



Colville National Forest Plan Revision

February 2016 Comment Period

Revised Forest Plan DEIS Available for Review and Comment

The 90-day comment period has begun. This is your opportunity to be involved in the Forest Plan revision process, to offer thoughts on alternative ways for the Forest Service to accomplish what is proposed, to comment on the preferred alternative and analysis, and to work with the Forest Service in doing what is best for the land, while also enhancing social and economic vitality.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) "... is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on the understanding of environmental consequences..." (40 CFR 1501(c)). To achieve this, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) considers the effects of management actions on social, economic, and ecological resources within the planning area. You may have valuable information about places and resources you consider important and the potential effects the proposed federal actions may have on those places and resources. This is your opportunity to work with us so that we finish with a Final Land Management Plan (also referred to as the Forest Plan) that is good for the land and the public it serves.

Comments that provide relevant and new information with sufficient detail and rationale are the most useful, and are referred to as substantive comments. The Forest Service reads and considers all comments and identifies the topics that are substantive for consideration in the final EIS and Land Management Plan.

How Comments will be Used

Public comments received during the 90-day comment period may be used to modify alternatives, develop new alternatives for consideration, improve analysis of effects, or to make factual corrections. Public comments will help to finalize the land management plan and environmental impact statement.

As you review the revised plan, understand that it does not make site-specific decisions, but it does provide strategic direction that guides site-specific decisions. The Draft Revised Land Management Plan is more strategic in nature than the current Forest Plan and will not repeat direction included in Forest Service handbooks or manuals, memorandums of understanding, and regional or national directives. Comments on the DEIS and Draft Revised Forest Plan are encouraged and are essential to helping us make the right decisions for the good of the land and the public we serve.

The Documents – DEIS and Draft Revised Forest Plan

We are encouraging the public to view our documents through the following options:

- **Website:** <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/colville/plan-revision>
- **View in person:** documents to read are available at Forest Service offices in Colville, Kettle Falls, Republic, Metaline Falls, and Newport; documents are also available for viewing at several local community libraries
- **CD or Hard copy:** email request to colvilleplanrevision@fs.fed.us for a compact disc (CD) or hardcopy (limited numbers of printed copies are available). These may also be obtained by contacting one of the plan revision team members listed at the end of this guide, or call 509-684-7211.



for the greatest good

Where Can I Learn More about the Plan Revision Documents

Check out the project website for background papers and specialist reports, or learn to navigate the **Interactive Map Tool** for zeroing in on your favorite areas of the forest to compare the differences between management area alternatives.

Topical Webinars (open to all) – tune into an informational webinar to learn more about specific components of the plan, and how those may vary by alternative. Each webinar will focus on a specific topic (wilderness recommendations, for example), how it is addressed by Forest Service proposals, and how different forest users could be affected by the proposals. Topics will be selected, in part, based on the frequency of questions and comments received on a given forest plan revision topic. Dates and topics for each of the webinars will be posted to our website as they get scheduled.

Visit our Online Open House (available 24/7) and discussion page

Our online open house will launch at the beginning of the public comment period. It will offer the breadth and depth of material found at a traditional in-person open house, with the added convenience of 24/7 information availability that is downloadable throughout the comment period. Participants may engage in an online discussion about specific issues through this site.

Listening Sessions (open to all) Later in the comment period The U.S. Institute (a neutral third-party facilitator) will convene and host four meetings where interested individuals can share their perspectives on the proposal with the listening audience and Forest Service.

Check the forest website for updates on where and when meetings will be scheduled.

How to Submit Comments

Electronically:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45826>

or

<https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?project=45826>

US mail:

Colville National Forest
Plan Revision Team
765 South Main St.
Colville, WA 99114

To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments via the electronic format noted above. Comments must be postmarked or received electronically no later than 90 days from February 19, 2016, when the Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register. If you need assistance in submitting a comment and/or working through the electronic system, please call: 509-684-7211 or 509-664-9247.

Subscribe to the Contact List

To ensure that you remain on the contact list for updates or to update your information, please sign up for our new electronic messaging system: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/colville/plan-revision>

We are shifting to the electronic message system and web postings to reduce printing and mailing costs.

To remain on the hardcopy mailing list, please contact Debbie Kelly (509-664-9247).

Contact a planning team member:

Amy Dillon

Forest Environmental Coordinator &
Plan Revision Team Leader
Phone: (509) 684-7211

Email: colvilleplanrevision@fs.fed.us

Debbie Kelly

Public Affairs Lead
Forest Plan Revision Team
Phone: (509) 664-9247

Contact the Forest Supervisor:

Rodney Smoldon, Forest Supervisor, can be reached by contacting his Executive Assistant at (509) 684-7163 or the front desk at (509) 684-7000 (877-727-8704 [Toll Free]), or TTY (509) 684-7100.

Thank you for your interest in the Colville National Forest, and for taking the time to review and comment on our planning documents.

Timeframes and Next Steps

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