

Colville Plan Revision  
Meeting with Republic RD Grazing Permittees  
April 12, 2016

Subject: Forest plan revision presentation at the annual spring permittee meeting

Participants:

Republic Ranger District grazing allotment permittees

Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team Lead; Travis Fletcher, Forest Plan Revision Lead for Range and Forest Range Program Manager; Brandon Weinmann, District Rangeland Management Specialist; Walt Bauman, District Rangeland Management Specialist

Meeting start time: 2:00 pm, Republic Ranger District office, Republic WA. Amy presented via VTC from the Newport Ranger District office.

This was the annual spring operations meeting with the Republic Ranger District grazing permittees. An update on forest plan revision was on the agenda and that discussion began at 2:00.

Amy provided a brief overview of the forest plan revision process, and explained some of the differences between the six alternatives in relation to recommended wilderness (RW) and water quality. She discussed the riparian management area buffer widths (not no-touch areas). The Forest Service is aware that the stubble height guideline is a concern to the permittees. The stubble height guideline varies by alternative, based on which direction is proposed (INFISH, ARCS, or ARCS modified). This is a guideline only and would be reviewed by the district rangeland management specialist and the permittees for each allotment during annual meetings to discuss operating instructions for the grazing season. During the review, FS personnel and the allotment permittees, together, would determine if that guideline can be met for the affected allotment and document any reasons why it can't be met.

Amy discussed the special interest area (SIA) that overlaps the Kettle Crest in alternatives O and P. The SIA would have a recreation emphasis and existing uses of the area would still be allowed. It should have no effect on grazing allotment management.

Travis – Grazing would be incorporated into the management plan that would be developed for the SIA. If four-wheelers are used now, that use would continue under the draft plan (Alternative P).

Amy – the only difference from the current plan would be with the Bald Snow recommended wilderness area. Under certain alternatives current uses would continue in recommended wilderness, under other alternatives recommended wilderness would be treated as if it is wilderness as soon as the plan becomes final.

Amy – if your comment is a “vote” it doesn't tell us how to improve alternatives. We accept all comments but doesn't tell us much. Make sure comments say what you don't want and also what you don't like about it. If we know that it will help us develop a better alternative in the end.

Provided at the meeting: Riparian Management Area aquatic direction handout.

This portion of the meeting ended at approximately 2:45.

Spring Permittee Meetings  
 Colville NF Plan Revision Overview  
 Aquatics Handout

No Action and B Alternative	Proposed Action and O Alternative	R and P Alternatives
<b>INFISH (1995)</b>	<b>ARCS (2008)</b>	<b>ARCS-modified (2015)</b>
<p><b>GM-2.</b> Locate new livestock handling and/or management facilities outside of Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas. For existing livestock handling facilities inside the Riparian Habitat Conservation Areas, assure that facilities do not prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives.</p> <p>Minimum of 4" stubble height should be maintained.</p>	<p><b>RMA Guideline GM</b>                      Within green-line vegetation area adjacent to all watercourses:                      Do not exceed 20 percent streambank alteration;                      Do not exceed 40% utilization of mean annual vegetative production on woody vegetation;                      Maintain at least 4-6 inches or do not exceed 40% utilization of mean annual vegetative production on herbaceous vegetations</p>	<p><b>MA-GDL-RMA-09. Permitted Grazing Management—Greenline Vegetation Areas</b>                      Within greenline vegetation areas adjacent to all watercourses measured in designated monitoring areas:                      • Streambank alteration should not exceed 25 percent                      • Utilization of available mean annual vegetative production on woody vegetation should not exceed 40 percent                      • Residual stubble height of at least 6 to 8 inches should be maintained and no more than 40 percent of mean annual vegetative production on deep-rooted herbaceous vegetation should be utilized as determined by plant community type</p>
<p><b>GM-2.</b> Relocate or close facilities where these objectives cannot be met.</p>	<p><b>RMA Guideline GM</b>                      During allotment management planning consider removal of existing livestock handling or management facilities from RMAs</p>	<p><b>MA-STD-RMA-10. Permitted Grazing Management—Allotment Management Planning</b>                      During allotment management planning, negative impacts to water quality and aquatic and riparian function from existing livestock handling or management facilities located within riparian management areas shall be minimized to allow conditions to move towards the desired condition or eliminated.</p>
<p><b>GM-1.</b> Modify grazing practices (e.g., accessibility of riparian areas to livestock, length of grazing season, stocking levels, timing of grazing, etc.) that retard or prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives or are likely to adversely affect inland native fish. Suspend grazing if adjusting practices is not effective in meeting Riparian Management Objectives.</p>	<p><b>RMA Guideline GM</b>                      Livestock trailing, bedding, loading, and other handling activities should be avoided in RMAs</p>	<p><b>MA-GDL-RMA-10. Recreational and Permitted Grazing Management—Livestock Handling Activities</b>                      Livestock trailing, bedding, loading, and other handling activities should be avoided in riparian management areas, except for those that inherently must occur in a riparian management area.</p>
<p><b>GM-3.</b> Limit livestock trailing, bedding, watering, salting, loading, and other handling efforts to those areas and times that would not retard or prevent attainment of Riparian Management Objectives or adversely affect inland native fish.</p>	<p><b>RMA Guideline GM</b>                      Generally avoid trampling of federally listed threatened or endangered fish redds by livestock</p>	<p><b>MA-STD-RMA-11. Recreational and Permitted Grazing Management—Fish Redds</b>                      Prohibit livestock access to federally-listed threatened or endangered fish redds.</p>

# *Colville National Forest*

*Land & Resource Management Plan Revision*



# Alternatives

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Issues led to development of 6 alternatives:

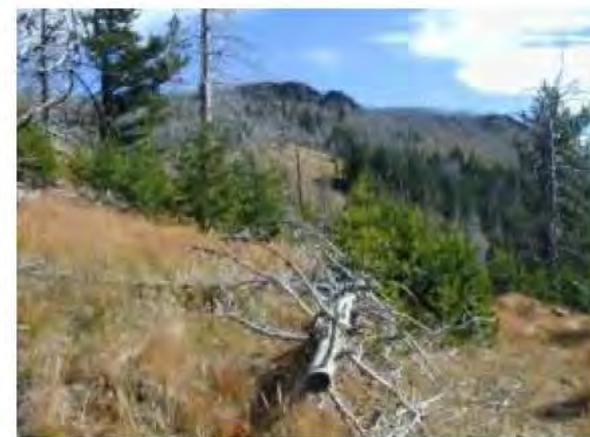
- ❖ No Action (current 1988 plan as amended)
- ❖ Proposed Action (public comment provided on this in 2011)
- ❖ Alternative R (developed in response to comments supporting large areas as recommended wilderness)
- ❖ Alternative B (developed based on NEWFC proposal and public input during collaborative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

# 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



# 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)
<b>Lakes and Natural Ponds</b>	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)
<b>Intermittent Streams, Wetlands, Seeps and Springs and Unstable and Potentially Unstable Areas</b>	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)

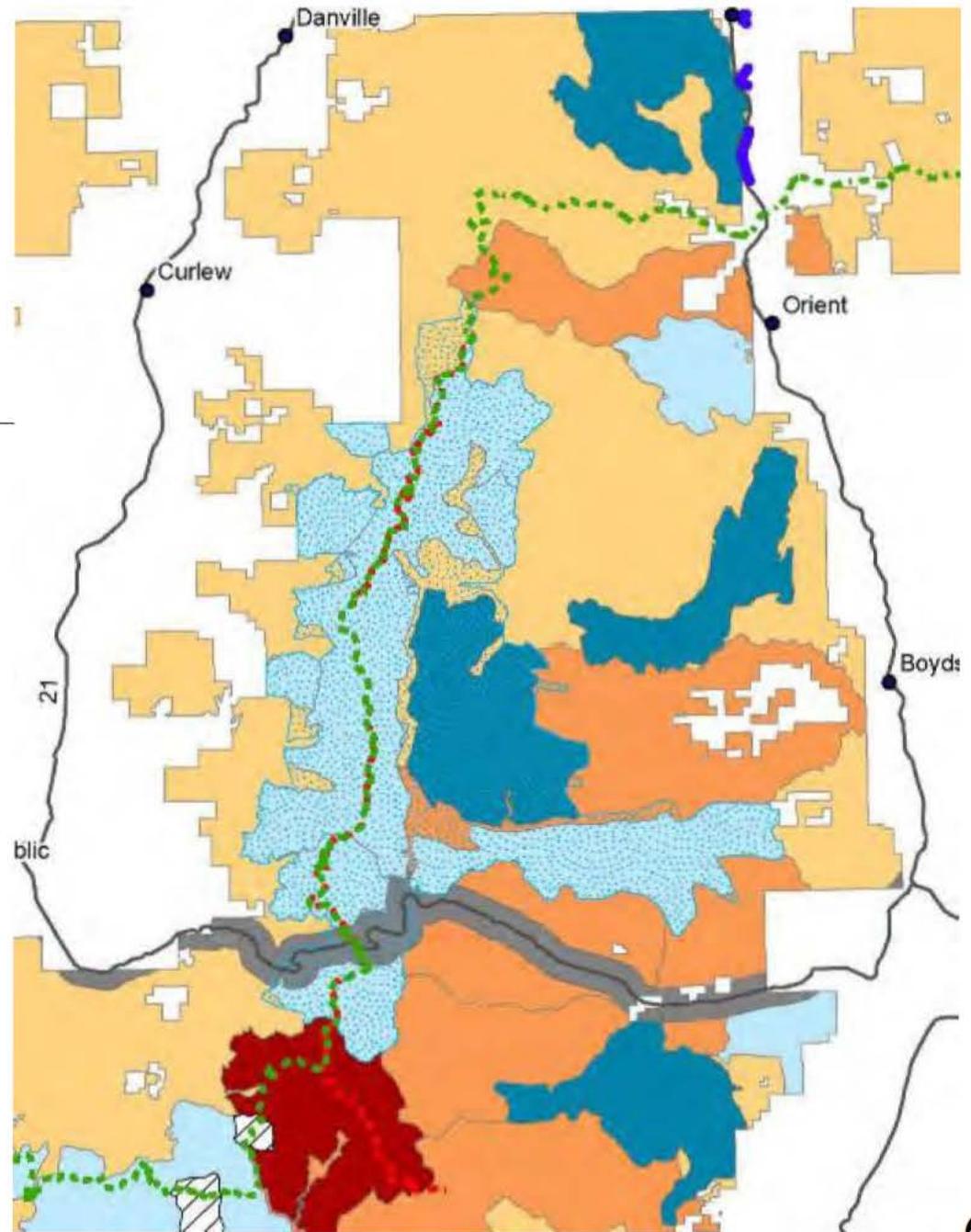


# Key points – Stubble Height

No Action & Alt. B	Proposed Action & Alt. O	Alt. R & P
INFISH (1995)	ARCS (2008)	ARCS-modified (2015)
<p>GM-2. Locate new livestock handling and/or mgmt. facilities outside of RHCAs. For existing livestock handling facilities inside the RHCAs, assure that facilities do not prevent attainment of RMOs.</p> <p>Relocate or close facilities where these objectives cannot be met.</p> <p>4” minimum stubble height.</p>	<p>RMA Guideline GM</p> <p>Within green-line vegetation area adjacent to all watercourses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <math>\leq 20\%</math> streambank alteration;</li> <li>• <math>\leq 40\%</math> utilization of mean annual vegetative production on woody vegetation;</li> </ul> <p>Maintain at least 4-6 inches residual stubble height or <math>\leq 40\%</math> utilization of mean annual vegetative production on herbaceous vegetation</p>	<p>MA-GDL-RMA-09. Permitted Grazing Management</p> <p>Within greenline vegetation areas adjacent to all watercourses measured in designated monitoring areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Streambank alteration <math>\leq 25\%</math></li> <li>• Utilization of available mean annual vegetative production on woody vegetation <math>\leq 40</math> percent</li> <li>• Residual stubble height of at least 6-8 inches should be maintained &amp; <math>\leq 40\%</math> of mean annual vegetative production on deep-rooted herbaceous vegetation should be utilized as determined by plant community type</li> </ul>

# Recreation Special Interest Area

Included in Alternatives  
O and P



# Immediate Next Steps

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## 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

## April 20, 2016 – Grazing COI mtg.





## *Discussion and Questions*