

Colville National Forest
Meeting with TriCounty Economic Development District
February 24, 2016

Attending

Shelly Stevens, Melinda Lee and other committee members

Forest Service:

Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team Lead, Franklin Pemberton, Public Affairs Officer, Eric McQuay, West Zone Recreation Program Manager, and Marcy Rumelhart (notes).

The meeting was held at the Tri-County Economic Development District office in Colville, WA. This was the regular TEDD Board meeting. The forest plan revision discussion started just before 2:00.

Amy gave an overview of plan revision history; involvement of public, agencies and tribes; current project status; next steps and planned public involvement in a power point presentation. Reviewed the NEPA process phases and collaboration work that has taken place to get to this point. She reviewed how the alternatives based on proposals from collaboration efforts were developed. The 90-Day comment period began on February 19th. There will be webinars scheduled and listening sessions toward the end of the comment period.

The presentation was followed by a few general questions from the group to get more clarification. No concerns were expressed by members of the group.

Eric explained what a Special Interest Area is, where and why it is being proposed.

How does the plan address adjacent uses?

The Forest Service has coordinated with all three counties, the Bureau of Land Management, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and WA Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Natural Resources, among others. The draft plan is a programmatic plan that provides a framework for forest projects. At the project level scale adjacent ownerships and uses would be considered in a cumulative effects analysis. The forest plan would not affect management of other ownerships.

Can the alternatives change after the comment period?

Amy – after comments are received, we will review all of them and determine how to proceed. Based on public comments there could be a new alternative or a modified alternative which could include parts of other alternatives. If a new alternative is developed that may require a supplemental EIS, which would require a new comment period.

The power point presentation was a really good overview of the whole process. Is it available? Would be nice to have that online.

Amy will try to get a copy of the power point posted on the plan revision website.

The forest plan discussion ended at 3:00.

Colville National Forest

Land & Resource Management Plan Revision



Forest Plan Purpose

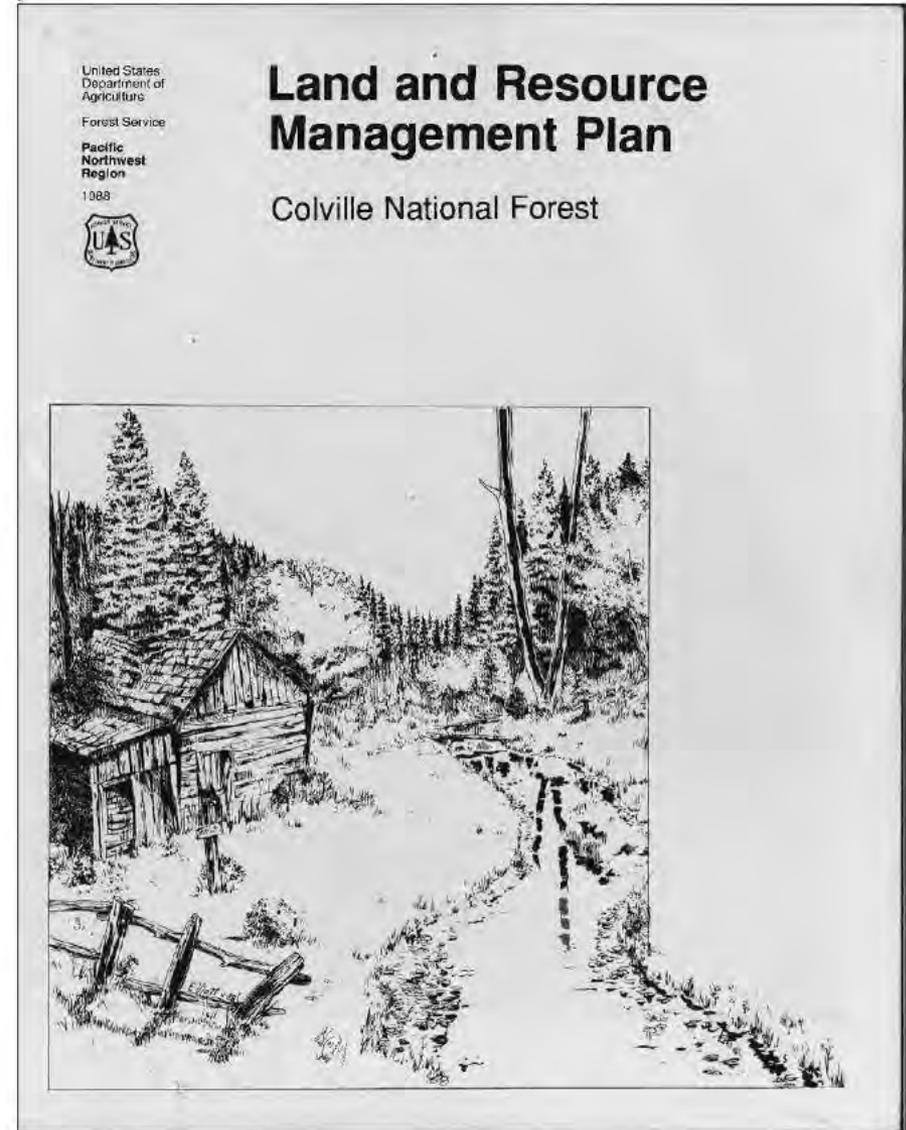
- 15-year strategic document providing land management direction by guiding programs, practices, uses, and projects
- Adaptive - can be changed based on ecological and social conditions
- Designates management areas allocating zones of the forest for different activities
- Designates suitability of areas for various uses
- Honors continuing validity of private, statutory, or pre-existing rights

Need for Change

(why are we doing this?)

Currently following a
land management plan
signed in 1988

Includes 40 Forest
Plan Amendments



Need for Change

Wildlife Habitat

Vegetative Systems

Climate Change

Social Systems

Aquatic and Riparian Systems



Analysis Process

- Revision started in combination with the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF
- 2011 - Proposed Action (Okanogan-Wenatchee & Colville) provided to public for comment
- After review of forest-specific public comments and resource issues, Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee revision processes separated in 2014
- Comments from the public and government agencies generate issues that drive development of alternatives (comments were refined to reflect resource and public issues specific to Colville NF)



Key Issues for Alternative Development

Analysis of public concerns and resource issues produced 6 issues for development & comparison of alternatives

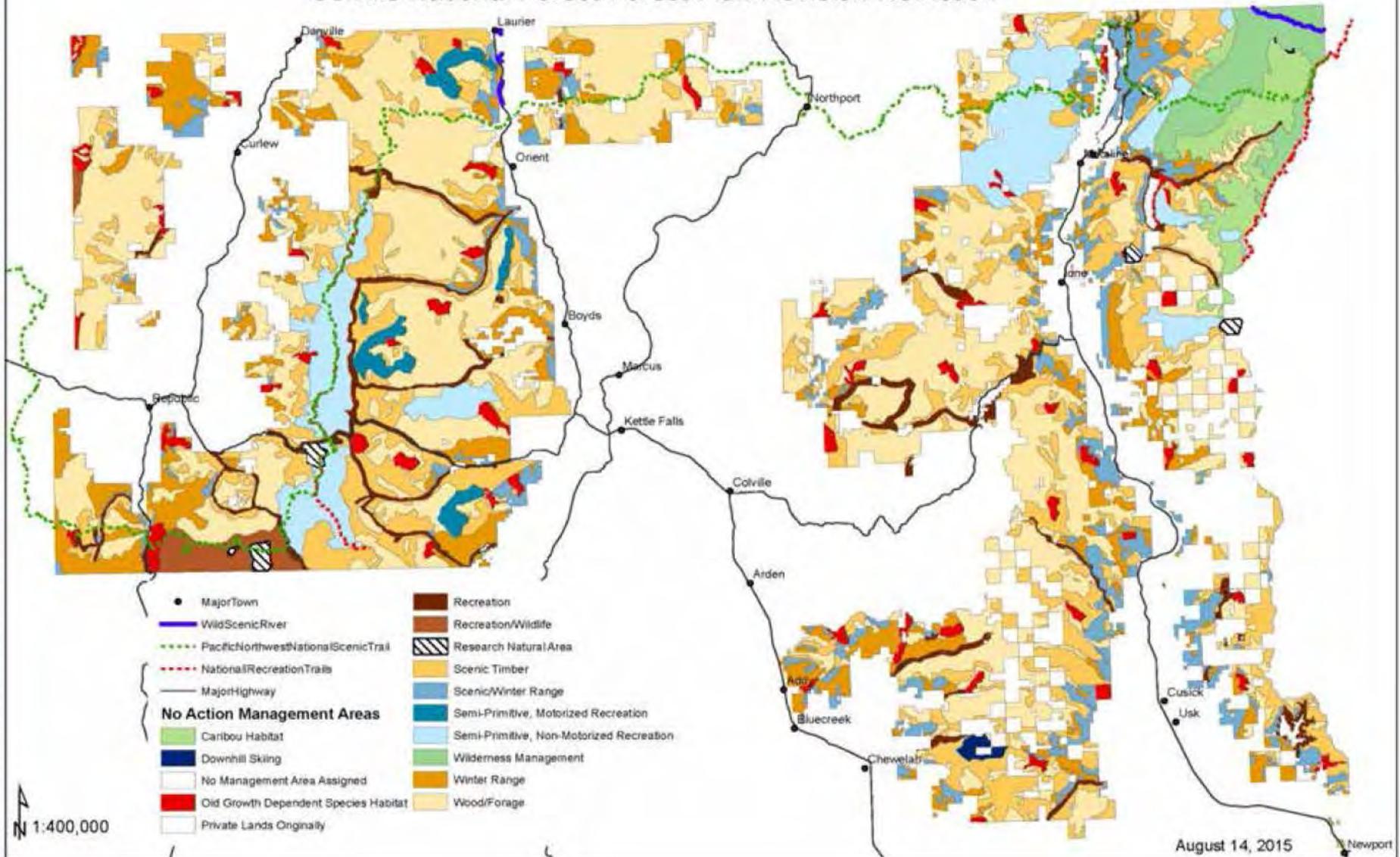
1. Old Forest (Late Successional) Management & Timber Production
2. Motorized Recreation Trails
3. Access
4. Recommended Wilderness Areas
5. Wildlife Habitat
6. Riparian & Aquatic Resource Management



No Action

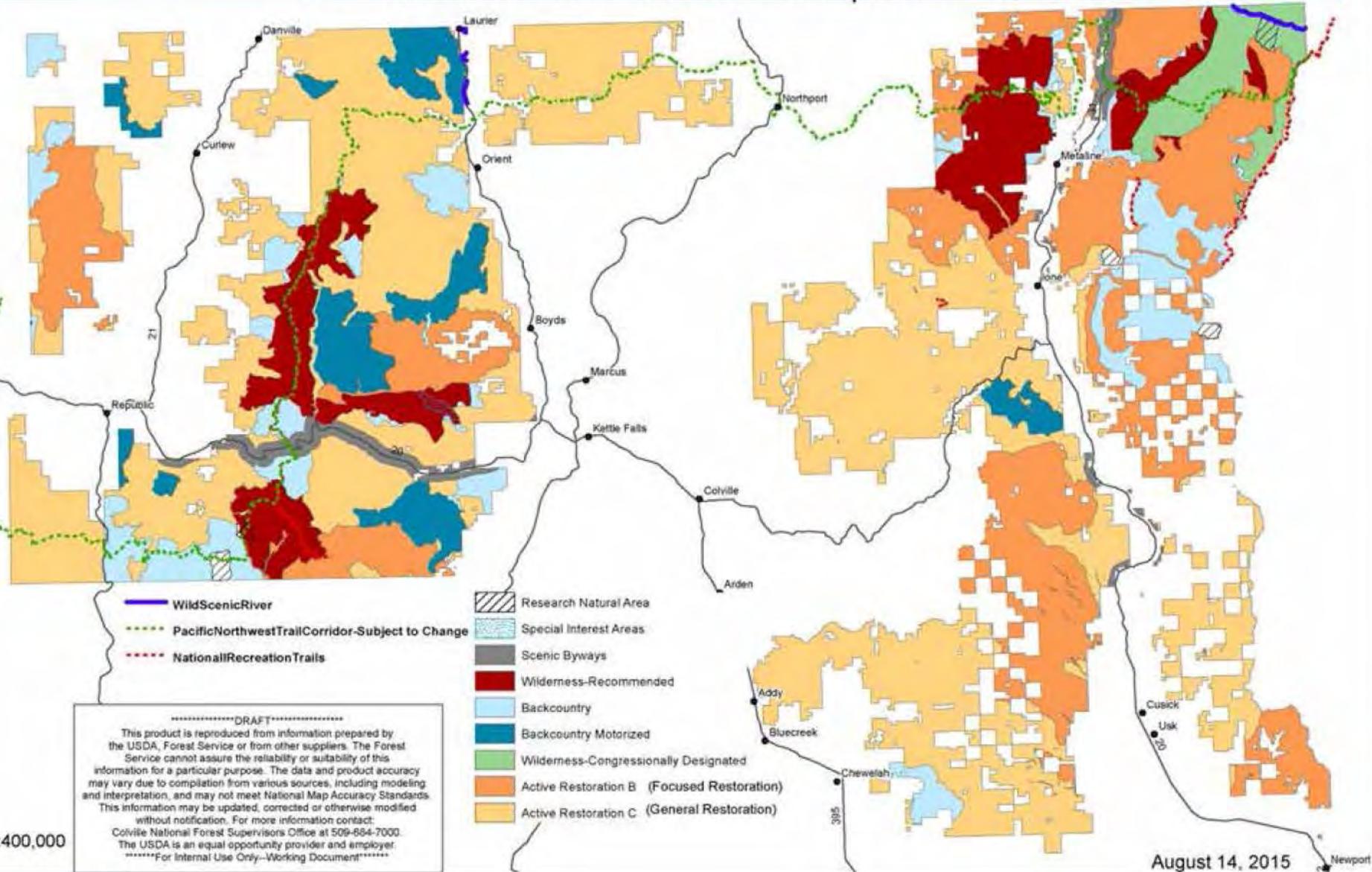
- Continues 1988 LRMP direction (as amended)
- Retains inland native fish strategy (INFISH) & Eastside screens
- 0% recommended wilderness; 3% in fixed reserves

Colville National Forest-Forest Plan Revision-No Action



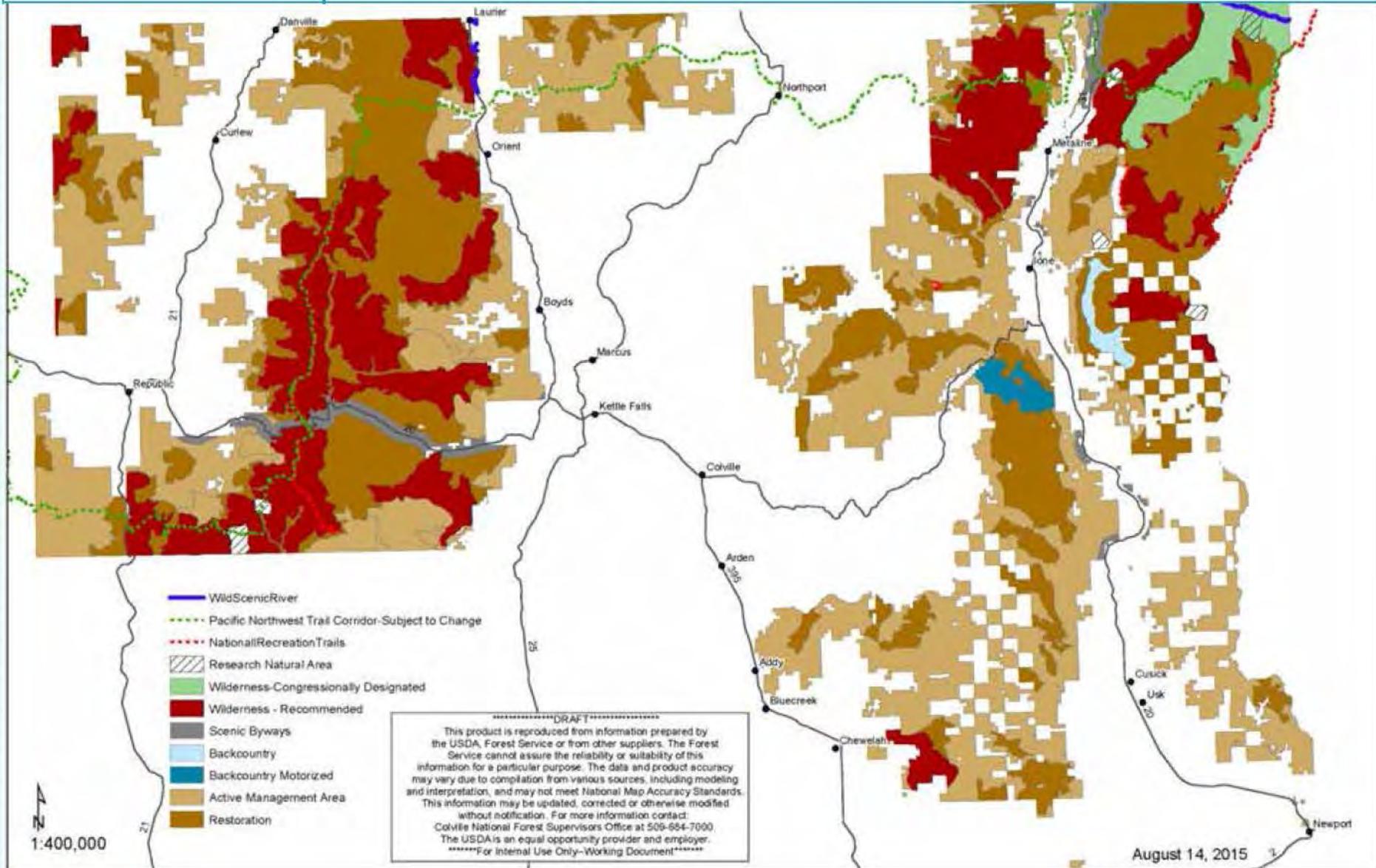
Proposed Action (June 2011)

- Landscape scale management
- Replaces eastside screens w/Desired Condition for veg. mgmt.
- Incorporates aquatic restoration & conservation strategy (ARCS)
- 9% proposed as recommended wilderness; 0% fixed reserves



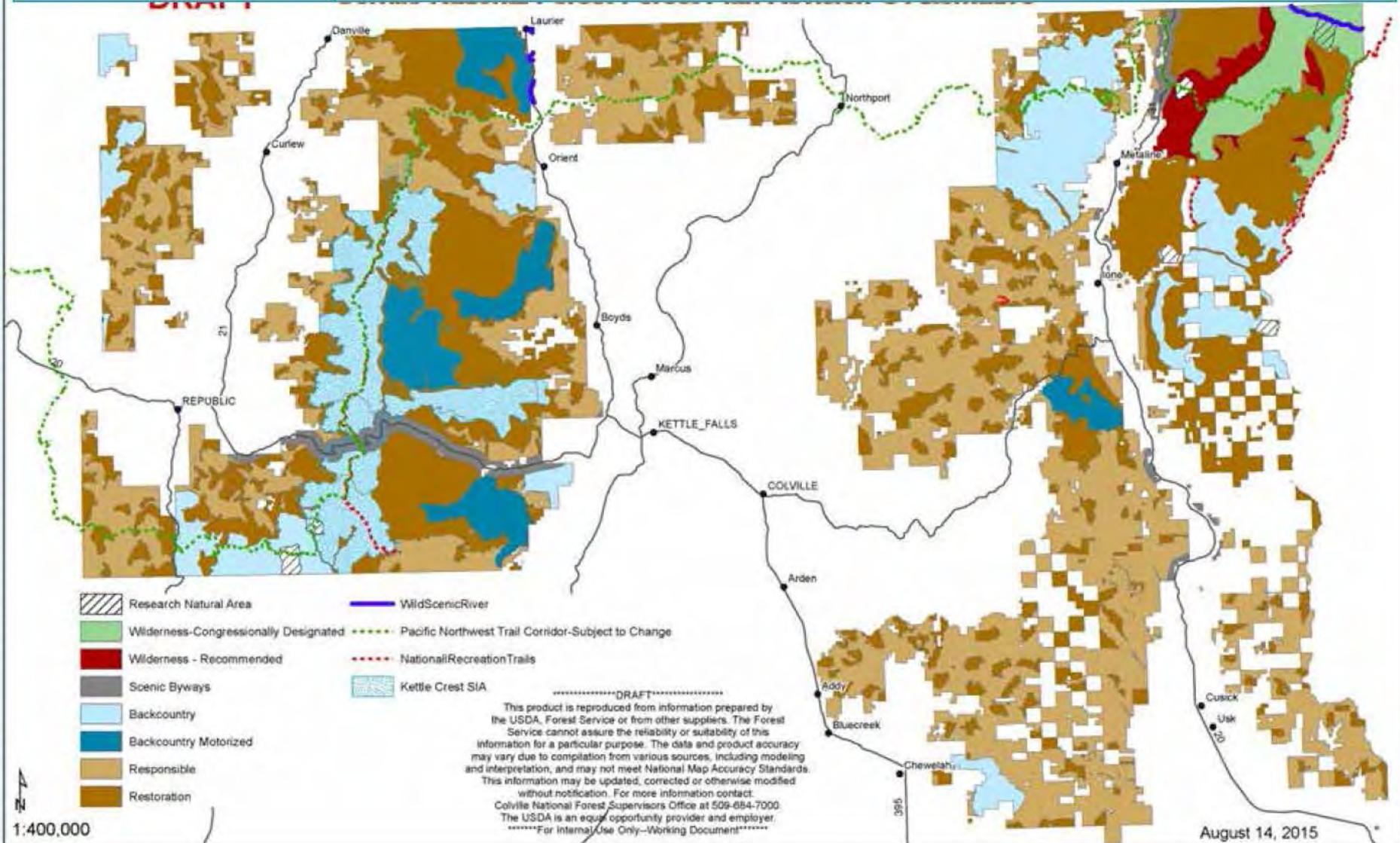
Alternative B

- Based on NEWFC 'blue print' & points of consensus from public workgroups
- Keeps inland native fish strategy (INFISH) and Eastside screen direction
- 20% proposed as recommended wilderness; 31% fixed reserves



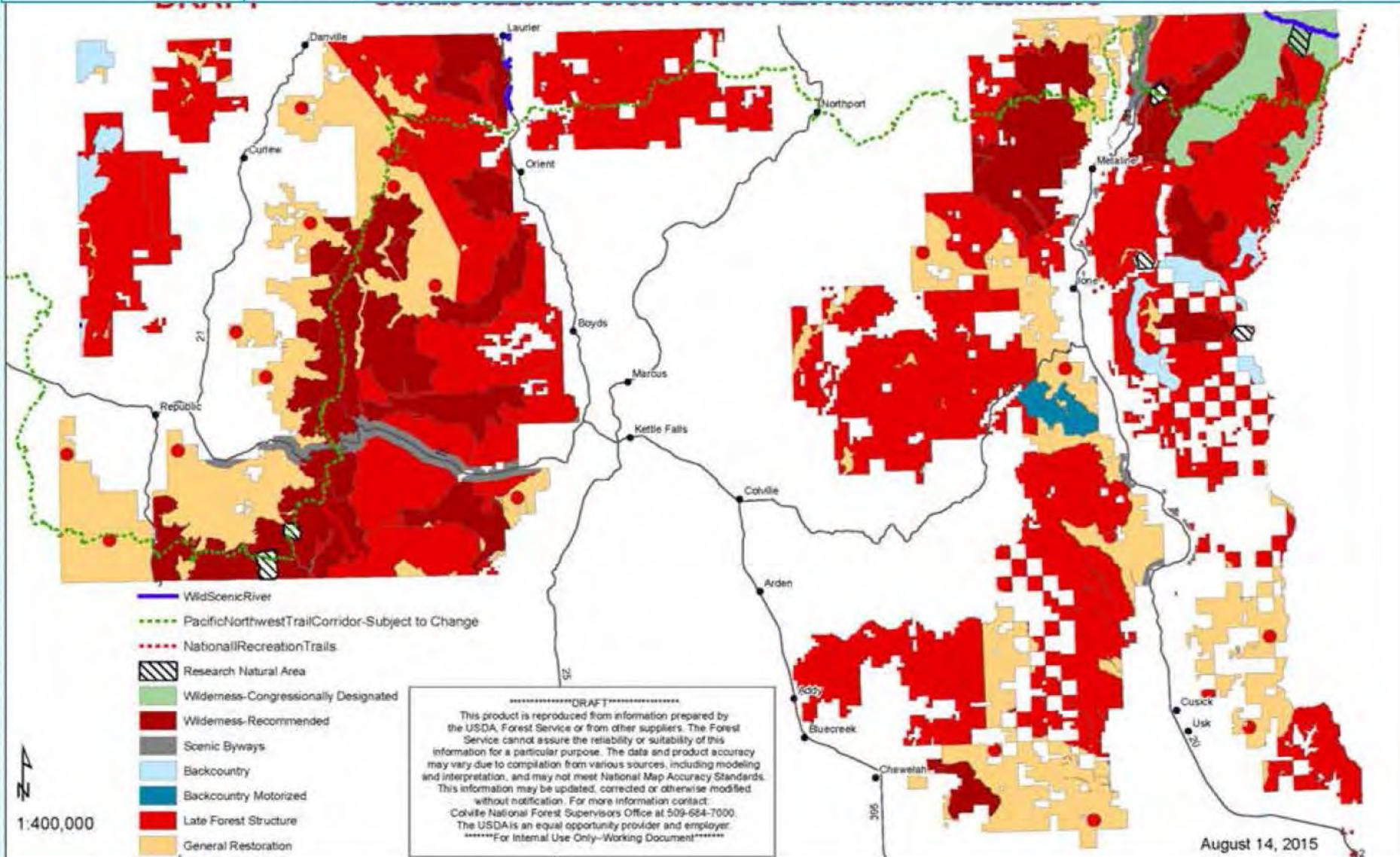
Alternative O

- Based on points of consensus from public workgroups
- Retains Eastside screen direction
- Incorporates ARCS
- 1% proposed as recommended wilderness; 34% fixed reserves



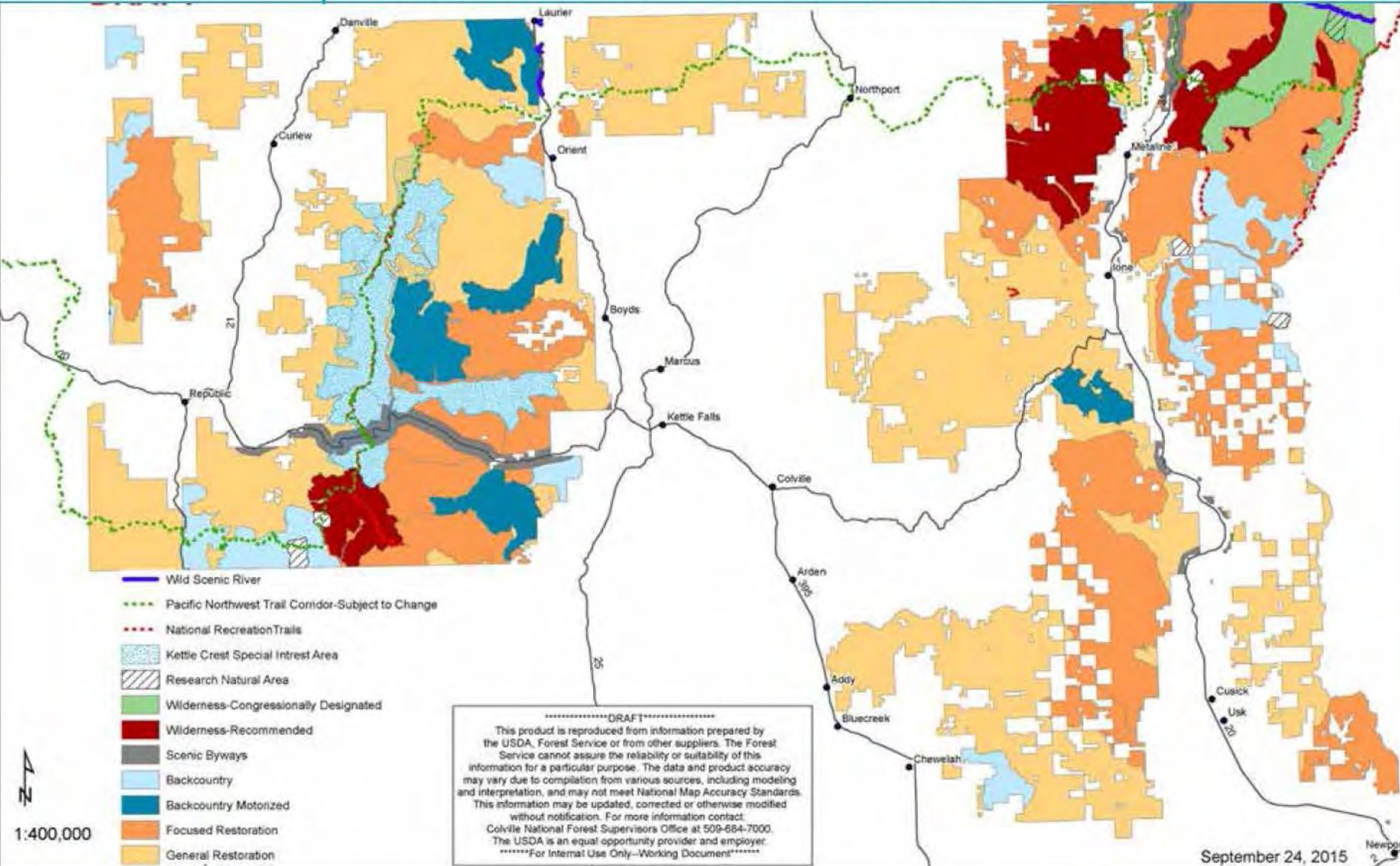
Alternative R

- Large-scale reserve approach for late-successional forest structure (represents passive mgmt. approach)
- Retains eastside screens
- Incorporates ARCS-modified
- 19% proposed as recommended wilderness; 51% in fixed reserves



Alternative P (preferred alternative)

- Landscape scale management
- Replaces eastside screens w/Desired Condition for veg. mgmt.
- Incorporates ARCS-modified
- 6% proposed as recommended wilderness; 0% fixed reserves

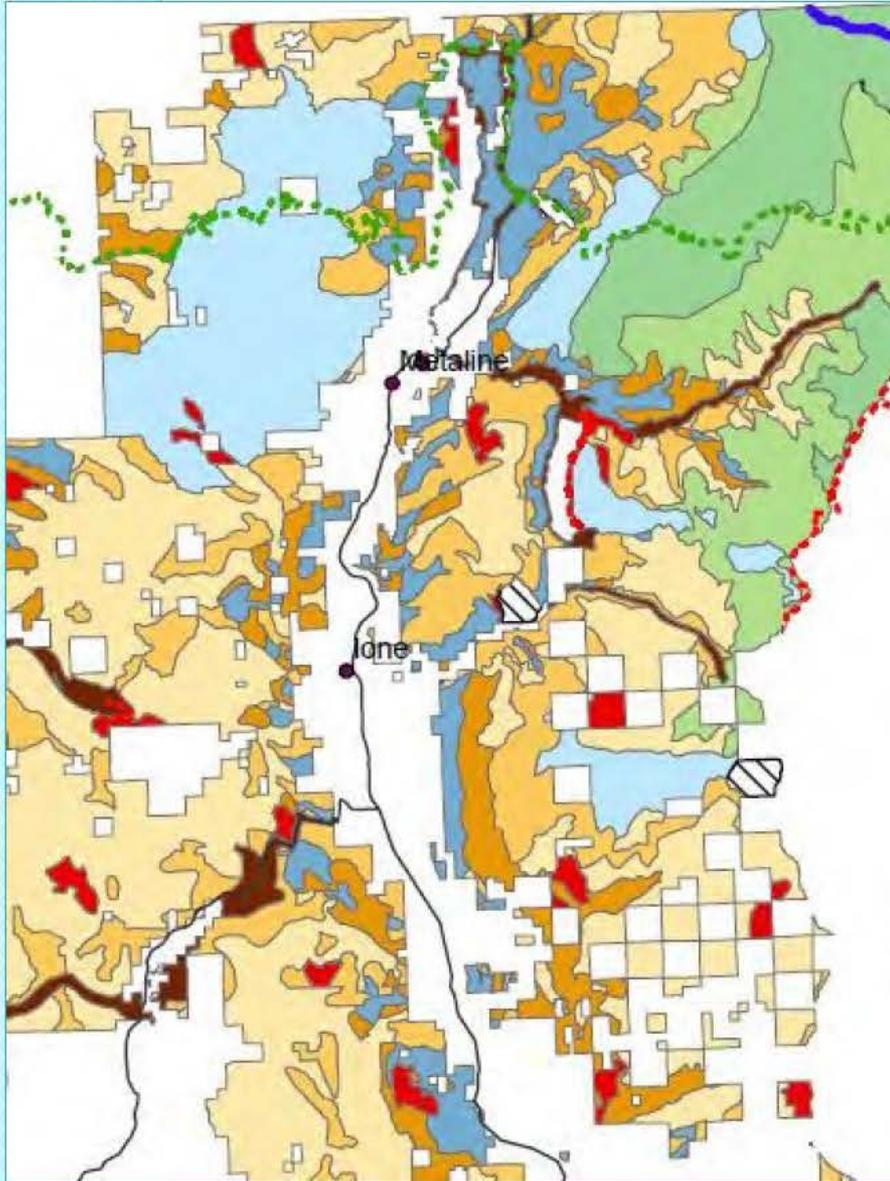


*****DRAFT*****

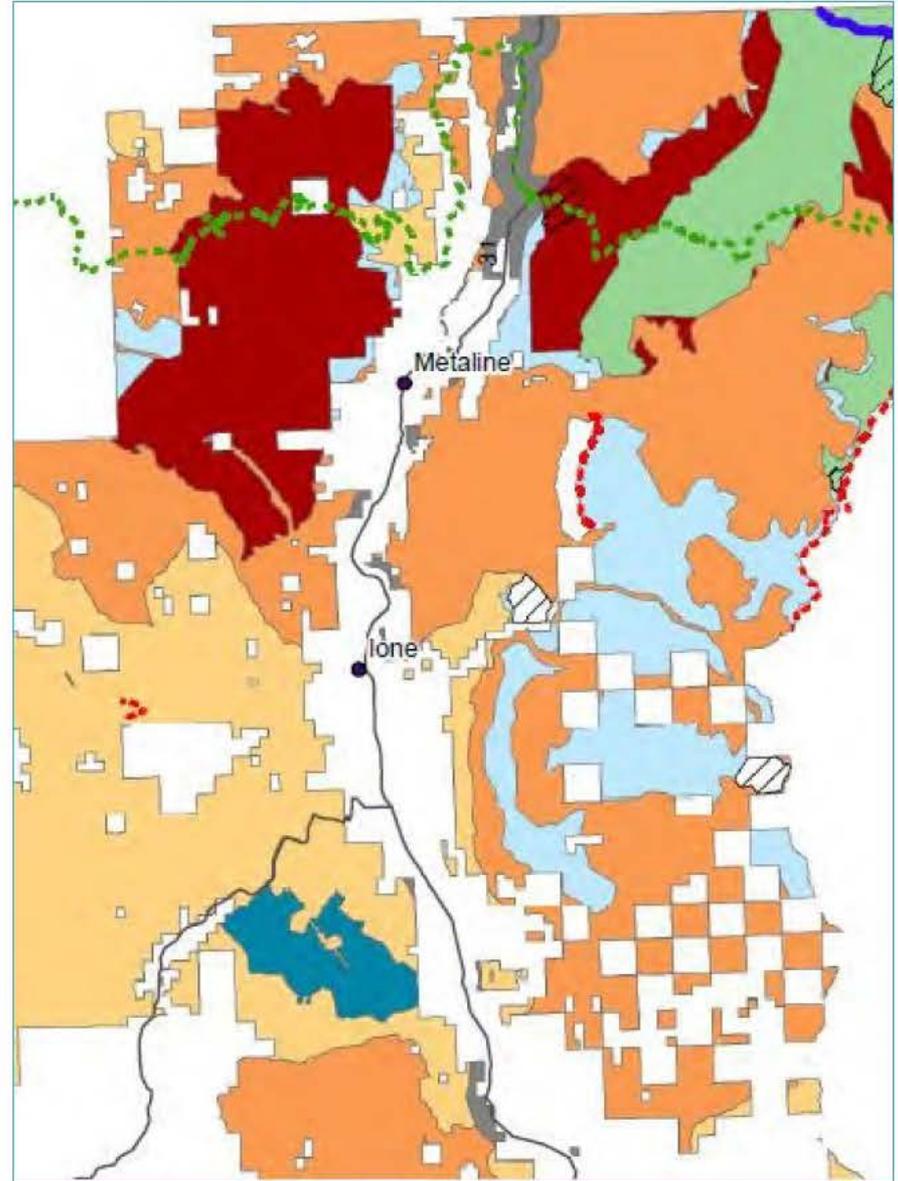
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*****For Internal Use Only--Working Document*****

No Action (current 1988 plan)

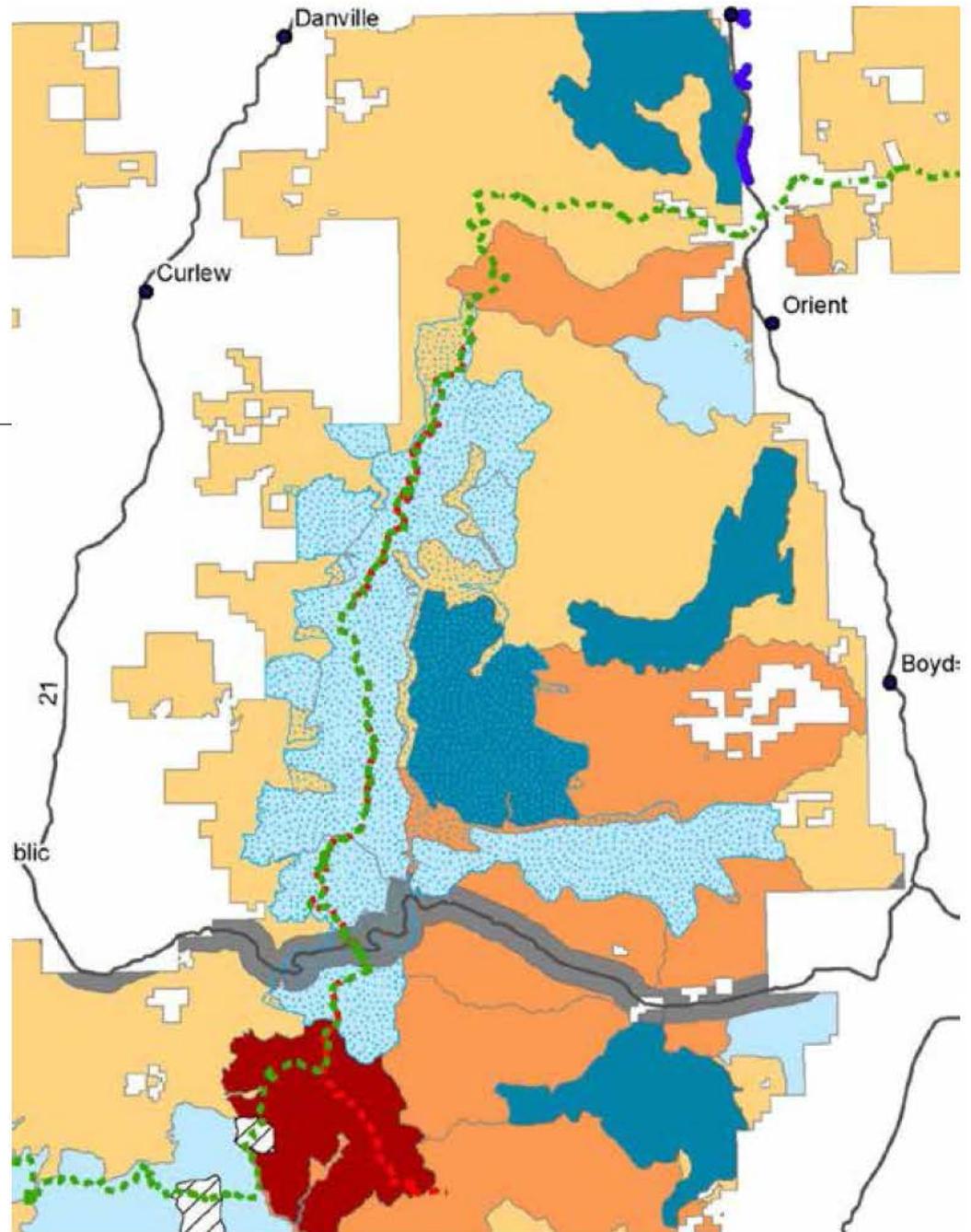


Proposed Action (2011)



Recreation Special Interest Area

Included in Alternatives
O and P



Key points – commercial timber

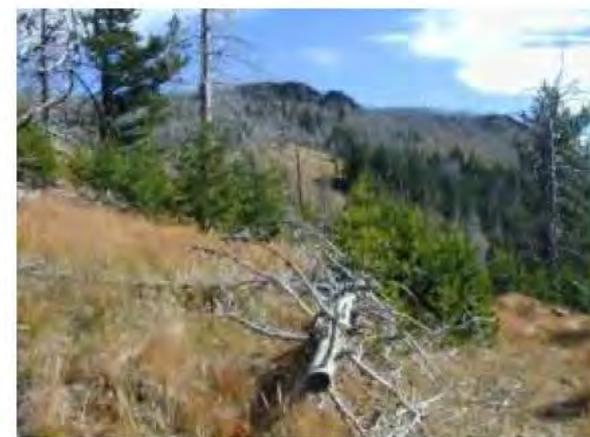
| Resource and Indicator | No Action (existing plan) | Proposed Action | B | O | R | P |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Acres/Percentage of NFS Lands Suitable for Scheduled Timber Production | 535,725 48% | 653,242 59% | 384,485 35% | 347,535 32% | 129,420 12% | 656,628 60% |
| Acres/Percent of NFS Lands Where Harvest Allowed for Other Resource Objectives | 323,025 29% | 205,508 19% | 474,265 43% | 511,215 46% | 729,330 66% | 202,122 18% |
| Predicted Wood Sale Quantity (PWSQ) | | | | | | |
| MMBF | 41 | 62 | 37 | 38 | 14 | 62 |
| CCF | 82,800 | 125,900 | 77,000 | 77,000 | 28,900 | 125,400 |



Key points - Wilderness & Recommended Wilderness

- One designated wilderness (Salmo-Priest) = ~3% of Colville NFS land

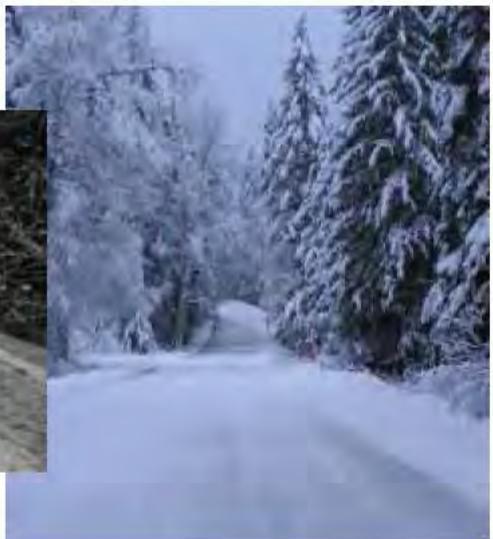
| Alternative | No Action | Proposed Action | B | O | R | P |
|--|-----------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Acres/Percent Recommended for Wilderness | 0 | 101,390 9% | 220,330 20% | 15,950 1% | 207,800 19% | 68,300 6% |



Key points - Access and Road Management

- Does not make specific travel management decisions
- Identifies areas where motorized & non-motorized uses would be suitable

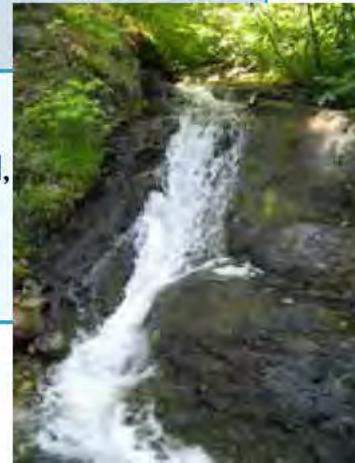
| No Action | Proposed Action | B | O | R | P |
|---|---|--|-----------------------|--|--|
| Road densities between 0.4-2 mi/mi ² | Desired Cond: Road densities b/w 2-3 mi/mi ² & no net increase in key watersheds | Cap on existing mile and no net increase in key watersheds | Cap on existing miles | Desired Cond: Road densities b/w 1-2 mi/mi ² & no net increase in key watersheds and riparian MAs | Road densities between 1-2 mi/mi ² and no net increase in key watersheds and riparian MAs |



Key Points - Riparian Management Areas

Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas (INFISH) and Riparian Management Areas (ARCS) widths

| Stream Type | INFISH RHCA Width (ft) Alternatives: No Action & B | ARCS RMA Width (ft) All other Alternatives |
|---|--|--|
| Fish-Bearing Streams | 300 ft. on each side of the stream (600 ft. total) | 300 ft. on each side of the stream (600 ft. total) |
| Permanently flowing Non-Fish Bearing Streams | 150 ft. on each side of the stream (300 ft. total) | 150 ft. on each side of the stream (300 ft. total) |
| Constructed Ponds and Reservoirs and Wetlands greater than one acre | 150 ft. on each side of the pond, reservoir or wetland (300 ft. total) | 150 ft. on each side of the pond, reservoir or wetland (300 ft. total) |
| Lakes and Natural Ponds | 150 ft. on each side of the pond, reservoir or wetland (300 ft. total) | 300 ft. slope distance from the lake or pond (600 ft. total) |
| Intermittent Streams, Wetlands, Seeps and Springs and Unstable and Potentially Unstable Areas | 50 ft. slope distance from the stream, wetland, seep, spring or unstable area in non-Key and non-Priority Watersheds. 100 ft. in Key and Priority Watersheds | 100 ft. slope distance from the stream, wetland, seep, spring or unstable area (200 ft. total) |



Key Points - wildlife

- Incorporates interagency direction for woodland caribou, grizzly bear, Canada lynx and bull trout habitat
- Addresses habitat for big game and birds
- Includes direction for management of large trees, and retention of snag habitat and down woody debris



Next Steps

On-going

- Consultation, communication and coordination

February 19, 2016

- Notice of Availability of plan and DEIS published in Federal Register (starts comment period)

February – May 2016

- Draft environmental impact statement available for review & comment
- Receive public comments
- Engage the public through meetings & web applications

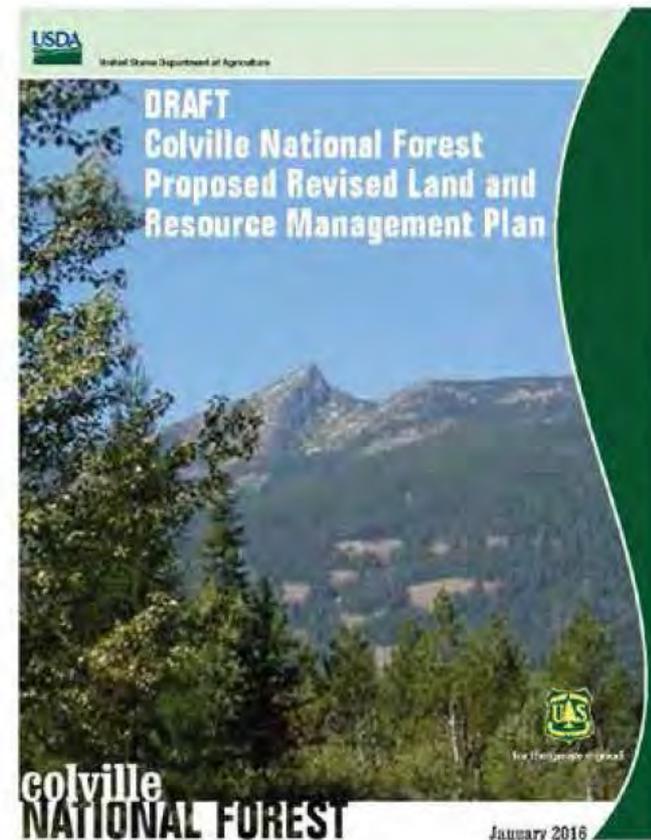


Draft Revised Plan

Developed based on *Alternative P*
(listed as preferred alternative in the Draft EIS)

Document provides:

- Desired Conditions (goals)
- Objectives
- Standards
- Guidelines
- Suitable uses for each management area
- Monitoring direction



Other Documents

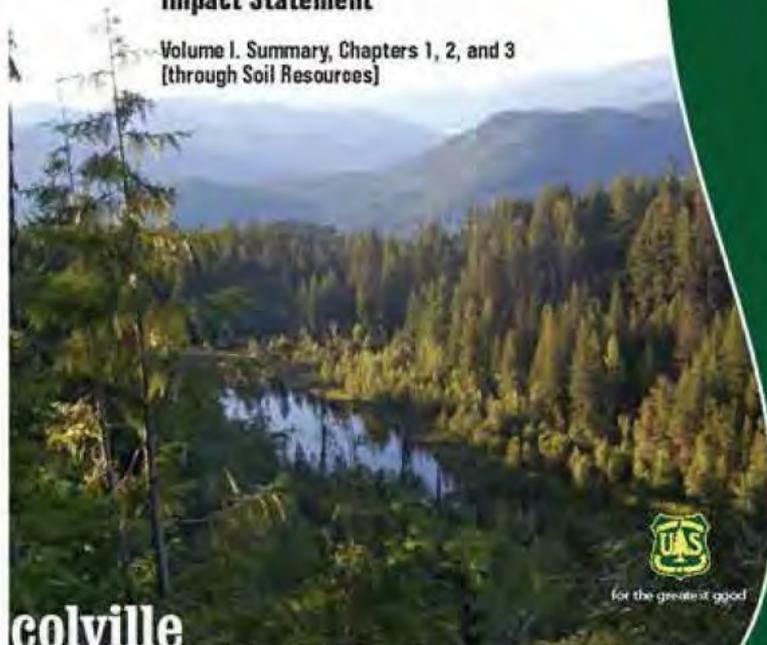


United States Department of Agriculture

Proposed Revised Land Management Plan for Colville National Forest

Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Volume I. Summary, Chapters 1, 2, and 3
(through Soil Resources)



for the greatest good

colville
NATIONAL FOREST

January 2016



Colville National Forest Plan Revision – 2016

Reviewers Guide to Commenting

The Forest Service is responsible for managing public lands in the public interest. The comment period 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 1501.9). 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.

The Documents – DEIS and Proposed Revised Forest Plan

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

- **Website:** http://www.fs.usda.gov/info/colville/plan_revision
- **View in person:** documents to read are available at Forest Service offices in Colville, Kettle Falls, Republic, Metlaine 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 photocopy (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.

How to Submit Comments

Electronically:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/revplanm2016>
or
http://info.oregon.gov/forestry/colville/plan_revision/revplanm2016

US mail:

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

To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments via the electronic format (see page 5 for more information). Comments must be postmarked or received electronically no later than 90 days from when the Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register, currently scheduled for February 11, 2016. If you need assistance in submitting a comment and/or working through the electronic system, please call 509-684-7211 or 509-664-9247.



for the greatest good

On-Line Information - Colville NF web page

www.fs.usda.gov/goto/colville/plan

USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

Colville National Forest



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Colville National Forest
765 South Main Street
Colville, WA 99114
(509) 684-7000

Stay Connected



Three Rivers Ranger

Forest Plan Revision



Welcome to the Colville Forest Plan Revision Project!

The Colville National Forest has been working on a multi-year planning effort to update and revise its **Land and Resource Management Plan**. Many things have changed since the current "forest plan" was signed in 1988. The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) of 1976 requires each national forest to have a plan, and to periodically revise them to address new economic, social and resource conditions, and to incorporate new scientific information.

The work we are doing in plan revision will guide management of the Colville National Forest for the next decade and beyond. As part of earlier scoping and public collaboration efforts we shared a description of the proposed management approach with interested members of the public and tribes in June 2011. We received and analyzed a broad range of comments on that proposed action. That information helped us to identify the significant issues and to make adjustments to our proposal, and in addition to providing a basis for identifying alternative management approaches to consider.

Draft Plan Ready for Review

We are pleased to announce that we've reached the next "big step" in our **NEPA** planning process with the release of a draft plan and draft environmental impact statement for public review and comment. The draft plan displays the draft direction for the management activities on the National Forest System lands across the four Colville National Forest ranger districts. A **Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)**, which shows the analysis and comparison of the six alternatives (or approaches) considered for managing the Colville National Forest has also been prepared. The draft plan for this phase of planning is based on the **Preferred Alternative, (Alternative P)**.

The release of these documents initiates the official 90-day comment period during

Quick Links

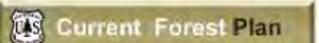
- o Plan Revision Home
- o Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- o Draft Revised Plan
- o Maps
- o Public Participation
- o Comment / Contact Us



Visit Online Open House 



Submit Formal Comment 



Current Forest Plan

On-Line Information - On-line Open House

<http://colvilleplanrevision.publicmeeting.info/>

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE - February 19-May 19

Select Language ▼



Welcome Overview Alternatives Forests/Trees/Alfalfa/Washington Trails Wilderness Wildlife Habitat About Public Involvement Contact

Welcome

Next

Welcome to the online open house for the Proposed Revised Land Management Plan for the Colville National Forest Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and Proposed Revised Colville Forest Plan (draft plan).

This open house is available until May 19.

About the DEIS and proposed forest plan

In order to revise the [1986 Colville National Forest Plan](#), the U.S. Forest Service (Forest Service) has prepared this DEIS and proposed forest plan in cooperation with seven cooperating entities and with input from the public and interest groups. The DEIS describes and analyzes six alternatives for managing the Colville National Forest. The forest plan reflects the preferred alternative identified in the DEIS (Alternative P).

The Forest Service administers the nearly 1.1 million acres that make up the Colville National Forest in northeast Washington State.

[Watch a short video about the project.](#)

How to use this online open house

- Visit the tabbed "stations" to learn more about the DEIS, proposed forest plan, and how to submit your comments. You can visit as many times as you wish.
- You can click the "Next" button or select any tab at the top of the page to move around this online open house. Placing your cursor on words or phrases with a dotted underline will show their definition.
- Keep an eye out for the questions posed on some pages, and join the conversation if you like.



- Executive Summary
- Full Draft EIS (7 MB)
- Chapter 1: Purpose and Need for Action
- Chapter 2: Alternatives
- Chapter 3: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences (3 MB)
- Chapter 4: Consultation and Coordination
- Final Draft EIS, Summary, Summary, Appendixes and Index

Remember to submit your comments here!

Next Page



Udall Foundation

Contact

WEB: colvilleplanrevision.info
EMAIL: colvilleplanrevision@fs.fed.us
PHONE: (509) 544-2000

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Next Steps (continued)

Summer 2016

- Review & respond to public comments
- Additional analysis of modified and/or new alternatives
- Public engagement

Summer/Fall 2016

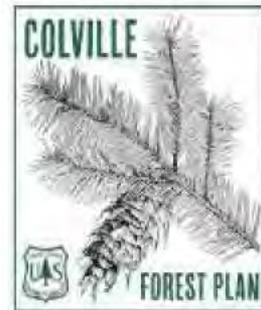
- RO & WO Review

Winter 2016

- Publication of the FEIS and Record of Decision
- Followed by Objection Period

Spring 2017

- Record of Decision signed



Rodney Smoldon, Forest Supervisor, is Recommending Official
Jim Pena, Regional Forester, is Approving Official



Discussion and Questions