

Colville National Forest
Meeting with Ferry County Natural Resources Board
May 2, 2016

Attending

Ferry County Natural Resources Board Members and Interested Citizens including Johnna and Mike Exner, Doug A. Rowell, Gary Olson, Stan Christie, Lorna Johnson (Kettle Range Advisory Board), Carol Devlin, Carol Fugitt, Larry Helland, Kim Charles, John Paul Charles, Pete Remington, and Doug Grumbach.

Forest Service: Amy Dillon, Colville NF Plan Revision Team Leader; Debbie Kelly, Plan Revision Team Public Affairs Lead; and Mike Herrin, Republic District Ranger

Location: the meeting was held at the Ferry County Commissioners office in Republic, WA and began at 4:00 pm.

The Forest Service was invited by Johnna Exner and the Ferry County Natural Resources Board, and Ferry County Commissioner Mike Blankenship to share an update on the forest plan revision process, including an overview of the current comment period on the draft environmental impact statement and draft revised forest plan.

Amy Dillon shared a brief PowerPoint that provided some background on the plan revision project and a description of where the forest is at in the NEPA planning process with the revision today. She shared the key issues, how those were derived from the 2011 scoping comments, and shared the range of alternatives, what they had in common and how they differed- from each other- based on those key issues. She described the Preferred Alternative P, and also showed the maps for each alternative.

She explained the comment process, how to submit comments, and described how public comments that detailed or specific comments about the preferred alternative, or any of the alternatives can best be of help at this phase in the project.

She explained where more information can be found on the project website, local forest service offices and where CD copies of the DEIS and draft plan are available, or that the documents can be viewed at ranger stations and local libraries.

Debbie shared that there will be upcoming opportunities to participate in online meetings (webinars) in mid-May focused on key issues, and described the upcoming opportunities to provide verbal comment at listening sessions in June. In addition, we've been meeting with other groups and organizations by request, and will continue to do so as scheduling allows.

Participants asked questions and shared their impressions with the natural resources board members.

Questions/Responses:

Q. Can 2001 inventoried roadless areas be changed in plan revision?

R. Congress can make changes to IRAs; in plan revision we could make a recommendation, but that decision is outside of the Forest Service's control. In plan revision across the alternatives, we do reflect a variety of ways that the IRAs could be managed, or how management areas change across the alternatives.

Q. How does riparian management change?

R. In Alternatives R, B and P—key watersheds and bulltrout habitat emphasis areas. No net increase in roads (road miles). Two alternatives incorporate INFISH- the no action and alternative B. There is also the regional direction- ARCS- aquatic riparian conservation strategy- that reflects different road density or road management—but wildlife habitat (TES, big game, grizzly bear and lynx) is much the same across the alternatives.

Q. How are trails managed differently across the alternatives?

R. The alternatives mostly vary with the amount of recommended wilderness—where impacts to trails would vary. Example—if an area- is recommended wilderness in a couple of the alternatives—if those proposal move forward, they may not permit mechanized (bicycles) or motorized (chainsaws) uses immediately after the plan was approved. In a couple of the other alternatives—those non-conforming uses in a recommended wilderness could continue until such time that Congress chose to act on the recommendation, as long as the use was not permitted to expand (kept at the same level as currently exists)- to protect the wilderness characteristics of the areas.

Q. What would the impacts to recreation be?

R. It's hard to compare quantitatively. There are varying amounts of back country non-motorized, and backcountry motorized (trails) and recommended wilderness identified across the range of alternatives.

Q: Is the Forest Service looking to do more landscape or bigger scale treatments to improve forest health? You need to have more flexibility to treat areas.

R. Alternatives R, B and O include emphasis on developing late structure and recommended wilderness, The No action would include fixed reserves and follow east side screens (upper size limit of 21" dbh for cutting live trees), and the 2011 Proposed Action and Alternative P (Preferred Alternative) include an approach using thinning and prescribed burning, and would utilize standards and guidelines to replace the eastside screens.

Q. How would a Kettle Crest SIA work as far as how the area is managed (alternatives O and P)?

R. In those alternatives the SIA is an overlay- so the underlying management theme would be the same as what is identified for that particular alternative- whether Alternative P or O. For Example- in Alternative P (the preferred alternative) within the boundary area for the Kettle SIA—there are areas that would be managed as backcountry, backcountry non-motorized, general and focused restoration.

Q. What happens to those recommended wilderness areas, if within the life of the plans (15 or so years) Congress has not made a move? Would that designation change? Are they still open for being recommended to wilderness, or re-evaluated?

R. First, it does vary by alternative what activities can occur once the draft plan is signed—as far as the Colville Forest Plan Revision preferred alternative goes--some current uses could continue within the

recommended wilderness area, as long as the wilderness characteristics are protected, or not degraded. So, a particular use wouldn't be permitted to expand but would be allowed to continue in alternatives P and the 2011 Proposed Action; and in the B and R alternatives the existing "non-conforming" use would be restricted, if that alternative were selected by the regional forester.

Q. What advice do you have for how to comment?

R. It's not a vote, and comments that provide comment on the draft plan and alternatives that indicate what works in that alternative and why, or if something doesn't work for you and then note why. If you have a suggestion for improving an alternative, and describe what that might be—knowing the area and the forest, your comments can be detailed and descriptive. Comments that go beyond I like this, or I don't like that with no explanative or reasoning are not as helpful when it comes to evaluating the information in a comment.

Q. How are the visual effects considered in planning, for example in the Sherman peak area and scenic byway??

R. There is a section of the plan that address scenic objectives. It depends on the specific objectives for a visual corridor. The objectives may include creating open stands of larger diameter ponderosa pine or Douglas-fir, or may call for creating vistas, or anything in between.

The group then shared their perspectives with the NR board and each other regarding wilderness recommendations, east side screens, changes to the economy, potential economic pros and cons of wilderness and had some questions for the commissioner and the NR board.

Meeting ended at approximately 5:30 pm.

Colville National Forest

Land & Resource Management Plan Revision





Forest Plan Purpose

Provide high-level guidance for management of National Forest system lands

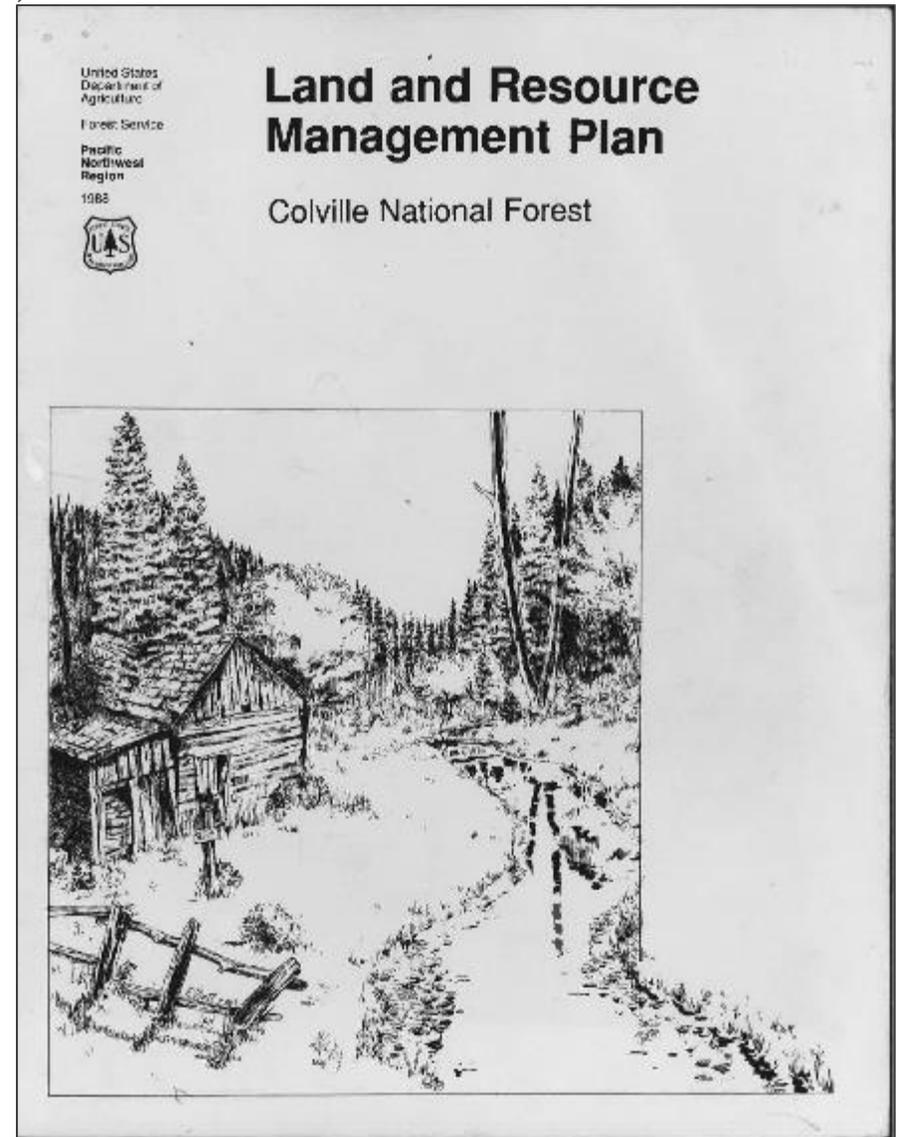
- 15-year strategic document providing land management direction by guiding programs, practices, uses, and projects
 - Designates management areas allocating zones of the forest for different activities
 - Designates suitability of areas for various uses
-

Need for Change

(why are we doing this?)

Currently following a
land management plan
signed in 1988

Includes 40 Forest
Plan Amendments



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



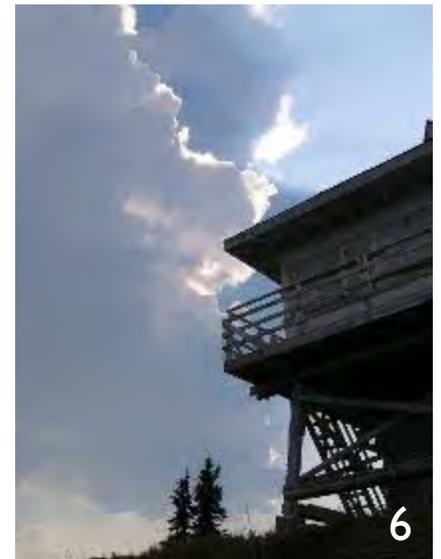
Alternatives

Issues led to development of 6 alternatives:

- ❖ No Action (current 1988 plan as amended)
- ❖ Proposed Action (public comment provided on this in 2011)
- ❖ Alternative R (developed in response to comments supporting large areas as recommended wilderness)
- ❖ Alternative B (developed based on NEWFC proposal and public input during collaborative meetings)
- ❖ Alternative O (developed based on points many participants agreed to during collaborative meetings)
- ❖ Alternative P (developed based on public comment; 2016 preferred alternative)

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



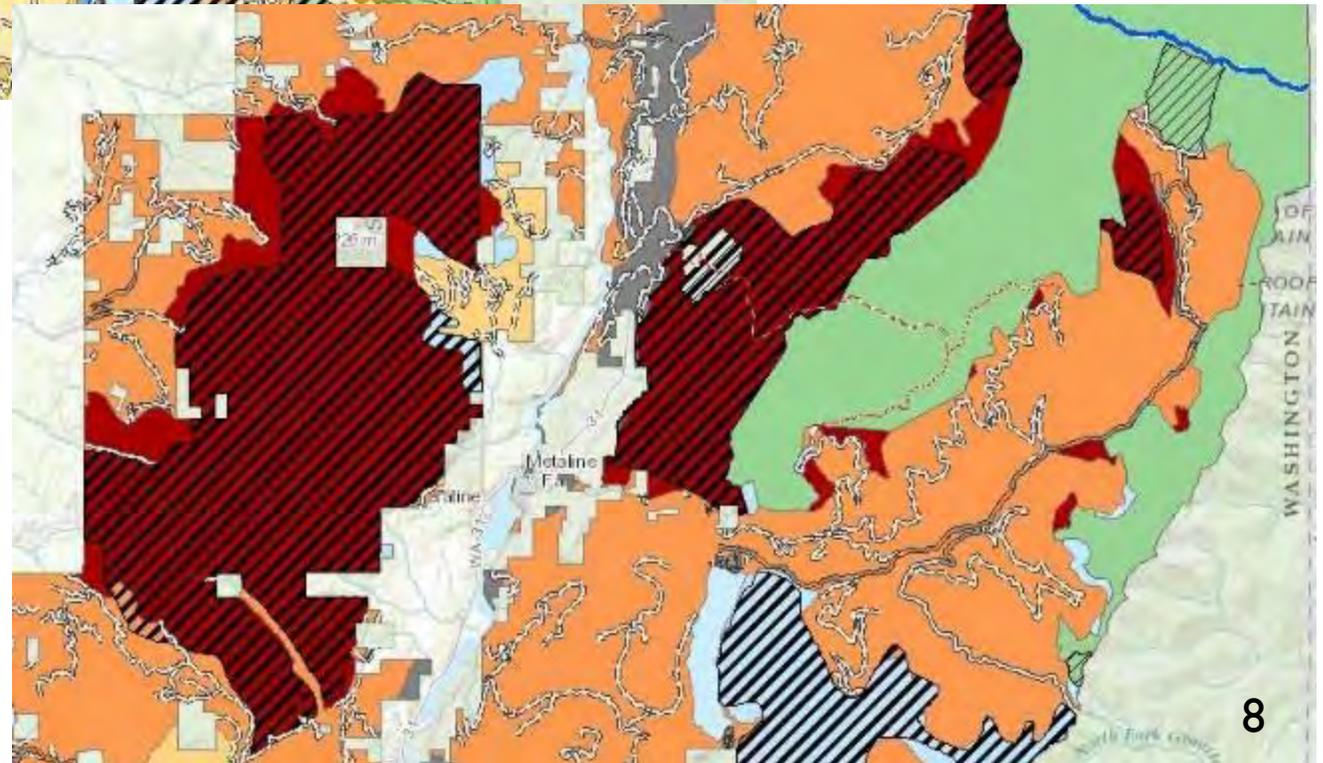
What *can* change in the Forest Plan :

1. Management area designations
2. Management area proposed boundaries
3. Management area direction:
 - Desired conditions
 - Objectives
 - Standards
 - Guidelines
 - Suitable Uses





Current (1988)
plan



Alternative P
(preferred
alt.)

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

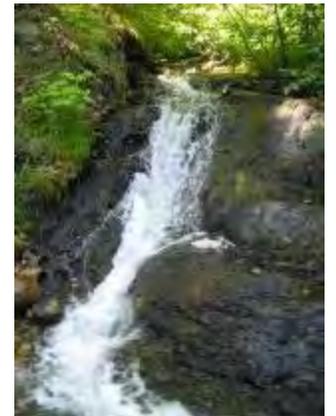


Riparian Management Area

- Alternatives Proposed Action, R, B & P
- have direction for no net increase in road miles in key watersheds
- No Action and Alternative O retain INFISH

Key watersheds:

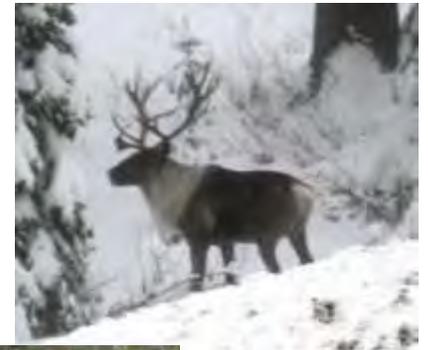
- Based on native fish habitat and T&E species recovery area designations
- Have different guidance related to road density and other management activities that focuses on habitat improvement.



Wildlife Habitat:

All alternatives incorporate:

- Interagency direction for woodland caribou, grizzly bear, Canada lynx and bull trout habitat
- Management direction for big game and landbirds



Motorized & Mechanized Trails

- Direction for motorized & mechanized use varies between alternatives
- Recommended wilderness

Alternative	Acres	Existing uses continue?	Change to miles of trail currently designated	
			For motor vehicle use	suitable for mech. use
No Action	0		0	0
Proposed Action	101,400	yes	0	-150*
B	220,300	no	-39	-221
O	15,900	yes	0	-29*
R	207,800	no	-39	-213
P	68,300	yes	0	-78*

*If areas get designated by Congress

Recreational Uses

General Forest Recreation = The amount (percent) of the Colville National Forest where roads may be constructed to access either motorized or non-motorized recreation uses.

Motorized recreation = The amount (percent) of backcountry in the Colville National Forest identified to be managed specifically for motorized trail use.

Non-motorized recreation = The amount (percent) of backcountry in the Colville National Forest identified to be managed specifically for non-motorized uses. This column includes:

- Backcountry (non-motorized)
- Recommended wilderness
- Wilderness

Recreational Uses

	General Forest Rec	Motorized Rec	Non-motorized Rec
No Action	88%	1%	11%
Proposed Action	74%	6%	20%
B	75%	<1%	25%
O	75%	5%	20%
R	75%	<1%	24%
P	75%	5%	20%



Key points - Wilderness & Recommended Wilderness

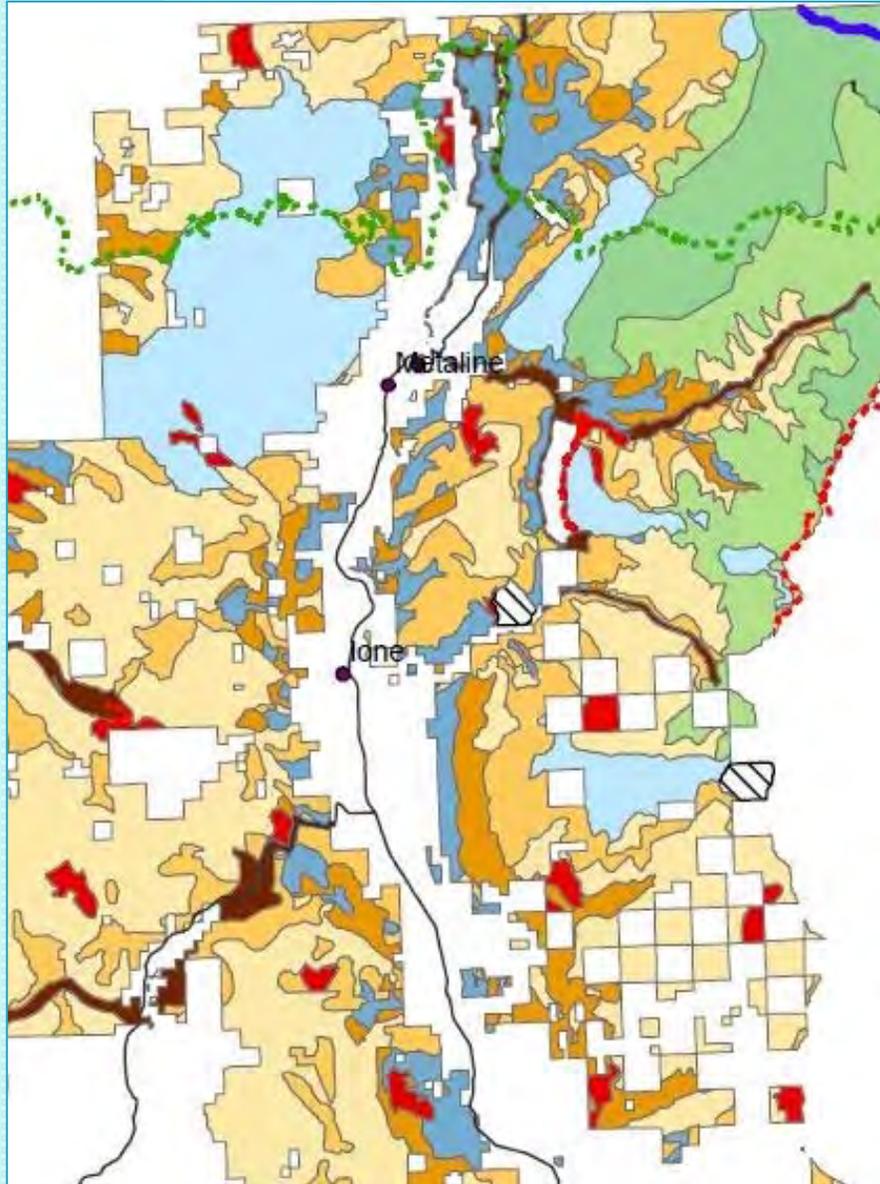
One designated wilderness (Salmo-Priest) = ~3% of Colville NFS land

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%
Existing uses can continue	n/a	Yes*	No	Yes*	No	Yes*

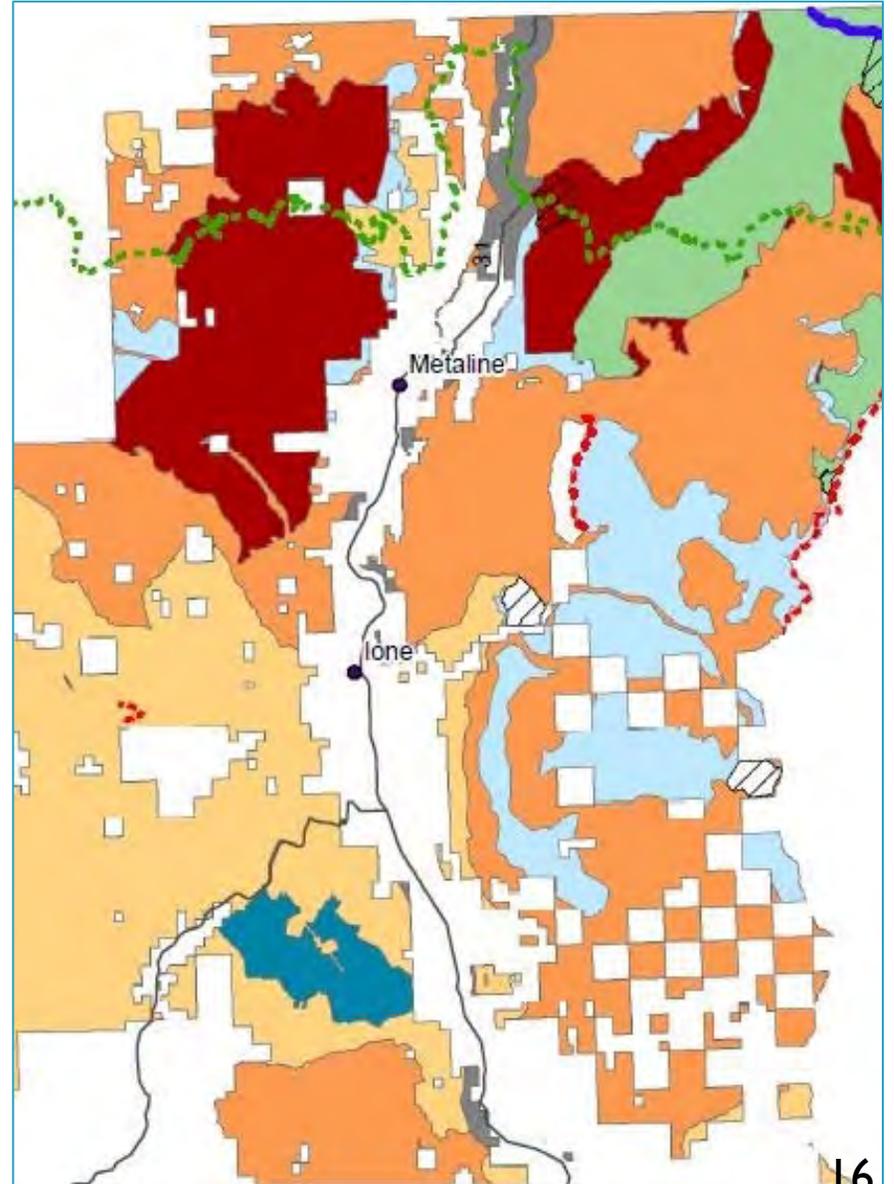
*Until such time Congress designates as Wilderness



No Action (current 1988 plan)

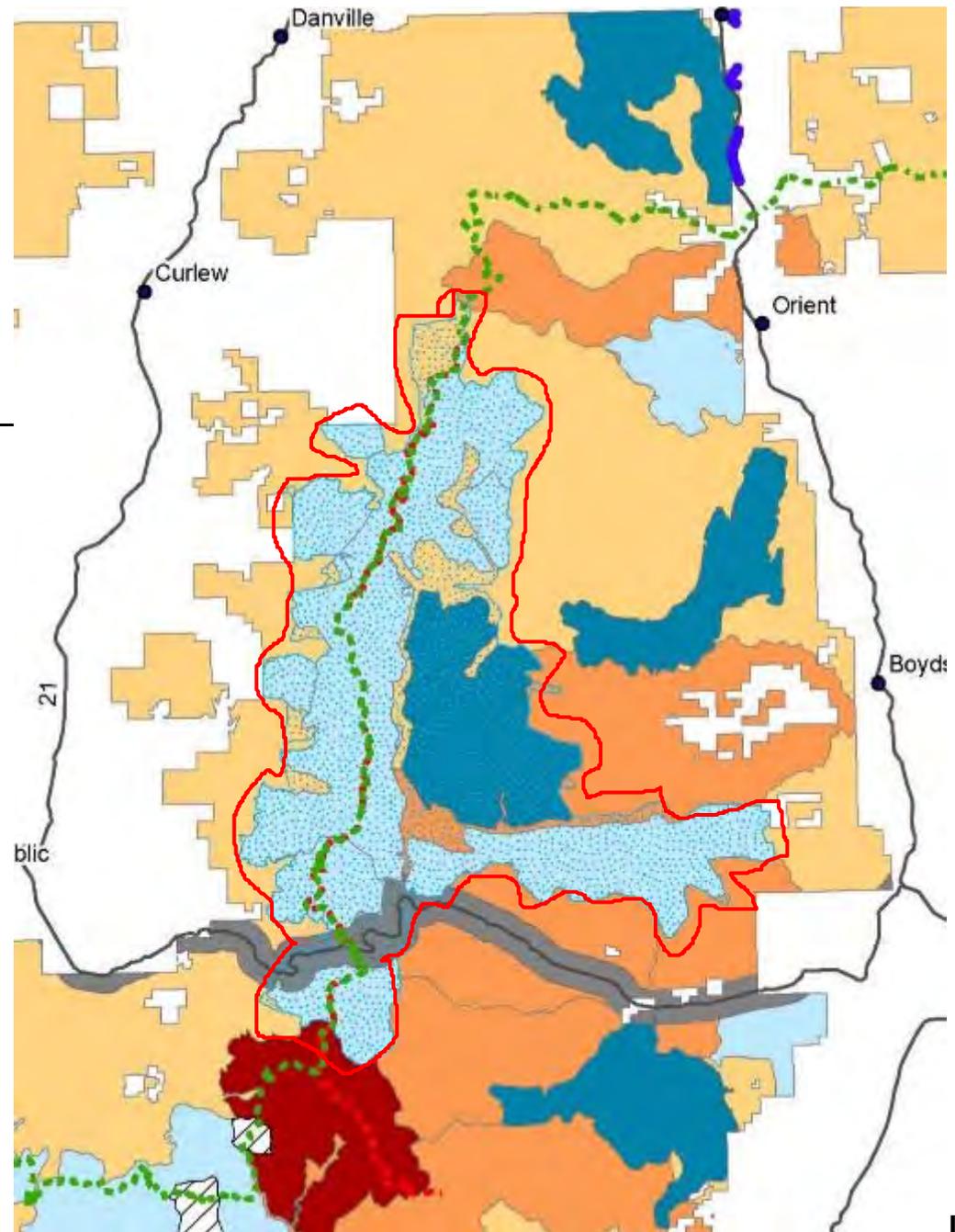


Proposed Action (2011)



Recreation Special Interest Area

Included in Alternatives
O and P



Immediate Next Steps

On-going

- Consultation, communication and coordination

February 19, 2016

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

February – July 5, 2016

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



On-Line Information - Colville NF web page

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

The screenshot displays the website for the Colville National Forest's Forest Plan Revision project. At the top, the USDA logo and "United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service" are on the left, and "Colville National Forest" with the UAS logo is on the right. A navigation bar includes "Forest Service Home", "About the Agency", and "Contact the National Office".

Search
[Search Box] [Go]

Site Map

- Colville National Forest
 - Home
 - Special Places
 - Recreation
 - Alerts & Notices
 - 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

COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST 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/>

ONLINE OPEN HOUSE: February 19-May 19 Select Language



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.](#)

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 of and Need for Action
- Chapter 2: Alternatives
- Chapter 3: Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences (3 MB)
- Chapter 4: Consultation and Coordination
- Literature Cited, Acronyms, Glossary, Appendices and Index

Remember to submit your comments here!

[Next page](#)



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Discussion and Questions