

Colville National Forest
Meeting with Selkirk Trailblazers
March 8, 2016

Attending

Leanna Powers, members of the Selkirk Trailblazers, and other community members
Pend Oreille County Commissioners Steve Kiss, Karen Skoog, and Mike Manus
Malcolm Friedman of Cathy McMorris-Rodgers office

Forest Service:

Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team Lead, Rodney Smoldon, Forest Supervisor, Franklin Pemberton, Public Affairs Officer, Gayne Sears, District Ranger, Will Markwardt, Law Enforcement Officer, and Marcy Rumelhart (notes).

The meeting was held at the Lone Community Center in Lone, WA at 6:00 pm. This meeting was specifically requested by Leanna Powers and the Selkirk Trailblazers club.

Leanna Powers made some introductions and laid down some meeting ground rules.

Steve Kiss spoke to the group before the presentation. He stated that even though everyone may not agree with the Forest Service draft plan it was important to be respectful and for everyone to hear the discussion. He encouraged the group to comment on the project but to not submit form letters which are essentially one comment.

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. She 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 differences between alternatives related to recommended wilderness, timber output, and road management. She covered that the plan does not make site-specific decisions such as specific OHV routes or opening or closing trails. She showed the group what the documents look like and where to get more information. There are webinars being planned and listening sessions toward the end of the comment period.

Question topics included:

- You listed what you can't change, so what can you change?
 - Management area designations, desired conditions, standards & guidelines and objectives. Wilderness designation and inventoried roadless areas can't be changed, but everything else is open for change.
- Lonnie Johnson – some things you can't change but the Forest Service could recommend that it be changed.
 - Rodney gave an example of a private landowner wanting to do fuel treatment along the boundary of an inventoried roadless area. There is paperwork involved and higher level approval required but some change in how Inventoried Roadless areas are managed can be recommended. The actual Inventoried Roadless area boundaries can be recommended for change, but those recommendations go through Department of Agriculture, and are not decided at forest plan level.
- Does plan address management to prevent forest fires?

- The plan does not make site-specific decisions but does allow the forest to respond to fires and to do any needed rehabilitation or salvage work. Amy explained the difference between active management and reserve management. Alternative R, which includes reserve management, is heavy to that passive kind of management, letting nature take its course.
- What is the Forest Service doing to increase off road access on the Sullivan Lake district, looks like all of it is on the west side of the forest.
 - Amy explained the dark blue areas on the map are backcountry motorized management areas with some sort of motorized trail present. It does not mean that OHV trails are limited to only those areas. There are no site-specific trail decisions included in the draft plan.
- How do you get equipment in wilderness to put out fires?
 - Gayne stated during last fire season we got special permission to bring in equipment, build a trail, and then rehabilitate the area.
- Who gets the timber money from a timber sale?
 - Rodney stated there are different types of contracts. Funds from a timber sale contract would go back to the federal treasury, with some funds returned to counties through the Secure Rural Schools Act under Title II. Under a stewardship contract we trade the value of the timber for the work and if there are any funds leftover we can keep that in a trust fund for local contracting/expenditure.
- Why is there checkerboard ownership?
 - Much of the private ownership adjacent to federal land dates back to the 1800s when the government gave alternating sections of land to the railroad. Much of the private land in the Pend Oreille valley is owned by Stimson Lumber Company and the WA State Department of Natural Resources. We have a cost share agreement with them for some roads, and we try to coordinate management with other ownerships as much as possible. However, the forest plan would not affect management of other ownerships.
- Question about letters and comments to the Forest Service coming from locals. The majority of people (here) say don't be restrictive, but how can we get to people who can make a difference? It doesn't seem like the people (here) who don't like this are being heard.
 - Amy – all comments will be read and considered regardless of who they come from. We are receiving comments from folks in all three counties (Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille). There will be comments from folks in the three counties that want more wilderness, local folks that have that viewpoint. We need to hear from you in a focused way what you like and what you don't like. If people don't comment we don't hear it. On the forest plan website is a link to a reading room where the public can view all comments submitted.
 - Rodney – regarding managing the forest, remember it is part of a National Forest system not just a Pend Oreille County system. He urged the group to comment on the draft plan, but also to provide specifics about what needs to change.
- Leanna Powers – stated climate change discussion is in the draft plan, but consider that every time the Forest Service puts smoke in the air it contributes to climate change. Also motor

vehicle use in Pend Oreille County has changed a lot since the introduction of the side-by-side. She will recommend keeping the current plan in place (No Action). She believes it would be better to amend the current plan because there is more wiggle room for motor vehicle uses.

- Where can we go to understand the terms in the plans?
 - Amy stated there is a glossary in the documents that explains all of the terms. The legend for the maps also has a good explanation of terms and management areas.
- This whole area is wilderness and there are deer right in town, but if you want access to wilderness you have to walk.
 - Amy stated the areas shown on the maps as recommended wilderness are overlapping areas that are currently unroaded. They are inventoried roadless areas.
- Why is the Forest Service changing these areas to recommended wilderness?
 - Gayne – there is a lot of interest from people who believe that these areas contain wilderness characteristics.
- Does the No Action alternative include all the amendments? Yes.
- The Salmo Priest is designated wilderness?
 - Yes. Gayne stated anything that is proposed as recommended wilderness would be managed to maintain the wilderness characteristics.
- Regarding the groups who came up with the alternatives (B & O) – who were they? Also, if the County Commissioners have met with you in the past, what did they request and how did you honor that?
 - Amy – the groups involved in the public workshops that provided input for developing the alternatives included Conservation Northwest, The Lands Council, Kettle Range Conservation Group, federal and state congressional representatives, county commissioners, timber industry representatives, motorized and non-motorized group representatives, 49 Degrees North Ski Area representatives, and cattlemen groups to name a few. There were also roundtable discussions led by McMorris-Rodger's and Cantwell's offices. We heard at those meetings the group could not come to consensus for certain types of management. Those differences are reflected in the different alternatives. Alternative R, which proposes large area of the forest for passive management, versus Alternative P, which proposes about 70% of the land base being managed. Folks from all three local counties were represented, and probably some from Spokane county.
 - Rodney – for the record, Alternatives B & O are not preferred by the Forest Service, and alternatives were developed by the Forest Service, not by the public. Regarding the question about meeting with the county commissioners, we met with the commissioners from all three counties over three days last fall and went through all of the documents. They wanted us to dig deeper into how we look at water yield/water quantity, and we made changes. They wanted adjustments to a grazing guideline. They expressed dislike for the recommended wilderness we proposed so we removed about half of what was originally in Alternative P. The commissioners also expressed concern over the road density standards and we agreed that needs more work. That is something we will look at between draft and final. After making adjustments we took

Alternative P to our regional forester as our preferred alternative and he agreed it was ready for public comment. Next, we briefed our Washington DC office on the draft plan and they gave us approval to go to the public. Based on public comments received during the comment period, there could be a new alternative or a modified alternative which could include parts of other alternatives.

- What group makes the decision on which alternative will become the new plan?
 - Rodney stated that he will make a recommendation to the regional forester who will then make a decision.
- Pend Oreille County Commissioner Skoog addressed the group. She stated that while Commissioner Kiss has read all of the documents and has been working with Rodney, the county has been involved in the planning process from the beginning. Throughout the process the county came to realize the county policies are weak and need improvement. They are working with the Forest Service to harmonize our two plans and to improve county policy. They are looking at doing a bigger county plan.
- Lonnie Johnson stated the Forest Service is not a great partner in economics and should be more involved in economic development.

Plan revision business cards were handed out for anyone that wanted the website information. Several individuals took paper copies of the documents and CDs.

The meeting ended just before 8:00 pm.

Colville National Forest

Land & Resource Management Plan Revision



Forest Plan Purpose

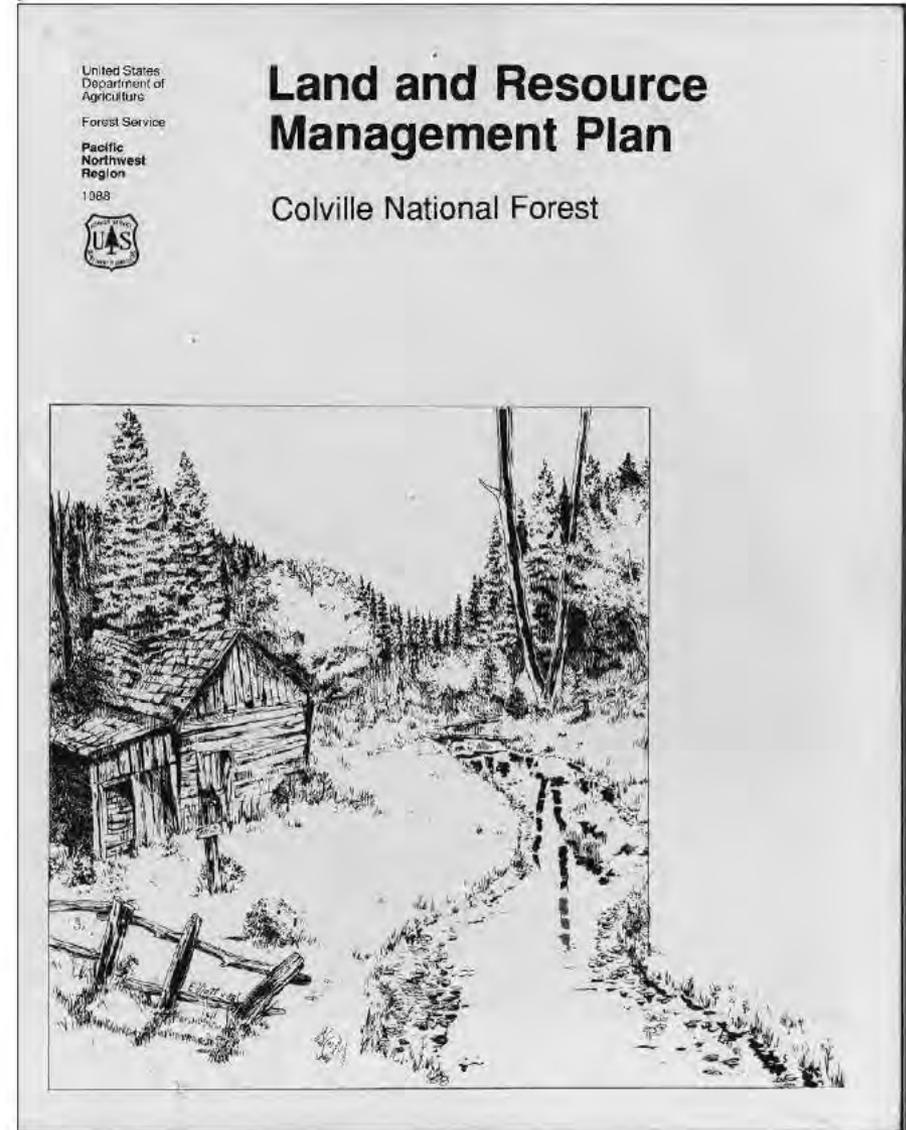
- 15-year strategic document providing land management direction by guiding programs, practices, uses, and projects
- Adaptive - can be changed based on ecological and social conditions
- Designates management areas allocating zones of the forest for different activities
- Designates suitability of areas 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

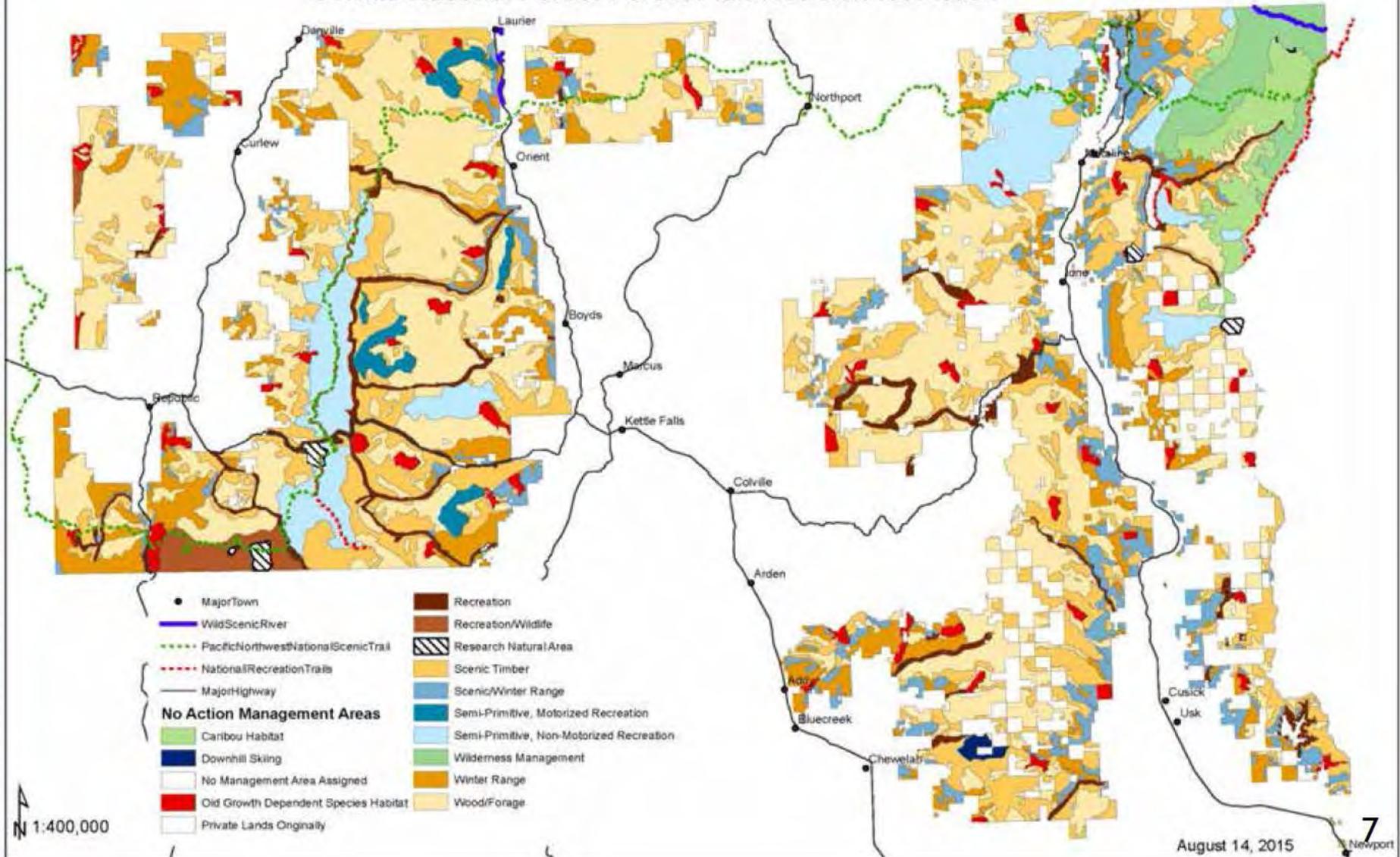
1. Old Forest (Late Successional) Management & Timber Production
2. Motorized Recreation Trails
3. Access (FS roads)
4. Recommended Wilderness Areas
5. Wildlife Habitat
6. Riparian & Aquatic Resource Management



No Action

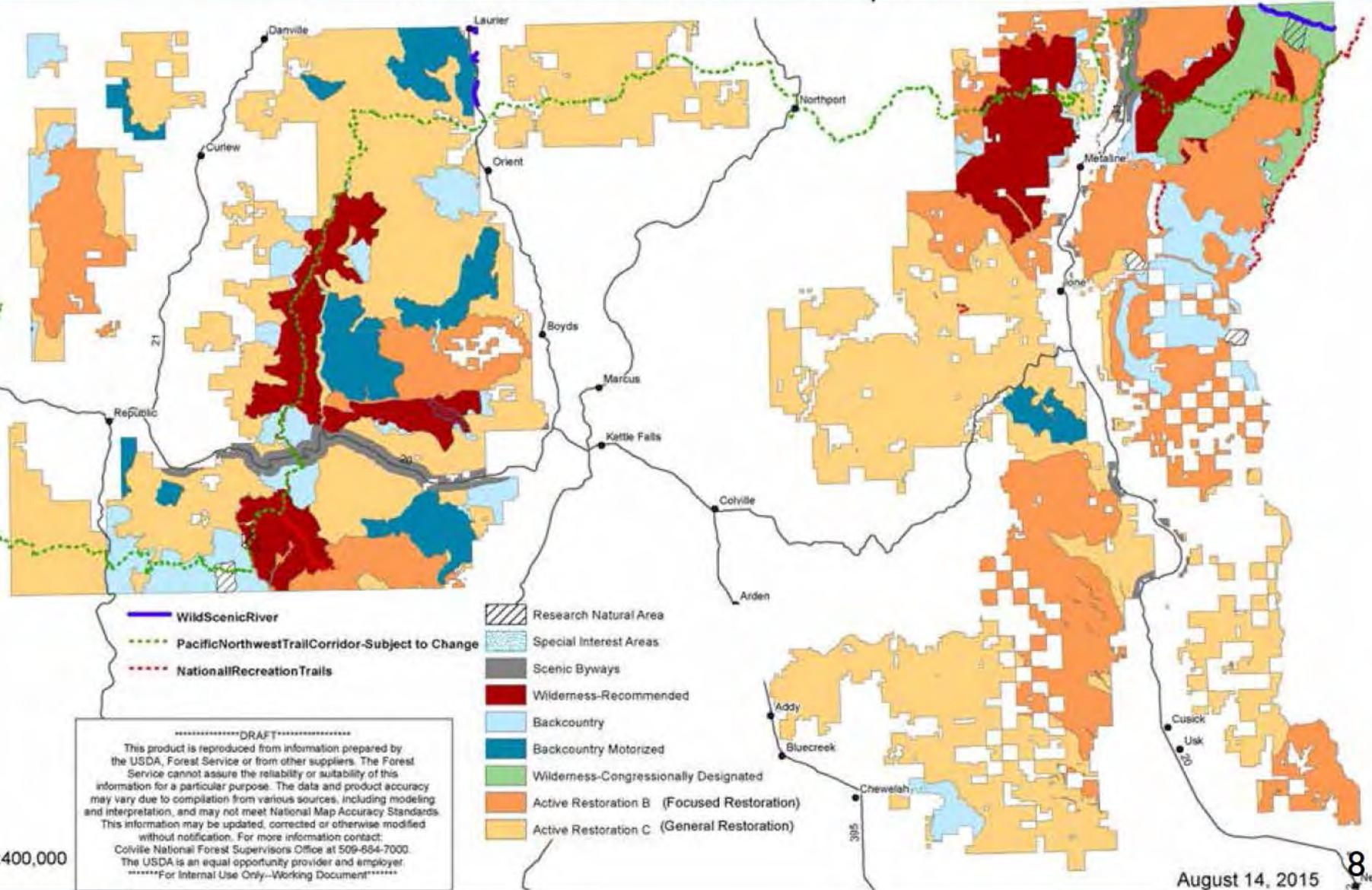
- Continues 1988 LRMP direction (as amended)
- Retains inland native fish strategy (INFISH) & Eastside screens
- 0% recommended wilderness; 3% in fixed reserves

Colville National Forest-Forest Plan Revision-No Action



Proposed Action (June 2011)

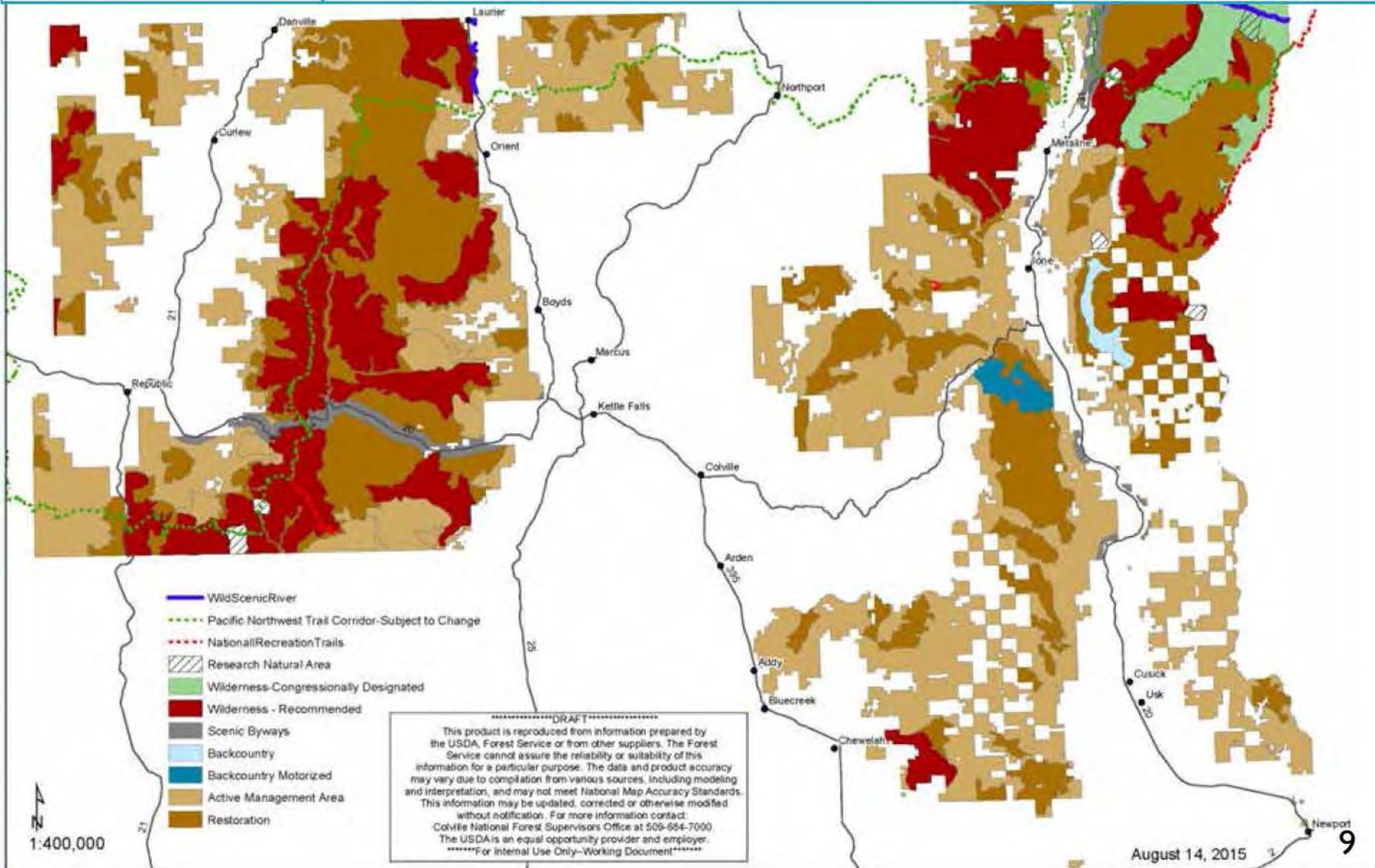
- Landscape scale management
- Replaces eastside screens w/Desired Condition for veg. mgmt.
- Incorporates aquatic restoration & conservation strategy (ARCS)
- 9% proposed as recommended wilderness; 0% fixed reserves



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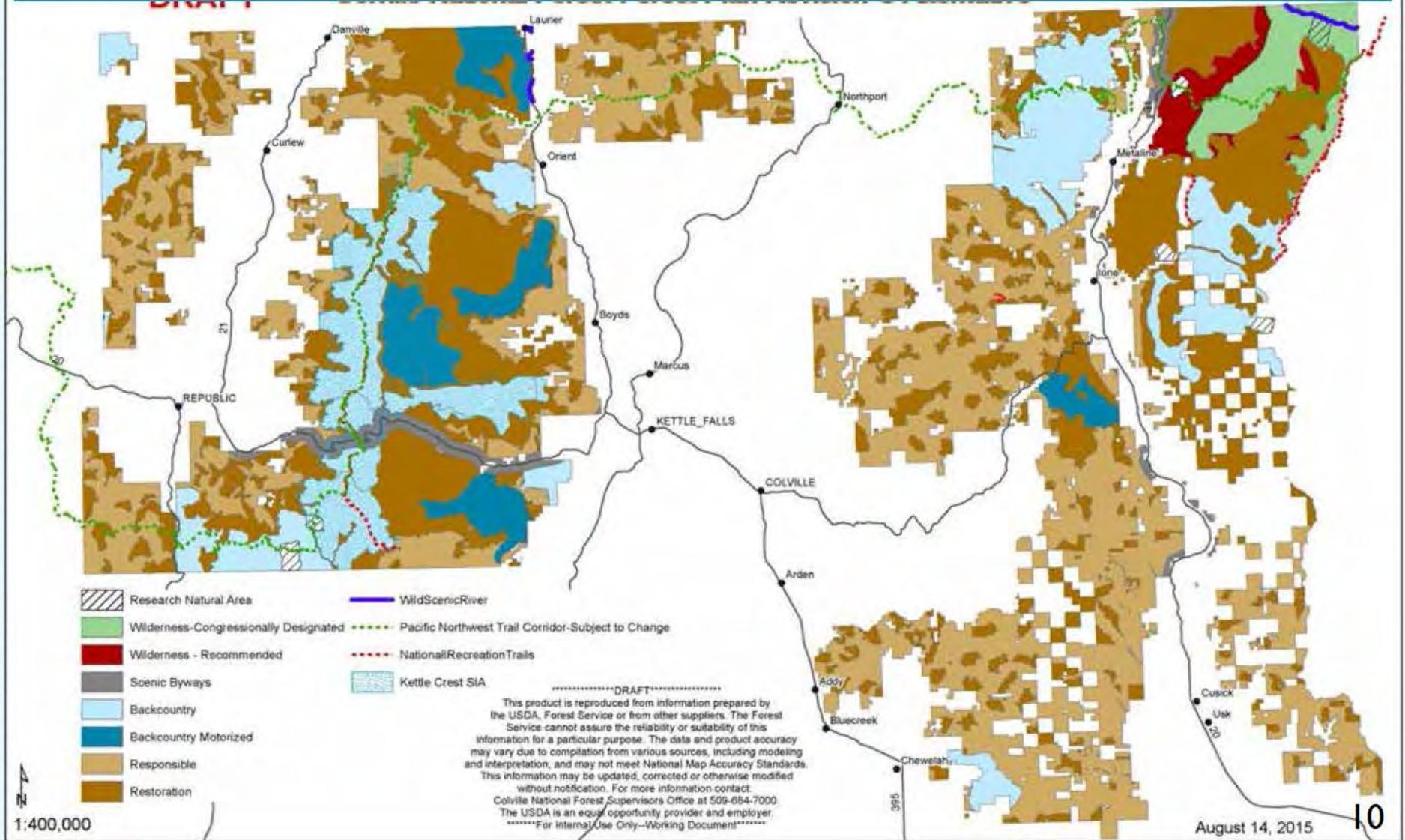
Alternative B

- 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



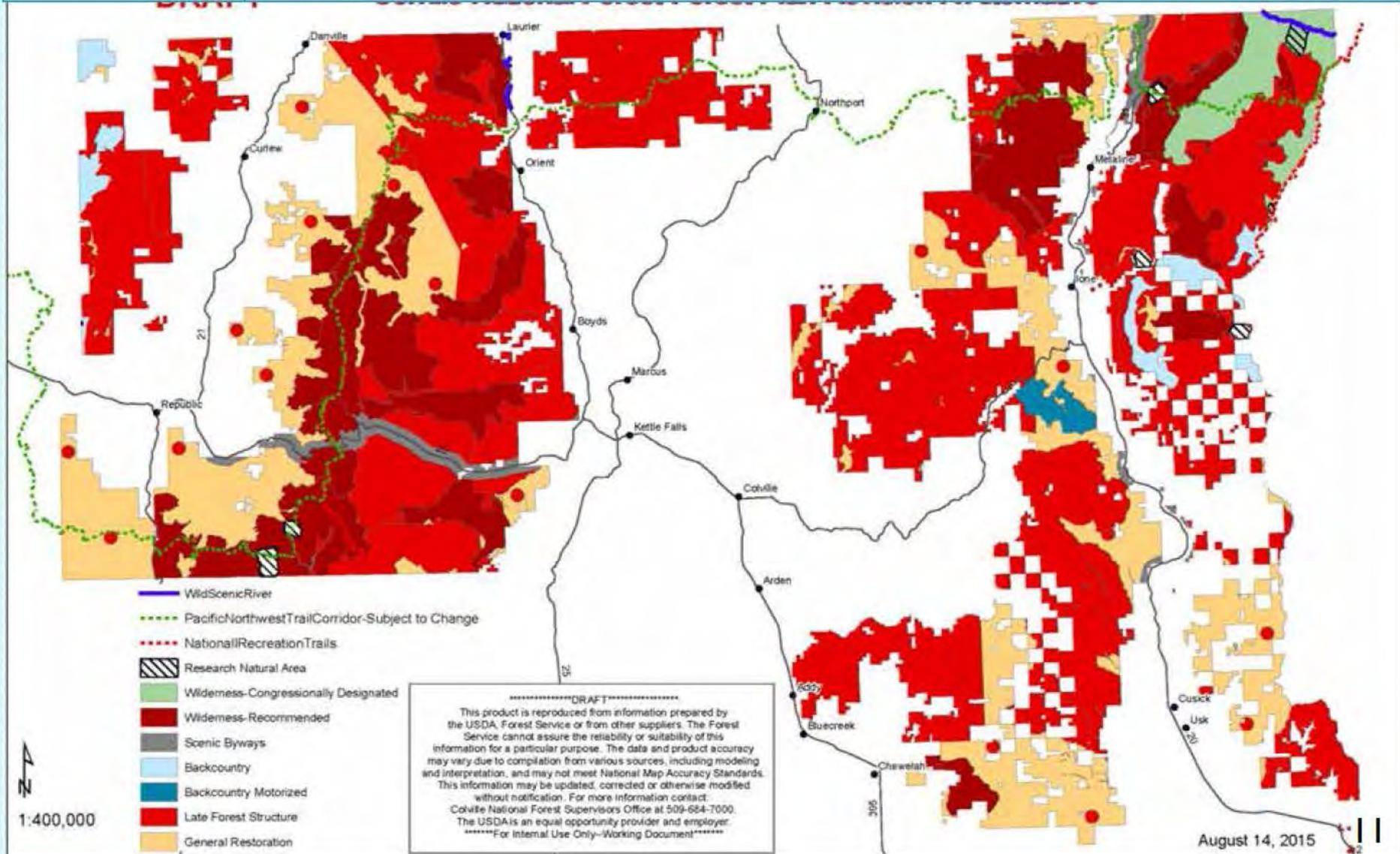
Alternative O

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



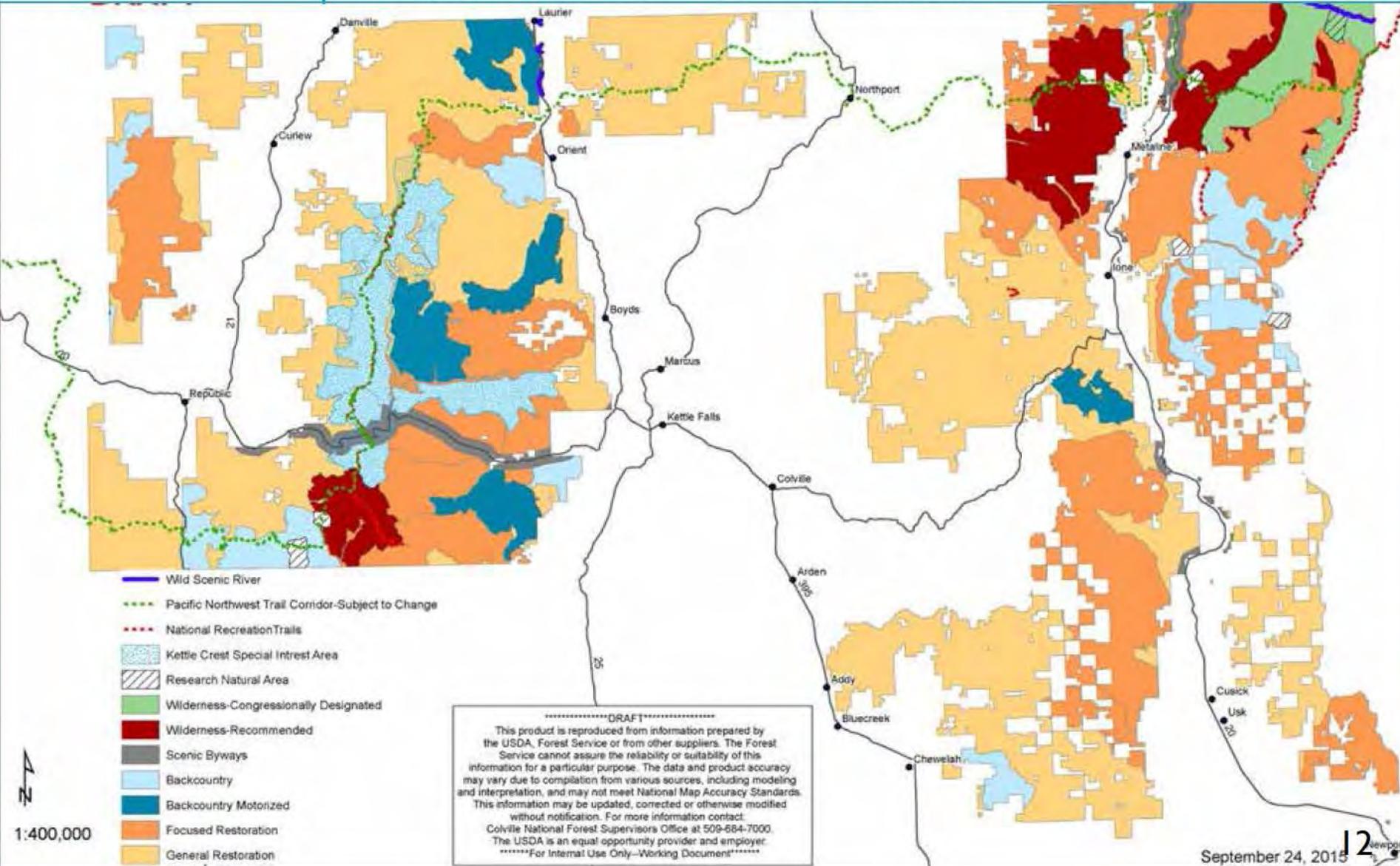
Alternative R

- 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

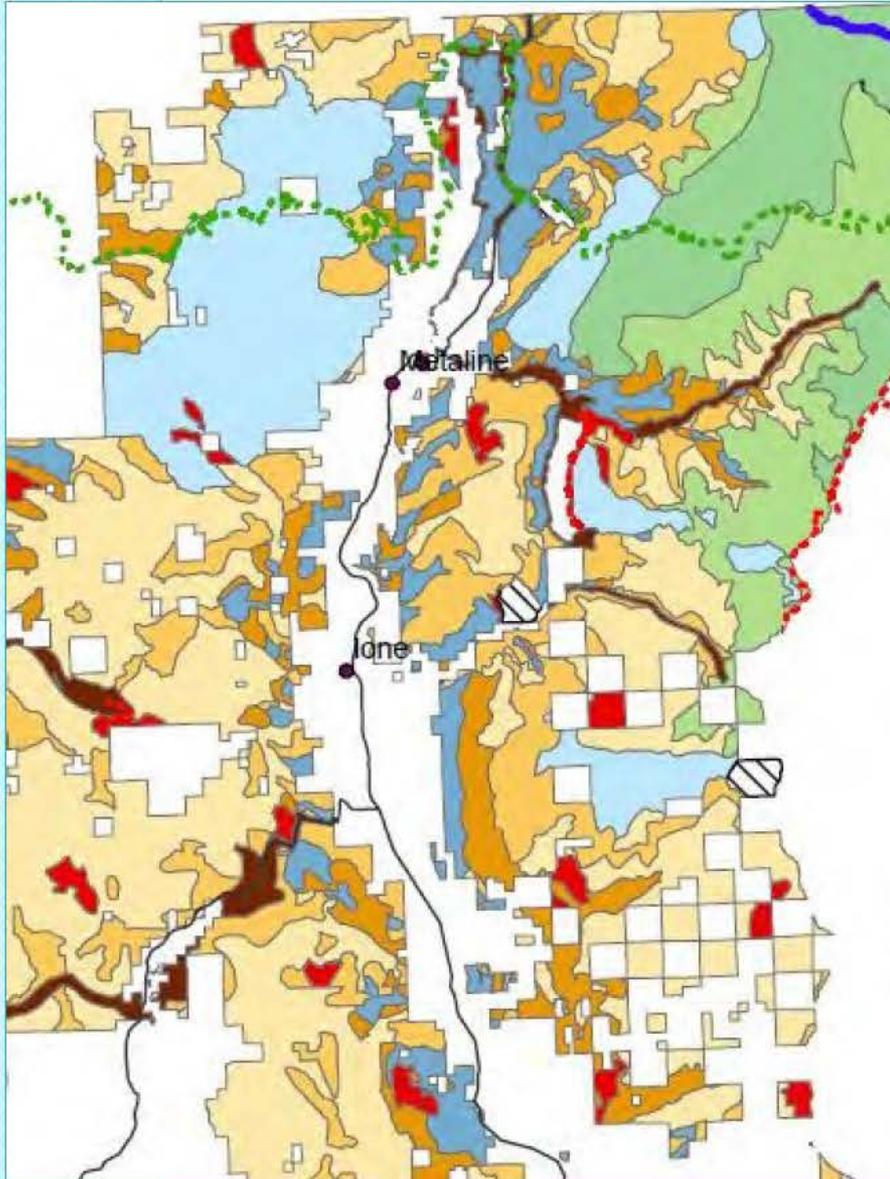


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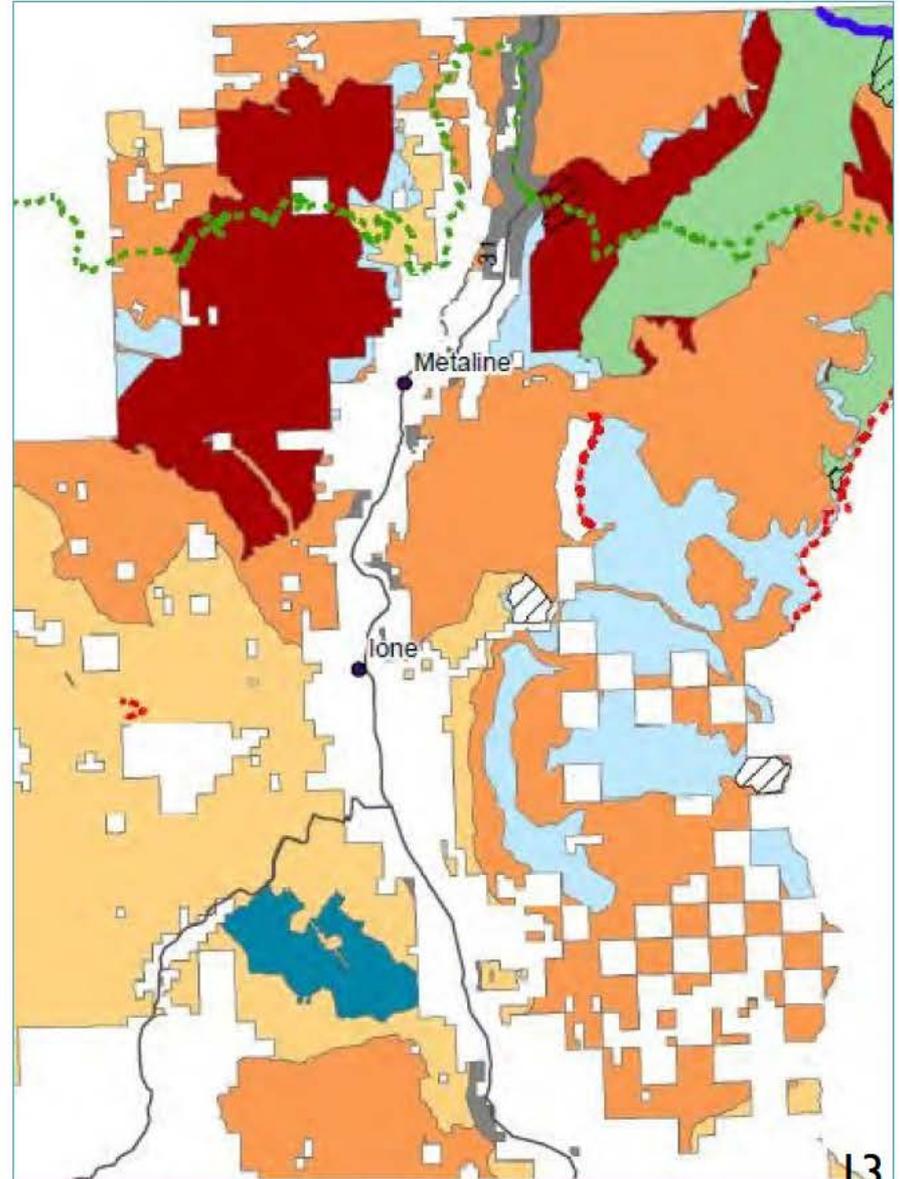
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No Action (current 1988 plan)

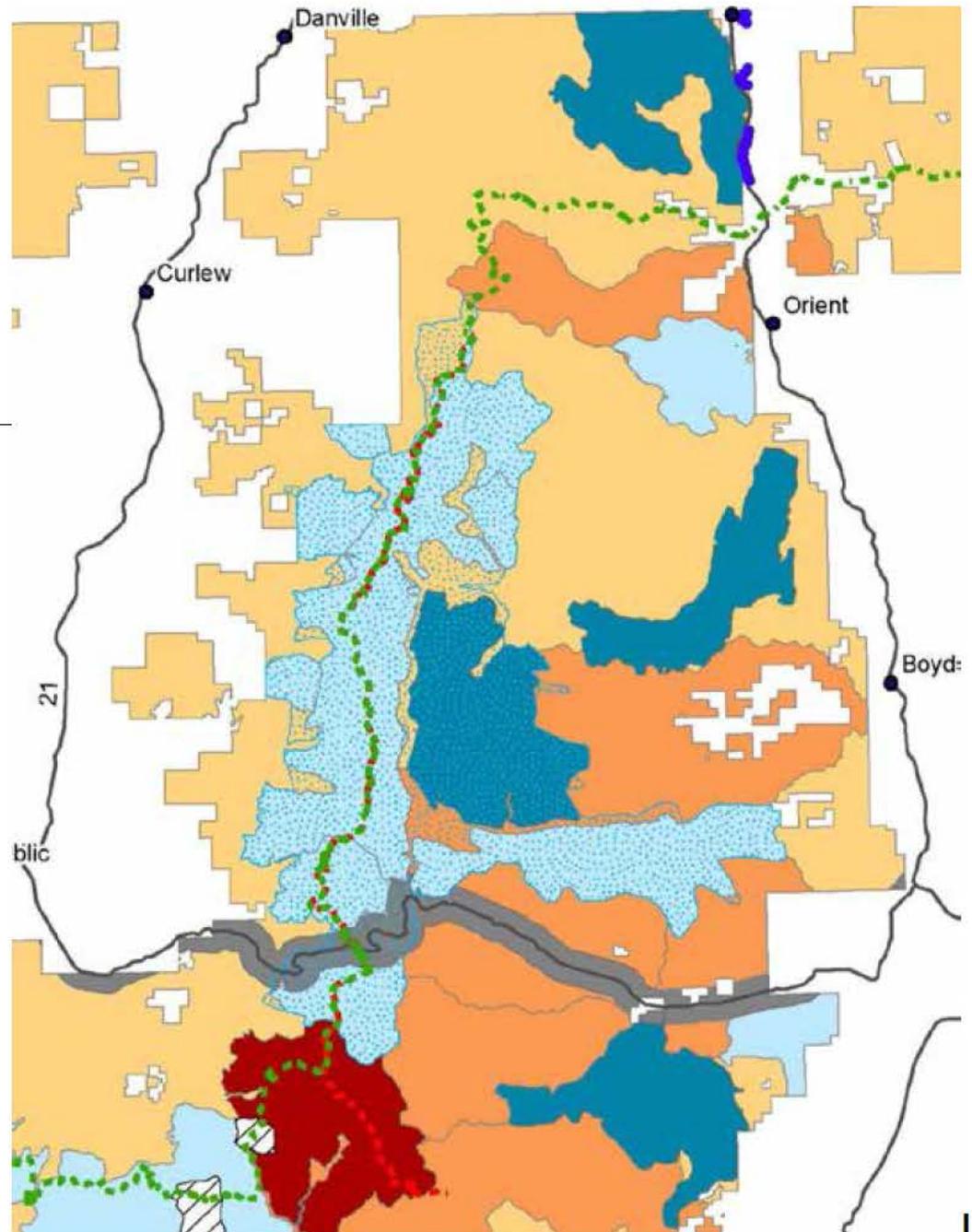


Proposed Action (2011)



Recreation Special Interest Area

Included in Alternatives
O and P



Key points – commercial timber

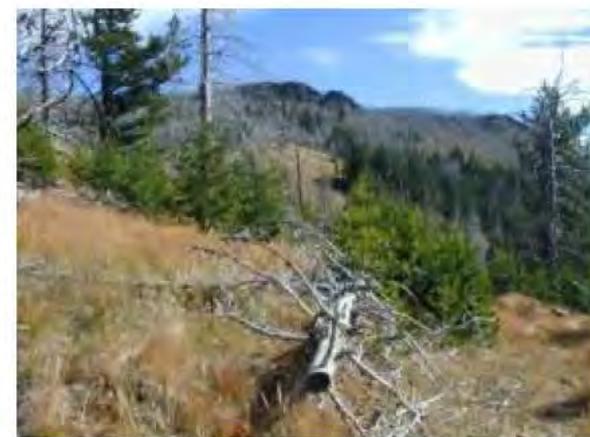
| Resource and Indicator | No Action (existing plan) | Proposed Action | B | O | R | P |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Acres/Percentage of NFS Lands Suitable for Scheduled Timber Production | 535,725 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 |

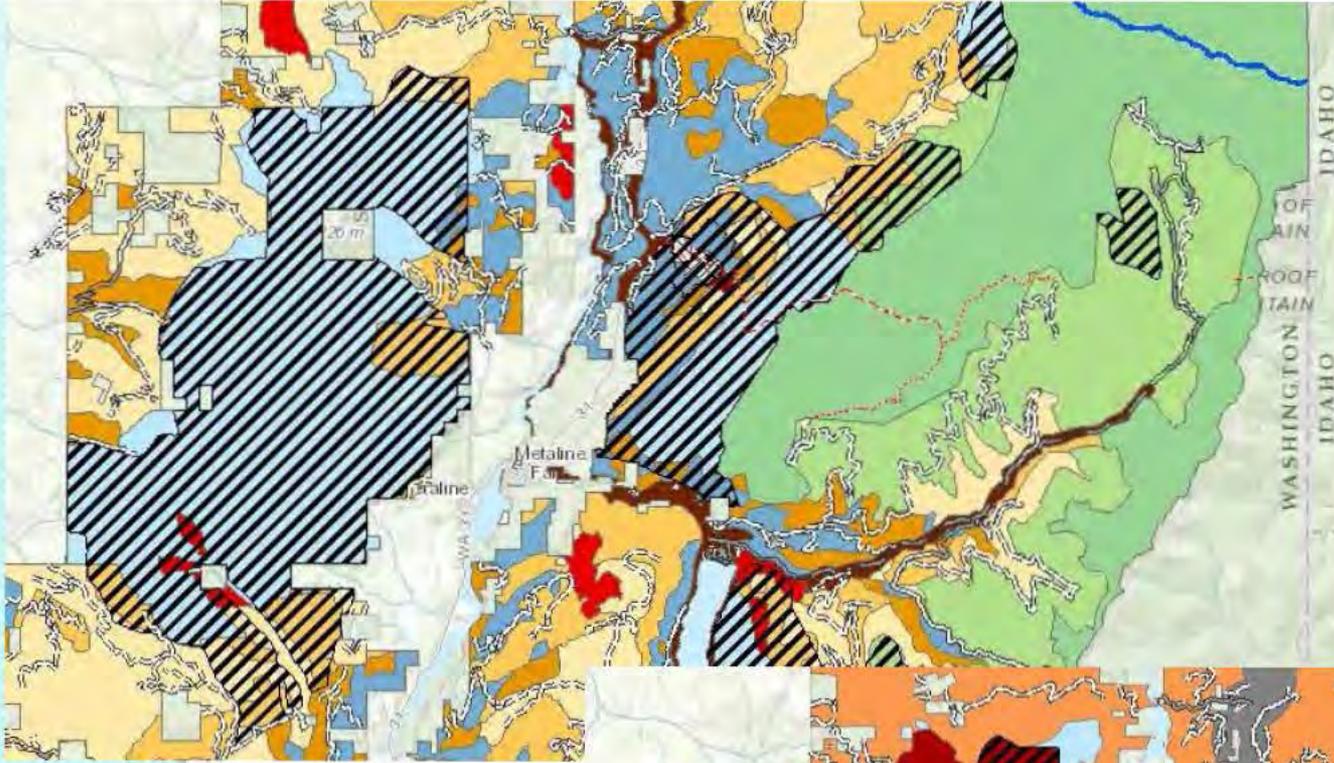


Key points - Wilderness & Recommended Wilderness

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

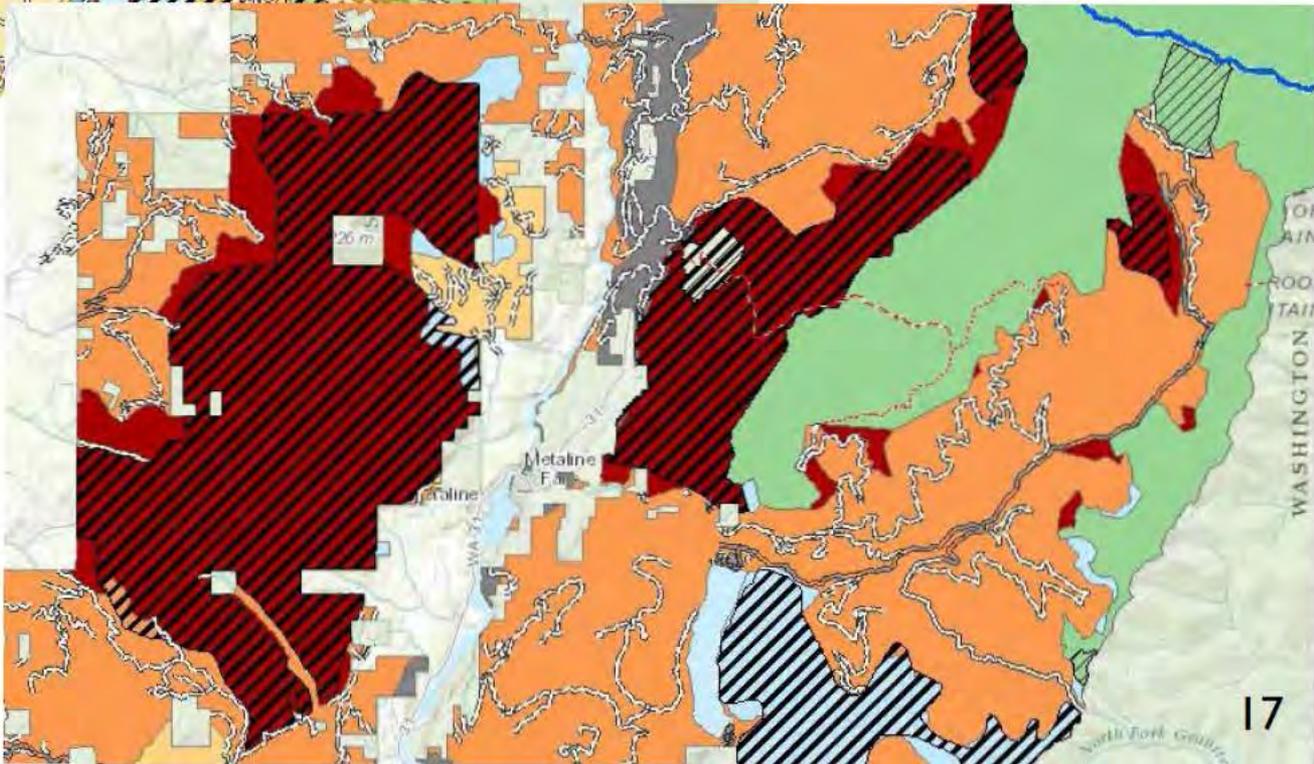
| Alternative | No Action | Proposed Action | B | O | R | P |
|--|-----------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| Acres/Percent Recommended for Wilderness | 0 | 101,390 9% | 220,330 20% | 15,950 1% | 207,800 19% | 68,300 6% |





Current (1988)
plan

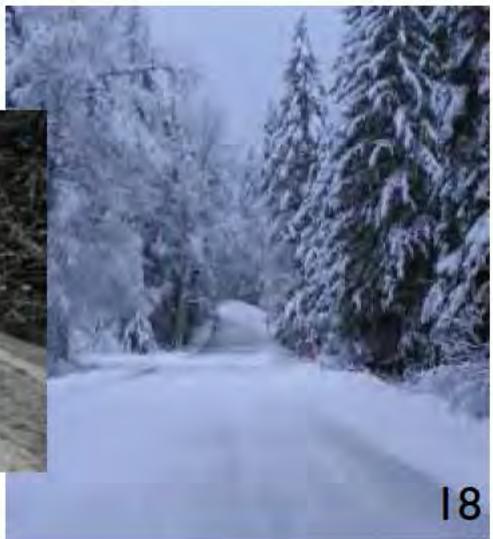
Alternative P
(preferred
alt.)



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

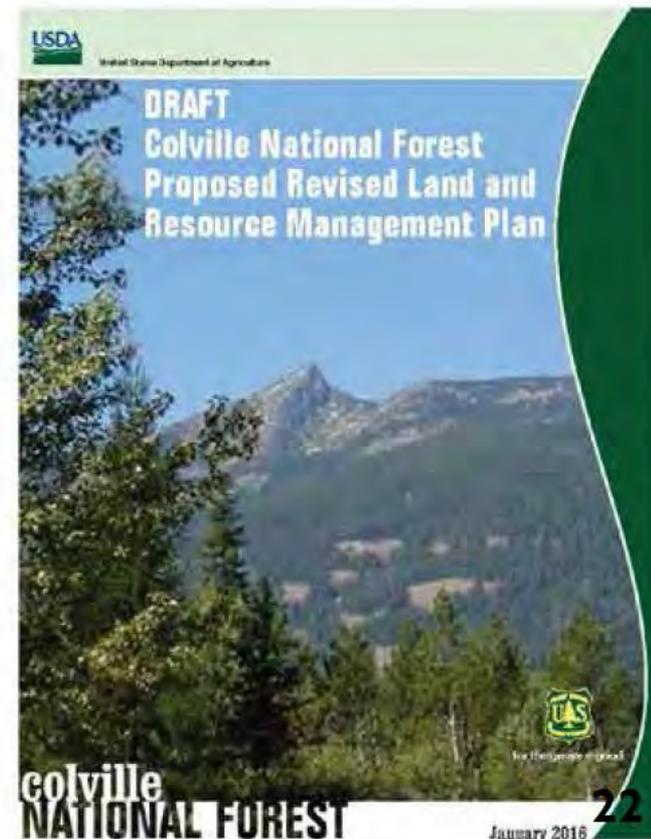


Draft Revised Plan

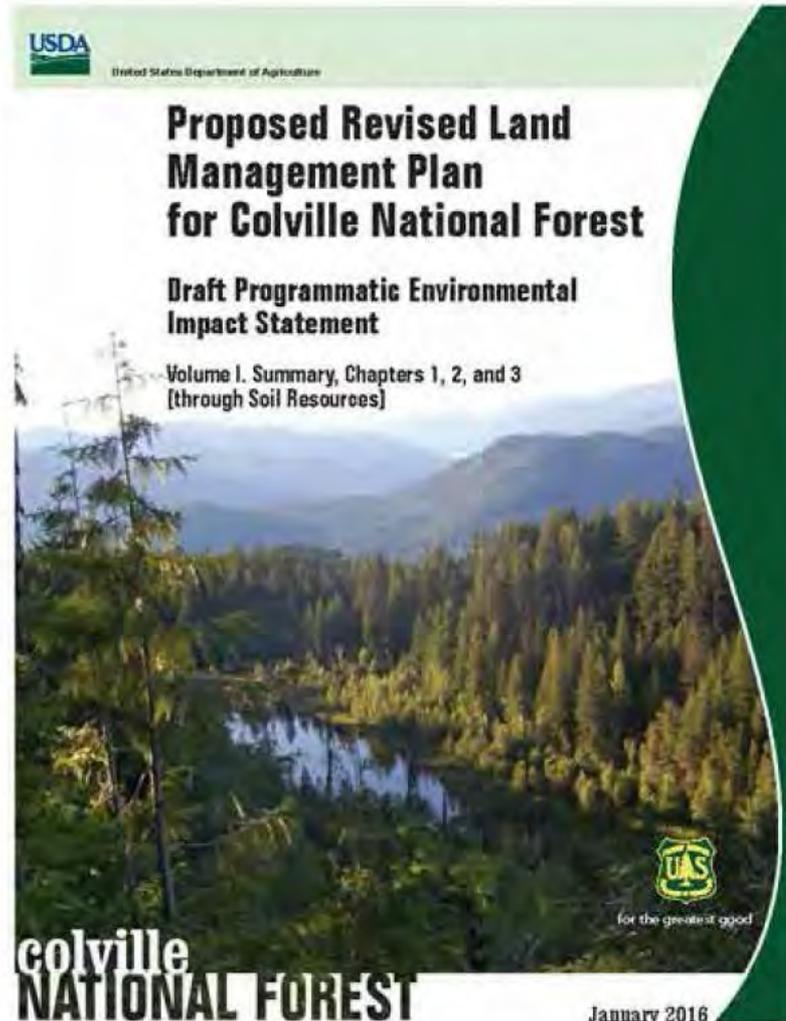
Developed based on *Alternative P*
(listed as preferred alternative in the Draft EIS)

Document provides:

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



Other Documents



USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Proposed Revised Land Management Plan for Colville National Forest

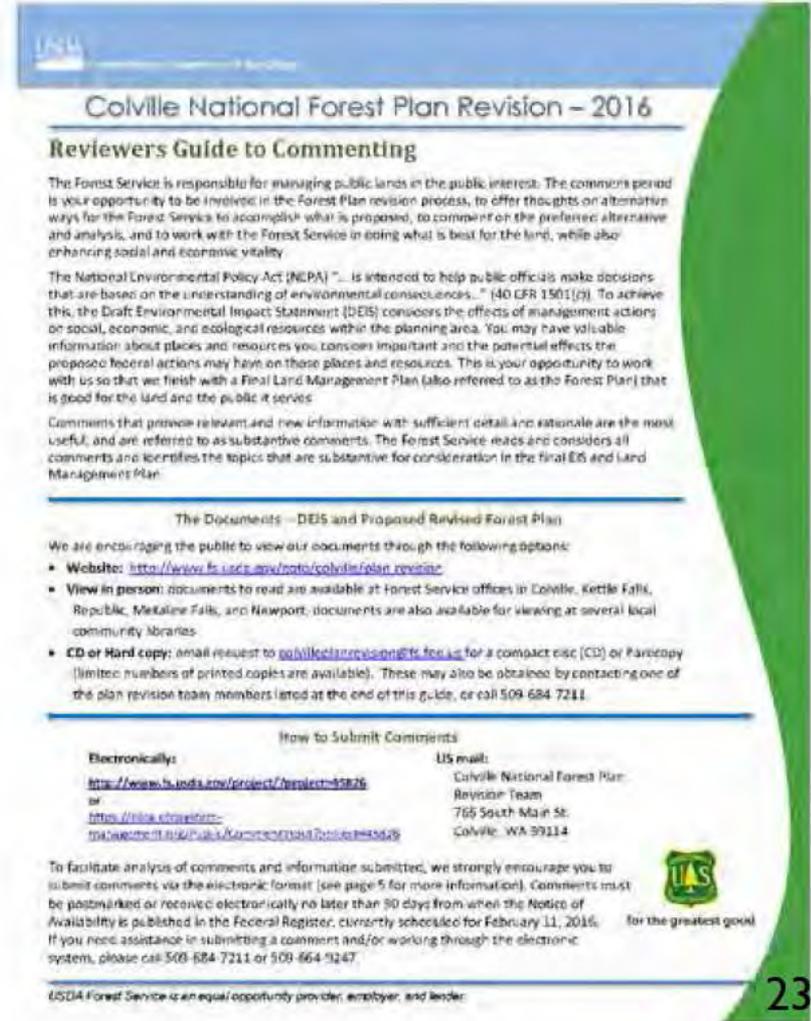
Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

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

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colville
NATIONAL FOREST

January 2016



USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

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/nrta/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/revplan2016 or http://info.colville-nrta.fs.usda.gov/colville/plan_revision/revplan2016 | US mail: Colville National Forest Plan Revision Team 765 Sixth Main St. Colville, WA 99114 |
|--|---|

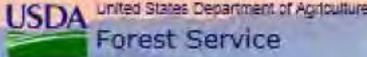
To facilitate analysis of comments and information submitted, we strongly encourage you to submit comments via the electronic format (see page 5 for more information). Comments must be postmarked or received electronically no later than 90 days from when the Notice of Availability is published in the 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.

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On-Line Information - Colville NF web page

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



Colville National Forest

Forest Service Home About the Agency Contact the National Office

Search

- Site Map

Colville National Forest

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- Passes & Permits
- Maps & Publications
- Land & Resources Management**
 - Planning
 - Projects
 - Resource Management
 - Geospatial Data
- Learning Center
- Working Together
- About the Forest
- News & Events

Contact Information

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

Stay Connected

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

Quick Links

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

 Visit Online Open House

Visit Online Open House 

 Submit Formal Comment

Submit Formal Comment 

 Current Forest Plan

Current Forest Plan

On-Line Information - On-line Open House

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

colville NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION

Welcome

Overview

Alternatives

Forests/Timber

Access/Motorized Trails

Wilderness

Wildlife Habitat

Water

Public Involvement

Comment

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 [1988 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](#)



Comments

Suggestions for what to put in comments:

- ❖ What do you like (FS should keep in the final plan) from any of the alternatives?
- ❖ What do you not like? What should the FS consider for that area or management direction instead?
- ❖ What information should be included or considered in the DEIS that isn't there right now?
- ❖ Being specific about the management direction or topic of concern is helpful for knowing what we should be considering for change.

Comments

What the Forest Plan cannot change:

- ❖ Boundary for designated wilderness (Salmo-Priest)
- ❖ Inventoried Roadless Area boundaries (designated in 2001)
- ❖ Any existing law, regulation or policy
- ❖ Management plans or direction related to other ownerships



Comments

How to get the comments to Forest Service:

On-line: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=45826>
Colville National Forest Plan Revision #45826

Commenting on This Project

Comments, including anonymous comments, will be accepted at any time. However, comments posted after the close of a designated comment period may not be able to be given full consideration. Anonymous comments and comments submitted after the close of the final designated comment period will not provide the commenter standing for administrative review.

Email: colvilleplanrevision@fs.fed.us

Postal Mail:

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

Listening Sessions: to be scheduled toward end of the
comment period

Next Steps (continued)

Summer 2016

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

Summer/Fall 2016

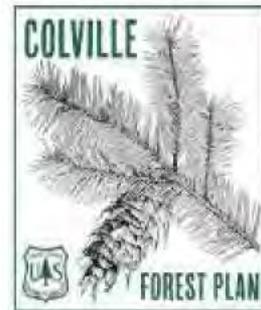
- RO & WO (Internal) Review

Winter 2016

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

Late Spring 2017

- Record of Decision signed



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



Discussion and Questions