

Colville National Forest  
Meeting with American Forest Resource Council  
April 21, 2016

Attending

AFRC:

Tom Partin, AFRC

Other AFRC members – Kevin Arnison, Duane Vaagen, Matt Scott, Matt Comiskey, Curtis Vaagen  
Maurice Williamson, concerned citizen

Forest Service:

Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team Lead, Rodney Smoldon, Forest Supervisor, Kathleen Ward, CNF Natural Resources Staff Officer, Josh White, Three Rivers District Ranger, Jon Day, Forest Silviculturist, Cesar Ramirez, Three Rivers Ranger District Timber Management Assistant, Debbie Kelly, Forest Plan Revision Public Affairs Lead, Jarret Winningham, Forest Service Representative, and Marcy Rumelhart (notes).

Meeting started at 9:00 am at the Colville National Forest Supervisor's Office. This was AFRCs regular Colville National Forest monitoring meeting and a forest plan revision update was on the agenda. The forest plan discussion began at 9:00.

Rodney stated he hoped they could provide some clarity on what is being proposed in the draft plan to help them provide substantive comments. Comment period has been extended to July 5<sup>th</sup>.

Tom noted the topics he would most like to discuss are target, budget, and road density constraints. Also hoping to discuss the collaborative's work to bring target up to 80 mmbf.

Question topics included:

- What is the suitable land base you have to work with?
  - Jon provided three documents to the meeting participants, and an overview of how the numbers were created. Discussed the process he used to come up with volume numbers. Discussed the suitability determinations and differences between alternatives. The desired condition is a range of structure types based on the concept of historical range of variability. That is where the volume numbers come from.
  - The Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ) and Long Term Sustained Yield (LTSY) are computed without regard to budget (unconstrained model). The ASQ is the amount of volume required to move the forest toward desired conditions, the LTSY is the number required to maintain that. Budget was not part of the modeling. The potential wood sale quantity (PWSQ) and the potential timber sale quantity (PTSQ) numbers do consider budget. What the Forest thinks we can do, based on budget if the plan went into effect today. PTSQ is the sawtimber portion of PWSQ.
  - Discussed other numbers in Jon's Table 2 handout and the difference between nonforest land and unsuitable forest land. There was discussion that line 9 (unsuitable) should only include lines 3+4+5+6, but line 10 total is still correct.
  - The modeling was done using Forest Vegetation Simulator bare ground runs that show what is attainable from a purely biological standpoint. What growth would look like from bare ground to harvestable timber.

- We are trying to achieve a range of structures, and the forest is currently lacking in early seral structure. FW-STD-VEG-05 limits openings to 40 acres as required by NFMA and the 1982 planning rule.
- Discussion about a mixed conifer synthesis, which does not apply to the Colville.
- Jon – used the county soil survey data which is fairly accurate.
- Tom asked Jon to explain the Table 1 average annual volume outputs by alternative for decade 1 and 2.
  - Jon – for Alternative P used generic guidelines for deciding specifications for saw timber. No standards, just what the region defines as utilization standards. Firewood is not included in PTSQ, but is in PWSQ. It's important to remember the PWSQ number is based on what we think we could do right now to give folks an idea of what the output would be. The only constraint on PWSQ is budget. In decade 2 the number would roll forward. The No Action numbers were modeled based on the current plan as amended.
- Maurice wanted to point out that the FS is working with a 2006 rendition of Alternative B and that the coalition will likely ask the FS to consider an updated version of that.
  - Jon – reminded Maurice that Alternatives B, O, and R have lower numbers primarily due to the diameter limit in the Eastside Screens.
  - Amy stated the No Action, R, B, and O alternatives retain all or parts of the Eastside Screens.
- Maurice mentioned Jerry Franklin's work done relative to large trees, and looking at other ways to boost deliverables while moving toward desired conditions. What do we really need as opposed to what we have?
  - Jon – Imposing an age limit creates a lot of difficulty during implementation, and there is a direct link between these numbers and terrestrial wildlife.
- Tom expressed concern with timber outputs now, and there is a need to start out with a plan that will raise up the numbers. How can we comment on this to have the plan start at a higher number? What would we need to reach ASQ and LTSY?
  - Jon – it is primarily a budget issue. ASQ and LTSY are tied directly to desired conditions, and budget was a big component of that.
- Maurice asked about using a departure schedule.
  - Jon – There is a departure schedule allowed to be developed under the 1982 rule, but we did not pursue this since the biggest factor in meeting desired conditions is tree size, and hence time. Departing the sustained yield doesn't result in meeting desired conditions faster and would have all kinds of impacts on wildlife.
- Concern about the road density limitations.
  - Amy explained the differences for each alternative. The plan is set up to try to achieve no net gain in road density. Alternatives P and O have desired conditions for road density and at the project level would be designing projects to move toward those desired conditions. Ties to terrestrial wildlife connectivity and aquatics. Keep in mind that not every road is equal. A road with many stream crossings may be considered for removal or relocation before other roads. Whether we've stated it clearly enough in the draft plan is one thing, but there is no time frame associated with desired conditions, it is a condition we are working toward. The other factor is

our ability to maintain the roads we have. The desired condition is to reduce road densities, measured on FS system roads, by sub-watershed.

- Josh – is consistent with what the Blues forests are doing.
- Rodney – it's a desired condition not a standard. It is a trajectory to move toward. At project level we will look at building roads as long as it is clear about reaching desired conditions over time. It may take several projects in same area to get there.
- Duane – there were no limits 50 years ago and think the maintenance thing is over blown. Think we should be designing projects to include the maintenance. There is new technology and equipment that can facilitate that today. Need to look more to the future, and what is the real goal.
- Rodney - poor location or placement of roads is the issue in some places, could look for opportunities to improve location during projects.
- Tom – concern about the number in line 9 (Table 2) and want to make sure we're not double dipping. The bottom line for AFRC is land suitable to be managed and want to make sure you are not losing some acres that are part of the land base. Asked Jon to look at the numbers again.
  - Jon - there was a GIS layer produced for the 1988 plan that has been maintained, but we didn't use that. We used the county soil survey which is pretty accurate.
- Curtis – don't want to lose roads. Keep hearing no net gain, but would like to hear no net loss for access too.
- Kevin – have you considered the operational aspect?
  - Jon – the road piece did not affect timber at all. Even with a net reduction in roads we can still operate. Road density did not play into timber desired conditions.
  - Josh – the desired condition number in the draft plan allows a lot of flexibility at the project level.

#### Next steps

Amy – the comment period ends July 5<sup>th</sup>. We continue to meeting with groups as we are invited. There will be 3-4 webinars in May, and will have listening sessions in Ferry, Stevens, Pend Oreille, and Spokane counties in early June. After that we will review all comments and determine where to go from there. All comments can be viewed by the public in the reading room on the plan revision website.

Deb described the online open house and other features of the plan revision website.

Rodney explained how he will make a recommendation to the regional forester who will ultimately make the decision. He asked AFRC members to help him with that recommendation by providing good comments. They can help him have that conversation with the regional forester. The Forest is required to identify a preferred alternative, but if there are things across all 6 alternatives that they like or don't like, include that in comments, but also include the rationale. The regional forester will choose what to include in an alternative, which is his discretion. Alternative P is the preferred because he felt it had the best balance.

This part of the meeting ended about 10:20.

A list of acronyms used in the meeting discussion can also be found on the Colville Forest Plan Revision web page: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/colville/landmanagement/planning/?cid=stelprd3824594>

**Table 1. Timber production on the Colville, 2000-2015. MMBF = Million Board Feet**

Fiscal Year	MMBF	Fiscal Year	MMBF
2000	51.1	2010	48.2
2001	23.9	2011	40
2002	22.4	2012	35.9
2003	30.6	2013	46.6
2004	27.6	2014	46.8
2005	18	2015*	57.7
2006	37.4	Total	275.2
2007	34.6	Avg/Year	45.9
2008	60.9		
2009	43.6		
Total	350.1		
Avg/Year	35.01		

\*2015 is estimated.

**Table 2. Structure class definitions based on canopy cover and diameter**

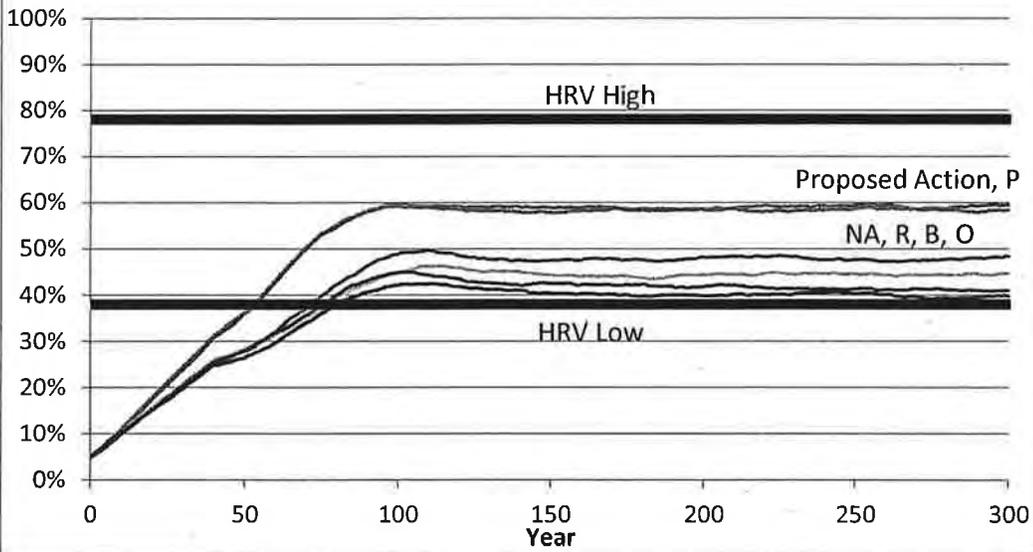
Structure	Definition
Early	Trees less than 10" dbh or canopy cover < 10%
Mid Open	Trees 10-20" dbh, canopy cover ≥ 10% and < 40%
Mid Closed	Trees 10-20" dbh, canopy cover ≥ 40%
Late Open	Trees ≥ 20" dbh, canopy cover ≥ 10% and < 40%
Late Closed	Trees ≥ 20" dbh, canopy cover ≥ 40%

**Table 3. Historical Range of Variability (HRV) percentages by vegetation type for each structure class compared to current conditions.**

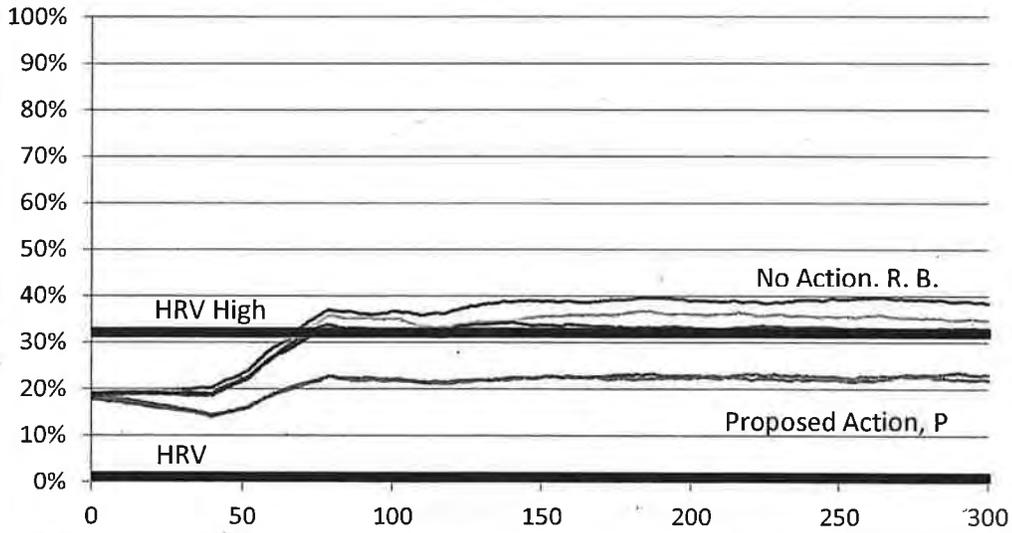
		Early %	Mid Open %	Mid Closed %	Late Open %	Late Closed %
Douglas-fir dry	Current %	12	7	57	5	19
	Historical %	6-16	2-8	4-13	38-78	1-32
Northern Rocky Mountain mixed conifer	Current %	19	4	65	1	11
	Historical %	9-25	1-3	18-30	4-6	44-60
Spruce / Subalpine fir	Current %	21	0	60	0	19
	Historical %	4-24	0	7-27	0	55-83
Subalpine fir / Lodgepole pine	Current %	33	4	49	2	13
	Historical %	45-65	0	33-53	0	3
Western hemlock / Western redcedar	Current %	35	0	52	0	13
	Historical %	14-46	0	13-41	0	29-57

Black shading indicates values below HRV, while gray shading indicates values above HRV.

### Douglas-fir Dry: Late Open



### Douglas-fir Dry: Late Closed



### Northern Rocky Mountain mixed conifer: Late Closed

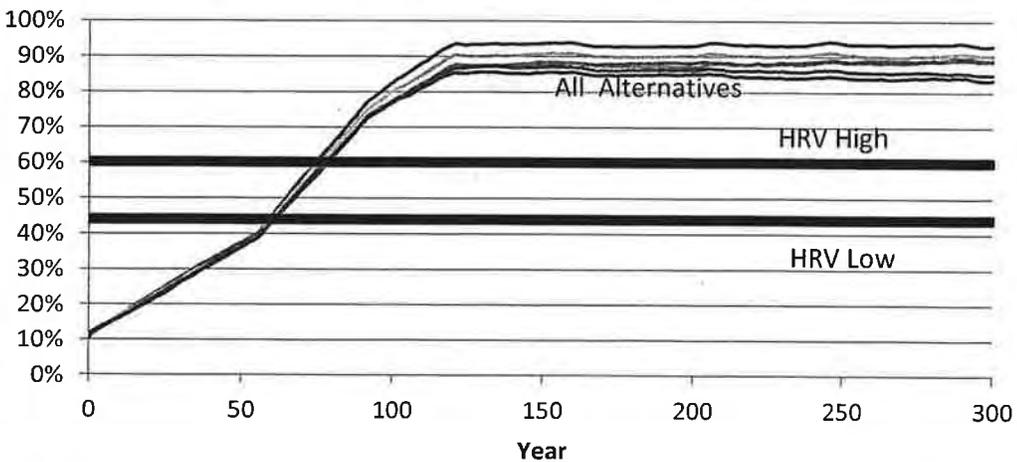


Table 2 - Suitability determination by alternative

Lead #	Description	No Action	Proposed Action	B	O	P	R
1	Nonforest Land	64,416	64,416	64,416	64,416	64,416	64,416
2	Forest land	1,037,943	1,037,943	1,037,943	1,037,943	1,037,943	1,037,943
3	Lands Withdrawn	36,157	36,157	36,157	36,157	36,157	36,157
4	Lands not capable of producing industrial wood	12,979	12,979	12,979	12,979	12,979	12,979
5A	Lands physically unsuited (irreversible resource damage)	0	0	C	0	0	0
5B	Lands physically unsuited (restocking difficulty)	130,057	130,057	130,057	130,057	130,057	130,057
6	Forest land inadequate information	0	0	C	0	0	0
7	<b>Tentatively Suitable Timber Lands</b>	858,750	858,750	858,750	858,750	858,750	858,750
<i>All above are common to all alternatives.</i>							
<i>All below are by alternative</i>							
8A	Minimum management requirements	0	0	C	0	0	0
8B	Multiple Use Objectives	323,025	205,508	474,265	511,215	202,122	729,330
8C	Cost efficiency	0	0	C	0	0	0
9	Unsuitable Forest Land (lines 1+3+4+5+6+8)	502,218	384,701	653,458	690,408	381,315	908,523
10	<b>Total Suitable Forest Land (line 2 - line 9)</b>	<b>535,725</b>	<b>653,242</b>	<b>384,485</b>	<b>347,535</b>	<b>656,628</b>	<b>129,420</b>

Table 1 – Modeled average annual volume outputs by alternative for LTSY, ASQ, PWSQ, and PTSQ (million board feet (MMBF)).

		NA	PA	P	R	B	O
Decade 1	LTSY	18.3	97.5	97.4	7.5	13.9	12.2
	ASQ	18.3	67.6	67	7.5	13.9	12.2
	PWSQ	40.6	62.1	61.8	14.3	37.4	37.5
	PTSQ	26.9	48.4	48.1	9.3	23.7	23.8
Decade 2	PWSQ	41.5	67.3	66.1	14.7	37.8	38.3
	PTSQ	27.8	53.6	52.4	9.7	24.1	24.6

**Colville National Forest Five Year Vegetation Management Schedule**

Notes

4/19/2016						Year 1	Year 2	Year 3		Year 4
Project	NEPA Document	Zone	Harvest Acres	Volume (MBF)	Planning Area Acres	Project Initiation / Inventory	NEPA / Proposed Action	NEPA / Decision	Sale Prep	Award Contract
Power Lake	Power EA	E	206	4,000	20,474	√	√	√	√	Jun 16
Middle Fork	Power EA	E	1,433	21,800	20,474	√	√	√	√	Dec 15
Renner Rdside Salv	CE	W	119	1,100		√	√	√		April 16
Swan Star Rdside Salv	CE	W	350	5,000		√	√	√		June 16
Stickpin Rdside Salv	CE	W	300	3,500		√	√	√		July 16
WZ Fire Deck Sales	CE	W		600		√	√	√		Mar 16
Mill Cr Fire Salv	CE	E		1,700		√	√	√	√	Jan 16
Tower Salvage	CE	E		1,806		√	√	√	√	Dec 15
Swan Lake Salv	CE	W		1,000		√	√			July 16
Additional Volume				5,000						
<b>FY2016 Total</b>			<b>2,408</b>	<b>45,506</b>						

Award will only occur if not added to KFN

Advertised, No bids

No NEPA Clearance until Heritage is surveyed.

Deer Jasper	Deer Jasper EA	W	2,500	19,000	25,130	√	√	Apr 16	Nov 16	Nov 16
Lost Creek	Renshaw EA	E	2,500	13,000	13,235	√	√	√	Oct 16	Jun 17
Renshaw	Renshaw EA	E	1,400	15,000	13,235	√	√	√	√	Oct 16
Additional Volume				5,000						
<b>FY2017 Total</b>			<b>6,400</b>	<b>52,000</b>						

Sherman	Sherman EA	W	3,000	20,000	34,042	√	√	Aug 16	Jul 17	May 18
Orient Watershed	Orient W/S EA	W	2,000	9,400	15,106	Jun 16	Jan 17	Jan 18	May 18	Aug 18
Timber Mtn	Timber Mtn EA	E	2,500	15,000	20,018	√	Jan 16	Dec 16	Jul 17	Jul 18
Additional Volume				5,000						
<b>FY2018 Total</b>			<b>4,500</b>	<b>49,400</b>						

Sanpoil	Sanpoil EA	W	3,118	10,000	44,543	√	Mar 17	Mar 18	Jul 18	Jun 19
Limestone/Silver	Limestone/Silver CE	E	2,500	6,500	25,192	Jun 16	Jun 17	Jun 18	Jul 18	Jun 19
Conklin	Conklin EA	E	500	3,000	15,300	Mar 17	Jan 18	May 19	Jul 19	Jun 19
Boulder Park	Boulder Park EA	E	2,500	15,000	32,000	Mar 17	Oct 17	Jun 18	Jul 18	Jun 19
Additional Volume				5,000						
<b>FY2019 Total</b>			<b>5,500</b>	<b>39,500</b>						

TFPA, includes salvage component

Insect and Disease CE

Possible TFPA with additional planning areas

Bulldog	Bulldog EA	W	3,082	20,000	44,041	Jan 17	Oct 18	Jan 19	Jul 19	Jul 20
Ione	Ione EA	E	1,200	6,000	20,000	Jan 17	Jan 18	May 19	Jul 19	Jul 20
Dollar	Dollar EA	W	2,728	17,700	38,973	Jan 17	Oct 17	Jan 19	Jul 19	Jul 20
Additional Volume				5,000						
<b>FY2020 Total</b>			<b>3,928</b>	<b>48,700</b>						

S Fork Boulder Rd

Potential Farm Bill CE

Potential TFPA project



Colville Monitoring Meeting  
April 21, 2016  
Agenda

1. Antitrust Statement and Introductions
2. Latest on Legislation and Appropriations from AFRC staff
3. Updates on the 2016 Colville Timber Sale Program
4. Final Forest Budget and Timber Target from Region
5. Additional Funding from CFLRA and other Sources—what does this mean for the program?
6. Status of additional NEPA team
7. Status of Fire projects and Roadside Salvage sales
8. Forest Plan update—we hope to have a lengthy discussion on this subject
9. Other Issues

Trip to the Field to look at burnt stands and merchantability of standing timber.

\*As participants at this meeting, we need to be mindful of the constraints of antitrust laws. There shall be no discussions of agreements or concerted actions that restrain competition. This prohibition includes the exchange of information concerning prices, costs, markets or any other competitive aspect of an individual's or company's operations. Any effort to limit competition within or between geographic areas is prohibited. Each participant is obligated to speak up immediately for the purpose of preventing any discussion falling outside these bounds.