, seeps, springs and other groundwater-dependent systems. These features are within
1137 or moving toward proper functioning condition. Subwatershed scale is used for both Forest and
1138 project planning.

1139 *FW-DC-WR-10. Native Plant Communities*

1140 National Forest System lands contribute to the species composition and structural diversity of
1141 native plant communities in riparian management areas (including wetlands). These contribute
1142 to adequate summer and winter thermal regulation, nutrient filtering, appropriate rates of
1143 surface erosion, bank erosion, and channel migration; and supply amounts and distributions of
1144 coarse woody debris and fine particulate organic matter sufficient to sustain physical complexity
1145 and stability. Subbasin scale is used for Forest planning and 5th field watershed or
1146 subwatershed scale is used for project planning.

1147 *FW-DC-WR-11. Aquatic Invasive and Non-Native Species*

1148 Aquatic invasive species do not occur as a component of lake, stream, and other riparian-
1149 related ecosystems or compete with native species for critical resources. Subbasin scale is used
1150 for Forest planning. Fifth field watershed or subwatershed scale is used for project planning.

1151 *FW-DC-WR-12. Aquatic Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species*

1152 National Forest System lands contribute to the recovery of federally threatened and
1153 endangered aquatic species and conservation of Regional Forester's sensitive aquatic species.
1154 Aquatic habitat supports spawning, rearing, and/or other key life history requirements.
1155 Subbasin scale is used for Forest planning and 5th field watershed or subwatershed scale is used
1156 for project planning.

1157 *FW-DC-WR-13. Water Quality Standards in Source Water Protection Areas*

1158 National Forest system lands in ground and surface source water protection areas provide water
1159 that meets or exceeds state water quality standards for drinking water with appropriate
1160 treatment.

1161 *FW-DC-WR-14. Key Watershed Network*

1162 Networks of watersheds with functional habitat and functionally intact ecosystems contribute
1163 to and enhance conservation and recovery of specific threatened, endangered, and/or sensitive
1164 aquatic species and high water quality and natural flow regimes. The networks contribute to
1165 short-term conservation and long-term recovery at the Recovery Unit or other appropriate
1166 population scale.

1167 *FW-DC-WR-15. Roads in Key Watersheds*

1168 Roads in key watersheds are not a risk to the function of soil and water resources. Roads do not
1169 disrupt hydrologic or aquatic habitat function or threatened and endangered species biological
1170 and behavioral attributes.

1171 *FW-DC-WR-16. Key Watershed Integrity*

1172 Key watersheds have high watershed integrity and contribute to resilient aquatic and riparian
1173 ecosystems.

1174 *FW-DC-WR-17. Focus and Priority Watershed Network*

1175 Focus and priority watersheds contribute to the sustainability of aquatic and riparian systems
1176 and species and provide resilient, productive habitat and high water quality.

1177 **Objectives**

1178 *FW-OBJ-WR-01. Aquatic Invasive Species*

1179 Within the next 15 years, implement aquatic invasive species prevention measures at all
1180 developed recreation sites providing direct and/or indirect access to water bodies, such as boat
1181 ramps, campgrounds, and day use areas that provide portal zones for hand carried watercraft.
1182 Implement aquatic invasive species prevention measures as part of all aquatic survey and
1183 inventory procedures and other management activities that pose high potential for invasion
1184 vectors to occur. For guidance on invasive riparian plants see Vegetation Desired Condition
1185 section.

1186 *FW-OBJ-WR-02. Aquatic Invasive and Non-Native Species*

1187 Within the next 15 years, implement aquatic invasive species control and eradication at 10 sites
1188 where such invasions have become established and prevent attainment of listed fish recovery
1189 plan goals and/or effects to social, economic, and ecological systems are determined to be
1190 unacceptable.

1191 *FW-OBJ-WR-03. General Watershed Function and Restoration*

1192 Within the next 15 years, decrease sediment delivery from management activities on
1193 1,000 acres including but not limited to roads, trails, livestock, unauthorized off-highway vehicle
1194 use, vegetation management, and dispersed and developed campsites. Restore hydrologic,
1195 aquatic and riparian processes through activities that stabilize stream bank erosion, and other
1196 accelerated channel destabilizing processes (i.e., headcutting), improve lateral and vertical
1197 hydrologic connectivity, and improve stream channel and floodplain function on 10 miles of
1198 streams.

1199 *FW-OBJ-WR-04. Fish Habitat Improvement*

1200 Within 15 years restore aquatic organism passage for all life stages of native species at 45
1201 road/stream crossings and man-made instream structures such as water diversions and dams
1202 outside of key watersheds. Culverts and other passage improvements are to be designed to
1203 restore and maintain hydrologic and aquatic habitat function and stream channel resiliency to a
1204 range of flows through natural channel design and other acceptable treatment measures.

1205 *FW-OBJ-WR-05. Key Watershed Restoration Prioritization*

1206 Management in key watersheds focuses on restoration or preservation of watershed, aquatic,
1207 and riparian function and recovery of threatened and endangered species. Improve watershed
1208 condition class in key watersheds that are a priority for restoration within 15 years of forest plan
1209 implementation. Key watersheds that are a priority for restoration include:

1210 East Branch LeClerc Creek, West Branch LeClerc Creek, Deadman Creek, Barnaby
1211 Creek, Harvey Creek, North Fork Deadman Creek, North Fork Sullivan Creek,
1212 Sullivan Creek, Ruby Creek, Tonata Creek, Upper Sherman Creek, and South Fork
1213 Sherman Creek subwatersheds.

1214 Additional key watersheds that are a priority for restoration will be identified, as appropriate,
1215 through the life of the plan.

1216 *FW-OBJ-WR-06. Key Watershed Road Treatments*

1217 Reduce road-hydrologic connectivity and sediment delivery on roads through storm damage
1218 risk reduction treatments, full hydrologic decommissioning, and other accepted treatment
1219 measures on 78 miles of hydrologically connected road within 15 years of forest plan
1220 implementation.

1221 Restore or maintain aquatic organism passage and improve hydrologic and aquatic habitat
1222 function at 50 road/stream crossings for all native aquatic species, seasons, flows, and life
1223 stages within 15 years of forest plan implementation through culvert replacement or crossing
1224 improvement and natural channel design or other acceptable treatment measures that provide
1225 for natural stream channel function at all flows.

1226 *FW-OBJ-WR-07. Key Watershed Range Infrastructure Improvements*

1227 Improve hydrologic and aquatic function through range infrastructure improvements, including
1228 riparian fencing, movement and improvement of watering troughs, and other acceptable
1229 treatments over 250 acres within 15 years of plan implementation.

1230 *FW-OBJ-WR-08. Upland Vegetation Structure in Riparian Management Areas in Key
1231 Watersheds*

1232 Move upland vegetation within riparian management areas in key watersheds toward historic
1233 range of variability (table 8) on 1,200 acres within 15 years of plan implementation.

1234 *FW-OBJ-WR-09. Stream Restoration in Key Watersheds*

1235 Restore hydrologic, geomorphic, and riparian process and function on 76 miles of stream within
1236 15 years of forest plan implementation through activities including streambank stabilization,
1237 restoration of lateral and vertical hydrologic connectivity and improvement of stream channel
1238 and floodplain function.

1239 *FW-OBJ-WR-10. Watershed Restoration in Focus and Priority Watersheds*

1240 Over 15 years, implement the watershed condition framework through completion of essential
1241 projects outlined in watershed action plans in existing focus and priority watersheds to improve
1242 watershed condition class. Focus watersheds designated at the 5th field watershed scale
1243 include Upper Sanpoil, Chewelah Creek-Colville River, and LeClerc Creek-Pend Oreille River
1244 watersheds. Priority watersheds designated at the subwatershed scale include Ninemile Creek,
1245 East Branch LeClerc Creek, and West Branch LeClerc Creek subwatersheds.

1246 Standards

1247 *FW-STD-WR-01. Aquatic Invasive Species – In-Water Work*

1248 Implement prevention measures for in-water projects to decrease the potential for aquatic
1249 invasive species transference into non-infested water bodies.

1250 *FW-STD-WR-02. Construction of New Roads, Trails and Developed Recreation Sites*

1251 New roads and trails will be designed to minimize disruption of natural hydrologic processes at
1252 perennial and intermittent stream crossings, valley bottoms, valley approaches and other over
1253 land drainage features. New roads, trails and developed recreation sites will integrate features,
1254 such as, but not limited to, rocked stream crossings, drain dips, sediment filtration, cross drains
1255 and crossings that minimize unnatural stream constriction, bank erosion, channel incision,
1256 sedimentation, or disruption of surface and subsurface flow paths.

1257 *FW-STD-WR-03. Road Construction and Decommissioning in Key Watersheds*

1258 There shall be no net increase (i.e., for each mile of new road constructed, at least one mile of
1259 road must be decommissioned) at any time in the mileage of National Forest System roads in
1260 any key watershed unless doing so results in a reduction in road-related risk to watershed
1261 condition. The decommissioned road shall be in a hydrologically stable and self-maintaining
1262 condition. Priority for decommissioning will be given to roads that pose the greatest relative
1263 ecological risks to riparian and aquatic function.

1264 *FW-STD-WR-04. Hydroelectric and Other Water Development Authorizations in Key
1265 Watersheds*

1266 Hydroelectric and other water development authorizations shall include requirements for in-
1267 stream flows and habitat conditions that maintain or restore native fish and other desired
1268 aquatic species populations, riparian-dependent resources, favorable channel conditions, and
1269 aquatic connectivity.

1270 *FW-STD-WR-05. New Hydroelectric Facilities and Water Developments*

1271 New hydroelectric facilities and water developments shall not be located in a key watershed
1272 unless it can be demonstrated they have minimal risks and/or no adverse effects to fish and
1273 water resources for which the key watershed was established.

1274 Guidelines

1275 *FW-GDL-WR-01. Aquatic Invasive Species – Wildfire Suppression Equipment*

1276 During wildfire suppression, cross contamination between streams and lakes from pumps,
1277 suction, and dipping devices should be avoided. Dumping water directly from one stream or
1278 lake into another should be avoided. Water storage and conveyance components of water
1279 tenders, engines, and aircraft should be disinfected prior to use on a new on-forest incident.

1280 *FW-GDL-WR-02. Aquatic Invasive Species – Aquatic Resource Sampling*

1281 Aquatic sampling equipment should be disinfected prior to use in new stream or lake locations.

1282 *FW-GDL-WR-03. Aquatic Invasive Species – Early Detection and Rapid Response*

1283 Principles and processes of early detection and rapid response (EDRR) to find, identify and
1284 quantify new aquatic invasive species occurrences should be utilized. EDRR should be coupled

1285 with other integrated activities to rapidly assess and respond with quick and immediate actions
1286 to eradicate, control, or contain aquatic invasive species.

1287 *FW-GDL-WR-04. Watershed Restoration*

1288 Use the restoration methods that maximize the use of natural ecological processes for long-
1289 term sustainability and minimize the need for long-term maintenance.

1290 *FW-GDL-WR-05. Hydrologic Function of Roads, Trails, and Developed Recreation*
1291 *Sites*

1292 Roads and trails should be maintained to minimize disruption of natural hydrologic processes at
1293 perennial and intermittent stream crossings, valley bottoms, valley approaches and other over-
1294 land drainage features. Roads and trails should integrate features, such as, but not limited to,
1295 rocked stream crossings, drain dips, sediment filtration, cross drains and crossings that minimize
1296 unnatural stream constriction, bank erosion, channel incision, sedimentation, or disruption of
1297 surface and subsurface flow paths.

1298 **WILDLIFE HABITATS (WL)**

1299 The land management plan focuses on four groups of terrestrial wildlife species:
1300 threatened and endangered (T&E), surrogate species (SS), management indicator/focal
1301 species (MIS/FS), and ungulate species. In addition, some plan components address general
1302 wildlife habitat issues and enhance viability of all species. Threatened and endangered
1303 species are those formally listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act of 1973.
1304 Surrogate species represent other species that share similar habitat and risk factors and
1305 include former Region 6 sensitive species, state-listed species, or other species for which
1306 the published literature has identified a concern for their viability. Management
1307 indicator/focal species are a subset of the surrogate species that will be used for
1308 monitoring. Ungulate species include big-game species that are of high interest to the
1309 public. Several desired condition statements within this plan refer to 'habitat effectiveness'
1310 or 'zone of influence.' Methods to address habitat effectiveness and zone of influence can
1311 be found in Gaines et al. 2003; however, during the life of the plan these methods may be
1312 replaced by new scientific/research developments.

1313 **THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES**

1314 Plan direction is consistent with existing recovery plans for federally listed species and
1315 applies in those areas identified as recovery areas for each listed species as identified by
1316 the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service. Three federally listed wildlife species are found on the
1317 Forest. These include grizzly bear (threatened), woodland caribou (endangered), and
1318 Canada lynx (threatened).

1319 Canada Lynx: The Colville National Forest includes a core area (the Kettle Crest) that is
1320 important for the recovery of Canada lynx in Washington. The Forest does not have any
1321 designated critical habitat for Canada lynx. Habitat conditions (e.g., current habitat
1322 compared to Desired Conditions) are appropriately assessed at the lynx analysis unit (LAU)
1323 scale.

1324 Grizzly bear: The Selkirk Mountains Grizzly Bear Recovery Area includes a portion of the
1325 Colville National Forest located east of the Pend Oreille River. The recovery area is divided
1326 into grizzly bear management units (BMUs), three of which are shared between the Colville
1327 and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. These analysis units are large enough to allow the

1328 assessment of seasonal habitats and the cumulative effects of human activities on these
 1329 habitats. Within BMUs, management is designed to ensure that important seasonal
 1330 habitats are available to bears within core areas.

1331 Core areas are identified as areas that are more than 500 meters from an open road,
 1332 restricted-use road, motorized trail, or high-use hiking trail (more than 20 parties per
 1333 week). Any roads within core areas must be physically un-drivable (e.g., bermed, brushed-
 1334 in). Evaluation of the potential effects of proposed actions on grizzly bear recovery follows
 1335 the assessment process developed by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC 1998).

1336 Caribou: A small population of woodland caribou occurs on the northeastern portion of the
 1337 Colville National Forest within the Selkirk Mountain Woodland Caribou Recovery Area. The
 1338 caribou recovery area has been divided into 17 caribou management units, of which 4
 1339 occur on the Colville National Forest.

1340 SURROGATE SPECIES

1341 Selected surrogate species represent specific habitats and risk factors across the planning
 1342 area. Habitats of 22 surrogate species occur on the Colville National Forest. The viability of
 1343 surrogate species is enhanced by providing favorable habitats conditions (appropriate mix
 1344 of cover types and structure stages) and reducing risk factors.

1345 MANAGEMENT INDICATOR/FOCAL SPECIES

1346 Management indicator/focal species were selected to monitor the potential effects of
 1347 major forest management activities. These major activities include: grazing, forest
 1348 vegetation restoration (such as thinning and prescribed fire), and post-fire salvage harvest.
 1349 The species in table 9 were selected to represent these management activities.

1350 **Table 9. Management indicator species and management activity**

Management indicator/focal species	Management activity
MacGillivray’s warbler	Grazing, understory effects
Black-backed woodpecker	Post-fire salvage harvest
Northern goshawk	Forest vegetation management
White-headed woodpecker	Forest vegetation management

1351 UNGULATES

1352 Deer: Mule deer and white-tailed deer occur widely across the national forest.

1353 Elk: Less broadly distributed across the forests are Rocky Mountain elk.

1354 The larger elk populations occur on the eastern half of the Colville National Forest.

1355

Table 10. Terrestrial wildlife species and species group for Colville National Forest

Species	Endangered	Threatened	Management indicator/ focal species (MIS)	Surrogate	Ungulate
American marten				X	
Bald eagle				X	
Bighorn sheep				X	
Black-backed woodpecker			X	X	
Canada lynx		X		X	
Cassin's finch				X	
Columbia spotted frog				X	
Fox sparrow				X	
Fringed myotis				X	
Golden eagle				X	
Grizzly bear		X			
Harlequin duck				X	
Lewis' woodpecker				X	
MacGillivray's warbler			X	X	
Mule deer and white-tailed deer					X
Northern bog lemming				X	
Northern goshawk			X	X	
Pileated woodpecker				X	
Red-naped sapsucker				X	
Rocky mountain elk					X
Townsend's big-eared bat				X	
Water vole				X	
Woodland caribou	X				X
White-headed woodpecker			X	X	
Western bluebird				X	
Wolverine				X	

1356 **Desired Condition**

1357 *FW-DC-WL-01. Proper Storage of Human Food, Garbage, and Other Wildlife*
1358 *Attractants*

1359 All administrative sites, developed recreation sites, and dispersed recreation sites where
1360 garbage disposal services are provided, are equipped with animal-resistant food and waste
1361 storage devices so that food, garbage, and other attractants can be made inaccessible to
1362 wildlife.

1363 Forest visitors are aware of the need to properly store all wildlife attractants through one-on-
1364 one contacts with campground hosts and agency employees, signage, and the media.
1365 Compliance with the Forest's food storage order is increasing.

1366 *FW-DC-WL-02. Habitat Conditions for Threatened and Endangered Species*

1367 Habitat conditions (amount, distribution, and connectivity of habitat) contribute to the recovery
1368 of federally listed threatened and endangered species.

1369 *FW-DC-WL-03. Habitat Components for Canada Lynx*

1370 Forest successional stages within lynx analysis units provide a mosaic of lynx habitat with
1371 landscape pattern that is consistent with the historic range of variability. (See also FW-DC-VEG-
1372 04.)

1373 *FW-DC-WL-04. Grizzly Bear Recovery Area – Key Habitat Components for Grizzly Bear*

1374 Key grizzly bear habitat components (such as whitebark pine, riparian habitats, berry-producing
1375 shrubfields, natural meadows, and forest cover) are available within core areas and in quantities
1376 that contribute toward a recovered bear population.

1377 *FW-DC-WL-05. Grizzly Bear Recovery Area – Core Areas*

1378 The amount of core areas available to grizzly bears within each grizzly bear management unit
1379 meets the standards in table 14. Core areas are expanded where other forest access priorities /
1380 obligations can also be met.

1381 *FW-DC-WL-06. Woodland Caribou Seasonal Habitat Components*

1382 For the Desired Habitat Conditions for caribou, manage toward the upper 10 percent of the
1383 Desired Conditions for vegetation in late-successional-closed forest within western hemlock/red
1384 cedar and spruce/subalpine fir, measured at the caribou management unit scale. Seasonal
1385 habitat components of well-connected, large blocks of late-successional forest provide essential
1386 habitat for caribou.

1387 *FW-DC-WL-07. Woodland Caribou Habitat – Forage Availability*

1388 Preferred lichens (Bryoria and Alectoria) are present in sufficient quantities for woodland
1389 caribou to forage.

1390 *FW-DC-WL-08. Woodland Caribou Habitat – Winter Recreation*

1391 Winter recreation is managed so that woodland caribou are not displaced from suitable habitat
1392 and the caribou can make full use of existing habitat in the recovery area.

1393 *FW-DC-WL-09. Risk Factors for all Surrogate Species*

1394 Risk factors (e.g., roads, uncharacteristic wildfire, unregulated livestock use, introduced species,
1395 invasive species, etc.) for all surrogate species are reduced to contribute to the viability of
1396 surrogate species.

1397 *FW-DC-WL-10. Human Activities in Bald Eagle Nesting Areas*

1398 Occupied bald eagle nesting areas are not disrupted by human activities.

1399 *FW-DC-WL-11. Bald Eagle Habitat in Riparian Management Areas*

1400 Riparian management areas along mainstem rivers that provide bald eagle habitat are
1401 composed of more than 20 percent late-successional forest. Applicable scale is a stream reach.

1402 *FW-DC-WL-12. Deer and Elk Habitat – Summer and Winter Range Cover and Forage*

1403 Cover and forage for deer and elk summer and winter range are within historic range of
1404 variability for vegetation (See also FW-DC-VEG-04, table 5).

1405 *FW-DC-WL-13. Deer and Elk Habitat – Human Activities*

1406 Winter ranges for deer and elk provide a high level of habitat effectiveness by having less than
1407 30 percent of the winter range within a zone of influence of an open road or motorized travel
1408 route. Summer ranges provide a moderate level of habitat effectiveness by having less than
1409 50 percent of the summer range within a zone of influence of an open road or motorized trail.

1410 **Objectives**

1411 *FW-OBJ-WL-01. Wildlife Habitats – Proper Storage of Human Food, Garbage and*
1412 *Other Wildlife Attractants*

1413 Maintain the wildlife-resistant garbage storage devices installed in all developed campgrounds
1414 on the Colville National Forest, as needed. Within 15 years of plan implementation install at
1415 least 15 wildlife-resistant food storage lockers at developed campgrounds or heavily used
1416 dispersed campsites. Priority will be given to sites within or adjacent to the grizzly bear recovery
1417 area.

1418 *FW-OBJ-WL-02. Canada Lynx Habitat Restoration*

1419 Within 15 years of plan implementation, restore an average of 100 acres per year of snowshoe
1420 hare and/or lynx habitat within the lynx core area on the Kettle Crest.

1421 *FW-OBJ-WL-03. Grizzly Bear Recovery Area – Habitat Restoration*

1422 Within 15 years of plan implementation, maintain or restore grizzly bear seasonal habitats on
1423 900 acres in the following bear management units [table 11].

1424

1425 **Table 11. Grizzly bear seasonal habitats objective**

Bear Management Unit	Number of Acres Restored
LeClerc	300
Salmo-Priest	300
Sullivan Hughes	300

1426 *FW-OBJ-WL-04. Restoration of Late-Successional Forest Habitat for All Surrogate*
 1427 *Species*

1428 Within 15 years of plan implementation, restore western hemlock/western redcedar vegetation
 1429 types within late-successional forest habitats for surrogate wildlife species on 1,400 acres within
 1430 the following watersheds [table 12]. Generally focus activity in previously treated areas that are
 1431 now early to mid-successional forest to enhance large tree development.

1432 **Table 12. Surrogate species habitat – watersheds for treatment**

Watershed	Acres
Sullivan Creek	800
LeClerc	600

1433 *FW-OBJ-WL-05. White-Headed Woodpecker and Associated Species Habitat –*
 1434 *Ponderosa Pine Forest*

1435 Over the next 15 years, restore or move toward restoration of late and old structure ponderosa
 1436 pine forest habitat on 500 acres per year. Restoration projects are emphasized in the following
 1437 watersheds: Sanpoil, Sherman.

1438 *FW-OBJ-WL-06. Deer and Elk Habitat Restoration*

1439 Within 15 years of plan implementation, restore (i.e., application of prescribed fire, invasive
 1440 plant management, etc.) habitat on 1,000 acres of deer and elk winter range.

1441 **Standards**

1442 *FW-STD-WL-01. Nest Sites*

1443 For forest species listed in table 13, protect all known active nest sites below from human
 1444 disturbance caused by management activities during the following periods to reduce the risk of
 1445 nest abandonment or decline in productivity.

1446 **Table 13. Timing standards for protection of land bird species nest sites**

Species	Species Status	Timing
Bald eagle	Surrogate – R6 Sensitive Species	January 1–August 15
Peregrine falcon	Surrogate- R6 Sensitive Species	March 1–July 31
Northern goshawk	Surrogate	March 1–August 15
Golden eagle	Surrogate	February 15–August 31

1447 *FW-STD-WL-02. Canada Lynx – Vegetation Management within Identified Lynx Habitat*

1448 Management projects shall not reduce horizontal cover (snowshoe hare habitat) in late-closed
 1449 structure Subalpine fir/Lodgepole or Spruce/Subalpine fir vegetation types unless: (1) the

1450 subalpine fir/lodgepole pine or spruce/ subalpine fir vegetation types exceed Desired
 1451 Conditions (historic range of variability) for late-closed structure, (2) the projects are within
 1452 200 feet of administrative sites, dwellings, out buildings, recreation sites and special use permit
 1453 areas, including infrastructure within permitted ski area boundaries; or (3) for research studies
 1454 or genetic tree test evaluating genetically improved reforestation stock.

1455 *FW-STD-WL-03. Canada Lynx – Rate of Change within Identified Lynx Habitat*

1456 Do not change more than 15 percent of lynx habitat within any single lynx habitat unit to an
 1457 unsuitable condition in any 10-year period.

1458 *FW-STD-WL-04. Canada Lynx – Snowmobile Trails in Identified Lynx Habitat*

1459 Allow no net increase in groomed or designated over-the-snow routes into lynx habitat at the
 1460 lynx analysis unit scale. Access to non-recreation uses, such as mineral and energy exploration
 1461 and development sites, will be comprised of designated routes or designated over-the-snow
 1462 routes. This does not apply to areas within permitted ski area boundaries, winter logging, trails
 1463 that are rerouted for public safety, or to accessing private in-holdings.

1464 *FW-STD-WL-05. Canada Lynx – Vegetation Management within Identified Lynx Habitat*

1465 When conducting vegetation management of coniferous vegetation, do not reduce the
 1466 suitability of lynx habitat within a lynx analysis unit below 70 percent of the area that is capable
 1467 of providing suitable lynx habitat (subalpine fir associated forest types).

1468 *FW-STD-WL-06. Canada Lynx – Tree Stem Densities in Identified Lynx Habitat*

1469 Retain a minimum of 20 percent in untreated patches and do not reduce tree stem densities to
 1470 less than 500 trees per acre in early structure subalpine fir/lodgepole pine or spruce/subalpine
 1471 fir vegetation types through vegetation management practices, except within 500 feet of
 1472 structures (i.e., administrative sites, dwellings, out buildings), developed recreation sites and
 1473 special use permit areas (including infrastructure within permitted ski area boundaries), and
 1474 along major highways and powerline corridors.

1475 *FW-STD-WL-07. Grizzly Bear Recovery Area -Road Densities*

1476 Within the grizzly bear recovery area, Federal actions shall not result in a net reduction of core
 1477 habitat below the levels in the following table. Discrete core areas shall remain in place for a
 1478 minimum of 10 years in order for bears to find and use these areas. Federal actions shall not
 1479 result in a net increase in open or total road densities above the levels in table 14. Total road
 1480 densities do not include physically undrivable roads (e.g., bermed, brushed-in).

1481 **Table 14. Grizzly bear habitat standards for the shared BMUs of the Colville and Idaho Panhandle**
 1482 **National Forests**

BMU	Maximum Open Roads >1 mi/sq. mi.	Maximum Total Roads >2 mi/sq. mi	Minimum Percent Core Habitat
Salmo-Priest (99% NFS land)	33%	26%	64%
Sullivan-Hughes (99% NFS land)	24%	19%	61%
LeClerc (64% NFS land)	37%	58%	27%

1483 *FW-STD-WL-08 Proper Storage of Human Food, Garbage and Other Wildlife*
1484 *Attractants*

1485 Forest Service contracts, permits, and agreements that include camping on NFS lands shall
1486 incorporate the requirement to follow the current Food Storage Order for the Colville National
1487 Forest.

1488 *FW-STD-WL-09. Woodland Caribou Habitat – Management Activities*

1489 Management activities within lands identified as capable habitat for woodland caribou enhance
1490 or facilitate the development of suitable habitat. Management activities within stands identified
1491 as suitable habitat are avoided, except when a clear benefit of the activity to habitat conditions
1492 can be demonstrated.

1493 Management activities that cause disturbance shall be avoided in known caribou calving habitat
1494 from June 1 to July 15.

1495 *FW-STD-WL-10. Woodland Caribou and Snowmobiles*

1496 Restrict over-the-snow vehicle use to designated routes within the caribou recovery area.

1497 *FW-STD-WL-11. Large Snag Habitat*

1498 Because snags greater than 20 inches diameter at breast height are currently below the desired
1499 conditions, they shall be retained unless they pose a safety hazard. This standard does not apply
1500 in developed recreation sites, around recreation residences, in administrative sites, and within
1501 200 feet of an open road designated for firewood harvest. An additional exception to this
1502 standard can occur in areas that have been identified through consultation with local biologists
1503 as candidates for tree faller training sites.

1504 *FW-STD-WL-12. Bighorn Sheep and Disease Transmission*

1505 Protect bighorn sheep populations from potential disease transmission: (1) Use of recreational
1506 pack goats shall not be authorized or allowed within or adjacent to source habitat for bighorn
1507 sheep in order to reduce the risk of disease spread, and (2) Grazing of domestic sheep shall not
1508 be authorized within or adjacent to bighorn sheep source habitats.

1509 **Guidelines**

1510 *FW-GDL-WL-01. Cover for Wildlife*

1511 Where the opportunity exists, retain clumps or patches of shrubs and trees to provide hiding
1512 cover (minimize sight distance) along open roads adjacent to created openings. To the extent
1513 feasible, maintain the cover value of these vegetative clumps and patches during post-harvest
1514 site preparation and fuels treatments.

1515 *FW-GDL-WL-02. Proper Storage of Human Food, Garbage and Other Wildlife*
1516 *Attractants*

1517 Agency employees and the public should be informed about the need to properly store food
1518 and other wildlife attractants. Once knowledgeable, compliance with the Forest's food storage
1519 order should be expected.

1520 *FW-GDL-WL-03. Unique Habitats*

1521 Limited habitats, such as cliffs (greater than 25 feet in height below 5,000 feet in elevation),
1522 caves (including mines), talus, ponds, marshes, wetlands, deciduous forest (including aspen

1523 stands greater than 1 acre in size), natural meadows and areas of colony nesting species should
1524 be maintained or protected from activities that result in habitat loss or disturbance.

1525 *FW-GDL-WL-04. Federally Listed Species*

1526 Habitat for federally listed wildlife species within recovery areas that occur on National Forest
1527 System lands should be retained in public ownership.

1528 *FW-GDL-WL-05. Canada Lynx – Vegetation*

1529 Vegetation management activities within identified Lynx Habitat should be focused in areas of
1530 poor snowshoe hare habitat (poorly developed understories that lack horizontal cover between
1531 3 and 10 feet from the ground) to recruit understories that support dense, horizontal cover.

1532 *FW-GDL-WL-06. Canada Lynx – Alternative Prey within Identified Lynx Habitat*

1533 Habitat for alternate prey species, primarily red squirrel, should be available in each lynx
1534 analysis unit by providing cone bearing late, closed structure conifer forests with coarse woody
1535 debris consistent with Desired Conditions for structure FW-DC-VEG-04, and snags and downed
1536 wood FW-DC-VEG-06.

1537 *FW-GDL-WL-07. Canada Lynx – Recreation and Administrative Facilities within
1538 Identified Lynx Habitat*

1539 Expansion or new construction of recreation facilities and administrative facilities within lynx
1540 habitat should be located in or adjacent to existing areas of development, rather than creating
1541 new developed recreation or administrative sites. Recreation developments and operations
1542 should be managed so as not to interfere with lynx movement and maintain the effectiveness of
1543 lynx habitat.

1544 *FW-GDL-WL-08. Canada Lynx – Transportation System within Identified Lynx Habitat*

1545 Road reconstruction that results in increased traffic speed and volume should be avoided. New
1546 permanent roads should not be located on forested ridge-tops, saddles, close to forest stringers
1547 or in other areas important for habitat connectivity.

1548 *FW-GDL-WL-09. Canada Lynx – Habitat Connectivity within Identified Lynx Habitat*

1549 Large, permanent openings (generally greater than 300 feet wide with less than 10 percent
1550 overstory canopy) should not be created in prey habitat. When temporary openings (resulting
1551 from vegetation management treatments) are proposed, adequate forested habitat should be
1552 retained between these openings and natural openings to contribute to habitat connectivity.

1553 *FW-GDL-WL-10. Canada Lynx – LAU adjustment*

1554 Lynx analysis unit boundaries should be adjusted based on scientific literature and coordination
1555 with the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service.⁷

1556 *FW-GDL-WL-11. Grizzly Bear Recovery Area – Forest Management Activities*

1557 Management activities (such as timber harvest, road building, blasting, etc.) that may displace
1558 grizzly bears should be scheduled to occur outside of the critical period of den emergence
1559 (April 1 to June 15).

⁷ As of this draft revised plan, the Canada Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy (ILBT 2013) provides guidance for Canada Lynx analysis unit management.

1560 Administrative, motorized vehicle entries on restricted-use roads should be managed to not
1561 exceed the levels prescribed by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee.

1562 *FW-GDL-WL-12 Grizzly Bear Recovery Area – Hiding Cover*

1563 Hiding cover for grizzly bears is defined as topography or vegetation capable of screening
1564 90 percent of a bear at a distance of 200 feet. Within the grizzly bear recovery area, no point in
1565 a created opening should be farther than 600 feet from forested hiding cover. Blocks of forested
1566 cover retained within harvest units specifically for grizzly bears should be at least 600 feet
1567 across.

1568 Hiding cover should be maintained where it exists along open roads. Roadside cover can be
1569 provided by topography, or by strips / patches of shrubs / trees retained within harvest units.

1570 *FW-GDL-WL-13. Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, and Elk Habitat – Human Activities*

1571 Human activities should be restricted to designated routes during the winter period of
1572 December 1 to March 31 in winter range. When human activities must occur (i.e., winter
1573 logging), adequate displacement areas should be provided for deer and elk to maintain the
1574 effectiveness of the wintering area.

1575 *FW-GDL-WL-14 Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, and Elk Forage*

1576 Production of browse and other forage should be stimulated within deer winter range.
1577 Minimize tree invasion into non-forested, brush-dominated areas to maintain browse condition.
1578 Consider treatment when browse species are out of reach or in need of rejuvenation or re-
1579 introduction.

1580 *FW-GDL-WL-15. Fire-dependent Surrogate Wildlife Species*

1581 To provide habitat for fire-dependent surrogate species (e.g., black-backed woodpecker), post-
1582 fire timber harvest should only be used when the availability of suitable post-fire habitats (refer
1583 to Vegetative Systems Desired Conditions [table 5] for early structure) are above the desired
1584 condition measured at the watershed scale.

1585 *FW-GDL-WL-16. Bat Habitat Protection*

1586 Human activities should be managed to protect bat hibernacula from disturbance and exposure
1587 of bats to white-nosed syndrome.

1588 *FW-GDL-WL-17. Nesting Habitat for Common Loon*

1589 Human activities should be managed to protect known common brood-rearing areas between
1590 June 1 and September 1.

1591 *FW-GDL-WL-18. Nest Sites*

1592 For forest species listed in table 15, all known active nest sites should be protected from human
1593 disturbance caused by management activities during the following periods to reduce the risk of
1594 nest abandonment or decline in productivity.

1595

1596 **Table 15. Timing standards for protection of bird species nest sites**

Species	Timing
Common loon	April 1–June 15
Cooper’s hawk	April 1–August 31
Sharp-shinned hawk	April 1–August 31
Red-tailed hawk	March 1–July 31
Osprey	April 1–August 31
Flammulated owl	April 1–July15
Great gray owl	March 1–June 30

1597 *FW-GDL-WL-19. Northern Goshawk Nesting Sites*

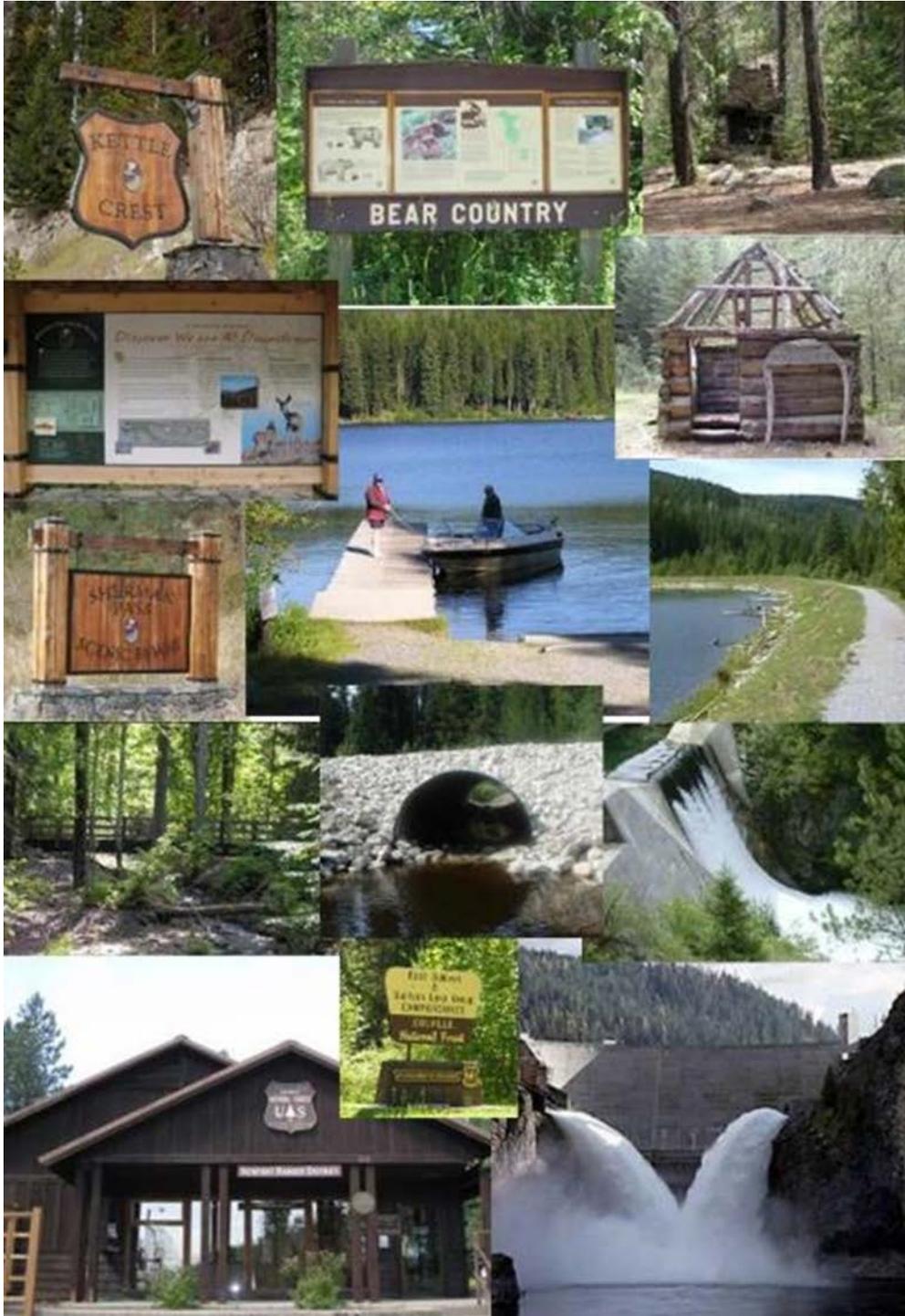
1598 Goshawk territories should be made up of the following components:

- 1599 1. A 30-acre nest site (active within the last five years) where no adverse management
1600 activities should occur as long as the nest site is active. Dominant trees should be
1601 greater than 15 inches d.b.h.
- 1602 2. Post fledging area (420 acres total), including six nest areas, each 30 acres in size (six
1603 nest sites—three nests are suitable and three are replacements).
- 1604 3. Foraging area surrounding the post fledging area, and
- 1605 4. Total home range size = 6,000 acres

1606 All active (within the last 5 years) or replacement nest sites for the northern goshawk should
1607 provide suitable nesting habitat with greater than 50 percent canopy closure. Foraging area
1608 habitat can be a combination of late-and mid-seral stages.

1609 FORESTWIDE DIRECTION – SOCIAL SYSTEMS

1610 This section contains desired conditions, objectives, standards, and guidelines for social systems
1611 including; access, lands and special uses, livestock grazing, minerals, public awareness,
1612 recreation, renewable forest products, and scenery.



1613

1614 **NATIONAL FOREST ACCESS SYSTEM (AS)**

1615 All national forest roads, trails, bridges and docks that are managed by the Forest to
1616 provide access on National Forest System lands are referred to in this document as the
1617 access system.

1618 **Desired Condition**

1619 *FW-DC-AS-01. Access System*

1620 The access system of authorized roads, bridges, trails, and docks is safe, affordable, and
1621 environmentally sound; responds to administrative and public needs to the extent practicable;
1622 meets obligations to public and private cooperators; and is efficient to manage.

1623 The system provides public and administrative access where suitable and supports forest
1624 management objectives. Road and trail rights-of-way to access National Forest System lands
1625 address public needs and facilitate planned resource activities. All National Forest System roads
1626 and trails have legal access for crossing non-National Forest System lands.

1627 The system is maintained commensurate with maintenance levels, levels of use, and available
1628 funding. Roads, trails, and areas that are open to motor vehicle use are designated through the
1629 motor vehicle use map.

1630 The size of the access system is such that each road and trail can be maintained to its assigned
1631 maintenance level and each bridge meets structural standards. Maintenance standards are set
1632 considering access needs, use, environmental impacts, and the ability to fund long-term
1633 maintenance needs. All commercial users and other authorization holders using National Forest
1634 System roads share in the costs of maintaining the roads they use.

1635 *FW-DC-AS-02. Trail System – Motorized and Non-Motorized*

1636 A variety of summer and winter system trails provide a range of difficulty and seclusion levels
1637 for the various user types; are located in diverse ecological, geological, and scenic settings; and
1638 minimize user conflicts. Destination and loop opportunities of various lengths are available for a
1639 variety of uses.

1640 Trails are defined, marked, and easily identified on the ground.

1641 A maintained and environmentally sound trail system is in place, providing for user safety and
1642 access to locations of interest and the use (e.g., recreation, minerals, vegetation treatment, and
1643 fire protection) of the Colville National Forest.

1644 Motorized access and travel occurs on a system of designated National Forest System roads and
1645 motorized trails.

1646 Trails accessible from populated areas are available for non-motorized opportunities in blocks of
1647 forest that are free from the sights and sounds of motorized recreation.

1648 The trail system is accessible from local communities, State, county, and local public roads and
1649 trails.

1650 *FW-DC-AS-03. Connections*

1651 Where feasible, Forest Service recreation sites are connected to each other and to adjacent
1652 communities through pathways, trails, bike lanes, and waterways providing opportunities for
1653 both motorized and/or non-motorized modes of travel.

1654 *FW-DC-AS-04. Wilderness Trails*

1655 Wilderness trails provide for administrative and public use. They provide for the enjoyment of
1656 wilderness in a variety of settings and with varying degrees of challenge and opportunities for
1657 solitude. Trails that function as the main arterials to distribute use across the trailed portions of
1658 the wilderness or access high-use destinations generally receive regular maintenance. Side trails
1659 are typically more primitive and may be maintained less frequently. Loop opportunities of
1660 various lengths are available.

1661 *FW-DC-AS-05. Developed Recreation Sites*

1662 Roads accessing developed recreation sites (such as campgrounds, day use sites, and trailheads)
1663 are maintained at a level generally accessible by passenger vehicle.

1664 Objectives

1665 *FW-OBJ-AS-01. Motorized Mixed Use Roads*

1666 Within 15 years of plan implementation, designate 45 miles of motorized mixed-use roads
1667 across the Forest that would connect with existing motorized mixed use roads identified on the
1668 motor vehicle use map to create loop-riding opportunities, connect camping areas, or connect
1669 communities with the Forest.

1670 *FW-OBJ-AS-02. Trail Management*

1671 Within 15 years of plan implementation, improve drainage, water crossing and trail layout on
1672 5 percent of the Forest's trail system designed for mountain bikes, motorized use, and pack
1673 stock.

1674 *FW-OBJ-AS-03. Trail Maintenance*

1675 Annually, maintain at least 20 percent of the Forest's motorized and non-motorized trail system.

1676 Standards

1677 *FW-STD-AS-01. Over-snow Vehicle Use*

1678 Cross-country over-snow vehicle use will be discontinued for the season when areas no longer
1679 allow for continuous over-the-snow travel in order to protect other resources such as soil and
1680 vegetation.

1681 Guidelines

1682 *FW-GDL-AS-01. Winter Use of Roads*

1683 In the winter, when and where specified, over-the-snow recreational use (either motorized or
1684 non-motorized) may be accommodated. Roads may be plowed to accommodate management
1685 activities such as winter logging or access to winter recreation sites such as Sno-Parks.

1686 *FW-GDL-AS-02. Wilderness Trail Structures*

1687 Wilderness trail structures should be constructed of native materials when possible. The use of
1688 non-native fasteners is an acceptable practice.

1689 *FW-GDL-AS-03. Over-snow Vehicle Use*

1690 Over-snow vehicle use should be discontinued for the season when roads no longer allow for
1691 continuous over-the-snow travel in order to protect the road base.

1692 *FW-GDL-AS-04. Temporary or Limited Access*

1693 Acquire rights-of-way across non-National Forest System lands as needed to meet resource
1694 management objectives. Rights-of-way are acquired from landowners using easements, term
1695 easements, limited easements or permits for roads crossing private lands. Temporary or limited
1696 rights-of-way may be acquired when landowners are unwilling or unable to grant full public
1697 access, or when permanent access is not in the public interest or necessary to address long-
1698 term resource management objectives.

1699 *FW-GDL-AS-05. Motorized and Non-motorized Trails*

1700 New trails or additions to existing trails should include destinations and loops to provide for a
1701 variety of opportunities.

1702 New trails should be located to avoid meadows, wetlands, riparian areas, stream bottoms,
1703 sacred sites, and areas with high concentrations of significant archaeological sites. The number
1704 of stream crossings should be minimized or mitigated to reduce impacts to aquatic species.
1705 Meadow crossings should be designed or redesigned to maintain or restore hydrologic function.

1706 Trail markings (e.g., signs, blazes) should be designed to complement the character of the
1707 surrounding lands.

1708 **HERITAGE RESOURCES (HR)**

1709 Remnants of past and current human activities and events that reflect continuous use by
1710 Native peoples and the exploration, settlement, and management by Euro-American
1711 cultures can be found throughout the Forest. Cultural resources are nonrenewable with
1712 few exceptions. Once the resource has been disturbed, damaged, altered, or removed,
1713 nothing can recover the information that could have been gained through analysis or
1714 replace the opportunity for individuals to understand and experience the site.

1715 All resources on a national forest are managed in accordance with applicable laws,
1716 regulations, executive orders, and agency directives. Management of heritage resources is
1717 unique in that management is addressed primarily through law, regulation, executive
1718 orders and Forest Service Manual and Forest Service Handbook direction with no need for
1719 additional forest plan direction. These include, but are not limited to the following, and,
1720 over the life of the plan, there may be changes to these.

1721 **Laws and Executive Orders**

1722 Antiquities Act of 1906 – Provides for the protection of historic and prehistoric remains or
1723 any object of antiquity on Federal lands; establishes sanctions for unauthorized destruction
1724 or appropriation of antiquities: and authorizes scientific investigation of antiquities on
1725 Federal lands, subject to permit and regulations. Paleontological resources fall under the
1726 authority of this Act.

1727 The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended 2004 – Establishes a program
1728 for the preservation of prehistoric and historic properties throughout the Nation. It makes
1729 historic preservation national policy. Section 106 of the Act directs that Federal agencies
1730 shall take into account the effects of their actions on heritage resources. Section 110 of the
1731 Act directs Federal agencies to take responsibility for the preservation and management of
1732 heritage resources that are owned or controlled by the agency.

1733 The Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 – Establishes various legal penalties
1734 for the unauthorized removal of antiquities or artifacts from Federal property, and /or the
1735 damage or destruction of heritage properties on Federal lands.

1736 The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 – Defines the rights of
1737 lineal descendants and Indian tribes to Indian skeletal remains and items or artifacts of
1738 cultural patrimony that may be held by Federal agencies or institutions.

1739 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and National Forest Management Act of 1976 –
1740 Require Federal agencies to preserve important prehistoric, historic, cultural and natural
1741 aspects of national heritage.

1742 Executive Order 11593, Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment –
1743 Declares that the Federal Government shall take the lead in preserving, restoring, and
1744 maintaining the historic and cultural environment of the Nation; directs the Federal
1745 Government to contribute to the preservation and enhancement of non-federally owned
1746 sites; directs Federal agencies to locate, inventory and nominate sites to the National
1747 Register of Historic Places; directs Federal agencies to ensure that cultural resources are
1748 not inadvertently damaged, destroyed or transferred from Federal ownership before the
1749 completion of inventories and evaluation of sites worthy of National Register nomination

1750 Executive Order 13287, Preserve America – Directs Federal agencies to build partnerships
1751 with local governments, Indian tribes, and the private sector to preserve heritage
1752 properties, and promote heritage tourism. Agencies are to improve planning and
1753 accountability for heritage properties, assess the current status of heritage properties,
1754 track progress in managing heritage properties, and improve the stewardship of heritage
1755 properties.

1756 **Desired Condition**

1757 *FW-DC-HR-01. Consistency with Law, Regulation, Executive Orders and Directives*
1758 Heritage resources on the national forest, including known Native American sacred sites and
1759 traditional cultural properties, are preserved, protected, and/or restored per applicable law,
1760 regulation, executive order, and directives. As appropriate, eligible and historically significant
1761 heritage properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Forest's priority
1762 heritage assets are protected and preserved per applicable law, regulation, executive order, and
1763 directives. Opportunities to connect people with the heritage of the land are provided.

1764 Forest facilities that are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places are available for
1765 continued use, for Forest administration, public recreation and interpretation, and tribal events,
1766 as appropriate. Important archaeological artifacts are protected per applicable law, regulation,
1767 executive order, and directives.

1768 **AMERICAN INDIAN RIGHTS AND INTEREST (AI)**

1769 American Indian tribes are sovereign nations. The United States has a fiduciary relationship
1770 with tribal governments as set forth in the U.S. Constitution, statutes, executive orders,
1771 court decisions, and agreements. This relationship is also known as the Federal Trust Duty
1772 to American Indians. Therefore, the Forest Service has certain responsibilities to American
1773 Indian tribes to fulfill the government’s Federal Trust Duty. In meeting these
1774 responsibilities, the Forest Service must administer their programs in a manner that does
1775 not interfere with tribal rights and resources.

1776 Direction includes, but is not limited to the following, and, over the life of the plan, there
1777 may be changes to these.

1778 Laws and Executive Orders

1779 The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, as amended – Legislation passed by
1780 Congress intended to protect and preserve the traditional religious rights of American
1781 Indians, Eskimos, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians. The Act requires Federal agencies to
1782 consider the effects of their programs on places and practices of religious importance to
1783 American Indians, Eskimos, and Native Hawaiians.

1784 The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 – Defines the rights of
1785 lineal descendants and Indian tribes to Indian skeletal remains and items or artifacts of
1786 cultural patrimony that may be held by Federal agencies or institutions.

1787 Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) (Public Law 110-246, 122
1788 Stat.1651) Title VIII – Forestry, Subtitle B – Cultural and Heritage Cooperation Authority.
1789 Authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide forest products to Indian tribes for
1790 traditional and cultural purposes; to protect the confidentiality of certain information,
1791 including information that is culturally sensitive to Indian tribes; to utilize National Forest
1792 System land for the reburial of human remains and cultural items, including human remains
1793 and cultural items repatriated under the Native American Graves Protection and
1794 Repatriation Act; prevent the unauthorized disclosure of information regarding human
1795 remains or cultural items reburied on National Forest System land; to ensure access to
1796 National Forest System land, to the maximum extent practicable, by Indians and Indian
1797 tribes for traditional and cultural purposes; to increase the availability of Forest Service
1798 programs and resources to Indian tribes in support of the policy of the United States to
1799 promote tribal sovereignty and self-determination; and to strengthen support for the policy
1800 of the United States of protecting and preserving the traditional, cultural, and ceremonial
1801 rites and practices of Indian tribes, in accordance with the American Indian Religious
1802 Freedom Act (42 U.S.C. 1996).

1803 Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-278) – Authorizes the Secretary of
1804 Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement or contract with
1805 Indian tribes meeting certain criteria to carry out projects to protect Indian forest land.

1806 Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments –
1807 Directs Federal agencies to establish regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration
1808 with tribal governments prior to taking actions that would affect tribes.

1809 Executive Order 13007, Indian Sacred Sites – Directs Federal agencies to protect sacred
1810 sites identified by federally recognized tribes and accommodate access to and ceremonial
1811 use of Indian sacred sites where feasible, avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of

1812 such sacred sites and requires consultation with tribes to learn tribal concerns for sacred
1813 sites on public lands.

1814 Desired Condition

1815 *FW-DC-AI-01. Traditional and Cultural Use*

1816 Traditional and cultural use information, as provided by federally recognized tribes, is treated
1817 with respect and integrated into natural resource management planning efforts with
1818 appropriate sensitivity to the tribe's views regarding information sharing. American Indian
1819 values are fully considered in planning proposed actions on the Forest. The Forest maintains
1820 sustainable products, uses, values, and services that contribute to the American Indians' way of
1821 life and cultural integrity. Access to traditional resources and sacred places is considered in all
1822 planning efforts.

1823 Standards

1824 *FW-STD-AI-01. Tribal Consultation*

1825 Consult with tribes when management activities may impact treaty rights and/or cultural sites
1826 and cultural use, according to individual tribal communication plans, consultation protocols, or
1827 policies.

1828 **LANDS AND SPECIAL USES (LSU)**

1829 The Forest "Lands" program includes activities such as Landownership Adjustment,
1830 Boundary and Title Management (including land exchanges and acquisitions, granting or
1831 accepting of easements), and other activities that are primarily real estate-type actions. The
1832 goals of this program include: (1) consolidating landownership patterns to meet the
1833 objectives of forest land and resource management plans and to improve land
1834 management efficiencies; (2) securing and protecting the rights, title, land, and resources
1835 of public land from unauthorized use and occupancy; (3) providing legally defensible
1836 boundaries and accurate, complete landownership records of National Forest System lands.
1837 These program activities will continue and do not change across the action alternatives.

1838 Land acquisition and conveyance contribute to:

- 1839 a. The maintenance, restoration, and enhancement of plant, wildlife, and riparian aquatic
1840 and riparian-dependent resources and habitat including aspects of connectivity,
1841 foraging and reproduction for threatened and endangered and species of conservation
1842 concern (SOCC).
- 1843 b. The protection of significant historical or cultural resources
- 1844 c. The enhancement of recreation opportunities and protection of scenic values
- 1845 d. The protection of congressionally designated areas such as wilderness
- 1846 e. Obtaining access to public land
- 1847 f. A reduction in unauthorized use and occupancy
- 1848 g. A reduction in isolated properties
- 1849 h. Increased management efficiencies

1850 All uses of National Forest System lands, improvements, and resources, except those
1851 provided for in the regulations governing the disposal of timber, minerals, and the grazing
1852 of livestock, are designated 'special uses.' The Forest administers a variety of uses under
1853 special use permits, leases, or easements. Management direction applies to the area
1854 authorized by the special use permit, lease, or easement.

1855 **Desired Condition**

1856 *FW-DC-LSU-01. Boundaries, Acquisition, Conveyance, and Exchange*

1857 The Forest has a consolidated land ownership pattern that contributes to ecosystem resilience,
1858 allows reasonable public and/or Forest Service administrative access where suitable, and
1859 improves land management efficiencies. There is a downward trend in the number of non-
1860 Federal inholdings that occur within the proclaimed Forest boundaries. Congressionally
1861 designated areas lack private inholdings. Boundaries are surveyed, posted, and maintained for
1862 visibility in support of all resource management activities. Identifiable boundaries and accurate
1863 landownership records protect National Forest System lands and reduce unauthorized use and
1864 occupancy.

1865 *FW-DC-LSU-02. Authorization*

1866 All occupancy and use of National Forest System lands is properly authorized. Facilities and
1867 improvements that are not owned, managed or maintained by the Forest Service are either
1868 removed or authorized through the appropriate special use authorization when they meet
1869 forest plan direction and are feasible within resource constraints (examples include roads, utility
1870 lines, or communication sites).

1871 *FW-DC-LSU-03. Utility Corridors and Communication Sites*

1872 Utility corridors and communication sites provide for the movement and distribution of
1873 electricity, petroleum products, water, other lineal special uses, and communication signals
1874 across National Forest System lands.

1875 Existing utility corridors are used to maximum capacity, where feasible, before additional
1876 corridors are considered. New high-voltage electricity corridors would be located in a way that
1877 minimizes effects to forest resources and values. Forest corridor designations are consistent
1878 with such designations on adjacent federal lands.

1879 The telecommunications system adequately supports Forest resource management. Existing
1880 communication sites are used, where possible, to maximum capacity before designating new
1881 sites. Communication sites are designated for private, administrative, and commercial use.
1882 Commercial uses are provided, within the ecosystem's capability, where essential to meet a
1883 demonstrated public need.

1884 Utility corridors and communication sites are permanently altered areas, used for operating and
1885 maintaining the infrastructure associated with these corridors and sites. Vegetative conditions
1886 within corridors or communication site areas ensure operation of permitted uses and blend
1887 with the surrounding desired vegetative pattern where possible. Vegetation around utility
1888 corridors and communication sites would be managed to improve safety and resilience to
1889 wildland fire, provide screening, and contribute to a natural appearing landscape character
1890 setting appropriate to the surrounding scenic integrity objective.

1891 *FW-DC-LSU-04. Water Collection and Delivery Systems*

1892 Existing water diversions or developments do not measurably alter natural processes of aquatic
1893 ecosystems. Effects to other resources are minimized by incorporation of best management
1894 practices and other resource protection measures. New water developments, diversions, or
1895 allowance for occupancy to divert water from National Forest System lands generally do not
1896 occur in wetlands and their water source areas, and are discouraged in habitats where
1897 endangered, threatened, or species of conservation concern reside.

1898 *FW-DC-LSU-05. Recreation and Special Uses*

1899 Approved recreation special use authorizations support activities that enhance or expand the
1900 variety of recreational opportunities available on the Forest, are compliant with the Forest's
1901 recreation strategy, and are dependent on the resources and settings found within the Forest's
1902 boundary. Lands where special use activities have occurred show little evidence of impacts.

1903 **Standards**

1904 *FW-STD-LSU-01. Commercial Services in Wilderness*

1905 When authorizing services that have been determined necessary for wilderness purposes
1906 ensure that:

- 1907 • The service provides appropriate wilderness activities such as stock packing, hunting,
1908 backpacking, or support of other authorized activities such as research.
- 1909 • The service can be authorized in locations and times that would not constrain the non-
1910 outfitted public.
- 1911 • Activities are consistent with the desired condition and guidelines of the Wilderness
1912 Resource Spectrum zone where the service will be provided. Services should be
1913 authorized only where the provider can meet the requirements to operate in this
1914 Wilderness Resource Spectrum zone.
- 1915 • Services adhere to established party size limitations.

1916 **Guidelines**

1917 *FW-GDL-LSU-01. Clustering Facilities*

1918 Facilities that support urban infrastructure, such as utility and energy transmission corridors
1919 and facilities, or communication sites, should be clustered on existing sites or designated
1920 corridors to minimize the number of acres encumbered by rights-of-way, leases, permits, or
1921 easements.

1922 *FW-GDL-LSU-02. New Facilities*

1923 When new facilities or upgrades to existing facilities are proposed at communication sites,
1924 Leaseholders would meet the intent of the site's surrounding Scenic Integrity Objective by using
1925 Forest Service approved site designs, building materials, and colors that meet that objective.

1926 *FW-GDL-LSU-03. Non-commercial Group Use, Recreation Events, and Outfitter and
1927 Guide Permits*

1928 Use should be authorized on lands where vegetation or species habitat conditions are stable or
1929 resilient to potential impacts of the authorized use.

1930 Authorizing use in locations or times that would adversely displace or disrupt other recreating
1931 public should be avoided.

1932 Commercial outfitters and guides should not be authorized to use developed campgrounds so
1933 those sites remain available to non-commercial forest visitors.

1934 Commercial outfitters and guides may be authorized use of range developments when there is
1935 no conflict with allotment management.

1936 Large group and recreation event special uses should not be authorized within wilderness,
1937 recommended wilderness, eligible “wild” river corridors, or research natural areas to protect
1938 the unique character of these areas.

1939 Constructed features should be maintained to standard or removed when no longer needed.

1940 **LIVESTOCK GRAZING (LG)**

1941 – Commercial and Recreational

1942 Permitted livestock grazing on National Forest System lands is managed through a permit
1943 system that identifies allotments and specific conditions for use of the allotments. The
1944 Forest Plan provides overall guidance for grazing, with allotment management plans
1945 providing specific guidance for each allotment. Recreational grazing is an activity associated
1946 with the recreational use of pack and saddle stock such as horses, mules, llamas, and goats.
1947 Plan components apply to both commercial and recreational grazing unless specifically
1948 stated otherwise.

1949 **Desired Condition**

1950 *FW-DC-LG-01. Plant Community Structure and Diversity*

1951 The desired structure and diversity of native herbaceous plant communities (including highly
1952 palatable forage species) are maintained or enhanced through proper livestock management
1953 principles. Rangelands consisting of native plant communities such as open conifer forests, low-
1954 elevation grasslands, shrub-steppe plant communities, and meadows have few to no invasive
1955 plant species, have stable or improving ecological conditions, and are resilient to disturbance
1956 events. Rangelands with significant non-native plant components (seeded meadows or
1957 historically overgrazed sites) have stable or improving soil stability.

1958 *FW-DC-LG-02. Economic and Social Contributions*

1959 Rangelands and forestlands provide forage for use by both livestock and wildlife. Grazing
1960 continues to be a viable use of vegetation on the Forest. Availability of lands identified as suited
1961 for this use contributes to providing animal products, economic diversity, open space, and
1962 promotes cultural values and a traditional local life style. Allotments are generally grazed on an
1963 annual basis.

1964 Consistent with sustaining other resource desired conditions, a viable level of forage is available
1965 for use under a grazing permit system where use generally occurs on an annual basis generally
1966 between June and October. Riparian and upland areas within allotments reflect ecological
1967 conditions supporting the desired conditions, including those described in the Wildlife, Aquatic
1968 and Riparian, Soil, and Vegetation Desired Conditions.

1969 *FW-DC-LG-03. Deer and Elk Forage on Grazing Allotments*
1970 Adequate browse and forage occurs on deer and elk summer and winter ranges within domestic
1971 grazing allotments during the critical winter period of December 15 to April 1.

1972 **Objectives**

1973 *FW-OBJ-LG-01. Range Improvement Projects*
1974 Within 15 years of plan implementation, recondition or reconstruct an average of 1 to 4 percent
1975 of the existing range infrastructure on National Forest System lands annually. Such range
1976 infrastructure would include water developments, livestock handling facilities and fences.

1977 Within 5 years of a decision being made to implement an Allotment Management Plan,
1978 relocate, when necessary, 75 percent of range infrastructure (ex. water developments, fences,
1979 loading chutes, holding structures) that has become non-functional or in need of replacement
1980 that have been identified (as problem areas) in an Allotment Management Plan or during
1981 monitoring.

1982 **Standards**

1983 *FW-STD-LG-01. Stock Driveways*
1984 Do not authorize stock driveways along nationally designated (Recreation and Scenic) trails.

1985 **Guidelines**

1986 *FW-GDL-LG-01. Deer and Elk Summer and Winter Range*
1987 Livestock should be managed within range allotments so that adequate forage is available for
1988 deer and elk on summer and winter ranges.

1989 *FW-GDL-LG-02. Lynx Habitat in Riparian Areas in Grazing Allotments*
1990 Livestock grazing within riparian areas in lynx habitat should be managed to maintain conditions
1991 that support snowshoe hares.

1992 *FW-GDL-LG-03. Permitted and Recreational Grazing in Congressionally Designated*
1993 *Wilderness*
1994 Repeated stock use by a single cross-country route should be discouraged in order to prevent
1995 trail development in pristine Wilderness Resource Spectrum zones. Stock should be managed to
1996 discourage congregating on trails, destination areas, cultural sites, and fragile plant
1997 communities.

1998 **MINERALS (MIN)**

1999 These plan components cover mineral and geological activities that take place within
2000 National Forest System lands. The Forest is mainly involved in the surface resource
2001 management and protection aspects of locatable mineral exploration and development.
2002 Due to the structure of mineral laws and regulations, the Forest Service cooperates with
2003 the U.S. Department of Interior in administering lawful exploration and development of
2004 leasable minerals on National Forest System lands. The Forest manages saleable mineral
2005 activities, which includes the sale or free use of mineral materials such as sand, gravel,

2006 stone, and common materials. The Forest also manages a number of abandoned mine sites
2007 resulting from historical mining activities.

2008 **Desired Condition**

2009 *FW-DC-MIN-01. Mineral Materials Availability*

2010 Saleable mineral materials are available based upon agency needs, public interest, material
2011 availability, resource protection and capability.

2012 *FW-DC-MIN-02. Reclamation and Extraction*

2013 Operations include interim and post-operation reclamation measures to ensure the long-term
2014 function and stability of resources including, but not limited to, soil; vegetation; water quality;
2015 aquatic, riparian and upland habitats; and scenic integrity objectives.

2016 *FW-DC-MIN-03. Abandoned Mine Sites*

2017 Abandoned mine sites pose no major environmental or public safety risk.

2018 **PUBLIC AWARENESS (PA)**

2019 This guidance covers the information, education, collaboration, and interpretation activities
2020 the Forest engages in. Specific methods and materials used to accomplish the desired
2021 condition are under the discretion of the Forest and are guided by various rules,
2022 regulations, and policies.

2023 **Desired Condition**

2024 *FW-PA-DC-01. Information, Education, and Participation*

2025 A broad range of people in rural, urban, and underserved populations understand the
2026 complexities of managing natural resources for the full range of benefits associated with the
2027 multiple use mission of the Forest Service. A multi-faceted outreach strategy aims to help the
2028 public understand:

2029 a) the natural and cultural history of the national forest,

2030 b) important themes of ecological processes, including fish, plant, and wildlife species
2031 habitat needs and the importance of disturbance processes,

2032 c) the human benefits of the National Forest System, including recreational and
2033 commodity values,

2034 d) forest regulations and resource protection practices,

2035 e) safety practices,

2036 f) potential impacts of human activity on resources, and how to participate effectively
2037 in national forest decision-making activities.

2038 Youth are introduced to the natural world and resource management careers. Outstanding
2039 features of the Forest, such as special interest areas, national trails, and scenic byways are
2040 interpreted for the public where appropriate. Opportunities for viewing wildlife and plants are
2041 present and the public is aware of the opportunities.

2042 **RECREATION (REC)**

2043 This guidance applies to recreational settings and natural resource-based recreational
2044 activities offered on the Forest, from developed opportunities to those that are primitive.

2045 **Desired Condition**

2046 *FW-DC-REC-01. Recreation Settings and Experiences*

2047 The Forest provides a spectrum of high quality, nature-based outdoor recreational settings and
2048 opportunities varying from primitive to urban and dispersed to developed where visitors can
2049 experience the biological, geological, scenic, and cultural resources of the Forest, with an
2050 emphasis on the natural-appearing character of the forest.

2051 Dispersed recreation opportunities are available (e.g., camping, backcountry skiing, boating,
2052 mushroom and berry picking, hunting, and fishing) and dispersed recreation sites (e.g.,
2053 campsites, vistas, parking areas) occur in a variety of recreation opportunity spectrum classes
2054 throughout the forest.

2055 Facilities for dispersed recreation activities are appropriate for the recreation opportunity
2056 spectrum class and scenic integrity objective of the location and are designed to the minimum
2057 necessary to protect natural and cultural resources.

2058 Access, parking, regulations, orientation, and safety information are in place to provide a safe
2059 and enjoyable dispersed recreation experience.

2060 Inventoried roadless areas (IRAs) maintain their overall roadless character.

2061 Recreation activities occur within the ability of the land to support them and with minimal user
2062 conflicts.

2063 Recreation enhances the quality of life for local residents (e.g., social interaction, physical
2064 activity, connection with nature), provides tourist destinations, and contributes monetarily to
2065 local economies.

2066 Recreation opportunities provide for a variety of skill levels, needs, and desires in partnership
2067 with recreation permit holders, private entities, volunteer groups, community groups, and
2068 State, Federal, and tribal governments.

2069 Visitors can easily access information about recreation activities and safe and proper use of the
2070 Colville National Forest.

2071 Recreation use does not negatively affect wildlife habitat and populations. Negative interactions
2072 between people and wildlife are minimized.

2073 The Colville National Forest is free from vandalism and refuse.

2074 “Leave No Trace” principles are practiced.

2075 *FW-DC-REC-02. Site Design*

2076 Site design and level of facility investment is flexible to account for changes in accessibility
2077 standards, recreation equipment design, and changing resource conditions.

2078 Guidelines

2079 *FW-GDL-REC-01. Recreation Opportunities*

2080 Recreation-related project-level decisions and implementation activities should be consistent
2081 with mapped classes and setting descriptions in the recreation opportunity spectrum and meet
2082 appropriate screening and scenic integrity objectives.

2083 Food and other items that attract wildlife should be managed to prevent reliance on humans
2084 and to reduce human-wildlife conflicts.

2085 Constructed features should be maintained to standard or removed when no longer needed.

2086 *FW-GDL-REC-02. Dispersed Recreation*

2087 In dispersed areas, the priority for facilities or minor developments should be access and
2088 protection of the environment, rather than the comfort or convenience of the visitors.

2089 Dispersed campsites should not be designated in areas with sensitive soils or within 50 feet of
2090 streams, wetlands, or riparian areas to prevent vegetation and bank damage, soil compaction,
2091 additional sediment, or soil and water contamination.

2092 *FW-GDL-REC-03. Site Design*

2093 The Rocky Mountain Province architectural style should be incorporated in the design of
2094 recreation facilities to remain consistent with the Forest's existing structures and the direction
2095 contained in the Built Environment Image Guide.

2096 **RENEWABLE FOREST PRODUCTS (RFP)**

2097 Forest products are products collected from the national forest for commercial, personal,
2098 Native American tribal, educational, and/or scientific purposes. This section refers to two
2099 categories of forest products; those referred to as "special forest products" as defined by
2100 FSH 2409.18-80, 2008; and those considered merchantable wood products.

2101 Examples of special forest products can include but are not limited to bark, berries, boughs,
2102 bulbs, burls, Christmas trees, cones, ferns, firewood, forbs, mushrooms, grasses, mosses,
2103 nuts, pine straw, roots, sedges, seeds, transplants, tree sap, wildflowers, fence material,
2104 posts and poles, shingle and shake bolts, and rails.

2105 Examples of merchantable timber products can include, but are not limited to sawtimber,
2106 pulpwood, non-sawlog material removed in log form, biomass and other wood fiber
2107 products.

2108 Desired Condition

2109 *FW-DC-RFP-01. Commercial Products*

2110 Provide a sustainable level of timber products for current and future generations. Production of
2111 timber from National Forest System lands contributes to an economically viable forest products
2112 industry.

2113 *FW-DC-RFP-02. Products Available*

2114 A variety of renewable forest products of social, spiritual and economic value are reasonably
2115 available to the public. Special forest products and merchantable timber products are
2116 ecosystem services that contribute to economic sustainability, social desires, or cultural needs.

2117 Objective

2118 *FW-OBJ-RFP-01. Planned Sale Quantity*

2119 As a result of vegetation treatments implemented over 6,000 to 12,000 acres, estimated
2120 volume of merchantable forest products, measured at a Forest scale, to be average of 62 million
2121 board feet per year over the next 15 years.

2122 **SCENERY (SCE)**

2123 Scenery is managed through the Scenery Management System. The desired conditions for
2124 scenery are presented in the plan components below, the valued landscape character
2125 descriptions, and on the Scenic Integrity Objective map (see appendix E).

2126 The valued landscape character descriptions do not replace other desired conditions, such
2127 as vegetation. Rather, the vegetation desired conditions are a key component of the valued
2128 landscape character.

2129 Scenic Integrity Objective zones overlay the management areas. The direction for scenery
2130 management applies regardless of the management area boundary. Applicability of plan
2131 direction is guided by the principle that where there is an overlap of scenery management
2132 direction with other plan components, the most restrictive plan direction applies
2133 depending on site-specific conditions and the activity or use.

2134 Desired Condition

2135 *FW-DC-SCE-01. Maintain and Enhance Scenery*

2136 The scenery of the Forest enhances the experience of visitors and contributes to the quality of
2137 life of communities whose backdrop is National Forest System lands. The valued landscape
2138 character meets the established scenic integrity objectives.

2139 Opportunities exist to view high-quality scenery that represents the natural landscape character
2140 of the region and / or a landscape with unusual features. Views from key viewing locations
2141 (such as vista points, scenic pullouts, and interpretive sites) are not blocked by vegetation and
2142 are not affected by new structures and utilities. Vegetation management contributes to
2143 seasonal color and texture, age classes, and a variety of plant communities and maintains long-
2144 term vigor and health of the vegetation. Enhancement opportunities exist to increase positive
2145 scenic attributes where few currently exist such as highlighting large tree boles or opening
2146 views to geologic features and distant viewpoints along viewsheds.

2147 Guideline

2148 *FW-GDL-SCE-01. Scenic Integrity Levels*

2149 Scenic integrity may be lowered for a number of years by forest restoration activities or
2150 disturbed site rehabilitation actions (such as obliteration of roads and other developments) in
2151 order to return the landscape to its target scenic integrity objective (appendix E). Short-term

2152 deviations (3 to 6 years) to the scenic integrity objectives for the management areas should be
2153 limited to the immediate surroundings of the stand, recreation attraction, or feature of concern.
2154 Rehabilitation actions may be taken when scenic integrity is compromised by atypical
2155 disturbances, such as uncharacteristic wildfires, insect or disease epidemics or infestations that
2156 are out of scale or floods. Enhancement actions may be taken to increase positive scenic
2157 attributes in the viewshed such as exposing large tree boles or geologic features for viewing.

2158 *FW-GDL-SCE-02. Rustic Architectural Style*

2159 Rustic architecture of the Rocky Mountain Province should be used when building new facilities
2160 at recreation sites, administrative compounds, and areas with a high or moderate scenic
2161 integrity objective. Developments should be consistent with the history and landscape
2162 character of the site.

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2163 **Chapter 3**

2164 **MANAGEMENT AREA DIRECTION**

2165 This section contains descriptions and desired conditions for all management areas and special
2166 areas.

2167 Colville National Forest management areas:

2168 Administrative and Recreation Sites

2169 Backcountry

2170 Backcountry Motorized

2171 Focused Restoration

2172 General Restoration

2173 Nationally Designated Trails

2174 Research Natural Areas

2175 Riparian

2176 Scenic Byways

2177 Special Interest Area

2178 Wild and Scenic Rivers (eligible)

2179 Wilderness – Congressionally Designated

2180 Wilderness – Recommended

2181 **MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTIONS AND DESIRED CONDITIONS**

2182 Management area desired conditions are specific to each management area.

2183 Management areas are broadly described areas where general management intent is
2184 similar. The purpose of management areas is to provide consistent guidance for similar
2185 portions of National Forest System lands when implementing or continuing management
2186 activities. Forestwide plan components apply within management areas.

2187 Some management areas, such as riparian management areas, naturally overlap with other
2188 management areas. Combinations of activities or uses are dependent on site-specific
2189 conditions, making it unreasonable to include all combinations and the applicable plan
2190 direction within the forest plan. Therefore, applicability of plan direction is guided by the
2191 principle that, where management areas overlap, the most restrictive plan direction applies
2192 depending on site-specific conditions and the activity or use.

2193 **SPECIAL AREAS**

2194 Special Areas are management areas that are identified or designated because of unique or
2195 special characteristics. Formally designated by statute or through a separate administrative
2196 action, each area is recognized individually as a separate management area. Each Special

2197 Area may have specific management guidance (in addition to that listed in this plan) from
 2198 underlying statute or other designation document, or in Forest Service directives.
 2199 The tables below list formally designated special areas, eligible or proposed areas for
 2200 formal designation, or administratively designated or proposed areas for administrative
 2201 designation.
 2202 This section contains plan components in addition to the previously described plan
 2203 components, applicable to distinct Special Areas.
 2204 In the event that a plan component in this section and the forestwide component in
 2205 another section conflict, the more restrictive plan component prevails.

2206 **Table 16. Colville National Forest special areas**

Special Area Type	Special Area	Administrative Location (Ranger District)
Statutorily Designated Areas		
National Scenic Trails	Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail	Forestwide
Wilderness	Salmo-Priest	Sullivan Lake
Administratively Designated Areas		
Recommended Wilderness	Abercrombie-Hooknose	Sullivan Lake/Three Rivers
	Salmo-Priest Adjacent	Sullivan Lake
	Bald Snow	Three Rivers
Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers	Kettle	Three Rivers
	South Fork Salmo	Sullivan Lake
Research Natural Areas	Bunchgrass Meadows	Sullivan Lake
	Fire Mountain	Republic
	Hall Ponds	Republic
	Halliday Fen	Sullivan Lake
	Maitlen Creek	Sullivan Lake
	Round Top Mountain	Sullivan Lake
Scenic Byways – National Forest	Salmo	Sullivan Lake
	Sherman Pass Scenic Byway	Republic/Three Rivers
	North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway*	Sullivan Lake
All American Road	International Selkirk Loop	Sullivan Lake
National Recreation Trails	Kettle Crest	Republic/Three Rivers
	Pass Creek-Grassy Top	Sullivan Lake
	Shedroof Divide	Sullivan Lake
	Lakeshore (aka, Sullivan Lake)	Sullivan Lake
Responsible Official Designated Areas		
Special Interest Areas	Kettle Crest	Republic/Three Rivers

2207 **ADMINISTRATIVE AND RECREATION SITES (ARS)**

2208 This management direction applies to those sites listed as administrative or developed
2209 recreation sites in the Forest corporate database (INFRA).

2210 Administrative sites listed in INFRA can include, but are not limited to, district offices /
2211 compounds, remote work centers, warehouse sites, seed orchards and administrative
2212 residence sites. Developed recreation sites listed in INFRA can include, but are not limited
2213 to, campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, Sno-Parks, alpine ski areas, recreation residence
2214 tracts, interpretive sites, and boating sites. Special use permit areas can include water
2215 improvements and other utilities.

2216 Both administrative and developed recreation site management area boundaries are
2217 defined by the footprint of the site plus a 300-foot area extending beyond the footprint.
2218 This accommodates management activities necessary for the safe use and occupancy of the
2219 site. When a special use authorization defines the site, the special use permit boundary
2220 determines the boundary of the management area.

2221 Note that while all forestwide plan components apply to these areas, certain plan
2222 components such as Vegetation, Water Resources, Riparian Management Areas, Wildlife,
2223 and Soils are secondary to human safety while using administrative or developed
2224 recreation sites.

2225 These management areas are generally small in scale and occur as a place or feature on the
2226 landscape. Exceptions may be areas such as mountain resorts and recreation residence
2227 tracts which can cover substantial acreage in comparison to other developed recreation
2228 sites.

2229 **Desired Condition**

2230 *MA-DC-ARS-01. Resource Conditions*

2231 Administrative and recreation sites are places where structures and human-caused vegetation
2232 changes may be seen but they do not dominate the view or attract attention (low to moderate
2233 scenic integrity). Ecological conditions (including wildlife, aquatic, soil, and vegetation) and
2234 landscape appearances can be outside of their natural range. Human activities in the areas
2235 visible for administrative and recreation sites (foreground to middle ground, 300 feet to 4 miles)
2236 should not attract attention or stand out, and the landscapes should appear natural (moderate
2237 to high scenic integrity). Vegetation can be manipulated to accommodate occupancy and use
2238 and to protect or enhance recreational opportunities.

2239 Forest vegetation in administrative and recreation sites is healthy (species, size, and age) and
2240 complements administrative and recreational activities, scenery, and human safety.

2241 *MA-DC-ARS-02. Setting and Activities*

2242 The setting is often, but not always, roaded to facilitate administrative and/or public use of the
2243 area. Administrative and recreation sites are designed and managed to meet the Roaded
2244 Natural recreation opportunity spectrum classification and the assigned scenic integrity
2245 objective for the area in which they are located.

2246 Recreation sites provide opportunities for people to camp, obtain information, access trails and
2247 water bodies, and participate in day-use activities (e.g., picnic areas, fishing piers, boat
2248 launches, scenic overlooks, wildlife viewing sites, interpretive/heritage sites).

2249 Administrative sites provide the facilities necessary to carry out the mission of the Forest
2250 Service and can include offices, communication sites, storage areas, housing, stock corrals,
2251 pastures, and weather stations.

2252 *MA-DC-ARS-03. Developments and Improvements*

2253 Facilities for administrative and recreation sites are maintained, accessible, provide for user
2254 safety, comfort, and convenience, and complement the forest's natural character. Major site
2255 modifications and facility installations may be present. Facilities range from primitive to highly
2256 developed, with an emphasis on blending the facilities with the landscape.

2257 Trails are well marked and may include features such as loop systems or interpretive
2258 information.

2259 *MA-DC-ARS-04. Travelways, Roads*

2260 A wide spectrum of travelway types are present, ranging from maintenance level 1 through 5
2261 roads (primitive roads to highways) to trails and waterways. Roads are gated, closed by
2262 barricade, or seasonally restricted for reasons including resource protection, recreation
2263 management, or use and occupancy of the site. The density of National Forest System roads is
2264 not limited on administrative or recreation sites.

2265 *MA-DC-ARS-05. Winter Recreation Resorts*

2266 Special use authorizations allow the private sector to develop, maintain, and operate highly
2267 developed winter recreation facilities where appropriate. Ski areas are able to provide parking,
2268 adequate room for skiers on the slopes, and facilities offering restrooms, warmth, and food.

2269 Other outdoor recreation activities permitted by law and compatible in this national forest
2270 setting may be authorized to increase the recreational opportunities provided on the forest and
2271 contribute monetarily to local economies.

2272 Ski areas generally have a mix of native vegetation and man-made grassy openings intermixed
2273 with forested or partially forested areas and rocky outcroppings. Forested areas may act as
2274 cover for wildlife species, or habitat for plant species, contributing to the composition,
2275 structure, and pattern typical of the vegetative systems, but are not required to be within their
2276 natural range of variability or to meet forestwide habitat requirements.

2277 *MA-DC-ARS-06. Group Recreation Sites*

2278 The forest's recreation program meets the increasing public demand for large (100+ people)
2279 group sites in developed and dispersed recreation settings.

2280 **Objectives**

2281 *MA-OBJ-ARS-01. Large Group Sites*

2282 Within 15 years of plan implementation, provide a minimum of one large (100+ person
2283 capacity) group site for day or overnight use in a location where there is a demonstrated need
2284 identified through public demand.

2285 *MA-OBJ-ARS-02. Parking Capacity for Sno-Parks and Trailheads*

2286 Within 15 years of plan implementation, increase parking capacity at one Sno-Park and one
2287 trailhead where use exceeds designed parking lot capacity on more than 25 percent of
2288 weekends.

2289 Standards

2290 *MA-STD-ARS-01. Water Drafting Sites*

2291 When water drafting sites must be located in developed recreation sites, operational hours
2292 must be outside of quiet hour regulations which are generally 10 pm to 6 am. Water drafting
2293 may occur from 6 am to 10 pm.

2294 *MA-STD-ARS-02. Vegetation Management*

2295 Vegetation, such as hazard trees, that are a threat to visitor safety at the site must be felled or
2296 removed. Vegetation or excess fuels that interfere with the primary use of the site must be
2297 treated through methods that retain the primary purpose of the site. This includes, but is not
2298 limited to, mechanical vegetation treatments or the use of fire.

2299 Guidelines

2300 *MA-GDL-ARS-01. Site Capacity and New Construction*

2301 Recreation facilities may be managed at or near full capacity. Areas where recreation demand
2302 exceeds capacity should be managed to increase capacity relative to anticipated recreation
2303 trends, or alternatively, to limit use or unacceptable social and resource impacts, or a
2304 combination of both.

2305 *MA-GDL-ARS-02. Resource Management Applicable Guidance*

2306 Forestwide desired conditions and design criteria for Vegetation (with the exception of the
2307 Biological Legacies plan components for snags and coarse woody debris), Water Resources,
2308 Riparian Management Areas and Soils should be implemented when making management
2309 decisions in administrative and recreation sites. These resource decisions should be secondary
2310 to the safe human use and occupancy needs of the sites. Large woody debris may be retained
2311 or removed from a site when it contributes to, or interferes with, site design, delineation, or site
2312 use.

2313 *MA-GDL-ARS-03. Winter Recreation Resorts*

2314 Dispersed camping is generally not suitable for these areas.

2315 Prescribed fire and wildfire used to achieve resource objectives may be suitable for enhancing
2316 area operations or reducing fuel accumulations.

2317 Existing resorts should be retained if they continue to serve the public interest.

2318 *MA-GDL-ARS-04. Treatment of Structures*

2319 New developments should blend with the surrounding landscape and should meet the
2320 recreation opportunity spectrum and scenic integrity objective design elements associated with
2321 the area in which the developments are located.

2322 *MA-GDL-ARS-05. Water Drafting Sites*

2323 Water drafting sites should be located outside of developed recreation sites and managed to
2324 minimize adverse effects on the recreating public. Drafting equipment should not restrict access
2325 to boat launches, docks, trails, parking areas, or campsites.

2326 Suitable Uses

2327 MA-SU-ARS-01. Suitable Uses

2328 **Table 17. Suitable uses for Administrative and Recreation Sites management areas**

Activity or Use	May authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative	X	
Facilities, developed recreation	X	
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits		Recommend against
Prescribed fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products - commercial use (non-timber harvest)		X
Forest products - firewood, commercial use	X	
Forest products - firewood, permitted personal use	X	
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X (in recreation sites)	X (in administrative sites)
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.	X	
Mechanized recreational use, summer	X	
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy		X
Minerals, locatable		X
Minerals, saleable		X
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas	X In campgrounds with designated motorized trails	X
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent	X	
Road construction, temporary	X	
Special use permits, recreational	X	
Timber harvest as a tool	X	
Timber harvest, scheduled production		X
Utility corridors		X

2329 **BACKCOUNTRY (BC) AND BACKCOUNTRY MOTORIZED (BCM)**

2330 This section provides management direction for two management areas; Backcountry and
2331 Backcountry Motorized. The only difference between the management areas is suitability
2332 for non-motorized and motorized recreation.

2333 Backcountry emphasizes non-motorized recreation opportunities and can include foot,
2334 horse, and mechanized (e.g., mountain bikes) modes of travel. Backcountry motorized
2335 emphasizes summer and winter motorized recreation opportunities and can include off-
2336 highway vehicles, motorcycles, jeeps, and over-snow vehicles.

2337 Direction common to both management areas is stated once. Management direction not
2338 common to both is labeled, such as motorized recreation direction.

2339 Backcountry and Backcountry Motorized are spatially defined by the upper reaches of
2340 watersheds in the 2001 Inventoried Roadless Areas, the potential wilderness areas
2341 identified in the plan revision wilderness evaluation process, wildlife habitats that include
2342 grizzly bear and deer/elk winter range, and threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant
2343 communities.

2344 **Desired Condition**

2345 *MA-DC-BC-BCM-01. Vegetation*

2346 The landscape is natural appearing. It contributes to the variety of native plant communities
2347 and the structure as defined in desired conditions for vegetation, aquatic, and wildlife habitats.
2348 The desired conditions for vegetation are achieved through a combination of ecological
2349 processes and management activities. While the landscape is predominantly natural appearing,
2350 a few locations have a vegetation structure that is altered to contribute to the recreational
2351 setting such as openings created and retained for scenic views.

2352 *MA-DC-BC-BCM-02. Habitat*

2353 The areas provide connectivity and contribute aquatic, plant, and wildlife habitat conditions for
2354 species that benefit from low human use (e.g., these areas provide a high level of habitat
2355 effectiveness).

2356 *MA-DC-BC-BCM-03. Recreation Setting and Activities*

2357 These areas provide an unroaded setting for a variety of summer and winter recreational
2358 opportunities. Seasonal use restrictions occur for the purpose of resource protection and
2359 recreation management. Human-caused changes from management actions related to
2360 recreation are limited in scale, generally not visibly evident, and reflect a semi-primitive
2361 recreational opportunity setting.

2362 *MA-DC-BC-BCM-04. Developments and Improvements*

2363 Facilities (whether Forest Service or under permit) are those necessary to protect resources,
2364 provide for safety, public benefit, or to enhance semi-primitive recreation experiences. Facilities
2365 are few and include such things as fire lookouts, radio repeaters, administrative buildings,
2366 trailheads, trails, signs, bridges, and shelters as well as facilities needed for resource protection
2367 such as toilets, stock containment systems, fences, or water developments.

2368 *MA-DC-BC-BCM-05. Travelways, Roads*

2369 There are no National Forest System roads. Other travelways, such as trails, are present.

2370 **Standards**

2371 *MA-STD-BC-01. Motor Vehicle Use*

2372 Motor vehicle use is prohibited. The following vehicles and uses are exempt from the motor
2373 vehicle use prohibition:

- 2374 • Aircraft
- 2375 • Use of any fire, military, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle for emergency purposes
- 2376 • Authorized use of any combat or combat support vehicle for national defense purposes
- 2377 • Law enforcement response to violations of law, including pursuit
- 2378 • Motor vehicle use that is specifically authorized under a written authorization issued
2379 under Federal law or regulations
- 2380 • Limited administrative use by the Forest Service.
- 2381 • Persons with valid or outstanding rights.

2382 Use of a road or trail that is authorized by a legally documented right-of-way held by a State,
2383 county, or other local public road authority.

2384 **Suitable Uses**

2385 *MA-SU-BC-01. Suitable Uses*

2386 **Table 18. Suitable uses for Backcountry management areas**

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative	X	
Facilities, developed recreation	X	
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits		X Recommend against
Prescribed fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)	X	
Forest products, firewood, commercial use	X	
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use	X	
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X	
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.	X	
Mechanized recreational use, summer	X	
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy	X	
Minerals, locatable	X	

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Minerals, saleable	X	
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas		X
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country		X
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent		X
Road construction, temporary		X
Special use permits, recreational	X	
Timber harvest as a tool	X	
Timber harvest, scheduled production		X
Utility corridors		X Recommend against

2387 MA-SU-BCM-01. Suitable Uses

2388 Table 19. Suitable uses for Backcountry Motorized management areas

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative	X	
Facilities, developed recreation	X	
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits		X Recommend against
Prescribed fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)	X	
Forest products, firewood, commercial use	X	
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use	X	
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X	
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.	X	
Mechanized recreational use, summer	X	
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy	X	
Minerals, saleable	X	
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas	X	
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent		X
Road construction, temporary		X

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Special use permits, recreational	X	
Timber harvest as a tool	X	
Timber harvest, scheduled production		X
Utility corridors	X	

2389 **FOCUSED RESTORATION (FR)**

2390 Spatially, these areas are defined by the key watersheds and grizzly bear and caribou
 2391 recovery areas not included in Backcountry and Backcountry Motorized management
 2392 areas. Important desired habitat conditions for aquatic, plant, and wildlife species are
 2393 found in these areas.

2394 **Desired Condition**

2395 *MA-DC-FR-01. Vegetation*

2396 The landscape is natural appearing to slightly altered and contributes to the variety of native
 2397 plant communities and the composition, structure, and patterns as defined in desired
 2398 conditions for vegetative systems, aquatic, plant, and wildlife habitats. The desired conditions
 2399 for vegetation are achieved through a combination of ecological processes and management
 2400 activities. While the landscape is predominantly natural appearing, there are some locations
 2401 where the vegetation composition, structure, or pattern is altered.

2402 *MA-DC-FR-02. Habitat*

2403 These areas contribute important habitat for plant, wildlife, and aquatic species that benefit
 2404 from areas with relatively low road density and high habitat effectiveness (e.g., relatively low
 2405 level of human disturbances).

2406 Road interaction with surface and sub-surface water is such that it does not result in an increase
 2407 in drainage density and/or accelerated or abnormal hill slope failure. Roads function in a
 2408 hydraulic and geomorphic manner that provides watershed-scale aquatic habitat connectivity
 2409 and contributes to attainment of state water quality standards.

2410 *MA-DC-FR-03. Recreation Setting and Activities*

2411 These areas provide a setting for a variety of developed and dispersed summer and winter
 2412 recreation activities and contributes to wildlife-related recreational opportunities (e.g., wildlife
 2413 viewing, hunting, etc.). Seasonal use restrictions occur for the purpose of resource protection
 2414 and recreation management. Human-caused changes from management actions related to
 2415 recreation are limited in scale, naturally appearing, and reflect a Roded Natural recreational
 2416 opportunity spectrum setting. There are some locations where the vegetation composition,
 2417 structure, or pattern is altered to provide a recreational setting such as openings for scenic
 2418 views.

2419 *MA-DC-FR-04. Developments and Improvements*

2420 Facilities (whether operated by the Forest Service or under permit) are those necessary to
 2421 protect resources, provide for safety, public benefit, or to enhance Roded Natural recreation
 2422 opportunity spectrum experiences. Facilities should reflect the rustic style associated with the

2423 Rocky Mountain Province character type by using native materials, earth toned colors and blend
 2424 into the natural landscape as much as feasible. Facilities include such things as campgrounds,
 2425 boat launches, fire lookouts, radio repeaters, administrative buildings, trailheads, and trails.
 2426 Improvements are evident and may include signs, bridges, fences, shelters, campsites, scenic
 2427 pullouts/overlooks, interpretive displays, stock containment systems and water developments.
 2428 Concentrated use by the public may occur at facilities associated with developed recreation
 2429 sites.

2430 *MA-DC-FR-05. Travelways, Roads*

2431 Road densities vary considerably across the management area; however, there is no more than
 2432 one mile per square mile within the focused restoration management areas within each 5th
 2433 field watershed.

2434 Total road density is calculated as miles of open and closed National Forest System road per
 2435 square mile of National Forest System lands. This does not include roads under another
 2436 jurisdiction.

2437 **Suitable Uses**

2438 *MA-SU-FR-01. Suitable Uses*

2439 **Table 20. Suitable uses for Focused Restoration management area**

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative	X	
Facilities, developed recreation	X	
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits	May recommend	
Prescribed fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)	X	
Forest products, firewood, commercial use	X	
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use	X	
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X	
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as energy developments, and/or utility lines.	X	
Mechanized recreational use, summer	X	
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy	X	
Minerals, locatable	X	
Minerals, saleable	X	
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas, Off-highway vehicle use	X	
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Road construction, permanent	X	
Road construction, temporary	X	
Special use permits, recreational	X	
Timber harvest as a tool	X	
Timber harvest, scheduled production	X	
Utility corridors	X	

2440 **GENERAL RESTORATION (GR)**

2441 Spatially this area includes all areas not included in another management area.

2442 **Desired Condition**

2443 *MA-DC-GR-01. Vegetation*

2444 The landscape is natural appearing and contributes to the variety of native plant communities
 2445 and the composition, structure, and patterns as defined in desired conditions for vegetative
 2446 systems, aquatic, plant, and wildlife habitats. The desired conditions for vegetation are achieved
 2447 through a combination of ecological processes and management activities. While the landscape
 2448 is natural appearing, there are locations that have a vegetation composition, structure, or
 2449 pattern that is altered to provide a recreational setting such as openings maintained for scenic
 2450 views; or other desired conditions, such as vegetation fuel conditions adjacent to an urban
 2451 interface.

2452 *MA-DC-GR-02. Habitat*

2453 These areas contribute habitat for plant and wildlife species that are relatively tolerant of
 2454 human activities/disturbances. Habitat effectiveness is expected to be lower for species that are
 2455 sensitive to human activities and disturbances. These areas provide wildlife-related recreational
 2456 opportunities (e.g., wildlife viewing, hunting, etc.).

2457 Road interactions with surface and sub-surface water is such that there is limited potential to
 2458 increase drainage density and/or accelerated or abnormal hill slope failure. Roads function in a
 2459 hydraulic and geomorphic manner that provides watershed and sub-basin scale aquatic habitat
 2460 connectivity and contributes to attainment of state water quality standards.

2461 *MA-DC-GR-03. Recreation Settings and Activities*

2462 These areas provide settings for a variety of developed and dispersed summer and winter
 2463 recreation activities. Seasonal use restrictions occur for the purpose of resource protection and
 2464 recreation management. Recreation use is generally dispersed and/or located at recreation
 2465 developments, such as campgrounds. Human-caused changes from management actions
 2466 related to recreation are limited in scale, generally not visually evident, and reflect a roaded
 2467 natural recreational opportunity setting.

2468 *MA-DC-GR-04. Developments and Improvements*

2469 Facilities (whether operated by the Forest Service or under permit) are those necessary to
 2470 protect resources, provide for safety, public benefit, or to enhance roaded natural recreation
 2471 experiences. Facilities include such things as campgrounds, boat launches, fire lookouts, radio

2472 repeaters, administrative buildings, trailheads, and trails. Improvements are evident and may
 2473 include signs, bridges, fences, shelters, campsites or scenic pullouts/overlooks, interpretive
 2474 displays, stock containment systems and water developments. Concentrated use by the public
 2475 may occur at facilities associated with developed recreation sites.

2476 *MA-DC-GR-05. Travelways, Roads*

2477 This area has National Forest System roads, which may be maintained at maintenance levels 1
 2478 through 5 (primitive roads to highways). National Forest System trails also exist. Road densities
 2479 vary across the management area; however, they are no more than two miles per square mile
 2480 within the general restoration management areas within each 5th field watershed.

2481 Total road density is calculated as miles of open and closed National Forest system road per
 2482 square mile of National Forest System lands. This does not include roads under another
 2483 jurisdiction.

2484 **Suitable Uses**

2485 *MA-SU-GR-01. Suitable Uses*

2486 **Table 21. Suitable uses for General Restoration management area**

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative	X	
Facilities, developed recreation	X	
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits	May recommend	
Prescribed fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)	X	
Forest products, firewood, commercial use	X	
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use	X	
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X	
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.	X	
Mechanized recreational use, summer	X	
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy	X	
Minerals, locatable	X	
Minerals, saleable	X	
Motorized recreational use, summer trails, or play areas, off-highway vehicle use	X	
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent	X	
Road construction, temporary	X	

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Special use permits, recreational	X	
Timber harvest as a tool	X	
Timber harvest, scheduled production	X	
Utility corridors	X	

2487 **NATIONALLY DESIGNATED TRAILS (NT)**

2488 (Special Area)

2489 A national trail system was established by Congress in 1968 through the National Trails
 2490 System Act. The National Trails System is made up of National Scenic Trails (NST), National
 2491 Historic Trails (NHT), National Recreation Trails (NRT), and side/connecting trails. NSTs and
 2492 NHTs may only be designated by Congress. The Secretary of Agriculture may establish
 2493 National Recreation Trails.

2494 Congress designated the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail (PNT) in the 2009 Omnibus
 2495 Public Land Management Act. Approximately 197 miles of the PNT runs through the Colville
 2496 National Forest and private lands from the Washington/Idaho border west to the Forest’s
 2497 boundary with the Okanogan/Wenatchee National Forest. Several sections of the PNT use
 2498 existing trails on the Forest, such as the Kettle Crest National Recreation Trail, the
 2499 Abercrombie Mountain Trail, and the Shedroof Divide National Recreation Trail. Numerous
 2500 sections of the trail are also located on State, county, and National Forest System roads. A
 2501 few sections require cross-country travel. Once the legislatively required Comprehensive
 2502 Plan for the PNT is complete, work will start to identify trail routes where none exist and to
 2503 move the trail off its existing road alignments.

2504 Table 16 displays the trails that are nationally designated on the Colville National Forest.

2505 Management direction is for all nationally designated trails located within the
 2506 administrative boundaries of National Forest System lands. The corridor where
 2507 management direction applies consists of the foreground viewing area, which is generally
 2508 one-half mile in width either side of the centerline of the trail, including viewpoints, water
 2509 sources, campsites, and spur trails to these features. Where the management area corridor
 2510 overlaps with other management areas, such as wilderness or national scenic byways, the
 2511 most protective management direction applies.

2512 **Desired Condition**

2513 *MA-DC-NT-01. National Recreation Trails*

2514 National recreation trails administered by the Colville National Forest are predominantly located
 2515 on National Forest System lands and may cross a number of jurisdictions and private land where
 2516 the Forest Service may hold legal easements for access and trail protection. The trails outside of
 2517 wilderness are clearly marked and identified for users with the national recreation or scenic trail
 2518 symbol, especially at junctions with side trails and each trail’s termini. Access allows for public
 2519 use, interpretation, and education in a manner that does not impair the feature(s) for which the
 2520 trails were established. Vistas seen from the trails in areas outside wilderness are retained
 2521 through the removal of vegetation.

- 2522 National recreation trails meet the maintenance standards for the designated trail class and
2523 managed use, and, where possible, facilitate ease of travel for users with a low to moderate skill
2524 level with some exceptions due to topography and remoteness.
- 2525 Limited facilities, such as viewing platforms, benches and interpretive signs may be present
2526 along the trail. Trailheads may offer amenities such as picnic facilities or interpretive
2527 information that enhances the experience of using the trail. These facilities support the
2528 outstanding features of the trails and are in harmony with the surrounding environment.
- 2529 Areas of high value occurring within the corridor, such as rare plant sites, cultural sites, or
2530 unique geologic features, are protected.
- 2531 The immediate foreground (0 to 200 feet) views from the nationally designated trails vary from
2532 natural-appearing landscapes where human activities do not stand out (high scenic integrity) to
2533 unaltered landscapes where generally only ecological changes occur (very high scenic integrity).
- 2534 The Kettle Crest, Lakeshore, Pass Creek-Grassy Top, and Shedroof Divide National Recreation
2535 Trails provide a non-motorized trail experience where visitors can experience the scenic
2536 qualities of the area.
- 2537 *MA-DC-NT-02. National Scenic Trails*
- 2538 National scenic trails are congressionally designated areas that pass through a variety of
2539 physical features, ranging from natural-appearing settings to locations where developments are
2540 noticeable or dominant. National scenic trails are accessible by non-motorized means, such as
2541 skis or snowshoes, foot, and by pack and saddle stock.
- 2542 National scenic trails meet pack and saddle “more difficult” design and maintenance standards
2543 for most of their length. Alternative stock routes may be offered in addition to the designated
2544 trail in locations where hazards (such as slides) are difficult to mitigate.
- 2545 Road crossings as well as motorized trail crossings are the only evidence of motorized use.
2546 Where possible, trailhead parking facilities are located outside of the trail corridor and are
2547 generally not visible from the trail. Short spur trails connect the trailhead to the main trail.
2548 Outside of wilderness, the national scenic trail’s service mark is displayed at road crossings and
2549 at junctions with side trails.
- 2550 Bridges may be present where needed for resource protection or to accommodate those users
2551 with a moderate skill level.
- 2552 Degraded destination areas are restored (vegetation is returned to the natural range of
2553 variability) to provide for public use while improving the immediate foreground view from the
2554 trail and area focal points such as lakeshores. Outside of wilderness, vistas are retained through
2555 the removal of vegetation.
- 2556 The visible foreground (generally one-half mile from the trail's centerline) views from national
2557 scenic trails vary from natural-appearing landscapes where human activities do not stand out
2558 (high scenic integrity) to unaltered landscapes where generally only ecological changes occur
2559 (very high scenic integrity.)
- 2560 Easements are in place for those trail segments crossing non-National Forest System lands.
2561 Management of the national scenic trail is coordinated between the affected managing units.

2562 The Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail provides a non-motorized trail experience where
2563 visitors can experience the scenic, historic, natural, and cultural qualities of the Colville National
2564 Forest.

2565 *MA-DC-NT-03. Pacific Northwest Scenic Trail Interim Management*

2566 Outside of congressionally designated wilderness, the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail's
2567 Comprehensive Plan will identify the nature and purpose of the trail, along with trail uses.
2568 Other uses of a National Scenic Trail corridor must not substantially interfere with its nature and
2569 purposes. Where segments of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail interim route overlays
2570 open Forest System Roads, the motorized use on the road may continue. Motorized use
2571 identified on the motor vehicle use map would continue on open National Forest System roads
2572 that are utilized as sections of the interim Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail route.

2573 **Objective**

2574 *MA-OBJ-NT-01. Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail*

2575 Within 15 years of plan implementation, relocate 10 to 15 percent of the trail miles currently
2576 located on roads into a non-motorized trail setting.

2577 **Standards**

2578 *MA-STD-NT-01. Management Actions*

2579 Visual impacts from vegetation treatments, planned ignition, recreation uses, and other
2580 structures will blend with the overall landscape character along nationally designated trails.

2581 **Guidelines**

2582 *MA-GDL-NT-01. Uses*

2583 Where segments of the Pacific Northwest National Scenic trail overlay National Forest System
2584 roads open to motorized use, the motorized use on the road may continue.

2585 *MA-GDL-NT-02. Campsites*

2586 Where possible, campsites should be topographically or vegetatively screened from the trail.

2587 *MA-GDL-NT-03. Wildland Fire Management*

2588 Wildland fire should generally be allowed to play its natural role of influencing natural processes
2589 and scenic values. Trail infrastructure should be protected. Avoid closures of National Scenic
2590 Trails unless the safety risk cannot be otherwise mitigated.

2591 *MA-GDL-NT-04. Wildland Fire Suppression*

2592 Creating obvious lasting signs of suppression activities within the visible foreground up to one-
2593 half mile of centerline of the trail should be avoided. Unavoidable or unintentional suppression
2594 activities, such as helispots or cut stumps, should be fully rehabilitated within view of the trail.
2595 Use of the trail alignment as a fireline should generally not be authorized. Natural features
2596 should be used for wildland fire containment lines whenever possible. Use of red chemical fire
2597 retardants where there would be a lasting visual effect should be avoided.

2598 *MA-GDL-NT-05. Trail Markings*

2599 Trail markings (e.g., signs, blazes) should be designed to complement the character of the
2600 surrounding lands.

2601 *MA-GDL-NT-06. Vegetation Management*

2602 Vegetation management may be used as a tool for ecosystem restoration and to retain vistas
2603 and the desired condition of a natural-appearing landscape. Hauling and skidding along the
2604 Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail should not be allowed in order to protect trail integrity.

2605 *MA-GDL-NT-07. Developments*

2606 New developments which do not support use of or enhance a nationally designated trail should
2607 not be placed within the visual corridor of the trail.

2608 **Suitable Uses**

2609 *MA-SU-NT-01. Suitable Uses*

2610 **Table 22. Suitable uses for nationally designated trails management areas**

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative	X	
Facilities, developed recreation	X	
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits		Recommend against
Prescribed fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)		X
Forest products, firewood, commercial use		X
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use	X	
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X	
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.	X Existing Infrastructure	X New Infrastructure
Mechanized recreational use	X except in designated wilderness and if otherwise permitted on the National Scenic Trail	
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy		X
Minerals, locatable		X not allowed if trail corridor is withdrawn from mineral entry
Minerals, saleable		X
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas		X

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country		X
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent	X	X
Road construction, temporary	X	
Special use permits, recreational	X must not substantially interfere with the NST's nature and purposes	
Timber harvest as a tool	X	
Timber harvest, scheduled production		X
Utility corridors		X

2611 **RESEARCH NATURAL AREAS (RNA)**

2612 (Special Area)

2613 Research natural areas (RNA), whether established or proposed, are a part of a national
 2614 network of ecological areas designated in perpetuity for research and education and/or to
 2615 maintain biological diversity on National Forest System lands. They are established to
 2616 provide study and protection of a full range of habitat types and remain in a relatively
 2617 unaltered condition for non-manipulative research, observation, and study.

2618 Management activities in a research natural area must be consistent with the purposes for
 2619 which the RNA was established (or proposed), or specifically to maintain the values of the
 2620 RNA. Purposes and values specific to a research natural area are identified in establishment
 2621 reports. In the absence of an establishment report, purposes and values are those
 2622 identified in the forest service directives for RNAs.

2623 Forest Plan direction applies, whether the research natural area is established or proposed.
 2624 The Forest Supervisor approves or disapproves management activities within the areas in
 2625 coordination with the Pacific Northwest Research Station director.

2626 **Table 23. Colville National Forest research natural areas**

Name	Acres	Status	Habitat Type Protected
Bunchgrass Meadows	812	Established	Subalpine fir/Cascade azalea community; subalpine fir/beargrass community; subalpine fir/big huckleberry community; mid-elevation permanent pond and drainage basin; mid-elevation sphagnum bog
Fire Mountain	1,457	Proposed	Douglas-fir/pinegrass community; ponderosa pine/pinegrass community; subalpine fir/huckleberry community snowberry phase
Hall Ponds	629	Proposed	Mid-elevation freshwater wetland
Halliday Fen	727	Established	Western red cedar/queen's cup community; western red cedar/devil's club community; western red cedar hemlock/queen's cup community; marl fen

Name	Acres	Status	Habitat Type Protected
Maitlen Creek	655	Established	Douglas-fir/ninebark forest; Douglas-fir/pinegrass woodland; grand fir/queen's cup forest; mid-elevation stream; subalpine fir/pinegrass forest; subalpine fir/twinflower forest; western hemlock/queen's cup forest; western larch forest; western red cedar/queen's cup forest; mid-elevation stream and riparian system; red alder forest
Round Top Mountain	214	Established	Green fescue grassland; subalpine fir/beargrass forest; subalpine fir/Cascades azalea woodland
Salmo	1,410	Established	Mid-elevation stream; subalpine fir/beargrass forest; subalpine fir/Cascade azalea woodland; western hemlock/five-leaved red bramble forest; western hemlock/fools huckleberry forest; western hemlock/queen's cup forest; western red cedar/devil's club forest; western white pine/queen's cup forest

2627 **Desired Condition**

2628 *MA-DC-RNA-01. Research Purposes*

2629 Native species and natural processes predominate. Research natural areas remain in a relatively
 2630 unaltered condition for non-manipulative research, observation, and study. Human uses or
 2631 activities consist mostly of occasional protection or restoration activities and low impact
 2632 recreational use suited to the semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunity spectrum.

2633 Uses and activities do not interfere with the objectives for which the research natural area was
 2634 established. Vegetation, wildland fire, fuels, and recreation management protect, perpetuate,
 2635 or restore the unique and/or representative ecosystems. Non-motorized, non-mechanized trails
 2636 protect research natural area attributes. The hydrology of research natural areas is unaltered by
 2637 water diversions, water developments, or mining-related subsidence in adjacent areas. The area
 2638 is withdrawn from locatable mineral entry.

2639 **Objectives**

2640 *MA-OBJ-RNA-01. Establishment Record*

2641 Within 15 years of plan implementation, complete the establishment record on all proposed
 2642 research natural areas.

2643 *MA-OBJ-RNA-02. Invasive Species*

2644 Within 15 years of plan implementation, treat populations of invasive, non-native species on an
 2645 average of 10 acres annually.

2646 **Standards**

2647 *MA-STD-RNA-01. Research Purposes*

2648 Proposed research natural areas will be managed to ensure that the characteristics which make
 2649 them a good recommendation will be maintained until such time as they are designated.

2650 Suitable Uses

2651 MA-SU-RNA-01. Suitable Uses

2652 **Table 24. Suitable uses for Research Natural Area management areas**

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative	Facilities needed for research purposes	X
Facilities, developed recreation		X
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits		X Recommend against
Prescribed Fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)		X
Forest products, firewood, commercial use		X
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use		X
Forest products, personal use		X
Grazing, permitted	X (existing)	X (new or additional use)
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.	X (existing)	X (new or additional use)
Mechanized recreational use, summer	X	
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy		X
Minerals, locatable		X
Minerals, saleable		X
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas		X
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country		X
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent		X
Road construction, temporary		X
Special use permits, recreational		X
Timber harvest as a tool		X
Timber harvest, scheduled production		X
Utility corridors		X

2653 **RIPARIAN MANAGEMENT AREAS (RMA)**

2654 Riparian management areas include portions of watersheds where aquatic and riparian-
 2655 dependent resources receive primary emphasis and where special management direction
 2656 applies. Riparian management areas are designated for all permanently flowing streams,
 2657 lakes, wetlands, seeps, springs and intermittent streams, and unstable sites that may
 2658 influence these areas. Riparian management areas are used to maintain and restore the

2659 riparian structure and function of intermittent and perennial streams, confer benefits to
2660 riparian-dependent plant and animal species, enhance habitat conservation for organisms
2661 that are dependent on the transition zone between upslope and riparian areas, and
2662 contribute to a greater connectivity of the watershed for both riparian and upland species.

2663 Fish-bearing streams – RMAs consist of the stream and the area on each side of the stream,
2664 extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the top of the inner gorge, or to
2665 the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, or to the outer edges of riparian vegetation, or
2666 to a distance equal to the height of two site-potential trees, or 300 feet slope distance
2667 (600 feet total, including both sides of the stream channel), whichever is greatest. It is
2668 expected that RMA widths along fish-bearing streams will not be less than described here.

2669 Permanently flowing non-fish-bearing streams – RMAs consist of the stream and the area
2670 on each side of the stream, extending from the edges of the active stream channel to the
2671 top of the inner gorge, or to the outer edges of the 100-year floodplain, or to the outer
2672 edges of riparian vegetation, or to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree,
2673 or 150 feet slope distance (300 feet total, including both sides of the stream channel),
2674 whichever is greatest.

2675 Constructed ponds and reservoirs, and wetlands greater than one acre – RMAs consist of
2676 the body of water or wetland and the area to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation, or
2677 to the extent of seasonally saturated soil, or the extent of unstable and potentially unstable
2678 areas, or to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree, or 150 feet slope
2679 distance from the edge of the wetland greater than one acre or the maximum pool
2680 elevation of constructed ponds and reservoirs, whichever is greatest.

2681 Lakes and natural ponds – RMAs consist of the body of water and the area to the outer
2682 edges of the riparian vegetation, or to the extent of seasonally saturated soil, or to the
2683 extent of unstable and potentially unstable areas, or to a distance equal to the height of
2684 two site-potential trees, or 300 feet slope distance, whichever is greatest.

2685 Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands, seeps and springs less than one acre,
2686 and unstable and potentially unstable areas – This category applies to features with high
2687 variability in size and site-specific characteristics. At a minimum, these RMAs should
2688 include:

- 2689 • The extent of unstable and potentially unstable areas (including earthflows).
- 2690 • The stream channel and extend to the top of the inner gorge.
- 2691 • The stream channel or wetland and the area from the edges of the stream channel or
2692 wetland to the outer edges of the riparian vegetation or wetland, extending from the
2693 edges of the stream channel to a distance equal to the height of one site-potential tree,
2694 or 100 feet slope distance, whichever is greatest. A site-potential tree height is the
2695 average maximum height of the tallest dominant trees for a given site class.

2696 Intermittent streams are defined as any non-permanent flowing drainage feature having a
2697 definable channel and evidence of annual scour or deposition. This includes what are
2698 sometimes referred to as ephemeral streams if they meet these two physical criteria.
2699 Including intermittent streams, springs, and wetlands within RMAs is important for full
2700 implementation of aquatic and riparian plan direction. Accurate identification of these
2701 features is critical to the correct implementation of the strategy and protection of the
2702 intermittent stream and wetland functions and processes. Identification of these features is

2703 difficult at times due to the lack of surface water or wet soils during dry periods. Fish-
2704 bearing intermittent streams are distinguished from non-fish-bearing intermittent streams
2705 by the presence of any species of fish for any duration. Many intermittent streams may be
2706 used as spawning and rearing streams, refuge areas during flood events in larger rivers and
2707 streams or travel routes for fish emigrating from lakes. In these instances, the plan
2708 components for fish-bearing streams would apply to those sections of the intermittent
2709 stream used by the fish.

2710 Riparian management areas have no assigned recreation opportunity spectrum. The
2711 underlying management area's recreation opportunity spectrum applies in the riparian
2712 management area.

2713 Desired Condition

2714 *MA-DC-RMA-01. Composition*

2715 Riparian management areas consist of native flora and fauna in a functional system and a
2716 distribution of physical, chemical, and biological conditions appropriate to natural disturbance
2717 regimes affecting the area.

2718 *MA-DC-RMA-02. Key Riparian Processes*

2719 Key riparian processes and conditions (including slope stability and associated vegetative root
2720 strength, capture and partitioning of water within the soil profile, wood delivery to streams and
2721 within the riparian management areas, input of leaf and organic matter to aquatic and
2722 terrestrial systems, solar shading, microclimate, and water quality) are operating consistently
2723 with local disturbance regimes.

2724 *MA-DC-RMA-03. Livestock Grazing*

2725 Livestock grazing of riparian vegetation retains sufficient plant cover, rooting depth and
2726 vegetative vigor to protect stream bank and floodplain integrity against accelerated erosional
2727 processes, and allows for appropriate deposition of overbank sediment.

2728 *MA-DC-RMA-04. Roads*

2729 Roads located in or draining to riparian management areas do not present a substantial risk to
2730 soil or hydrologic function. Roads do not disrupt riparian and aquatic function.

2731 Objectives

2732 *MA-OBJ-RMA-01. Improve Riparian Function at Dispersed and Developed Recreation 2733 Sites*

2734 Over the next 15 years, restore riparian processes and balance need for occupancy and access
2735 to water at 50 dispersed and developed recreation sites, through education, enforcement, and
2736 engineering where recreational use results in bank damage, reduction in water quality, and/ or
2737 a reduction in stream shade.

2738 *MA-OBJ-RMA-02. Restoration of Riparian Habitat and Process on Roads*

2739 Restore hydrologic and riparian habitat function within riparian management areas in non-key
2740 watersheds by reducing road-related impacts on 30 miles of road within 15 years.

2741 *MA-OBJ-RMA-03. Restoration of Late Forest Structure*

2742 Move upland vegetation within riparian management areas outside of key watersheds toward
2743 historic range of variability on 500 acres within 15 years of plan implementation.

2744 **Standards**

2745 *MA-STD-RMA-01. Aquatic and Riparian Conditions*

2746 When riparian management areas are properly functioning,⁸ project activities shall maintain
2747 those conditions.

2748 When riparian management areas are not properly functioning, and to the degree that
2749 management activities would drive or contribute to improper function, project activities shall
2750 be implemented to improve those conditions.

2751 Project activities in riparian management areas shall not result in long-term degradation to
2752 aquatic and riparian conditions at the watershed scale. Limited short-term or site-scale effects
2753 from activities in riparian management areas may be acceptable when they support, or do not
2754 diminish, long-term benefits to aquatic and riparian resources.

2755 *MA-STD-RMA-02. Chemical Application*

2756 Apply herbicides, insecticides, piscicides, and other toxicants, other chemicals, and biological
2757 agents only to maintain, protect, or enhance aquatic and riparian resources and/or native plant
2758 communities.

2759 *MA-STD-RMA-03. Personal Fuelwood Cutting*

2760 Personal fuelwood cutting shall not be authorized within riparian management areas or source
2761 areas for large woody debris.

2762 *MA-STD-RMA-04. Timber harvest and Thinning*

2763 Timber harvest and thinning can occur in riparian management areas only as necessary to move
2764 vegetation in riparian management areas toward historic range of variability, which maintains,
2765 restores, or enhances conditions needed to support aquatic and riparian-dependent resources.

2766 *MA-STD-RMA-05. Yarding Activities*

2767 Yarding activities, if crossing streams, shall achieve full suspension over the active channel.

2768 *MA-STD-RMA-06. Road Construction and Maintenance*

2769 No sidelaying or placement of fill in riparian management areas. Snowplowing activities shall
2770 include measures to prevent runoff from roads in locations where it could deliver sediment to
2771 streams.

⁸ Assessment of properly or fully functioning condition is a concept originally developed by BLM to assess the natural habitat forming processes of riparian and wetland areas (Pritchard et al. 1993). Ecosystems at any spatial or temporal scale are in a properly functioning condition when they are dynamic and resilient to disturbance to structure, composition, and processes of their biological and physical components (USDA Forest Service 1998). Primary elements of ecological function include hydrologic, vegetative, and aquatic and riparian characteristics, physical structure and form, and water quality.

2772 *MA-STD-RMA-07. Road Construction at Stream Crossings*

2773 New or replaced permanent stream crossings will accommodate at least the 100-year flood,
2774 including associated bedload and debris. Use natural channel design techniques.

2775 *MA-STD-RMA-08. Road Construction-Fish Passage*

2776 In fish-bearing streams, construction or reconstruction of stream crossings will provide and
2777 maintain passage for all native fish species at all life stages.

2778 *MA-STD-RMA-09. Recreational and Permitted Grazing Management-Livestock*
2779 *Handling, Management, and Water Facilities*

2780 Locate new livestock handling, management, or watering facilities outside of riparian
2781 management areas, except for those that inherently must be located in a riparian management
2782 area and those that are needed for resource protection.

2783 *MA-STD-RMA-10. Permitted Grazing Management – Allotment Management Planning*

2784 During allotment management planning, negative impacts to water quality and aquatic and
2785 riparian function from existing livestock handling or management facilities located within
2786 riparian management areas shall be minimized to allow conditions to move toward the desired
2787 condition or eliminated.

2788 *MA-STD-RMA-11. Recreational and Permitted Grazing Management – Fish Redds*

2789 Prohibit livestock access to federally listed threatened or endangered fish redds.

2790 *MA-STD-RMA-12. Wildland Fire and Fuels Management – Minimum Impact*
2791 *Suppression Tactics*

2792 Use minimum impact suppression tactics (MIST) during wildland fire suppression activities in
2793 riparian management areas.

2794 *MA-STD-RMA-13. Wildland Fire and Fuels Management – Portable Pumps*

2795 Portable pump set-ups shall include containment provisions for fuel spills, and fuel containers
2796 shall have appropriate containment provisions. Park vehicles in locations that do not allow entry
2797 of spilled fuel into streams.

2798 *MA-STD-RMA-14. Lands and Special Uses Authorizations*

2799 Authorizations for all new and existing special uses (including, but not limited to water
2800 diversion, storage or transmission facilities [e.g., pipelines, ditches], energy transmission lines,
2801 roads, hydroelectric and other surface water development proposals) shall result in the re-
2802 establishment, restoration, or mitigation of soil and habitat conditions and ecological processes
2803 identified as being essential for the maintenance or improvement of habitat conditions for fish,
2804 soil, water, and other riparian-dependent species and resources. These processes include in-
2805 stream flow regimes, physical and biological connectivity, water quality, and integrity and
2806 complexity of riparian and aquatic habitat.

2807 *MA-STD-RMA-15. Hydroelectric – New Support Facilities*

2808 Locate new support facilities outside of riparian management areas. Support facilities include
2809 any facilities or improvements (workshops, housing, switchyards, staging areas, transmission
2810 lines, etc.) not directly integral to the production of hydroelectric power or necessary for the
2811 implementation of prescribed protection, mitigation, or enhancement measures.

2812 Guidelines

2813 *MA-GDL-RMA-01. Fuel Storage*

2814 Storage of fuel or other toxicants in riparian management areas should be avoided.

2815 *MA-GDL-RMA-02. Felling Trees*

2816 When trees are felled for safety, they should generally be retained onsite (channels and
2817 adjacent floodplains) to maintain, protect, or enhance aquatic and riparian resources unless
2818 otherwise determined that such trees pose a new risk to administrative or developed recreation
2819 sites.

2820 *MA-GDL-RMA-03. Landings, Skid Trails, Decking, and Temporary Roads*

2821 Landings, designated skid trails, staging or decking should not occur in riparian management
2822 areas, unless there are no other reasonable alternatives, in which case they should:

- 2823 • Be of minimum size
- 2824 • Be located outside the active floodplain
- 2825 • Minimize effects to large wood, bank integrity, temperature, and sediment levels
- 2826 • Not result in unnatural modification of flow paths
- 2827 • Impacted site(s) to be reclaimed as soon as practicable.

2828 Existing infrastructure may be reused with intent of removal and restoration of riparian function
2829 as soon as practicable.

2830 *MA-GDL-RMA-04. Road Construction*

2831 Construction of permanent or temporary roads in riparian management areas should be
2832 avoided except where necessary for:

- 2833 • stream crossings
- 2834 • stream, wetland, or riparian restoration
- 2835 • mine reclamation
- 2836 • employee, contractor, or public safety

2837 *MA-GDL-RMA-05. Road Construction – Wetlands and Unstable Areas*

2838 Wetlands and unstable areas should be avoided when reconstructing existing roads or
2839 constructing new roads and landings. Impacts should be mitigated where avoidance is not
2840 possible.

2841 *MA-GDL-RMA-06. Road Management – Road Drainage*

2842 Road drainage should be routed away from potentially unstable channels, fills, and hillslopes.

2843 *MA-GDL-RMA-07. Road Construction – Passage for Riparian-dependent Species*

2844 Construction or reconstruction of stream crossings should allow passage for other riparian-
2845 dependent species where connectivity has been identified as an issue.

2846 *MA-GDL-RMA-08. Fish Passage Barriers*

2847 Consider retaining fish passage barriers where they serve to restrict access by undesirable non-
2848 native species and are consistent with restoration of habitat for native species.

2849 *MA-GDL-RMA-09. Permitted Grazing Management – Greenline Vegetation Areas⁹*

2850 Within greenline vegetation areas adjacent to all watercourses,¹⁰ measured in designated
2851 monitoring areas:

- 2852 • Streambank alteration should not exceed 25 percent
- 2853 • Utilization of available mean annual vegetative production on woody vegetation should
2854 not exceed 40 percent
- 2855 • Residual stubble height of at least 6 to 8 inches should be maintained and no more than
2856 40 percent of mean annual vegetative production on deep-rooted herbaceous vegetation
2857 should be utilized as determined by plant community type

2858 *MA-GDL-RMA-10. Recreational and Permitted Grazing Management – Livestock
2859 Handling Activities*

2860 Livestock trailing, bedding, loading, and other handling activities should be avoided in riparian
2861 management areas, except for those that inherently must occur in a riparian management area.

2862 *MA-GDL-RMA-11. Recreation Management – New Facilities and Infrastructure*

2863 New facilities or infrastructure should not be placed within expected long-term channel
2864 migration zones. Activities that inherently occur in riparian management areas (e.g., road
2865 stream crossings, boat ramps, docks, interpretive trails) should be located to minimize impacts
2866 on riparian-dependent resource conditions (e.g., within geologically stable areas, avoiding
2867 major spawning sites).

2868 *MA-GDL-RMA-12. Recreation Management – Existing Facilities*

2869 Consider removing or relocating existing recreation facilities that are not meeting desired
2870 conditions in riparian management areas or are in active floodplains.

2871 *MA-GDL-RMA-13. Mineral Management – Operations in Riparian Management Areas*

2872 Operators should take all practicable measures to maintain, protect, and rehabilitate water
2873 quality and habitat for fish and wildlife, and other riparian-dependent resources that may be
2874 affected by operations occurring in the riparian management area.

2875 *MA-GDL-RMA-14. Minerals Management – Structures and Support Facilities*

2876 Structures and support facilities should be located outside riparian management areas. Where
2877 no alternative sites exist for facilities or roads outside of riparian management areas, work with
2878 operators to locate them in a way to minimize adverse effects to aquatic and other riparian-

⁹ A greenline is the first perennial vegetation that forms a lineal grouping of community types on or near the water's edge. Most often it occurs at or slightly below the bankfull stage.

¹⁰ Numeric values in this guideline may be modified to effectively achieve desired conditions. Rationale for these changes must be documented. This guideline can be applied solely or in combination as appropriate to site specific conditions. Sampling and assessment of these parameters is intended to portray the general condition of banks and riparian vegetation along an individual stream reach within each pasture after the grazing season. It is assumed that there will be some variability in geomorphic, hydrologic and vegetation conditions within designated monitoring areas, including occasional, limited areas of concentrated animal use, such as water gaps or crossings.

2879 dependent resources. Existing roads should be maintained to minimize damage to aquatic and
2880 riparian-dependent resources in the riparian management areas.

2881 *MA-GDL-RMA-15. Minerals Management – Mine Waste*

2882 Forest mineral administrators would work with mine operators, within the Plan of Operations
2883 review process, to store mine waste with the potential to generate hazardous material (per
2884 CERCLA - Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980)
2885 outside of riparian management areas.

2886 If no reasonable alternative to locating these facilities in riparian management areas exists,
2887 Forest mineral administrators would work with mine operators, within the Plan of Operations
2888 review process, to design the waste facilities using best conventional techniques to ensure mass
2889 stability, neutralize waste materials to the extent practicable, and prevent the release of acid or
2890 toxic materials.

2891 Forest mineral administrators would work with mine operators, within the Plan of Operations
2892 review process, to reclaim and monitor waste facilities to assure chemical and physical stability
2893 and revegetation to avoid adverse effects to inland native fish.

2894 *MA-GDL-RMA-16. Minerals Management – Operating Plans for Existing Activities*

2895 Forest mineral administrators would work with mine operators, within the Plan of Operations
2896 review process, to locate or relocate mine operations and facilities outside riparian
2897 management areas to minimize adverse effects to aquatic and riparian-dependent resources.

2898 *MA-GDL-RMA-17. Wildland Fire and Fuels Management – Temporary Fire Facilities*

2899 Temporary fire facilities (e.g., incident bases, camps, staging areas, helispots, and other centers)
2900 for incident activities should be located outside riparian management areas. When no practical
2901 alternative exists, all appropriate measures to maintain, restore, or enhance aquatic and
2902 riparian-dependent resources should be used.

2903 *MA-GDL-RMA-18. Water Drafting Sites*

2904 Water drafting sites should be located and managed to minimize adverse effects on stream
2905 channel stability and in-stream flows needed to maintain riparian resources, channel
2906 conditions, and fish habitat.

2907 *MA-GDL-RMA-19. Wildland Fire and Fuels Management – Fire Line Construction*

2908 Water bars on fire lines should be located and configured to minimize sediment delivery to
2909 streams and to minimize creation of new stream channels and unauthorized roads and trails.

2910 *MA-GDL-RMA-20. Pump and Dipping Equipment Cleaning*

2911 Suction devices and dipping apparatus should be cleaned and pumps should be de-
2912 contaminated between water sources to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.
2913 Pumping should be done in accordance with current Washington Department of Fish and
2914 Wildlife hydraulic project approval.

2915 *MA-GDL-RMA-21. Wildland Fire and Fuels Management – Burning Masticated Fuels*

2916 To minimize soil damage when burning masticated fuels within riparian management areas,
2917 burning of masticated fuel beds greater than 3 inches in depth should be accomplished with
2918 moist soil conditions.

2919 *MA-GDL-RMA-22. Hydroelectric – Existing Support Facilities*

2920 Existing support facilities that are located within riparian management areas should be
 2921 operated, maintained, or removed to restore or enhance aquatic and riparian-dependent
 2922 resources.

2923 *MA-GDL-RMA-23. Administrative and Developed Recreation Facilities*

2924 New administrative and developed recreation facilities should be located outside of riparian
 2925 management areas unless they are needed for resource protection or must inherently be
 2926 located within the riparian management area.

2927 Suitable Uses

2928 *MA-SU-RMA-01. Suitable Uses*

2929 **Table 25. Suitable uses for Riparian Management Area**

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative	X	
Facilities, developed recreation	X	
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits		Recommend against
Prescribed fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)	X	
Forest products, firewood, commercial use	X	
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use		X
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X	
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.		X
Mechanized recreational use, summer	X	
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy		X
Minerals, locatable	X	
Minerals, saleable		X
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas	X	X play areas not authorized
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent	X	
Road construction, temporary	X	
Special use permits, recreational	X	
Timber harvest as a tool	X	
Timber harvest, scheduled production		X
Utility corridors	X	

2930 **SCENIC BYWAYS (SB)**

2931 (Special Area)

2932 Two types of federally designated scenic byways are found on the Forest – an All-American
 2933 Road and a National Forest Scenic Byway (designated by the Forest Service). The State of
 2934 Washington also designated many of these byways as state scenic byways. Some roads
 2935 have multiple designations.

2936 A one-half mile strip on either side of the byway centerline defines the Scenic Byway
 2937 Management Area.

2938 Management direction applies only to portions of the byway within National Forest System
 2939 lands. The Forest Supervisor authorizes management activities on the scenic byways
 2940 regardless of designating authority unless especially reserved.

2941 Table 26 lists the scenic byways on the Forest and the miles of each byway within the
 2942 Forest. Each of the scenic byways contains mileage outside of national forest boundaries.

2943 **Table 26. Scenic byways within the Colville National Forest**

Name	Designation	Intrinsic qualities (apply only to national byways)	Length (miles on NFS land)
International Selkirk Loop	All American Road	Recreational, scenic	2.7
North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway	National Forest Scenic Byway	n/a	12.3
Sherman Pass Scenic Byway	National Forest Scenic Byway	n/a	23.8

2944 **Desired Condition**

2945 *MA-DC-SB-01.Landscape and Developments*

2946 Scenic byway management areas provide opportunities to view high-quality scenery, historical,
 2947 and natural features. Viewsheds along scenic byways provide natural-appearing landscapes and
 2948 enhance recreation tourism that supports local communities.

2949 Developments and roadwork along scenic byways reflect a design theme unique to each byway.

2950 Scenic byways have facilities to enhance opportunities for viewing scenery, wildlife, or other
 2951 important features. Recreation sites, such as day-use sites, and related developments, such as
 2952 signs, viewpoints, and interpretive installations are present. Most developed sites are
 2953 universally accessible at an easy to moderate difficulty level. Access to features or viewpoints
 2954 may be provided by facilities and trails.

2955 The intrinsic qualities identified for each scenic byway remain intact.

2956 Scenic byways exhibit natural-appearing landscapes where human activities do not stand out in
 2957 the foreground, up to one-half mile (high scenic integrity).

2958 Scenic byways provide Roded Natural recreation opportunities.

2959 Objective

2960 *MA-OBJ-SB-01. Desired Landscape Character*

2961 Within 15 years of plan implementation, move 10 percent of the foreground and middle ground
 2962 seen areas of National Scenic Byways toward meeting scenic integrity objectives. Priority for
 2963 rehabilitation and enhancement of desired landscape character includes the Sherman Pass
 2964 Scenic Byway.

2965 Guidelines

2966 *MA-GDL-SB-01. Vegetation Management*

2967 The desired landscape character of the area should be retained or enhanced using appropriate
 2968 vegetation management treatments including mechanical harvest.

2969 *MA-GDL-SB-02. Visual Impacts*

2970 Visual impacts from vegetation treatments, recreation uses, rangeland developments, and
 2971 other structures should blend with the overall landscape character along scenic byways.

2972 *MA-GDL-SB-03. Education, Interpretation, and Safety Information*

2973 Signs, kiosks, and other exhibits should provide interpretive, education, and safety information
 2974 along scenic byways and in adjacent recreation sites.

2975 Suitable Uses

2976 *MA-SU-SB-01. Suitable Uses*

2977 **Table 27. Suitable uses for Scenic Byways management areas**

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative	X	
Facilities, developed recreation	X	
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits		Recommend against
Prescribed fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)	X	
Forest products, firewood, commercial use (if in support of achieving recreation or scenery management needs)	X	
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use	X	
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X	
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.		X
Mechanized recreational use, summer	X	

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy		X
Minerals, locatable	X	
Minerals, saleable		X
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas	X	
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country off highway vehicle use	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent	X	
Road construction, temporary	X	
Special use permits, recreational	X	
Timber harvest as a tool	X	
Timber harvest, scheduled production	X	
Utility corridors	X	

2978 **SPECIAL INTEREST AREA (SIA)**

2979 (Special Area)

2980 Special interest areas are a category of administratively designated area with outstanding
 2981 natural characteristics or unique recreation or cultural values. The management objective of
 2982 each special interest area is to protect for public use and enjoyment, special recreation areas
 2983 with scenic, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, historical, or other special
 2984 characteristics or unique values.

2985 Special interest areas are managed as an integral part of the National Forest System with
 2986 management emphasis placed on protecting the unique values for which each special interest
 2987 area was designated. In this Forest Plan, special interest areas represent a special type of
 2988 management area that overlays the forestwide and specific management area (i.e.,
 2989 Backcountry, Backcountry Motorized, Scenic Byway, National Scenic Trail, Focused Restoration,
 2990 and General Restoration) direction that applies to the land base within each special interest
 2991 area’s boundary. In other words, each special interest area has its own distinct management
 2992 direction that supports the unique values for which it was designated. In addition, each special
 2993 interest area incorporates the management direction contained in the underlying Management
 2994 Areas to support the multiple values and resources (range, timber, wildlife, fire, hydrology, etc.)
 2995 available within each special interest area. The other values and resources that exist in each
 2996 special interest area should be managed to a level compatible with each special interest area’s
 2997 unique values as well as the overall management objectives contained in the Forest Plan. If a
 2998 conflict in management direction is identified between the special interest area specific
 2999 management direction and the underlying management area direction, the special interest
 3000 area-specific direction would apply.

3001 The Kettle Crest Recreation Special Interest Area is the only special interest area on the Forest
 3002 included in this Forest Plan and consists of 82,800 acres along the east and west slopes of the
 3003 Kettle River Range located on both the north and south sides of U.S. Highway 20. This special
 3004 interest area was identified as a special recreation area by both motorized and non-motorized

3005 recreation interests as well as wilderness supporters and non-wilderness advocates throughout
3006 the forest plan revision process. The Kettle Crest was designated as a recreation special interest
3007 area for its outstanding four-season motorized and non-motorized trail opportunities located
3008 primarily in the higher elevations of the Okanogan Highlands ecoregion. The special interest
3009 area's physical, managerial and social settings exhibit the undeveloped, natural setting and the
3010 unconfined opportunities for solitude, exploration, risk, and challenge associated with the
3011 unique semi-primitive motorized and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities
3012 available within the special interest area.

3013 Further description of the unique values and information on the management of special
3014 interest area can be found in the Forest Service directives at FSM 2372.

3015 **Desired Condition**

3016 *MA-DC-SIA-01. Natural Landscapes*

3017 The special interest area displays natural landscapes and features where generally only
3018 ecological changes occur (high scenic integrity) within the Semi-primitive Non-motorized and
3019 Semi-primitive Motorized ROS classes.

3020 The special interest area provides opportunities to view high-quality scenery, historical and
3021 natural features (high scenic integrity) within the Roaded Natural ROS class.

3022 Viewsheds across the entire special interest area enhance recreation tourism opportunities that
3023 support local communities.

3024 *MA-DC-SIA-02. Developments*

3025 Recreation developments within the special interest area reflect a consistent design theme
3026 unique to the special interest area, are universally accessible, are necessary for public
3027 enjoyment of the area, and support the unique recreational trail opportunities of the area
3028 without disturbing the special features of the special interest area.

3029 Developments such as stock tanks, stock corrals, and fences blend in with the natural
3030 surroundings or are not visible from primary trail systems and campsites.

3031 *MA-DC-SIA-03. Wildlife*

3032 The special interest area contributes to conserving natural habitats and processes that sustain
3033 wildlife populations and provides opportunities to observe wildlife in their natural habitats.

3034 *MA-DC-SIA-04. Ecological Processes*

3035 Ecological conditions in the Semi-primitive Non-motorized and Semi-primitive Motorized ROS
3036 classes are affected primarily by natural ecological processes, with the appearance of little or no
3037 human intervention.

3038 Fire functions as a natural ecological process.

3039 The special interest area is free of noxious weed species and other invasive species.

3040 Native species and native plant communities are the desired dominant vegetation throughout
3041 the special interest area. Little evidence of human impacts on native vegetation exists outside

3042 of high use areas, such as campsites, within the Semi-primitive Non-motorized and Semi-
3043 primitive Motorized ROS classes.

3044 *MA-DC-SIA-05. Visitor Use*

3045 Visitor use does not negatively affect the special interest area's undeveloped, natural setting or
3046 the unconfined opportunities for solitude, exploration, risk, and challenge associated with the
3047 semi-primitive recreation opportunities available within the special interest area.

3048 *MA-DC-SIA-06. Other Forest Uses*

3049 Where suitable, other forest uses such as permitted grazing, forest products gathering, and
3050 timber harvest is encouraged in a manner compatible with or that enhances the values for
3051 which the special interest area was established.

3052 Objectives

3053 *MA-OBJ-SIA-01. Trailhead Management*

3054 Within 15 years of plan implementation, construct at least one trailhead for the motorized trail
3055 system that accesses the Backcountry Motorized Management Area associated with the Twin
3056 Sisters Inventoried Roadless Area.

3057 *FW-OBJ-SIA-02. Trail Management*

3058 Within 15 years of plan implementation, design and construct at least one motorized loop trail
3059 opportunity within the Backcountry Motorized Management Area associated with the Twin
3060 Sisters Inventoried Roadless Area and at least one non-motorized loop trail opportunity within
3061 the Backcountry Management Area associated with the Profanity Inventoried Roadless Area.

3062 *FW-OBJ-SIA-03. Sno-Park Management*

3063 Within 15 years of plan implementation, move or reconstruct the over-snow vehicle sno-park
3064 located on the Albion Hill Road (Forest Road 2030) to accommodate at least twice the existing
3065 capacity.

3066 Standards

3067 *MA-STD-SIA-01. Recreation Opportunity Spectrum*

3068 Project implementation will meet the recreation opportunity classes as shown in appendix E for
3069 the Kettle Crest Recreation Special Interest Area.

3070 Guidelines

3071 *MA-GDL-SIA-01. Permitted Grazing*

3072 Braided trails resulting from permitted grazing that are located near National Forest System
3073 trails should be restored or blocked. Rock cairns or signs should be installed in areas with
3074 braided trails to reinforce the designated trail route for trail users until the braided trails recover
3075 with vegetation.

3076 *MA-GDL-SIA-02. Communication Facilities*

3077 Permanent Forest Service radio repeaters may be authorized in all ROS classes within the
3078 special interest area when radio dead zones cannot be serviced by locations outside of the

3079 special interest area. Repeaters should be out of sight of trails and destination areas.
 3080 Communication facilities essential for provisional uses may be co-located with Forest Service
 3081 repeaters.

3082 *MA-GDL-SIA-03. Fire*

3083 Use of planned and management of unplanned fire ignitions may be authorized. Fire should be
 3084 allowed to play its natural ecological role in the semi-primitive non-motorized and semi-
 3085 primitive motorized ROS classes of the SIA. The preferred strategy for managing unplanned fires
 3086 is to manage for the benefit of resources. A full suppression strategy may be used where or
 3087 when a fire:

3088 1) has a high potential to spread outside national forest boundaries, or into areas with extensive
 3089 recreation or administrative developments;

3090 2) is not meeting resource objectives;

3091 3) would adversely affect the long-term recovery of ESA listed species.

3092 *MA-GDL-SIA-04. Invasive Species*

3093 Manual, biological, or chemical treatments may be authorized to eradicate, reduce, or control
 3094 populations of invasive species within all ROS classes of the special interest area.

3095 *MA-GDL-SIA-05. Trail and Facility Maintenance*

3096 Motorized (chainsaws, toters, trail machines, motorcycles, etc.) and mechanized (mountain
 3097 bikes, wheel barrels, etc.) equipment may be used to complete annual trail and facility
 3098 maintenance tasks as well as trail and facility reconstruction projects in all ROS classes within
 3099 the special interest area.

3100 **Suitable Uses**

3101 *MA-SU-SIA-01. Suitable Uses*

3102 **Table 28. Suitable uses for Special Interest Area management areas**

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative	X	
Facilities, developed recreation	X	
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits	X	
Fire, planned ignition	X	
Fire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)	X	
Forest products, firewood, commercial use	X	
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use	X	
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X	
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines	X	

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Mechanized recreation use, summer	X	
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy	X	
Minerals, locatable	X	
Minerals, saleable	X	
Motorized recreation use, summer, trails or play areas	X RN and SPM ROS classes	X SPNM ROS class
Motorized recreation use, winter, trails or cross-country off-highway vehicle use	X RN and SPM ROS classes	X SPNM ROS class
Non-motorized recreation use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreation use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent	X RN ROS class	X SPM and SPNM ROS classes
Road construction, temporary	X RN ROS class	X SPM and SPNM ROS classes
Special use permits, recreational	X	
Timber harvest as a tool	X	
Timber harvest, scheduled production	X RN ROS class	X SPM and SPNM ROS classes
Utility corridors	X	

3103 **WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS (WSR)**

3104 (Special Area)

3105 Congress designates wild and scenic rivers as part of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System
 3106 under the authority of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, as amended (1968). Currently, there
 3107 are no congressionally designated rivers on the Forest.

3108 Eligible rivers are free flowing and have one or more outstandingly remarkable value of
 3109 regional or national significance. Suitable rivers are those eligible rivers where protection of
 3110 the outstandingly remarkable values is more important than other resource benefits and
 3111 congressional designation is determined to be the best option for protecting the values of
 3112 the river. Rivers found to be both eligible and suitable by the Forest Service may be
 3113 recommended to Congress for designation. Eligible or suitable rivers are managed to
 3114 preserve their eligibility. Management direction is the same for eligible, suitable, or
 3115 recommended rivers. The river corridor is generally one-quarter mile from either side of
 3116 the riverbank. However, protection of outstandingly remarkable values may require
 3117 encompassing a larger area.

3118 Table 29 shows rivers that were found to be eligible or suitable in the first generation forest
 3119 plans and rivers that are proposed under plan revision. Proposed rivers have not been
 3120 segmented in classification.

3121 **Table 29. Eligible or suitable wild and scenic rivers by segment and classification**

River name	Found eligible in 1988 Forest Plan	Recommended classification	Miles	Current eligible or suitable status
South Fork Salmo River	X	Wild	5	Eligible
Kettle River	A	Recreational	3	Eligible

3122 **Desired Condition**

3123 *MA-DC-WSR-01. Wild, Recreational, or Scenic Rivers*

3124 Prior to congressional designation, uses continue that do not compromise wild and scenic
 3125 eligibility. Eligible rivers and adjacent tributaries remain free flowing, retain water quality, and
 3126 preserve their outstandingly remarkable values. These river segments contribute to a diversity
 3127 of habitats within National Forest System lands.

3128 *MA-DC-WSR-02. Wild River Segments*

3129 Visitors have the opportunity to interact with a relatively pristine natural environment with low
 3130 to moderate likelihood of experiencing the sight and sound of other people. Eligible wild river
 3131 segments display unaltered landscapes where generally only ecological changes occur (very
 3132 high scenic integrity) and provide Pristine, Primitive or Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized recreation
 3133 opportunities. Wild river segments may be accessed by trail. Wild rivers within designated
 3134 wilderness meet the desired conditions for congressionally designated wilderness.

3135 *MA-DC-WSR-03. Recreational*

3136 Eligible recreational river segments are readily accessible by roads, display landscapes which
 3137 vary from moderately altered where human activities are evident (low scenic integrity) to
 3138 slightly altered where human activities may be seen but do not attract attention (moderate
 3139 scenic integrity) and provide a Roaded Natural or Semi-Primitive Motorized recreation
 3140 opportunity.

3141 The sights and sounds of other visitors are evident, and the likelihood of encounters with other
 3142 visitors may be moderate to high. Visitors seeking solitude may find it difficult to achieve,
 3143 particularly in peak use seasons. Trails and facilities may be highly developed, including
 3144 hardened trails, campgrounds, and day use sites designed to serve persons of all abilities.

3145 **Standard**

3146 *MA-STD-WSR-01. Outstandingly Remarkable Values*

3147 Each eligible river’s free-flowing condition, outstandingly remarkable values, and classification
 3148 shall be sustained until a suitability study and determination is completed.

3149

3150 Suitable Uses

3151 MA-SU-WSR-01. Suitable Uses

3152 Table 30. Suitable uses in Wild and Scenic River management areas

Activity or Use	Wild	Recreational
Facilities, administrative	May authorize	May authorize
Facilities, developed recreation	May not authorize	May authorize
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits	Recommend against	Recommend against
Prescribed fire	May authorize	May authorize
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	May authorize	May authorize
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)	May not authorize	May not authorize
Forest products, firewood commercial use	May not authorize	May not authorize
Forest products, firewood permitted personal use	May not authorize	May not authorize
Forest products, personal use	May not authorize	May not authorize
Grazing, permitted	May authorize	May authorize
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines	May not authorize	May authorize
Mechanized recreational use, summer	May not authorize	May authorize
Minerals, leasable - surface occupancy	Existing uses can continue; May not authorize new uses	May authorize
Minerals - locatable	Existing, valid claims at time of designation can continue; May not authorize new uses	May authorize
Minerals – saleable	May not authorize	May not authorize
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas	May not authorize	May authorize
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross country	May not authorize	May authorize
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	May authorize	May authorize
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	May authorize	May authorize
Road construction, permanent	May not authorize	May authorize
Road construction, temporary	May not authorize	May authorize
Special use permits, recreational	May not authorize, except for outfitter and guide permits	May authorize
Timber harvest as a tool	May not authorize	May authorize
Timber harvest, scheduled production	May not authorize	May not authorize

3153

3154 Wilderness – Congressionally Designated (W-CD)
 3155 (Special Area)

3156 The Colville National Forest has one wilderness area, the Salmo-Priest. Wilderness areas are
 3157 zoned using the Wilderness Resource Spectrum: pristine, primitive, semi-primitive and
 3158 transition zones offer the spectrum of experiential and bio/physical settings typically found
 3159 in wilderness. Due to the size, complexity and use patterns of the Salmo-Priest Wilderness,
 3160 the area administered by the Colville National Forest is designated as “Primitive” in the
 3161 Wilderness Resource Spectrum.

3162 **Table 31. Congressionally designated wilderness areas**

Wilderness name	National Forest Administrator	Total Acres	Percent Administered by Colville National Forest
Salmo-Priest	Colville and Idaho Panhandle	43,348	72

3163 **Desired Condition**

3164 *MA-DC-WCD-01. Wilderness Character*

3165 Visitor use does not negatively affect the five qualities of wilderness character (untrammelled,
 3166 undeveloped, natural, opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of
 3167 recreation) or other features of value.

3168 Wilderness boundaries are posted and visible to visitors.

3169 There are unconfined opportunities for exploration, solitude, risk, and challenge. The non-
 3170 motorized and non-mechanized trail system enhances the wilderness character. To the extent
 3171 necessary, where there is public demand, outfitters and guides provide services to visitors
 3172 seeking a wilderness experience.

3173 The Salmo-Priest Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude and isolation.
 3174 Encounters with small groups or individuals are infrequent.

3175 Wilderness areas maintain natural landscapes where generally only ecological changes occur
 3176 (very high scenic integrity) and provide primitive and/or semi-primitive non-motorized and non-
 3177 mechanized recreation opportunities.

3178 The wilderness areas are free of noxious weed species and other invasive species.

3179 Human-caused impacts are limited to relatively small areas along trails and campsites. The
 3180 ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, and historical values of wilderness are
 3181 preserved and perpetuated.

3182 *MA-DC-WCD-02. Human Developments*

3183 Wilderness is undeveloped except for those facilities deemed necessary for administration of
 3184 the area as wilderness or essential for accommodating provisional uses.

3185 There is little evidence of human developments (e.g., stock tanks, stock corrals, fences).

3186 There is little or no evidence of camping activity, unauthorized trails, trash, or other human
3187 impacts on the environment. Most campsites are relatively small and accommodate one to
3188 three small tents or one large tent. Large group campsites accommodate the needs of larger
3189 groups up to the maximum group size limit and these sites are generally out of view of focal
3190 areas such as where trails first arrive at a destination.

3191 • Campsites generally have at least partial topographic or vegetative screening from the
3192 trail, viewpoints, or other sites.

3193 • Vegetated areas (such as meadows) outside of campsites retain native plant communities
3194 that are not impacted.

3195 • Social trails are the minimum necessary to access the system trail, water, other campsites,
3196 and viewpoints.

3197 *MA-DC-WCD-03. Ecological Processes*

3198 Ecological conditions are affected primarily by natural ecological processes, with the
3199 appearance of little or no human intervention.

3200 Fire functions as a natural ecological process.

3201 Wilderness contributes to preserving natural behaviors and processes that sustain wildlife
3202 populations.

3203 Wilderness areas are free of noxious weed species and other invasive species.

3204 MA-DC-WCD-04. Wilderness Resource Spectrum

3205 Table 32. Wilderness resource spectrum class desired condition

	Pristine	Primitive	Semi-primitive	Transition
Environment	Extensive, virtually unmodified natural environment that offers a high degree of isolation from the sights, sounds, and the presence of other wilderness visitors and contributes effective habitat for species requiring large areas with minimal human disturbance.	Substantially unmodified natural environment that offers a remote experience of isolation from sights, sounds, and the presence of other wilderness visitors and contributes effective habitat for species requiring large areas with minimal human disturbance.	Predominantly unmodified natural environment. Concentrations of visitors are low to moderate and impacts of human use are generally limited to system trails, user-established trails, and sites.	Predominantly unmodified natural environment. Concentrations of visitors are moderate to high at various times and evidence of human use is likely. Encounters with others are likely on trails and at sites.
Degree of Solitude	Encounters with other groups are very infrequent. Visitors have a moderately high likelihood of seeing no other people on a given day. There is a very high degree of privacy and solitude when camped.	Encounters with other groups are infrequent and primarily on trails and at campsites. Overnight visitors have a sense of seclusion from other overnight groups.	Encounters with other groups are fairly frequent. Visitors experience relatively long interludes of solitude in between encountering other groups. Visitors will likely see and hear other parties when camped.	Encounters with other groups are very frequent. Visitors experience relatively short interludes of solitude in between encountering other groups. Visitors regularly see and hear other parties when camped.
Campsites	Low density of small, discreet campsites, not visible or audible to each other.	Low density of campsites generally not visible or audible to each other. Small discreet sites are available to accommodate smaller group sizes. There may be a few larger resilient sites that can accommodate use from large groups.	Moderate density of campsites that can absorb multiple groups in a given location but still afford a moderate degree of privacy when visitors are camped. Small discreet sites are available to accommodate smaller group sizes. There may be a few larger resilient sites that can accommodate use from large groups.	Moderate to high density. Sites are likely to be intervisible or interaudible in a given location, however visitors still have a sense of privacy afforded by vegetation, topography, or distance. Campsites are managed to accommodate constant use during peak use periods. Small discreet sites are available to accommodate smaller group sizes. There may be a few larger resilient sites that can accommodate use from large groups.

	Pristine	Primitive	Semi-primitive	Transition
Trails	No system trails. Destination points accessed by cross-country travel. User established trails discontinuous and not discernable. Social trails at destination areas are almost indiscernible.	System trails present in this class are generally at low density. Main trails may be designed and maintained to facilitate through-travel; however, challenging situations (fording streams and rivers) may exist. Side trails are generally more challenging to travel and receive less frequent maintenance when funding is limited. Some user-developed trails may exist, but are not encouraged for use and are only minimally maintained if essential for resource protection. Proliferation of social trails at destination areas is minimized through active management.	System trails present in this class are generally at low to moderate density. Trails are generally designed and maintained to facilitate high use levels; however, challenging situations (fording streams and rivers) or more primitive trails may exist. Some user-developed trails may exist, but are not encouraged for use and are only minimally maintained if essential for resource protection. Proliferation of social trails at destination areas is minimized through active management.	System trails present in this class are generally at a moderate to high density. Trails are generally designed and maintained to facilitate very high use levels and are generally less challenging. However in some locations a more primitive trail may be integral to the desired experience. Some user-developed trails may exist, but are not encouraged for use and are only minimally maintained if essential for resource protection. Proliferation of social trails at destination areas is minimized through active management.
Structures	Signs seldom used and only for emergency closures or to protect wilderness conditions. Other than cultural sites, there are no structures or visible evidence of management activities or special uses.	Trail junctions are signed. Other signs are seldom used and only for emergency closures or to protect wilderness conditions. Evidence of other permanent structures is limited to cultural sites, Forest Service administrative structures, and those essential for provisional uses.	Trail junctions are signed. Other signs may be used for emergency closures or to protect wilderness conditions. Evidence of other permanent structures is limited to cultural sites, Forest Service administrative structures, those essential for provisional uses, and recreational structures essential for resource protection.	Trail junctions are signed. Other signs may be used for emergency closures or to protect wilderness conditions. Evidence of other permanent structures is limited to cultural sites, Forest Service administrative structures, those essential for provisional uses, and recreational structures essential for resource protection.

	Pristine	Primitive	Semi-primitive	Transition
Natural processes	Natural processes and the native flora and fauna are in pristine condition and function unencumbered and unaltered by human intervention. Unique and rare plant communities are maintained.	Natural processes and the native flora and fauna function generally unencumbered and unaltered by human intervention. Unique and rare plant communities are maintained. Small localized disturbances may occur due to recreational or administrative activities. Ecosystems with anthropogenic environmental changes are generally restored to desired conditions.	Natural process and the native flora and fauna function generally unencumbered and unaltered by human intervention. Unique and rare plant communities are maintained. Areas surrounding campsites and destination areas may have altered vegetation due to recreational activities, but native groundcover is generally un-impacted outside of sites. Use levels during the summer may be high enough to interfere with those species that require large areas of low human use. Ecosystems with anthropogenic environmental changes are generally restored to desired conditions.	Natural process and the native flora and fauna function generally unencumbered and unaltered by human intervention. Unique and rare plant communities are maintained. Areas surrounding campsites and destination areas may have altered vegetation due to recreational activities, but native groundcover is generally un-impacted outside of sites. Use levels during the summer may not accommodate those species that require large areas of low human use. Ecosystems with anthropogenic environmental changes are generally restored to desired conditions.

3206 **Standard**

3207 *MA-STD-WCD-01. Site Impacts*

3208 Human-caused disturbed areas that negatively affect wilderness character will be rehabilitated
 3209 to a natural appearance, using species or other materials native to the area.

3210 *MA-STD-WCD-02. Group Size*

3211 Do not authorize wilderness group sizes that exceed the physical capacity, the number of
 3212 available campsites or the social capacity of the specific area of use. Keep the network of large
 3213 group campsites at a minimum necessary to provide for the travel patterns of large groups of up
 3214 to the standard maximum group size limit. At a minimum, partially screen these sites from focal
 3215 areas, such as where visitors first arrive at destinations. Allow no net increase in the number of
 3216 large group sites from the date this plan is implemented.

3217 Group size limit within the Salmo-Priest Wilderness is 12 combined people and stock.

3218 *MA-STD-WCD-03. Fire*

3219 Objective(s) and strategies for all wildfires shall be identified at the time of the fire.

3220 Fire management activities shall be conducted in a manner compatible with the overall
 3221 wilderness management objectives (minimum impact suppression tactics).

3222 Use prescribed fire only in situations that meet all of the following criteria:

- 3223 • There is an unnatural buildup of fuel.
- 3224 • The treatment would increase the probability of accepting naturally occurring wildfire
 3225 disturbance in wilderness when treating areas outside the wilderness boundary would
 3226 not fully achieve this outcome.
- 3227 • Strategies use minimum suppression techniques and are designed to maintain and
 3228 restore the vegetation conditions that are characteristic of wilderness.

3229 **Guidelines**

3230 *MA-GDL-WCD-01. Campsite Development*

3231 Areas appropriate for camping should only be designated if necessary to resolve resource issues
 3232 and not to accommodate increasing levels of use. Generally limit recreational site structures to
 3233 one fire ring and naturally occurring rock or log seats. Authorized recreation developments
 3234 (such as hitch-racks, high-lines, or site hardening) should rarely be installed. These
 3235 developments should only be used where they would reduce or eliminate a proliferation of
 3236 resource impacts and only in locations where other less intrusive tactics (i.e., education and
 3237 enforcement) would not contain the impacts. Development should be removed when no longer
 3238 serviceable or needed.

3239 **Table 33. Authorization of developments in congressionally designated wilderness**

	Pristine	Primitive	Semi-primitive	Transition
Developments	May not authorize	May authorize with limits	May authorize with limits	May authorized with limits

3240 *MA-GDL-WCD-02. Communication Facilities*

3241 Permanent repeaters should not be authorized in pristine wilderness resource spectrum zones.
3242 Permanent Forest Service radio repeaters may be authorized in the primitive, semi-primitive,
3243 and transition wilderness resource spectrum zones when radio dead zones within the
3244 wilderness cannot be serviced by locations outside of wilderness, and other communication
3245 devices are ineffective options due to forest cover or topography. Installation of radio repeaters
3246 should be considered only after other mitigation efforts have been tried and proved to be
3247 ineffective. Repeaters should be out of sight of trails and destination areas. Communication
3248 facilities essential for provisional uses may be co-located with Forest Service repeaters.

3249 *MA-GDL-WCD-03. Pets*

3250 Pets (such as dogs or other domestic animals that are not categorized as stock) may be
3251 authorized so long as their presence does not interfere with wildlife or contribute to resource
3252 impacts or user conflicts. Pets should be fully controlled by their owner through voice
3253 commands, a leash, or other restraint (such as a shock collar).

3254 *MA-GDL-WCD-04. Research, Studies, and Data Gathering*

3255 Non-manipulative research or data gathering may be authorized where such use is reliant on a
3256 wilderness setting, contributes to the body of science that informs wilderness management and
3257 societal understanding of the benefits of wilderness, and where the benefits to preserving
3258 wilderness character outweigh the impacts on wilderness character.

3259 Markings should be unobtrusive and not be viewed from trails or occupied areas. Permanent
3260 markings should only be authorized when there is a long-term need to relocate the site with a
3261 high degree of precision where other technologies are not sufficient. Other than unobtrusive
3262 markings, permanent installations should not be authorized.

3263 *MA-GDL-WCD-05. Caching*

3264 Caching of equipment or supplies should not be authorized in wilderness. Waivers to this
3265 guideline may be given when all of the following criteria are met.

- 3266 1. The requested cache is administratively necessary for agency use or to support a
3267 scientific study
- 3268 2. The cache location is hidden from public view and is non-damaging
- 3269 3. The cache has an identified date for removal at the completion of the project

3270 *MA-GDL-WCD-06. Fish and Wildlife*

3271 Wilderness is generally not suitable for the introduction of non-indigenous wildlife species.
3272 Fishless waters should not be stocked. Fish stocking can continue where it was an established
3273 practice prior to wilderness designation. Stocking should be coordinated with the state to
3274 protect wilderness character including preservation of downstream native fish populations.
3275 Stocked fish that adversely affect native fish and wildlife populations may be removed from
3276 lakes, rivers and streams.

3277 *MA-GDL-WCD-07. Wildland Fire*

3278 Fire camps, helispots, and other temporary facilities should be located outside the wilderness
3279 boundary to protect wilderness character.

3280 Firelines and spike camps (i.e., a remote camp usually near a fireline) should not be constructed
3281 adjacent to trails or camp areas to protect wilderness character.

3282 Planned ignitions should be considered to create favorable conditions that enable naturally
3283 occurring fires to return to their historic role or to achieve wilderness desired conditions.
3284 Wildfires should be managed for the benefit of wilderness resources. A full suppression strategy
3285 may be used where or when a wildfire:

- 3286 1. has a high potential to spread outside national forest boundaries, or into areas with
3287 extensive recreation or administrative developments;
- 3288 2. is not meeting wilderness objectives;
- 3289 3. would adversely affect an ESA-listed species.

3290 *MA-GDL-WCD-08. Use of Live Trees*

3291 Live trees that are not listed as a threatened, endangered, or sensitive species may be used for
3292 administrative purposes such as trail bridge construction.

3293 *MA-GDL-WCD-09. Invasive Plants*

3294 Manual, biological, cultural, or chemical treatments may be authorized to eradicate, reduce, or
3295 control populations of invasive plants.

3296 *MA-GDL-WCD-10. Environmental Clean-Up*

3297 Environmental clean-up projects (such as mine remediation, chemical spills, aircraft recovery,
3298 building removal) should occur promptly following an activity or incident. Project design should
3299 provide a greater long-term benefit than long-term impact.

3300 *MA-GDL-WCD-11. Trail Management*

3301 New trail construction may be considered if the objective is enhancement of the wilderness
3302 character (e.g., increase solitude opportunities, restore naturalness). Trails that have minimal
3303 use, detract from the wilderness character, or cannot practically be maintained or reconstructed
3304 should be obliterated.

3305

3306 Suitable Uses

3307 MA-SU-WCD-01. Suitable Uses

3308 **Table 34. Suitable uses for congressionally designated wilderness management area**

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative		X
Facilities, developed recreation		X
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits		Recommend against
Prescribed fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)		X
Forest products, firewood, commercial use		X
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use		X
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X	X (Salmo-Priest)
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.		X Exception: USFS radio repeaters needed for dead zones within or adjacent to area
Mechanized recreational use, summer		X
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy		X
Minerals, locatable	Existing valid claims may continue	X (new claims)
Minerals, saleable		X
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas, off-highway vehicle use		X
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country		X
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent		X
Road construction, temporary		X
Special use permits, recreational & research	X	
Timber harvest as a tool		X
Timber harvest, scheduled production		X
Utility corridors		X

3309

3310 **WILDERNESS – RECOMMENDED (RW)**

3311 (Special Area)

3312 These areas are lands that have been identified and evaluated through the forest planning
 3313 process as suited for recommendation for addition to the national wilderness preservation
 3314 system. Wilderness characteristics are protected until Congress either designates the area
 3315 as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System or the area is released from
 3316 consideration. If Congress has not acted by the next planning effort, these areas may be
 3317 further evaluated for wilderness designation.

3318 Subject to the U.S. mining and leasing laws, recommended wilderness are open to mineral
 3319 entry. Recommended wilderness must be segregated from mineral entry or withdrawn
 3320 from mineral entry before congressional designation as “Wilderness.” Until that time,
 3321 mining claims may be filed in recommended wilderness areas. Upon designation as
 3322 wilderness by Congress, designated wilderness areas are legislatively withdrawn from all
 3323 mineral entry under the mining and leasing laws, subject to valid claims.

3324 **Table 35. Recommended wilderness by name and acreage**

Recommended wilderness area	Acres of recommended wilderness
Abercrombie-Hooknose	37,660
Bald Snow	14,693
Salmo-Priest Adjacent	16,710

3325 Desired Condition

3326 *MA-DC-RW-01. Uses Prior to Congressional Designation*

3327 Prior to congressional designation, uses continue that do not compromise wilderness eligibility.

3328 *MA-DC-RW-02. Management Direction Prior to Congressional Designation*

3329 Prior to congressional designation, recommended wilderness areas meet the desired conditions
 3330 for designated wilderness in order to protect their wilderness characteristics.

3331 *MA-DC-RW-03. Natural Landscapes*

3332 Recommended wilderness areas display natural landscapes where generally only ecological
 3333 changes occur (very high scenic integrity) and provide primitive or semi-primitive non-
 3334 motorized recreation opportunities.

3335 *MA-DC-RW-04. Wildlife*

3336 Recommended wilderness contributes to preserving natural behaviors and processes that
 3337 sustain wildlife populations.

3338 Standards

3339 *MA-STD-RW-01. Existing and Proposed Uses*

3340 Management actions must maintain the wilderness characteristics of the recommended
 3341 wilderness areas that were identified in the 2009 wilderness evaluations for the Abercrombie

3342 Hooknose, Salmo-Priest Adjacent, and Bald Snow recommended wilderness areas prior to
3343 designation by Congress or release from wilderness consideration.

3344 *MA-STD-RW-02. Site Impacts*

3345 Human-caused disturbed areas that negatively affect wilderness character shall be rehabilitated
3346 to a natural appearance, using species or other materials native to the area.

3347 *MA-STD-RW-03. Fire*

3348 Objective(s) and strategies for all unplanned ignitions shall be identified at the time of the fire.

3349 Fire management activities shall be conducted in a manner compatible with maintaining
3350 wilderness characteristics (minimum impact suppression tactics).

3351 Use planned ignitions only in situations that meet all of the following criteria—

- 3352 • There is an unnatural buildup of fuel.
- 3353 • The treatment would increase the probability of accepting naturally occurring fire.
- 3354 • Strategies use minimum suppression techniques and are designed to maintain and
3355 restore the vegetation conditions that are characteristic of wilderness.

3356 Guidelines

3357 *MA-GDL-RW-01. Wilderness Characteristics*

3358 The wilderness characteristics (untrammelled, undeveloped, natural, opportunities for solitude or
3359 a primitive and unconfined type of recreation) of each recommended wilderness should remain
3360 intact until a congressional decision on wilderness designation is made.

3361 *MA-GDL-RW-02. Trail Use*

3362 Mechanized and non-motorized travel may occur in recommended wilderness.

3363 *MA-GDL-RW-03. Motorized Equipment*

3364 Motorized equipment (i.e. chain saws, trail machines) may be used for trail maintenance and
3365 reconstruction.

3366 *MA-GDL-RW-04. Campsite Development*

3367 Areas appropriate for camping should only be designated if necessary to resolve resource issues
3368 and not to accommodate increasing levels of use. Generally limit recreational site structures to
3369 one fire ring and naturally occurring rock or log seats. Authorized recreation developments
3370 (such as hitch-racks, high-lines, or site hardening) should rarely be installed. These
3371 developments should only be used where they would reduce or eliminate a proliferation of
3372 resource impacts and only in locations where other less intrusive tactics (i.e. education and
3373 enforcement) would not contain the impacts. Development should be removed when no longer
3374 serviceable or needed.

3375 *MA-GDL-RW-05. Pets*

3376 Pets (such as dogs or other domestic animals that are not categorized as stock) may be
3377 authorized so long as their presence does not interfere with wildlife or contribute to resource

3378 impacts or user conflicts. Pets should be fully controlled by their owner through voice
3379 commands, a leash, or other restraint (such as a shock collar).

3380 *MA-GDL-RW-06. Fire*

3381 Planned ignitions should be considered to create favorable conditions that enable naturally
3382 occurring fires to return to their historic role.

3383 *MA-GDL-RW-07. Use of Live Trees*

3384 Live trees may be used for administrative purposes such as trail bridge construction.

3385 *MA-GDL-RW-08. Invasive Plants*

3386 Manual, biological, cultural, or chemical treatments may be authorized to eradicate, reduce, or
3387 control populations of invasive plants

3388 *MA-GDL-RW-09. Environmental Clean-Up*

3389 Environmental clean-up projects (such as mine remediation, chemical spills, aircraft recovery,
3390 building removal) should occur promptly following an activity or incident. Project design should
3391 provide a greater long-term benefit than long-term impact.

3392

3393 Suitable Uses

3394 MA-SU-RW-01. Suitable Uses

3395 Table 36. Suitable uses for Recommended Wilderness management area

Activity or Use	May Authorize	May not authorize
Facilities, administrative		X
Facilities, developed recreation		X
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits		Recommend against
Prescribed fire	X	
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	X	
Forest products, commercial use (non-timber harvest)		X
Forest products, firewood, commercial use		X
Forest products, firewood, permitted personal use		X
Forest products, personal use	X	
Grazing, permitted	X	
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.		X Exception: Only USFS radio repeaters needed for dead zones within or adjacent to area
Mechanized recreational use, summer	X existing use	X new or additional use
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy		X
Minerals - locatable	X	
Minerals, saleable		X
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas		X
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country off highway vehicle use		X
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	X	
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	X	
Road construction, permanent		X
Road construction, temporary		X
Special use permits, recreational & research	X	
Timber harvest as a tool		X
Timber harvest, scheduled production		X
Utility corridors		X

3396 **Chapter 4**

3397 **MONITORING**

3398 **INTRODUCTION**

3399 Monitoring provides the feedback for the forest planning cycle by testing assumptions, tracking
3400 relevant conditions over time, measuring management effectiveness, and evaluating effects of
3401 management practices. Monitoring information should enable the Forest to determine if a
3402 change in plan components or other plan management guidance may be needed, forming a
3403 basis for continual improvement and adaptive management. Direction for the monitoring and
3404 evaluation of forest plans is found under the 1982 Planning Rule at 36 CFR 219.12(k) and under
3405 the 2012 Planning Rule at 36 CFR 219.12.

3406 The plan monitoring program addresses the most critical components for informed
3407 management of the Forest’s resources within the financial and technical capability of the
3408 agency. Every monitoring question links to one or more goals, desired conditions, objectives,
3409 standards, or guidelines. However, not every plan component has a corresponding monitoring
3410 question.

3411 This monitoring program is not intended to depict all monitoring, inventorying, and data
3412 gathering activities undertaken on the Forest; nor is it intended to limit monitoring to just the
3413 questions and indicators listed in table 37. Consideration and coordination with broad-scale
3414 monitoring strategies, multi-party monitoring collaboration, and cooperation with state
3415 agencies where practicable will increase efficiencies and help track changing conditions beyond
3416 the Forest boundaries to improve the effectiveness of the plan monitoring program. In addition,
3417 project and activity monitoring may be used to gather information for the plan monitoring
3418 program if it will provide relevant information to inform adaptive management.

- 3419 • The monitoring program sets out the plan monitoring questions and associated
3420 indicators. It is comprised of a monitoring guide and a biennial evaluation report.
- 3421 • The monitoring guide provides detailed information on the monitoring questions,
3422 indicators, frequency and reliability, priority, data sources and storage, and cost.

3423 An interdisciplinary team will develop a biennial Monitoring Evaluation Report which will
3424 summarize the results of completed monitoring, evaluate the data, consider relevant
3425 information from broad-scale or other monitoring efforts, and make recommendations to the
3426 responsible official. The monitoring evaluation report will indicate whether or not a change to
3427 the Forest Plan, management activities, or the monitoring program, or a new assessment, may
3428 be warranted based on the new information. The monitoring evaluation report is used to
3429 inform adaptive management of the Plan area. The Monitoring Evaluation Report will be made
3430 available to the public.

3431 Some kinds of monitoring indicators will require longer time frames for thorough evaluation of
3432 results, but a biennial review of what information has been collected will ensure timely
3433 evaluation to inform planning. The biennial monitoring evaluation does not need to evaluate all
3434 questions or indicators on a biennial basis, but must focus on new data and results that provide
3435 new information regarding management effectiveness, progress towards meeting desired
3436 conditions or objectives, changing conditions, or validation (or invalidation) of assumptions.

3437 Table 37 is the monitoring program. This table displays the monitoring questions, the reference
3438 to Forest Plan direction, the indicator(s) for answering the monitoring question, the frequency
3439 of measure, and the precision. Monitoring questions are used to evaluate whether
3440 management is moving toward, moving away from, or maintaining desired conditions. The
3441 references to forest plan direction provide a link between the monitoring question and the
3442 forest plan. The forest plan references may not include all relevant direction, but rather the
3443 primary direction that is addressed by the monitoring question. Indicators are the specific
3444 resource measures used in answering the monitoring questions. Frequency of measure is the
3445 timeframe for collecting data on each indicator. Precision is defined as Class A or B. For Class A,
3446 mostly quantitative methods are widely accepted with repeatable results and statistical validity.
3447 Reliability, precision, and accuracy are very good. For Class B, mostly qualitative methods
3448 include project records, communications, or less formal measurements like walk-through exams
3449 or informal visitor surveys. Reliability, accuracy, and precision are good, but usually less than
3450 Class A. The associated evaluation process determines if the observed changes are consistent
3451 with the Forest Plan and the effectiveness of implementation. Evaluation reports will be
3452 produced biennially (as per 2012 Rule, 36 CFR 219.12(d)). Not all questions or indicators will be
3453 reported in the biennial Monitoring Evaluation Report.



Mountain biking along Kettle Crest

3454
3455

3456

3457 **MONITORING AND EVALUATION**

3458 Monitoring Component: this provides a monitoring program that evaluates how the on-the-
3459 ground management is maintaining or making progress toward desired conditions and
3460 objectives of this plan. The Plan provides the items to be monitored per the monitoring and
3461 evaluation requirements found at 36 CFR 219.12(k) of the 1982 regulations. Details on
3462 methodology, data storage, and responsibility are not considered plan components and are
3463 not included in the plan.

- 3464
- 3465 1. Information, science, and unforeseen circumstances continually change over the
3466 life of a plan. The major mechanism for reacting swiftly and efficiently to new
3467 information, science, or circumstances is provided through a monitoring program
3468 for the plan. These include: Monitoring to determine whether plan implementation
is achieving multiple use objectives;
 - 3469 2. Monitoring to determine the effects of the various resource management activities
3470 within the plan area on the productivity of the land;
 - 3471 3. Monitoring of the degree to which on-the-ground management is maintaining or
3472 making progress toward the desired conditions and objectives for the plan;
 - 3473 4. Adjustment of the monitoring program, as appropriate, to account for
3474 unanticipated changes in conditions.

3475 The Plan provides for a monitoring program that evaluates how on-the-ground
3476 management is maintaining or making progress toward the desired conditions and
3477 objectives of the plan per the monitoring and evaluation described in 36 CFR 219,12 (k) of
3478 the 1982 Planning Rule.

3479 These evaluations are an integral part of answering key planning questions such as the
3480 state of social, economic, and ecological conditions and trends, and the need for an
3481 amendment or revision.

3482 Specific monitoring items, such as measuring frequencies, methodologies, precision, and
3483 reliability are identified in the annual monitoring guide.

3484 **Monitoring Questions**

3485 Monitoring questions ask whether management in the plan area is maintaining or
3486 progressing toward desired conditions and meeting objectives. Monitoring questions may
3487 be designed to pertain directly to desired conditions or to relate to objectives or guidelines.
3488 Monitoring information in the plan set of documents may be changed or updated as
3489 appropriate. Such changes and updates require a plan amendment or revision.

3490 Monitoring questions can also identify or enumerate the ties between ecosystem resilience
3491 and ecosystem services. Ecosystem services are the products of functioning ecosystems
3492 that benefit people.

3493 Monitoring questions identify specific Plan direction to monitor and evaluate. The
3494 monitoring questions specify the information that is essential for measuring Plan
3495 accomplishments and effectiveness. The associated evaluation process determines whether
3496 the observed changes are consistent with the desired conditions and what adjustments
3497 may be needed, if any.

3498 Monitoring identified in this section does not include monitoring conducted in compliance
3499 with other laws, policies, and site-specific decisions.

3500 Evaluation

3501 Evaluation reports keep the plan set of documents up to date. There are three types of
3502 evaluation reports.

3503 1. Comprehensive – for plan development and revision. The purpose is to reflect any
3504 substantial changes that have taken place in the conditions and trends since the
3505 previous comprehensive evaluation report. Current social, economic, and
3506 ecological conditions and trends are evaluated in this report and are updated at
3507 least every 5 years.

3508 2. Evaluations – for plan amendment. Evaluations analyze issues relevant to the
3509 purposes of the amendment and occur when the plan is amended.

3510 3. Biennial – for evaluation of monitoring information. A biennial evaluation of results
3511 of monitoring the plan.

3512 The information gained through monitoring and evaluation may be the catalyst for plan
3513 revisions or amendments.

3514 **FOREST PLAN MONITORING QUESTIONS**

3515 **Table 37. Monitoring questions**

Resource	Monitoring Question	Reference to Forest Plan Direction	Indicator	Frequency of Measure
Landscape Features and Dynamics				
Vegetation	MON-VEG-01: To what extent are management activities and natural disturbance processes trending toward desired conditions for structure/structural stage and fire regime condition class (FRCC), increasing resistance and resiliency to disturbance factors including climate change. This includes vegetation size classes, down wood, snags.	FW-DC-VEG-02, FW-DC-VEG-04, FW-DC-VEG-05, FW-DC-VEG-06, FW-DC-VEG-13, FW-DC-VEG-14, FW-DC-VEG-16; FW-OBJ-VEG-01, FW-OBJ-VEG-02 MA-DC-FR-01; MA-DC-GR-01	MON-VEG-01-01: Acres treated to meet FW-OBJ-VEG-01 MON-VEG-01-02: Acres burned through prescribed and wild fire MON-VEG-01-03: Acres of forest by structure and vegetation type compared to the desired condition MON-VEG-01-04: Snags and down wood by watershed MON-VEG-01-05: Number of acres influenced by insects and disease	Annual Every 5 years (review of FRCC across the Forest) Every 5 years Every 5 years Every 5 years
Vegetation	MON-VEG-02: Have management activities met Plan objectives and trended towards desired conditions for invasive terrestrial plant species?	FW-DC-VEG-07, FW-DC-VEG-08, FW-DC-VEG-09; FW-OBJ-VEG-02, FW-OBJ-VEG-03; FW-GDL-VEG-03, FW-GDL-VEG-04, FW-GDL-VEG-05, FW-GDL-VEG06	MON-VEG-02-01: Acres of non-native invasive plants treated MON-VEG-02-02: Number of sites of new non-native invasive plant species	Annual Annual
Vegetation	MON-VEG-03: To what extent are management activities moving hazardous fuels towards desired conditions within WUI?	FW-DC-VEG-13, FW-DC-VEG-14, FW-DC-VEG-15, FW-DC-VEG-16; FW-STD-VEG-01	MON-VEG-03-01: Acres of hazardous fuel treatments within the WUI	Annual
Vegetation	MON-VEG-04: To what extent is the Forest meeting Forest Plan objectives and trending towards desired conditions to provide a mix of timber products in response to market demands?	FW-DC-VEG-03; FW-OBJ-VEG-01	MON-VEG-04-01: MMBF offered and MMBF sold annually	Annual

DRAFT Colville NF Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan

Resource	Monitoring Question	Reference to Forest Plan Direction	Indicator	Frequency of Measure
Vegetation	MON-VEG-05: To what extent is the Forest meeting NFMA requirements and desired conditions on size of harvest openings?	FW-STD-VEG-04 (1982 Rule requirement [219.12(k)(5)(iii)])	MON-VEG-05-01: Number of even-aged regeneration harvest units exceeding 40 acres in size and category for exceeding	Annual
Vegetation	MON-VEG- 06: To what extent are regeneration units restocked to trend towards vegetation desired conditions?	FW-STD-VEG-05 (Rule requirement [219.12(k)(5)(i)])	MON-VEG- 06-01: On lands suitable for timber production, percent of acres with regeneration harvest that are adequately restocked within 5 years of harvest	Annual
Watershed	MON-WTS-01: Are management actions contributing to improved watershed condition class within focus, key, and priority watersheds, and other watersheds identified for restoration?	FW-DC-WR-01, FW-DC-WR-02, FW-DC-WR-03, FW-DC-04, FW-DC-WR-05, FW-DC-WR-06, FW-DC-WR-07, FW-DC-WR-08, FW-DC-WR-16, FW-DC-WR-17; FW-OBJ-WR-03, FW-OBJ-WR-04, FW-OBJ-WR-05, FW-OBJ-WR-06, FW-OBJ-WR-07, FW-OBJ-WR-08, FW-OBJ-WR-09, FW-OBJ-WR-10; FW-STD-WR-02, FW-STD-WR-03; FW-STD-WR-GDL-04; MA-OBJ-RMA-01, MA-OBJ-RMA-02, MA-OBJ-RMA-03; MA-STD-RMA-04, MA-STD-RMA-05, MA-STD-RMA-06, MW-STD-RMA-07, MA-STD-RMA-08; MA-GDL-RMA-02, MA-GDL-RMA-03, MA-GDL-RMA-04, MA-GDL-RMA-05, MA-GDL-RMA-06, MA-GDL-RMA-07	MON-WTS-01-01: Change in watershed condition class	Every 5 years
Watershed	MON-WTS-02: Are management actions reducing road impacts to watershed and aquatic habitat function and water quality within all watersheds across the Forest? Within Key, Focus, and Priority Watersheds?	FW-DC-WR-15; FW-OBJ-WR-03, FW-OBJ-WR-06, FW-STD-WR-02, FW-STD-WR-03; FW-GDL-WR-05; MA-DC-RMA-04, MA-DC-RMA-06, MA-RMA-07, MA-WR-RMA-08; MA-OBJ-RMA-02; MA-GDL-RMA-03, MA-GDL-RMA-04, MA-GDL-RMA-05, MA-GDL-RMA-06, MA-GDL-RMA-07	MON-WTS-02-01: Miles of roads treated that are a high risk to watershed and aquatic habitat function.	Annual

Resource	Monitoring Question	Reference to Forest Plan Direction	Indicator	Frequency of Measure
Watershed	MON-WTS-03: Are management actions improving key riparian processes within Riparian Management Areas?	MA-DC-RMA-02; MA-OBJ-RMA-01, MA-OBJ-RMA-02, MA-OBJ-RMA-03; MA-STD-RMA-01, MA-STD-RMA-04, MA-STD-RMA-06, MA-STD-RMA-07	MON-WTR-03-01: Acres or miles of watershed restoration activities accomplished, by subwatershed MON-WTR-03-02: Percent of subwatersheds trended towards an improved condition.	Annual Every 5 years (PIBO EM-comparison of reference conditions, WCF)
Watershed	MON-WTS-04: Are water resources and RMA standards, guidelines, and best management practices (BMPs) being implemented at project sites? Are standards, guidelines, and BMPs effective at achieving desired conditions?	All WR and RMA standards and guidelines	MON-WTR-04-01: Number of BMP evaluations completed and identification of BMPs that were implemented correctly and incorrectly, and identification of BMP effectiveness	BMP annual
Watershed	MON-WTS-05-01: What is the status and trend of water quality?	FW-DC-WR-05, All WR and RMA standards and guidelines	MON-WTR-05-01: Miles of state-listed impaired waters, miles of waters under an approved TMDL and WQIP.	Annual (WADoE 303(d) list, TMDLs, WQIP implementation and monitoring.
Aquatic Habitat	MON-AQH-01: Are management activities across the Forest contributing to the viability of riparian and wetland-dependent TES and surrogate species?	FS-DC-WR-02, FW-DC-WR-03, FW-DC-WR-05, FW-DC-WR-12, FW-DC-WR-14; FW-OBJ-WR-01, FW-OBJ-WR-02, FW-OBJ-WR-03, FW-OBJ-WR-04, FW-OBJ-WR-05, FW-OBJ-WR-06, FW-OBJ-WR-07, FW-OBJ-WR-08, FW-OBJ-WR-09, FW-OBJ-WR-10; FW-STD-WR-03; FW-GDL-WR-04; MA-OBJ-RMA-01, MA-OBJ-RMA-02, MA-OBJ-RMA-03; MA-STD-RMA-08	MON-AQH-01-01: PIBO EM, updated Aquatic Ecological Condition [AEC]), Stream channel morphology surveys in monumented reaches MON-AQH-01-02: Acres or miles of treatments to improve hydrologic, aquatic, and riparian function	Every 5 years (PIBO EM, updated Aquatic Ecological Condition [AEC]), stream channel morphology surveys), invasive species database. Annual

Resource	Monitoring Question	Reference to Forest Plan Direction	Indicator	Frequency of Measure
Aquatic Habitat	MON-AQH-02: Are management actions improving conditions within Riparian Management Areas where livestock grazing is permitted?	FW-OBJ-WR-07; MA-DC-RMA-03; MA-STD-RMA-09, MA-STD-RMA-10, MA-STD-RMA-11, MA-STD-RMA-11; MA-GDL-RMA-09, MA-GDL-RMA-10	MON-AQH-02-01: Acres of improvement within DMA locations. MON-AQH-02-02: Allotments managed to meet annual grazing management indicators	Annual, Every 5 years in conjunction with MON-WTR-03-02 above (PIBO EM & R-6 stream surveys) Annual (PIBO & Forest monitored DMAs)
Aquatic Habitat	MON-AQH-03: Are management actions preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species?	FW-DC-WR-11; FW-OBJ-WR-01, FW-OBJ-WR-02; FW-STD-WR-01; FW-GDL-WR-01, FW-GDL-WR-02, FW-GDL-WR-03; MA-GDL-RMA-08	MON-AQH-03-01: Acres of non-native invasive aquatic habitat treated MON-AQH-03-02: Number of sites of new non-native invasive aquatic species	Annual (R6 stream WIT); Annual, Every 5 years (PIBO EM)
Soil	MON-SOIL-01: To what extent have design features prevented irreversible damage to soil conditions?	FW-DC-SOIL-01, FW-DC-SOIL-02; FW-OBJ-SOIL-01; FW-GDL-SOIL-01; FW-GDL-REC-02; MA-GDL-RMA-21	MON-SOIL-01-01: Number of harvest units surveyed and percent that meet the Regional Soil Quality Standard, post-harvest (FSM, R1 Supplement No. 2500-99-1)	Annual
Federally listed species	MON-FLS-01: To what extent is forest management contributing to the conservation of federally listed species and moving toward habitat objectives?	FW-DC-WL-02, FW-DC-WL-03, FW-DC-WL-04, FW-DC-WL-05, FW-DC-WL-06, FW-DC-WL-07, FW-DC-WL-08; FW-OBJ-WL-02, FW-OBJ-WL-03; FW-STD-WL-02, FW-STD-WL-03, FW-STD-WL-04, FW-STD-WL-05, FW-STD-WL-06, FW-STD-WL-07, FW-STD-WL-08, FW-STD-WL-09, FW-STD-WL-10;	MON-FLS-01-01: Grizzly Bear: progress toward achieving and maintaining standards for percent core area, open motorized road density (OMRD) and total motorized road density (TMRD) within the Recovery Zones (see monitoring requirements for the Grizzly Bear Access Amendment in appendix B)	Annual

Resource	Monitoring Question	Reference to Forest Plan Direction	Indicator	Frequency of Measure
		<p>FW-GDL-WL-04, FW-GDL-WL-05, FW-GDL-WL-06, FW-GDL-WL-07, FW-GDL-WL-08, FW-GDL-WL-09, FW-GDL-WL-10, FW-GDL-WL-11</p>	<p>MON-FLS-01-02: Canada lynx: changes in lynx habitat as a result of moving towards the desired conditions for vegetation through providing a mosaic of lynx habitat with landscape pattern that is consistent with the historic range of variability</p> <p>MON-FLS-01-03: Woodland caribou: maintenance of seasonal habitat components of well-connected, large blocks of late-successional forest at or above current levels.</p> <p>MON-FLS-01-04: Woodland caribou: management of motorized winter recreation at or below current levels so that woodland caribou are not displaced from suitable habitat within the caribou recovery area.</p>	<p>Every 5 years.</p> <p>Every 5 years.</p> <p>Annual (caribou habitat monitoring report)</p>

Resource	Monitoring Question	Reference to Forest Plan Direction	Indicator	Frequency of Measure
MIS/Focal	MON-MIS-01: Are habitat trends for Management Indicator Species (MIS) /Focal consistent with the Desired Conditions and objectives?	FW-DC-Veg-05, FW-OBJ-WL-05 FW-STD-WL-01, FW-STD-WL-11, FW-GDL-WL-18	MON-MIS/Focal-01-01: White-headed Woodpecker: number of acres treated to provide large diameter tree habitat and move towards desired vegetation conditions by providing late-open structure	Annual
			MON-MIS/Focal-01-02: Northern goshawk: number of nest surveys completed	Annual
			MON-MIS/FOCAL-01-03: Snag habitat: snag densities by size class and vegetation type	Every 5 years
Wildlife	MON-WL-01: Have management activities met Plan objectives and maintained or improved habitat to achieve desired terrestrial habitat conditions	FW-DC-WL-02, FW-DC-WL-03, FW-DC-WL-04, FW-DC-WL-05, FW-DC-WL-06, FW-DC-WL-07, FW-DC-WL-12, FW-DC-WL-13; FW-OBJ-WL-02, FW-OBJ-WL-03, FW-OBJ-WL-04, FW-OBJ-WL-05, FW-OBJ-WL-06; FW-STD-WL-02, FW-STD-WL-05, FW-STD-WL-06, FW-STD-WL-07, FS-STD-WL-08, FW-STD-WL-09, FW-STD-WL-11; FW-GDL-WL-01, FW-GDL-WL-04, FW-GDL-WL-05, FW-GDL-WL-06, FW-GDL-WL-09, FW-GDL-WL-11, FW-GDL-WL-13, FW-GDL-WL-14, FW-GDL-WL-16	MON-WL-01-01: Acres of terrestrial habitat restored or enhanced. Also see results for MON-VEG-01-01 through MON-VEG-01-05	Annual

Resource	Monitoring Question	Reference to Forest Plan Direction	Indicator	Frequency of Measure
Social Systems				
Access and Recreation	MON-AR-01: What are the trends in visitation forestwide, and are visitors satisfied with the facilities, access, services, and perception of their safety?	FW-DC-AS-01, FW-DC-AS-02, FW-DC-AS-03, FW-DC-AS-04, FW-DC-AS-05; FW-OBJ-AS-01, FW-OBJ-AS-02, FW-OBJ-AS-03; MA-DC-ARS-01, MA-DC-ARS-02, MA-DC-ARS-03, MA-DC-ARS-04, MA-DC-ARS-05, MA-DC-ARS-06; MA-OBJ-ARS-01, MA-OBJ-ARS-02	MON-AR-01-01: Visitor use and trends in use forestwide	Every 5 years (NVUM)
Social and Economic	MON-SOC-01: Is the cost of implementing the Forest Plan consistent with that predicted in the FEIS?	Rule requirement (219.12(k)(3))	MON-SOC-01-01: Forest annual budget	Annual

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Appendix A – Consistency with Plan Components

3516

3517 As required by NFMA and the planning rule, all projects and activities authorized by the Forest
3518 Service must be consistent with the plan (16 U.S.C. 1604(i); 36 CFR 219.8(a), (b), and (e)). Projects
3519 and activities cover all actions under 16 U.S.C. 1604(i). A project or activity must be consistent with
3520 the plan (36 CFR 219.8(e)) by being consistent with applicable plan components (36 CFR 219.7(a));
3521 36 CFR 219.8(a).

3522 Plans may have other content, such as, background, collaboration strategies, context, existing
3523 conditions, glossary, introduction, monitoring questions, other referenced information or guidance,
3524 performance history, performance measures, performance risks, program emphasis, program
3525 guidance, program priorities, possible actions, roles and contributions, management challenges, or
3526 strategies, but such other content are not matters to which project consistency is required. **Ensuring**
3527 **Project or Activity Consistency with the Plan**—where a proposed project or activity would not be
3528 consistent with a plan component the responsible official has the following options:

- 3529
- To modify the proposal so that the project or activity will be consistent;
- 3530
- To reject the proposal; or
- 3531
- To amend the plan contemporaneously with the approval of the project or activity so that the
3532 project or activity is consistent with the plan as amended. The amendment may be limited to
3533 apply only to the project or activity (36 CFR 219.8(e)).

3534 The following paragraphs describe how a project or activity is consistent with plan components and
3535 the requirements for documenting consistency. The project must be consistent with all plan
3536 components; desired conditions, standards and guidelines.

3537 **Desired conditions** (36 CFR 219.7(a)(2)(i)) — Because of the many types of projects and activities
3538 that can occur over the life of a plan, it is not likely that a project or activity can maintain or
3539 contribute to the attainment of all desired conditions. Most projects and activities are developed
3540 specifically to maintain or move conditions toward one or more of the desired conditions of a plan.
3541 It should not be expected that each project or activity will contribute to all desired conditions in a
3542 plan, but usually to one or a subset. However, it should not be expected that in every instance, a
3543 project could clearly point to a specific desired condition as the reason the project was proposed;
3544 for example, a powerline right-of-way to a private inholding. There will also be instances when
3545 negative effects related to a specific desired condition are appropriate, either for long-term
3546 progress toward that same desired condition, or for progress toward or maintenance of another
3547 desired condition. It is also important that project consistency with a desired condition be assessed
3548 at the appropriate scale. For example, if a desired condition addresses watershed functionality at
3549 the scale of a 5th field watershed, then the contribution of any proposal to that desired condition
3550 should be considered at that scale.

3551 To be consistent with the desired conditions of the plan, a project or activity, when assessed at the
3552 appropriate spatial scale described in the plan, must be designed to meet one or more of the
3553 following conditions:

- 3554
1. Maintain or make progress toward one or more of the desired conditions of a plan
3555 without adversely affecting progress toward, or maintenance of other desired
3556 conditions, or

- 3557 2. Be neutral with regard to progress toward plan desired conditions, or
- 3558 3. Maintain or make progress toward one or more of the desired conditions over the
- 3559 long-term, even if the project or activity would adversely affect progress toward, or
- 3560 maintenance of, one or more desired conditions in the short-term, or
- 3561 4. Maintain or make progress toward one or more of the desired conditions over the
- 3562 long-term, even if the project or activity would adversely affect progress toward
- 3563 other desired conditions in a negligible way over the long-term.

3564 The project documentation should explain how the project is consistent with desired conditions and

3565 describe any short-term, or negligible long-term, adverse effects the project may have on the

3566 maintenance or attainment of any desired condition.

3567 **Objectives** (36 CFR 219.7(a)(2)(ii)) — A project or activity is consistent with the objectives

3568 component of the plan if it contributes to or does not prevent the attainment of any applicable

3569 objectives.

3570 The project documentation should identify any applicable objective(s) to which the project

3571 contributes and document that the project does not prevent the attainment of any objectives. If

3572 there are no applicable objectives, the project is consistent with the objectives components of the

3573 plan, and the project documentation should state that fact.

3574 **Guidelines** (36 CFR 219.7(a)(2)(iii))—A project or activity must be consistent with all guidelines

3575 applicable to the type of project or activity and its location in the plan area. A project or activity can

3576 be consistent with a guideline in either of two ways—

- 3577 1. The project or activity is designed exactly in accord with the guideline, or
- 3578 2. A project or activity design varies from the exact words of the guideline but is as
- 3579 effective in meeting the purpose of the guideline to contribute to the maintenance
- 3580 or attainment of relevant desired conditions and objectives.

3581 The project documentation should describe how the project is consistent with the guidelines. When

3582 the project varies from the exact words of the guideline, the documentation must specifically

3583 explain how the project design is as effective in contributing to the maintenance or attainment of

3584 relevant desired conditions and objectives.

3585 **Standards** (36 CFR 219.7(a)(2)(v))—A project or activity is consistent with a standard if the project

3586 or activity is designed in exact accord with the standard.

3587 The project documentation should confirm that the project is consistent with applicable standards.

3588 **Suitability of areas** (36 CFR 219.7(a)(2)(iv))—A project with the purpose of timber production may

3589 only occur in an area identified as suitable for timber production (16 U.S.C. 1604(k)). The

3590 documentation for the project should confirm the project area meets the suitability for timber

3591 production criteria set out in FSH 1909.12 section 61.

3592 Except for projects with a purpose of timber production, a project or activity can be consistent with

3593 plan suitability determinations in either of two ways:

- 3594 1. The project or activity is a use identified in the plan as generally suitable for the
- 3595 location where the project or activity is to occur, or

3596 2. The project or activity is not a use identified in the plan as generally suitable for the
3597 location (the plan is silent on the use or the plan identifies the use as generally not
3598 suitable), but the responsible official determines that the use to be appropriate for
3599 that location's desired conditions and objectives.

3600 The project documentation should describe that the project or activity is either (1) a use for which
3601 the area is specifically identified in the plan as generally suitable, or (2) not a use for which the area
3602 is specifically identified in the plan as general suitable, but is nonetheless appropriate for that
3603 location.

3604 **Special areas** (36 CFR 219.7(a)(2)(v))—Where a plan provides plan components specific to a special
3605 area, a project, or activity must be consistent with those area-specific components. The project
3606 documentation should describe how the project or activity is consistent with the area-specific
3607 components of the plan.

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Appendix B: Proposed and Possible Management Actions

INTRODUCTION

This appendix describes possible actions that may take place on the Colville National Forest at the project or activity-level to help maintain existing conditions or move toward the desired conditions. Because the Plan is a strategic document that provides general management guidance, the following items include program strategies anticipated during the next 15 years. The list of possible actions is not intended to be all-inclusive, nor are they intended to be decisions. They are simply projections of what actions may take place in the future.¹¹

This information is not a commitment to take any action and is not a “proposal” as defined by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1508.23, 42 U.S.C. 4322(2)(C)). Including this information is done under National Forest Management Act of 1976, 16 U.S.C. 1604(f).

A Plan amendment is not required to change or modify the proposed or possible management actions. In accord with the National Forest System Land Management Planning Rule (36 CFR 219.7(b)), these projections can be updated at any time through an administrative change of the Plan.

PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

The objectives in chapter 2 of the plan represent projects or activities intended to be accomplished during the planning period. These are listed in the table below.

Table B-1. List of proposed management actions (plan objectives)

Category	Project/Activity	Timeframe to Complete
Soil	Stabilize, rehabilitate, or restore natural processes that support soil productivity and function on 20 to 30 acres per year.	Within 5 years of plan implementation
Vegetation	Initiate active management activities on 6 to 12 thousand acres per year to move structure toward desired conditions at landscape scales in order to have landscapes dominated by Fire Regime Condition Class I, with the remainder in Fire Regime Condition Class II trending toward Fire Regime Condition Class I.	Over the next 15 years
Vegetation	Actively restore an annual average of 50 acres of native vegetation consistent with site capability and integrated resource management objectives.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Vegetation	Protect ecosystems from the impacts of invasive plants through an integrated approach that emphasizes prevention, early detection, and early treatment. Control an average 2,000 acres per year.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Vegetation	Increase restoration so that 5 to 10 acres of special and unique habitats are treated annually.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Water Resources	Implement aquatic invasive species prevention measures at all developed recreation sites providing direct and/or indirect access to water bodies, such as boat ramps, campgrounds,	Within the next 15 years

¹¹ The USDA Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, section 11.2

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Category	Project/Activity	Timeframe to Complete
	and day use areas that provide portal zones for hand-carried watercraft.	
Water Resources	Implement aquatic invasive species control and eradication at 10 sites where such invasions have become established and prevent attainment of listed fish recovery plan goals and/or effects to social, economic, and ecological systems are determined to be unacceptable.	Within the next 15 years
Water Resources	Decrease sediment delivery from management activities on 1,000 acres including but not limited to roads, livestock, illegal off-highway vehicle use, vegetation management, and dispersed and developed campsites.	Within the next 15 years
Water Resources	Restore aquatic organism passage for all life stages of native species at 45 road/stream crossings and man-made instream structures such as water diversions and dams outside of key watersheds.	Within 15 years
Water Resources	Management in key watersheds focuses on restoration or preservation of watershed, aquatic, and riparian function and recovery of threatened and endangered species. Improve watershed condition class in key watersheds that are a priority for restoration.	Within 15 years of forest plan implementation
Water Resources	Reduce road-hydrologic connectivity and sediment delivery on roads through storm damage risk reduction treatments, full hydrologic decommissioning, and other accepted treatment measures on 78 miles of hydrologically connected road.	Within 15 years of forest plan implementation
Water Resources	Improve hydrologic and aquatic function through range infrastructure improvements, including riparian fencing, movement and improvement of watering troughs, and other acceptable treatments on 250 acres.	Within 15 years of forest plan implementation
Water Resources	Move upland vegetation within riparian management areas in key watersheds toward historic range of variability on 1,200 acres.	within 15 years of forest plan implementation
Water Resources	Restore hydrologic, geomorphic, and riparian process and function on 76 miles of stream through activities including streambank stabilization, restoration of lateral and vertical hydrologic connectivity and improvement of stream channel and floodplain function.	Within 15 years of forest plan implementation
Water Resources	Implement the watershed condition framework through completion of essential projects outlined in watershed action plans in existing focus and priority watersheds to improve watershed condition class.	Over 15 years
Wildlife Habitats	Maintain the wildlife-resistant garbage storage devices installed in all developed campgrounds on the Colville National Forest, as needed. Install at least 15 wildlife resistant food storage lockers at developed campgrounds or heavily-used dispersed campsites.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Wildlife Habitats	Restore an average of 100 acres/year of snowshoe hare and/or lynx habitat within the lynx core area on the Kettle Crest.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Wildlife Habitats	Maintain or restore grizzly bear seasonal habitats on 900 acres.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Wildlife Habitats	Restore western hemlock/western redcedar vegetation types within late-successional forest habitats for focal wildlife species on 1400 acres.	Within 15 years of plan implementation

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Category	Project/Activity	Timeframe to Complete
Wildlife Habitats	Restore or move towards restoration of late and old structure ponderosa pine forest habitat on 500 acres per year.	Over the next 15 years
Wildlife Habitats	Restore (i.e., application of prescribed fire, invasive plant management, etc.) habitat on 1,000 acres of deer and elk winter range.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
National Forest Access System	Designate 45 miles of motorized mixed use roads across the Forest that would connect with existing motorized mixed use roads identified on the Motor Vehicle Use Map to create loop riding opportunities, connect camping areas, or connect communities with the Forest.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
National Forest Access System	Improve drainage, water crossing and trail layout on 5% of the Forest's trail system designed for mountain bikes, motorized use, and pack stock.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
National Forest Access System	Maintain at least 20 percent of the Forest's motorized and non-motorized trail system.	Annually
Livestock Grazing	Recondition or reconstruct an average of one to four percent of the existing range infrastructure on National Forest System lands annually.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Renewable Forest Products	As a result of vegetation treatments implemented over 6,000 to 12,000 acres, estimated volume of merchantable forest products, measured at a Forest scale, to be average of 62 million board feet per year.	Over the next 15 years
Administrative and Recreation Sites	Provide a minimum of one large (100+ person capacity) group site for day or overnight use in a location where there is a demonstrated need identified through public demand.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Administrative and Recreation Sites	Increase parking capacity at one Sno-Park and one trailhead where use exceeds designed parking lot capacity on more than 25 percent of weekends.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Nationally Designated Trails	Relocate 10 to 15 percent of the trail miles currently located on roads into a non-motorized trail setting.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Research Natural Areas	Complete the establishment record on all proposed research natural areas.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Research Natural Areas	Treat populations of invasive, non-native species on an average of 10 acres annually.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Riparian Management Areas	Restore riparian processes and balance need for occupancy and access to water at 50 dispersed and developed recreation sites, through education, enforcement, and engineering where recreational use results in bank damage, reduction in water quality, and/ or a reduction in stream shade.	Over the next 15 years
Riparian Management Areas	Restore hydrologic and riparian habitat function within RMAs in non-key watersheds by reducing road-related impacts on 30 miles of road.	Within 15 years
Riparian Management Areas	Move upland vegetation within riparian management areas outside of key watersheds toward historic range of variability on 500 acres.	Within 15 years of plan implementation
Scenic Byways	Move 10 percent of the foreground and middle ground seen areas of National Scenic Byways toward meeting scenic integrity objectives.	Within 15 years of plan implementation

3629 **POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

3630 Chapters 2 and 3 of the plan describe some of the possible management actions for achieving
3631 desired conditions and objectives. These are summarized in the following sections.

3632 **TERRESTRIAL ECOSYSTEMS**

3633 **Vegetation**

3634 Vegetation management includes those activities that actively move vegetation towards desired
3635 conditions. Vegetation management might include activities that would maintain or increase
3636 representation of early seral, shade-intolerant, drought and fire tolerant, insect/disease resistant
3637 species dominance types. Activities could treat areas to maintain or improve forest resilience,
3638 natural diversity, and productivity, and to reduce negative impacts of non-native organisms over the
3639 life of the Plan. Specifically, the following types of actions are likely to occur:

- 3640 • Planting blister rust resistant white pine;
- 3641 • Pruning of white pine to reduce vulnerability to blister rust fungus;
- 3642 • Maintenance or restoration of rare plant habitat and special and unique natural communities;
- 3643 • Planting shade-intolerant, fire-adapted, drought resistant species;
- 3644 • Managing stands to retain or move towards old growth;
- 3645 • Treating insects and disease using integrated pest management techniques.

3646 **Fire Management**

3647 Actions related to treatment of fuels will include the following:

- 3648 • Planned ignitions;
- 3649 • Mechanical treatments, including commercial timber sales and noncommercial treatments;
3650 and
- 3651 • Unplanned ignitions.

3652 **Forest Products**

3653 Actions include:

- 3654 • Use timber production and tree cutting to achieve vegetation desired conditions and
3655 contribute to the local and regional economy;
- 3656 • Intermediate timber harvest (commercial thinning, improvement cutting, etc.);
- 3657 • Regeneration harvest with treatments that are even-age in nature (clearcut, or two-age
3658 regeneration), or uneven-age (group selection or single tree selection); and
- 3659 • Salvage of dead or dying timber.
- 3660 • Gathering of firewood, huckleberries, and other special forest products.
- 3661 • Offer up to the predicted wood sale quantity (PWSQ) an average of 62 million board feet per
3662 year. The PWSQ represents the amount of timber, including special forest products such as
3663 firewood, that may be sold from lands suitable for timber production.

3664 Vegetation treatments as modelled for determination of effects:
3665 Table B-2 shows what treatments were proposed and included by management area for modelling
3666 vegetation changes related to the revised land management plan. If a treatment is not included
3667 within a management area, the treatment is not prohibited, but was not considered as a primary
3668 management tool.

3669 Table B-2 – Modelled vegetation treatments by management area and vegetation type

Management Area (Model Zone)	Vegetation Type	Fire			Stand Improvement				Final Harvest				
		Prescribed Fire (Light)	Prescribed Fire (Mixed)	Prescribed Fire (Severe)	PCT	Thinning Small and Medium	Partial Harvest Poles	Partial Harvest Small	Partial Harvest Medium	Variable Density Thinning	Shelterwood w/ Reserves	Regeneration Small and Medium	Salvage
Focused & General Restoration	Douglas-fir dry	X			X		X		X	X			
	Northern Rocky Mountain mixed conifer		X							X			
	Western redcedar / Western hemlock												
	Subalpine fir / Lodgepole pine			X							X		
	Spruce / Subalpine fir												
Wilderness / Other	Douglas-fir dry	X											
	Northern Rocky Mountain mixed conifer												
	Western redcedar / Western hemlock												
	Subalpine fir / Lodgepole pine			X									
	Spruce / Subalpine fir												

3670 **Invasive Species**

- 3671 • Use an array of tools (chemical, biological, mechanical, and cultural) to control or eradicate
3672 invasive species.
- 3673 • Provide education and outreach programs designed to increase awareness of invasive species.
- 3674 • Implement preventative measures (e.g., pre- and post-work equipment sanitation, requiring
3675 certified weed-free seed and hay) through permitting, contracting, and other forest
3676 administrative processes.
- 3677 • Collaborate with other agencies and entities to replace nonnative aquatic species with
3678 natives.
- 3679 • Cooperate with Washington State agencies, local governments and other organizations to
3680 support a successful invasive species management program.

3681 **Wildlife**

3682 Wildlife habitat management involves establishing and maintaining the vegetation diversity
3683 necessary to provide food, cover, and security for all wildlife species native to the Forest in
3684 cooperation with federal, state, and other organizations. Activities might include:

- 3685 • Maintenance or restoration of wildlife habitat (e.g., burning);
- 3686 • Site-specific improvement of motorized access densities and secure core habitat parameters
3687 within Grizzly Bear Management subunits;

3688 **AQUATIC AND RIPARIAN ECOSYSTEMS**

3689 Management activities include both passive and active restoration to maintain and improve habitat
3690 and ecological conditions capable of supporting ground & surface hydrologic function and self-
3691 sustaining populations of native riparian-dependent plant and animal species. Passive restoration is
3692 the broad-scale natural recovery of the aquatic ecosystem and includes implementation of best
3693 management practices, key watersheds and designation of riparian management areas. Active
3694 restoration includes management activities with the specific goal of restoring the processes that
3695 improve aquatic and riparian habitat function.

3696 Activities may include:

- 3697 • Active stream restoration actions at selected stream reaches to improve degraded conditions
3698 and stream channel stability (e.g., adding large woody debris to streams);
- 3699 • Planting riparian vegetation for bank stability and shade;
- 3700 • Treating invasive terrestrial plant species in riparian areas to improve riparian community
3701 structure;
- 3702 • Removal, reconstruction, or improved maintenance of roads located in riparian areas to
3703 improve watershed health and reduce sediment delivery to the aquatic ecosystem;
- 3704 • Treating upland roads to reduce water interception;
- 3705 • Culvert replacement or removal to improve passage for native species, where appropriate;
- 3706 • Culvert replacement or removal to improve hydrologic function and sediment transport; and
3707 • Riparian area fencing.

3708 **SOCIAL SYSTEMS**

3709 **Access and Recreation**

3710 Recreation management includes those activities that assist in providing a range of recreation
3711 opportunities across the Forest. Specifically, the following types of actions are likely to occur:

- 3712 • Trail construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and relocation;
- 3713 • Construction of facilities such as parking areas, toilets, trailheads, information kiosks, fishing
3714 access, and boating access points;
- 3715 • Maintain and upgrade facilities such as campgrounds, picnic areas, toilets, and parking lots;
- 3716 • Maintain and modify dispersed recreation sites to reduce or eliminate resource concerns;
- 3717 • Implement the Scenery Management System across the Forest;
- 3718 • Maintain (e.g., clearing, grading, brushing, providing functioning water structures) and
3719 improve (e.g., realignment, resurface, bridges and water structures) existing road and trail
3720 system and construct new roads and trails when needed;
- 3721 • Complete subpart C travel management planning (36 CFR 212). Identify areas and trails for
3722 motorized and non-motorized winter uses on the Forest;
- 3723 • Implement measures (e.g., education, signage, law enforcement, seasonal road closures) to
3724 discourage encroachment of motorized vehicles into non-motorized areas.
- 3725 • Use educational techniques (e.g., brochures, signs) to help users understand motorized and
3726 non-motorized use etiquette.
- 3727 • Provide special use permits for commercial recreation opportunities (e.g., resorts, ski areas,
3728 outfitter and guides, special events);
- 3729 • Administrative Facilities
- 3730 • Annual maintenance;
- 3731 • Deferred maintenance;
- 3732 • Improvements to meet health and safety requirements;
- 3733 • Improvements to reduce operation and maintenance costs (increase energy efficiency);
- 3734 • Emergency repairs caused by natural events; and
- 3735 • Building decommissioning.

3736 **Air Quality**

3737 The main management action taken by the Forest that could affect air quality is fire. Planned
3738 ignitions will follow all Washington State smoke regulations to reduce the impact of smoke.

3739 **Heritage Resources**

3740 Heritage resources activities will likely consist of:

- 3741 • Conducting surveys to identify significant sites, and follow-up actions necessary to protect,
3742 stabilize, or salvage sites;
- 3743 • Identifying and evaluating heritage resources for the National Register of Historic Places;

- 3744 • Stabilizing, rehabilitating, restoring, and caring for heritage resources;
- 3745 • Conducting deferred maintenance to historic facilities;
- 3746 • Promoting heritage values through public education, outreach, and interpretative programs;
- 3747 and
- 3748 • Conducting scientific and historic research on heritage.

3749 American Indian Rights and Interests

3750 Activities will likely consist of:

- 3751 • Ongoing government-to-government and staff consultation for each federally recognized tribe
- 3752 with historical or treaty interests in forest land, through a cooperatively established
- 3753 communication policy.
- 3754 • Develop and maintain effective working relationships and recognize American Indian tribal
- 3755 viewpoints.

3756 Lands and Special Uses

3757 Lands program actions are likely to include:

- 3758 • Maintaining landlines and actions associated with adjusting NFS ownership through
- 3759 purchases, exchanges, or other conveyances;
- 3760 • Permitting uses (e.g., easements), structures (e.g., communication towers), outfitter/guides,
- 3761 and special events;
- 3762 • Conveyance;
- 3763 • Land exchange; and
- 3764 • Right-of-way acquisition.

3765 Livestock Grazing

3766 Management activities relating to livestock grazing on the national forest can include building

3767 fences, constructing and maintaining water developments, treating noxious weeds, implementing

3768 deferred or rest-rotation grazing systems, and improving livestock distribution. Activities will likely

3769 consist of:

- 3770 • Complete environmental analysis and assess and update allotment management plans to
- 3771 improve allotment management and protect and manage the resources present within them.
- 3772 • Consider grazing in the context of timing, intensity, and duration of use and adjust accordingly
- 3773 to respond to changing resource conditions.
- 3774 • Work with permittees, the State, tribes, and other organizations to maintain or improve
- 3775 rangeland conditions.
- 3776 • Develop, re-develop and maintain range developments (e.g., fence, corrals and water
- 3777 developments).

3778 **Minerals and Energy**

3779 Management activities relating to mineral activities can include requiring prior authorization for
3780 collection of saleable minerals, and prior authorization for exploration and development of saleable
3781 minerals. Activities will likely consist of:

- 3782 • Mineral materials development;
- 3783 • Abandoned mine reclamation; and
- 3784 • Locatable and leasable minerals exploration and development.

3785 **Road Construction**

- 3786 • Road reconstruction (includes work to implement Best Management Practices [BMP] work);
- 3787 • Temporary road construction;
- 3788 • Annual road maintenance;
- 3789 • Deferred road maintenance;
- 3790 • Drainage structure repair and replacement;
- 3791 • Road decommissioning; and
- 3792 • Emergency repairs caused by natural events.

3793 **Scenery**

3794 Scenery management tools and techniques are mostly accomplished through maintenance,
3795 restoration, or enhancement of the natural landscape. This is done through use of the vegetation,
3796 wildlife and the aquatic and riparian tools and techniques described above.

3797 **Social and Economic Systems**

- 3798 • Contribute to and support local jobs and labor income within the counties surrounding the
3799 forest through anticipated outputs associated with management activities.
- 3800 • Coordinate management plans and activities with state, local and tribal governments.

3801

Appendix C: Sensitive Species Summary

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PLANTS

3803

*FEDERAL STATUS (USDI FWS 2011)

3804

+Washington Natural Heritage Program State Rank (NatureServe 2013)

3805

Washington State rank (2013) characterizes the relative rarity or endangerment within the state of

3806

Washington. Factors including, but not limited to, number of known occurrences are considered

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when assigning a rank. Two codes together represent an inexact range (e.g., S1S2) or different ranks

3808

for breeding and non-breeding populations (e.g., S1B, S3N). Values and their definitions:

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- **S1** = Critically imperiled in the state because of extreme rarity or other factors making it especially vulnerable to extirpation from the state. (Typically 5 or fewer occurrences or very few remaining individuals or acres.)

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- **S2** = Imperiled in the state because of rarity or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation from the state. (Typically 6 to 20 occurrences or few remaining individuals or acres.)

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- **S3** = Rare or uncommon in the state. (Typically 21 to 100 occurrences)

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- **SNR** = Not yet ranked. Sufficient time and effort have not yet been devoted to ranking of this taxon.

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Table C-1. Sensitive plants

Scientific Name (Common Name)	Habitat Group	Federal* and WNHP State Rank+
<i>Antennaria corymbosa</i> (flat-top pussytoes)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S1
<i>Antennaria parvifolia</i> (Nuttall's pussytoes)	Dry meadows, open dry forests, shrub steppe	S2
<i>Astragalus microcystis</i> (least bladderly milk-vetch)	Dry meadows, open dry forests, shrub steppe	S2
<i>Botrychium ascendens</i> (upward-lobed moonwort)	Dry meadows, open dry forests, shrub steppe	S2
<i>Botrychium crenulatum</i> (crenulate moonwort)	Moist openings, wet forests	S3
<i>Botrychium hesperium</i> (western moonwort)	Dry meadows, open dry forests, shrub steppe	S1
<i>Botrychium lineare</i> (slender moonwort)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S1
<i>Botrychium paradoxum</i> (twin-spiked moonwort)	Dry meadows, open dry forests, shrub steppe	S2
<i>Botrychium pedunculosum</i> (stalked moonwort)	Dry meadows, open dry forests, shrub steppe	S2
<i>Carex capillaris</i> (hair-like sedge)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S1
<i>Carex comosa</i> (bristly sedge)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2

Scientific Name (Common Name)	Habitat Group	Federal* and WNHP State Rank+
<i>Carex magellanica ssp. irrigua</i> (poor sedge)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2S3
<i>Carex proposita</i> (Smoky Mountain sedge)	Alpine and subalpine meadows, fellfields, parklands	S2
<i>Carex rostrata</i> (beaked sedge)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S1
<i>Carex tenera</i> (quill sedge)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S1
<i>Cicuta bulbifera</i> (bulb-bearing water-hemlock)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2
<i>Cryptogramma stelleri</i> (Steller's rockbrake)	Cliffs, talus, rock outcrops	S1S2
<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i> (yellow lady's slipper)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2
<i>Dryas drummondii</i> var. <i>drummondii</i> (Drummond's mountain-avens)	Cliffs, talus, rock outcrops	S2
<i>Dryopteris cristata</i> (crested woodfern)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2
<i>Eriophorum viridicarinatum</i> (green-keeled cottongrass)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2
<i>Eurybia merita</i> (arctic aster)	Alpine and subalpine meadows, fellfields, parklands	S1S2
<i>Gaultheria hispidula</i> (creeping snowberry)	Alpine and subalpine meadows, fellfields, parklands	S2
<i>Geum rivale</i> (water avens)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2S3
<i>Lomatium sandbergii</i> (Sandberg's desert-parsley)	Alpine and subalpine meadows, fellfields, parklands	S1
<i>Lycopodium dendroideum</i> (treelike clubmoss)	Moist openings, wet forests	S2
<i>Muhlenbergia glomerata</i> (spiked muhly)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S1S2
<i>Ophioglossum pusillum</i> (northern adderstongue)	Moist openings, wet forests	S1S2
<i>Pinus albicaulis</i> (whitebark pine) *	Alpine and subalpine meadows, fellfields, parklands	S and *Federal Candidate
<i>Platanthera obtusata</i> (small northern bog-orchid)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2
<i>Ribes oxycanthoides</i> ssp. <i>irriguum</i> (Idaho gooseberry)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2
<i>Salix candida</i> (hoary willow)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S1
<i>Salix maccalliana</i> (McCall's willow)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S1
<i>Salix pseudomonticola</i> (false mountain willow)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S1
<i>Sanicula marilandica</i> (black snake-root)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2
<i>Sisyrinchium montanum</i> (strict blue-eyed grass)	Moist openings, wet forests	S1
<i>Spartina pectinata</i> (prairie cordgrass)	Wetlands, moist meadows, riparian	S2
<i>Viola renifolia</i> (kidney-leaved violet)	Moist openings, wet forests	S2

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3820 **TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE**

3821 Relationship between Region 6 Sensitive Species¹² and Region 6 Surrogate Species¹³ used in the
 3822 Colville National Forest Wildlife Evaluation Report. Status definitions:

- 3823 • D = documented
 3824 • S = suspected to occur on Forest

3825 **Table C-2. Terrestrial wildlife**

Sensitive Species	Habitat Group	Status on Forest	Surrogate Species
Northern Goshawk	Medium-large trees/all forest communities	D	Northern Goshawk
Peregrine Falcon	Habitat generalist/Cliff	D	Peregrine Falcon
Common Loon	Wetland/Marsh/Open water	D	Eared Grebe
Sandhill Crane	Wetland/Marsh/Wet Meadow	D	Wilson's Snipe
Bald Eagle	Riparian/large tree	D	Bald Eagle
Harlequin Duck	Riparian/large tree	D	Harlequin Duck
Lewis's Woodpecker	Open forest/post-fire	S	Lewis's Woodpecker, Three-toed Woodpecker
Whiteheaded Woodpecker	Medium-large trees/dry forest	D	Whiteheaded Woodpecker
Great Gray Owl	Forest Mosaic/all Forest Communities	D	Northern Goshawk
Northern Leopard Frog	Riparian/Pond/Small Lake/Backwater	S	Columbia Spotted Frog
Gray Wolf	Habitat Generalist	D	Wolverine, Grizzly Bear
Wolverine	Habitat Generalist	D	Wolverine, Grizzly Bear
Townsend's Bigeared Bat	Chambers/caves	D	Townsend's Bigeared Bat
Little Brown Myotis	Open Forest/Woodland/Grass/Shrub/Caves	D	Fringed Myotis, Pallid Bat, Townsend's Bigeared Bat
Bighorn Sheep	Woodland/Grass/Shrub	D	Bighorn Sheep
Pacific Fisher	Medium-large trees/cool-moist forest or all forest communities	D	Pileated Woodpecker, American Marten, Northern Goshawk, Woodland Caribou
Pygmy Shrew	Boreal Forest	D	Canada Lynx, Northern Bog Lemming

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¹² R6 Sensitive Species List as of 15 July 2015 (USFS 2015)

¹³ R6 Surrogate Species (formerly Focal Species) for Species Viability Assessments (USFS 2010)

3827 **FISH**

3828 **Table C-3. Fish**

Species	Status
Westslope Cutthroat	Species of interest (state candidate, Forest Service Region 6 sensitive)
Redband/rainbow trout	Species of interest (Forest Service Region 6 sensitive)
Pygmy Whitefish	Species of interest (state and Forest Service Region 6 sensitive)
Umatilla dace	Forest Service Region 6 sensitive

Appendix D: Scenic Integrity Objectives

3829
 3830 High quality scenery, especially scenery with natural-appearing landscapes, enhanced people’s lives and
 3831 benefits society. The Scenery Management System presents a vocabulary for managing scenery and a
 3832 systematic approach for determining the relative value and importance of scenery in a national forest.
 3833 Ecosystems provide the environmental context for this scenery management system. The system is to be
 3834 used in the context of ecosystem management to inventory and analyze scenery in a national forest, to
 3835 assist in the establishment of overall resource goals and objectives, to monitor the scenic resource, and
 3836 to ensure high-quality scenery for future generations. Scenery management is not static, it is as dynamic
 3837 as the work in which we live.

3838 Viewing natural features is one of the primary activities that draws visitors to national forest. The forests
 3839 in the planning area are known for many outstanding scenic features including breathtaking lakes and
 3840 rivers, picturesque mountain ranges and geological features, and spectacular displays of flowers in the
 3841 spring and summer and colorful foliage in the fall. Cultural landscapes are also important such as viewing
 3842 old homesteads, mining operations, and Civilian Conservation Corps craftsmanship. Roads, trails,
 3843 waterways, and vista points are the primary avenues for viewing scenery.

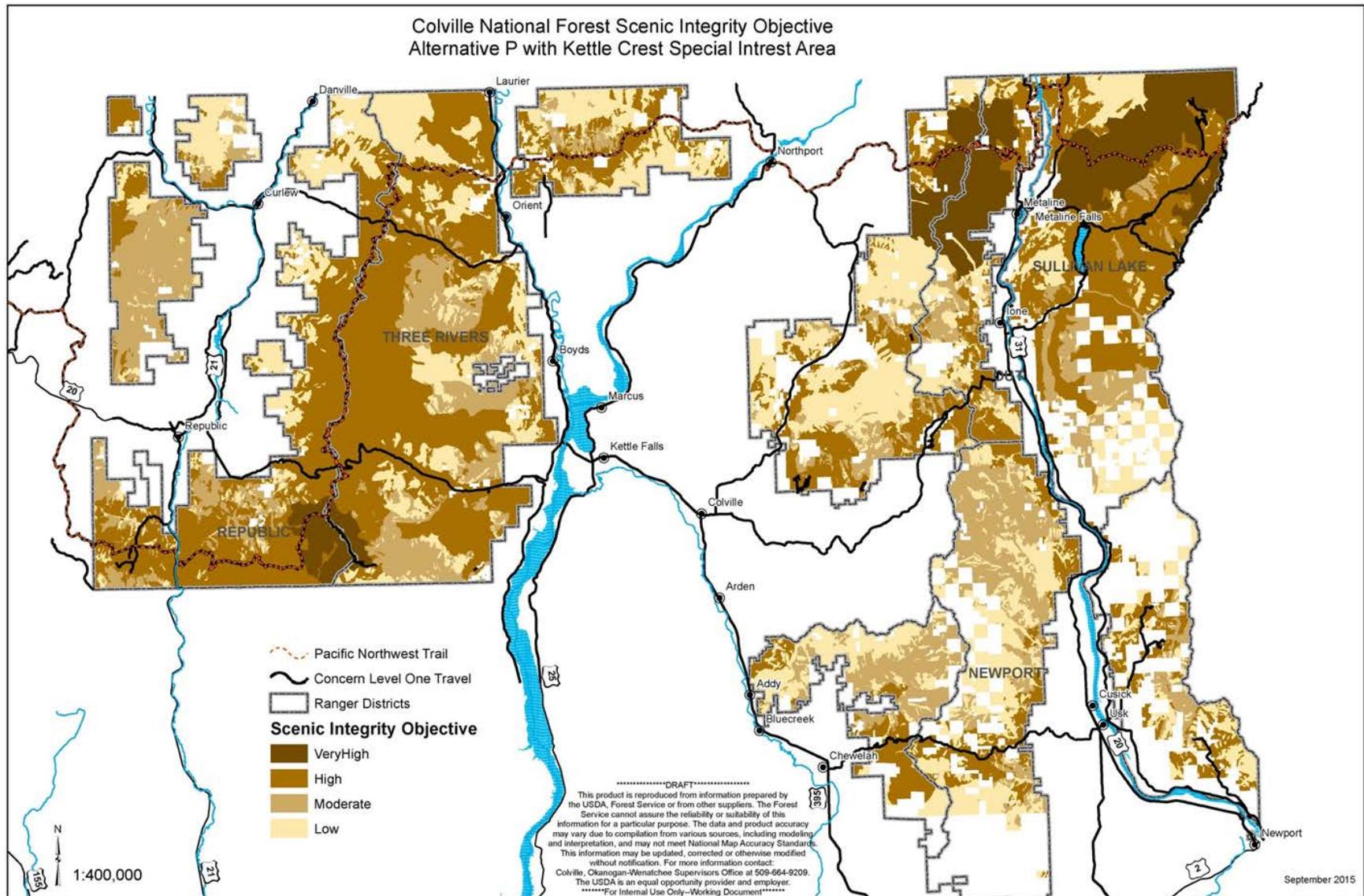
3844 The Scenery Management System provides an overall framework for the inventory, analysis and
 3845 management of scenery. The system applies to every acre of national forest and national grassland
 3846 administered by the Forest Service and to all Forest Service activities, including timber harvesting, road
 3847 building, stream improvements, special use developments, utility line construction, recreation
 3848 developments, and fuels management. Managing the scenic character of the forest is integral to all
 3849 forest activities. In some locations, scenic character has been degraded by past practices and
 3850 rehabilitation is needed. In other locations, enhancements such as interpretive facilities can improve the
 3851 experiential setting. The Scenery Management System is utilized to support and complement all
 3852 management activities.

3853 The following table displays the six scenic integrity objectives and conditions associated with each level
 3854 (how people perceive them). Table D-1. Scenic Integrity and Condition. (USDA FS, 1995, Landscape
 3855 Aesthetics, p A-1)

3856 **Table D-1. Scenic integrity objective definitions**

Scenic Integrity Objective (SIO)	Definition
Very High	Landscape is intact with only minor changes from the valued landscape character associated with significant scenic landscapes. This SIO is typically (but not exclusively) associated with specially designated areas such as wilderness or other designations that imply the landscape is natural appearing and only ecological changes occur.
High	Management activities are unnoticed and the landscape character <i>appears</i> unaltered.
Moderate	Management activities are noticeable but are subordinate to the landscape character. The landscape appears Slightly altered
Low	Management activities are evident and sometimes dominate the landscape character but are designed to blend with surroundings by repeating line, form, color, texture of landscape character attributes. The landscape appears altered.
Very Low	Management activities create a “heavily altered landscape.” Changes may strongly dominate the landscape.
Unacceptably Low (Not a management objective, used for inventory only)	Management activities create an extremely altered landscape. Deviations are extremely dominant and borrow little if any form, line, color, texture, pattern or scale from the landscape character. Landscapes at this level of integrity need rehabilitation.

3857 The Colville National Forest has a full range of scenic integrity levels from Very High, to High, Moderate,
3858 Low and Very Low; Wilderness and Recommended Wilderness is Very High.



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Figure D-1. Colville National Forest scenic integrity objectives

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Appendix E: Suitable Uses by Management Area

3862 Table E-1. Suitable uses by management area

Suitable Uses	Forest Plan Management Areas (May Authorize = Y, May Not Authorize = X)												
	Administrative & Recreation Sites	Back country	Back country Motorized	Focused Restoration	General Restoration	Nationally Designated Trails	Research Natural Areas	Riparian Management Areas	Scenic Byways	Special Interest Area	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Wilderness – Congressionally Designated	Wilderness – Recommended
Facilities, administrative	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y and X	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X
Facilities, developed recreation	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	Y		X	X
Federal Energy Regulation Commission licenses or permits	X	X	X	Y	Y	X	X	X	X	Y	X	X	X
Prescribed Fire	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Wildfire, use of unplanned ignition	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Forest products - commercial use (non-timber harvest)	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	Y	Y	Y	X	X	X
Forest products - firewood, commercial use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	Y	Y	Y	X	X	X
Forest products - firewood, permitted personal use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	Y	Y	X	X	X
Forest products, personal use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y
Grazing, permitted	Y and X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y and X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y and X	Y
Infrastructure, above ground infrastructure associated with special use permits, such as communication sites, energy developments, and/or utility lines.	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y and X	Y and X	X	X	Y		X	X
Mechanized recreational use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		X	Y and X
Minerals, leasable – surface occupancy	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	X	X	Y		X	X
Minerals, locatable	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X		Y	Y		Y and X	Y
Minerals, saleable	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	X	X	Y	X	X	X

Suitable Uses	Forest Plan Management Areas (May Authorize = Y, May Not Authorize = X)												
	Administrative & Recreation Sites	Back country	Back country Motorized	Focused Restoration	General Restoration	Nationally Designated Trails	Research Natural Areas	Riparian Management Areas	Scenic Byways	Special Interest Area	Wild and Scenic Rivers	Wilderness – Congressionally Designated	Wilderness – Recommended
Motorized recreational use, summer, trails or play areas	Y and X	X	Y	Y	Y	X	X	Y and X	Y	Y and X		X	X
Motorized recreational use, winter, trails or cross-country	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	X	X	Y	Y	Y and X		X	X
Non-motorized recreational use, summer	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Non-motorized recreational use, winter	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Road construction, permanent	Y	X	X	Y	Y	Y and X	X	Y	Y	Y and X		X	X
Road construction, temporary	Y	X	X	Y	Y	Y and X	X	Y	Y	Y and X		X	X
Special use permits, recreational	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y
Timber harvest as a tool	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	Y		X	X
Timber harvest, scheduled production	X	X	X	Y	Y	X	X	X	Y	Y and X	X	X	X
Utility corridors	X	X	Y	Y	Y	X	X	Y	Y	Y		X	X

3863