

Colville National Forest Plan Revision
Meeting with Colville Rotary Club
May 11, 2016

Attending:

Rotary Club members

Forest Service: Amy Dillon, Forest Plan Revision Team Lead; Holly Hutchinson, Forest Environmental Coordinator; and Marcy Rumelhart (notes)

Amy presented a quick overview of the plan revision status to the Colville Rotary Club at Stephanie's Oak Street Grill Restaurant in Colville, WA. She coordinated with Stewart Kent of the Colville Rotary Club, 509-684-6144, to set up the presentation date & time.

The meeting started at 12:00 and the forest plan revision presentation began at 12:30. There were approximately 22 Rotary Club members. Meeting was informal.

Discussion covered:

- Age of current plan,
- How alternatives were developed through public collaboration,
- Differences between alternatives related to recommended wilderness, timber output, road management,
- What the plan cannot change (law, regulation, policy) and what the plan can change (management areas),
- Covered that plan does not make site-specific decisions such as specific OHV routes or opening/closing trails, and
- What the documents look like & where to get more information, web page.

Question topics included:

- How did the fires last summer affect resources?
 - There are many factors to consider and employees are reviewing burned areas in the field now. From an aquatics standpoint, managing the vegetation in riparian areas and large instream wood is desired. Managing vegetation for wildlife and big game forage is also desirable.
- How is the Forest Service managing the beetle kill in the mature lodgepole pine?
 - It depends on what part of the forest you're talking about, we are trying to manage for that.
- Are there any plans to require the public to purchase passes to be able drive off of state highways onto the forest? Recently encountered that on the Tonto National Forest in Arizona.
 - We have not heard of that and there are no plans for that here.
- Alternative P displays a large timber target, does that include dead and dying timber on the forest floor now? Would like to see a comparison of timber harvest versus dead & dying.
 - We will contact the vegetation management specialist and get an answer to you.
- How much of what is logged actually goes back to the forest?

- The forest does receive funds from stewardship contracting. It comes back to the forest for implementing projects via retained receipts and can be used for projects such as stream improvement & precommercial thinning.
- Regarding the recovery habit on the forest for threatened and endangered species – does the US Fish and Wildlife Service contribute to managing that?
 - They don't, but the Forest does manage in grizzly bear habitat. For caribou, the Colville wildlife biologist is the regional expert on caribou so we are involved in management direction for that habitat.
- Regarding mechanized trails, is there anything in the forest plan to develop more?
 - The plan doesn't open or close more routes, but there are some restrictions in recommended wilderness depending on the alternative. The Forest did a travel management project called South End a few years ago that addressed motorized trails, trailheads and camping. There is nothing in the draft plan that precludes development of trails (motorized, mechanized, or nonmotorized), but it is dependent on funding.
- Local commissioners want more control over federal land, how does that fit in the plan?
 - The Forest has met with the county commissioners from all three counties several times. They've asked for changes that are reflected in the draft plan. The Forest Service has no say over the actual transfer of land, and the commissioners have not directly approached us about that.
- What happened to the Silver Creek trailhead? The road is now bermed and can no longer access the trailhead.
 - We will contact the recreation specialist to find out about that and get an answer to you.
- Any bike or horse use being promoted in the new plan?
 - There are no site-specific trail decisions included in the draft plan, but there is nothing in the draft plan that precludes those uses. Just need time and funding to develop proposals, and also depends on what alternative is chosen as far as where proposals can be developed. Any group can propose a project to the Forest Service and help with development.
- How will staffing change with the new plan?
 - It depends on what alternative is chosen. Under Alternative R there would probably be fewer employees, and Alternative P could increase the number of employees.

Handed out plan revision business cards for anyone that wanted the website information. Handed out newsletters with information on upcoming webinars and listening sessions.

This portion of the meeting ended about 1:00.

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

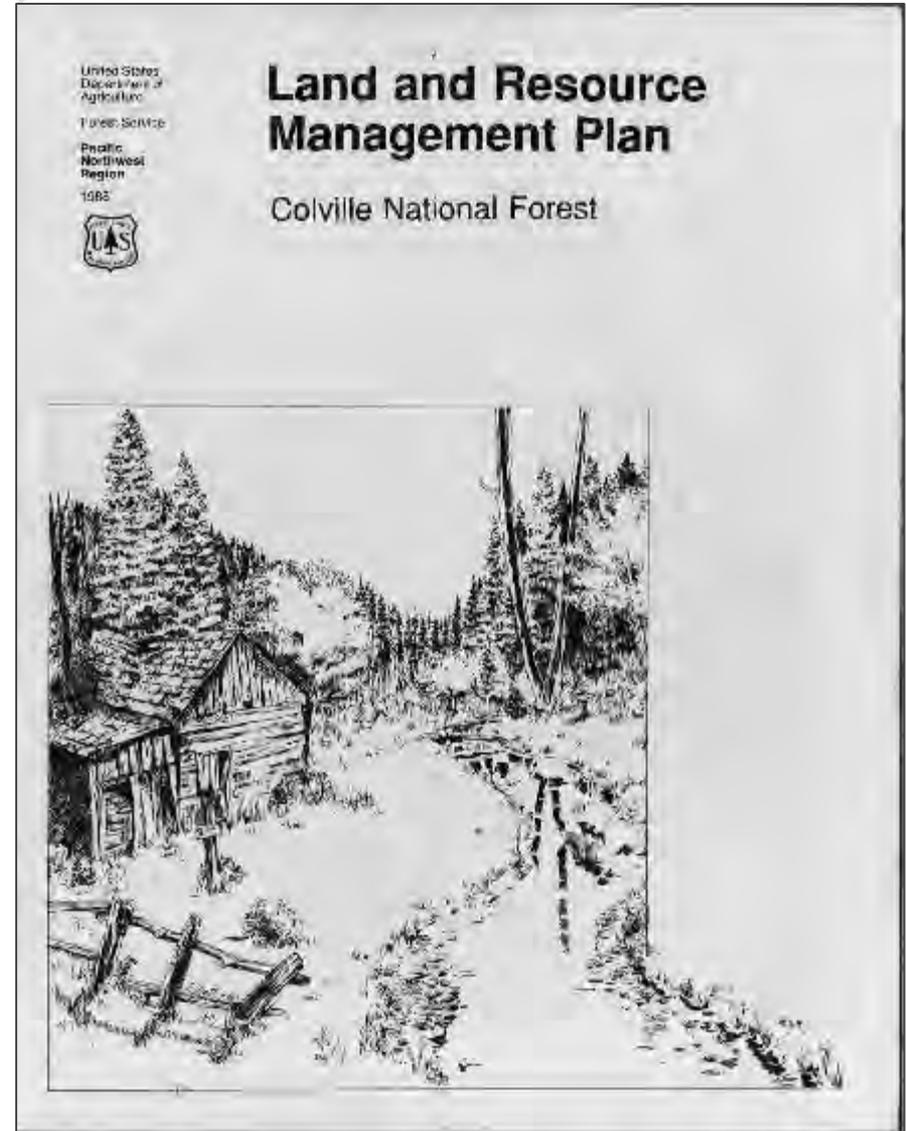
– Designates management areas allocating zones of the forest for different activities

– 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



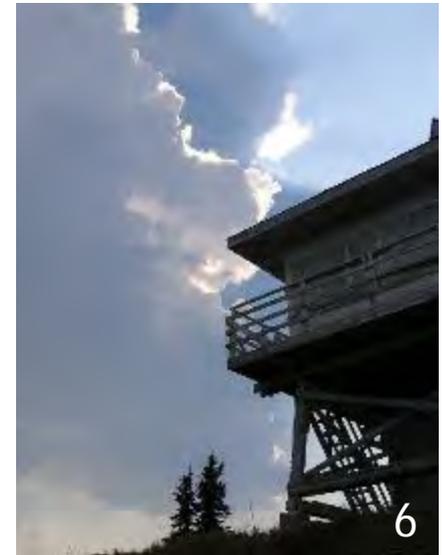
Alternatives

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:

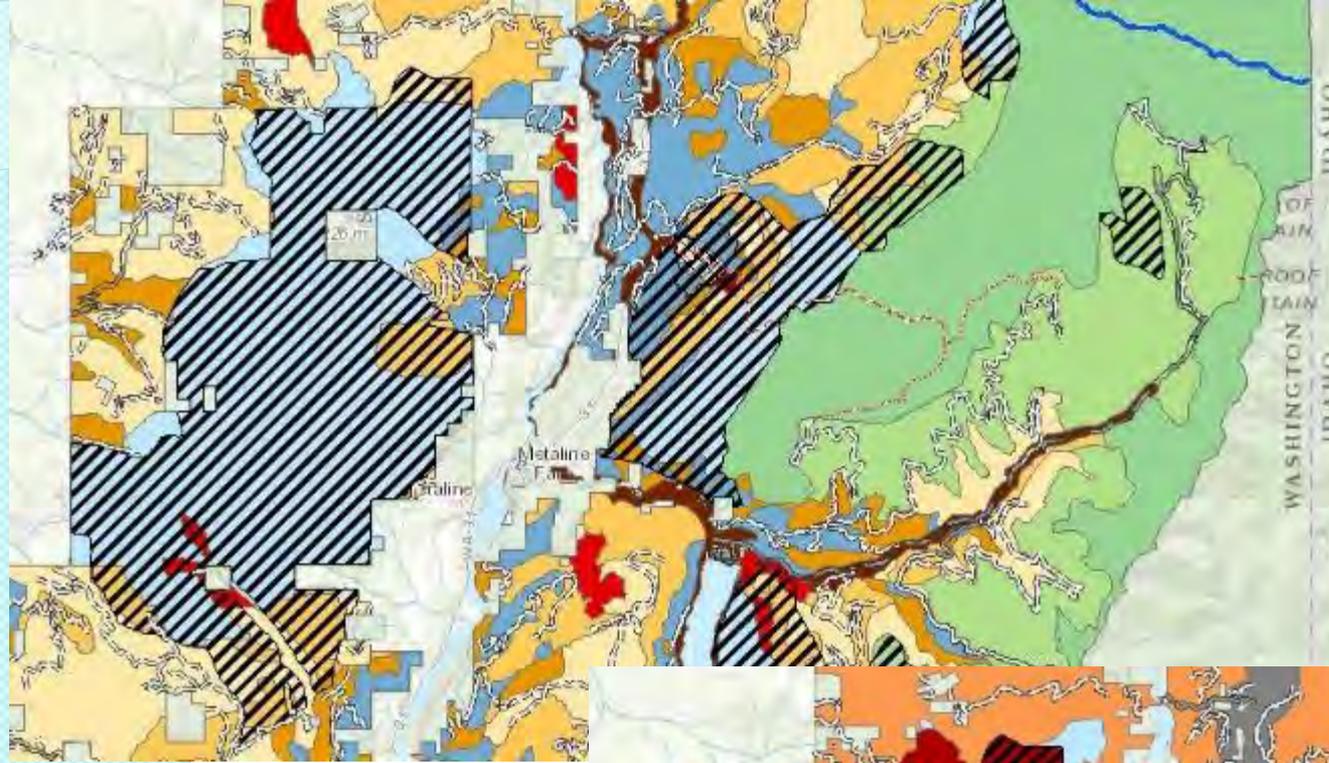
- ✓ Boundary for designated wilderness (Salmo-Priest)
- ✓ Inventoried Roadless Area boundaries (designated in 2001)
- ✓ Any existing law, regulation or policy
- ✓ Management plans or direction related to other ownerships



What *can* change in the Forest Plan :

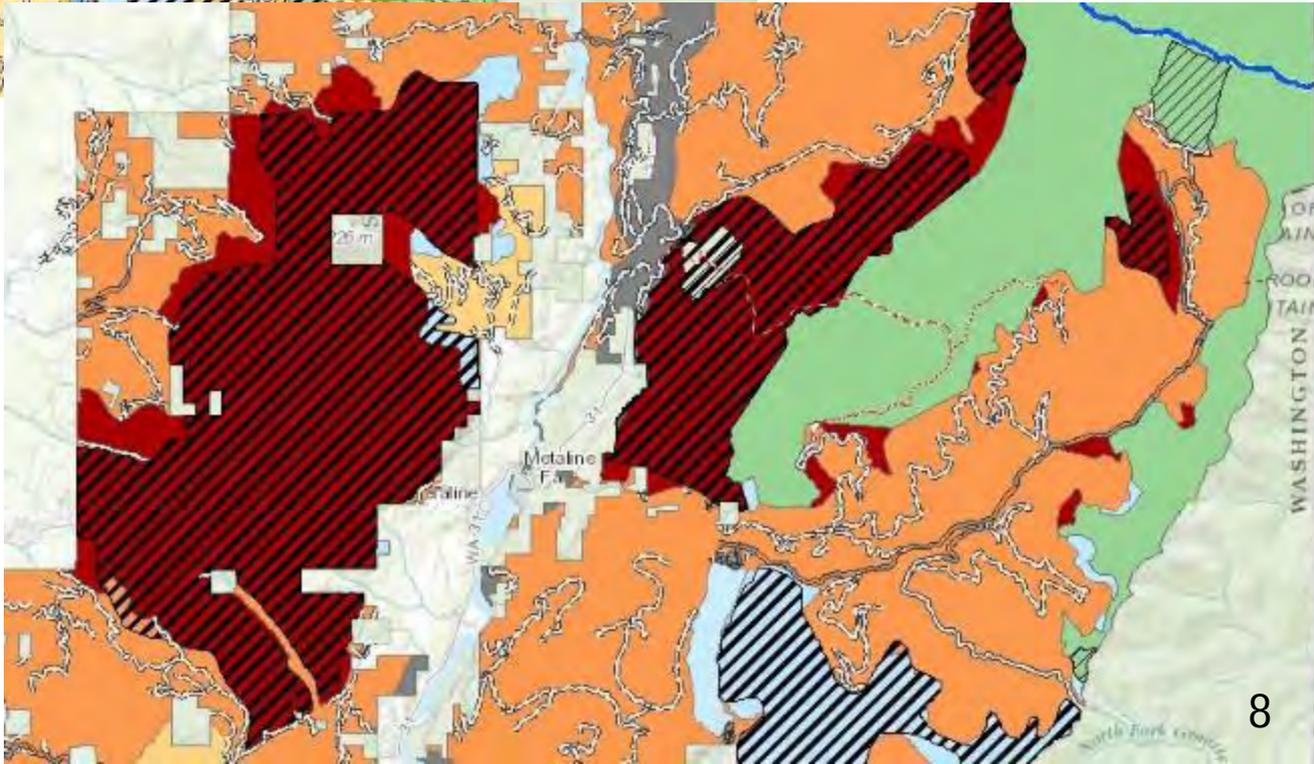
1. Management area designations
2. Management area proposed boundaries
3. Management area direction:
 - Desired conditions
 - Objectives
 - Standards
 - Guidelines
 - Suitable Uses





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:

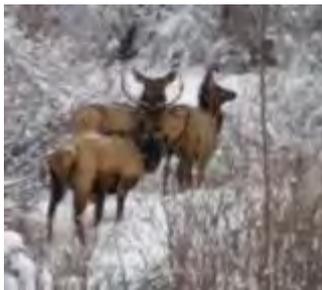
- Based on native fish habitat and T&E species recovery area designations
- Have different guidance related to road density and other management activities that focuses on habitat improvement.



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

Key points - Wilderness & Recommended Wilderness

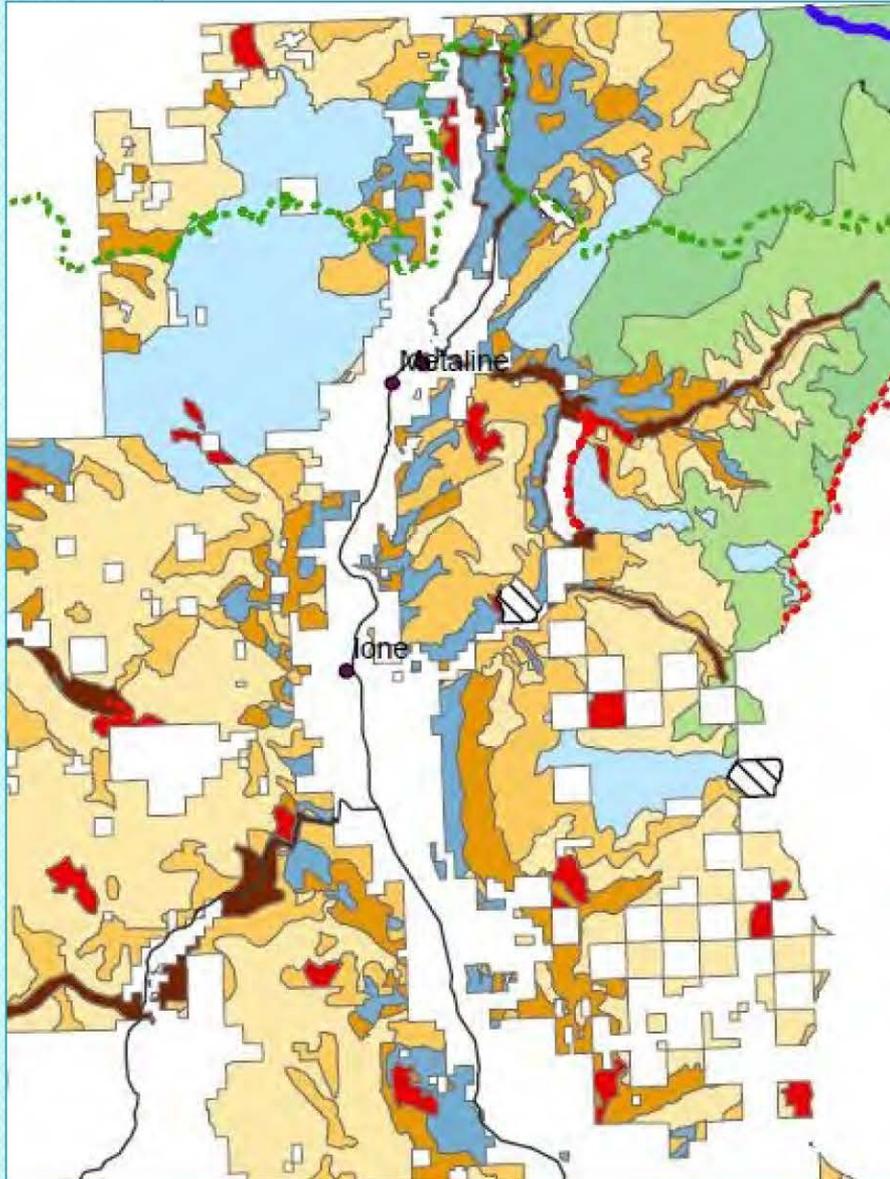
One designated wilderness (Salmo-Priest) = ~3% of Colville NFS land

| 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* |

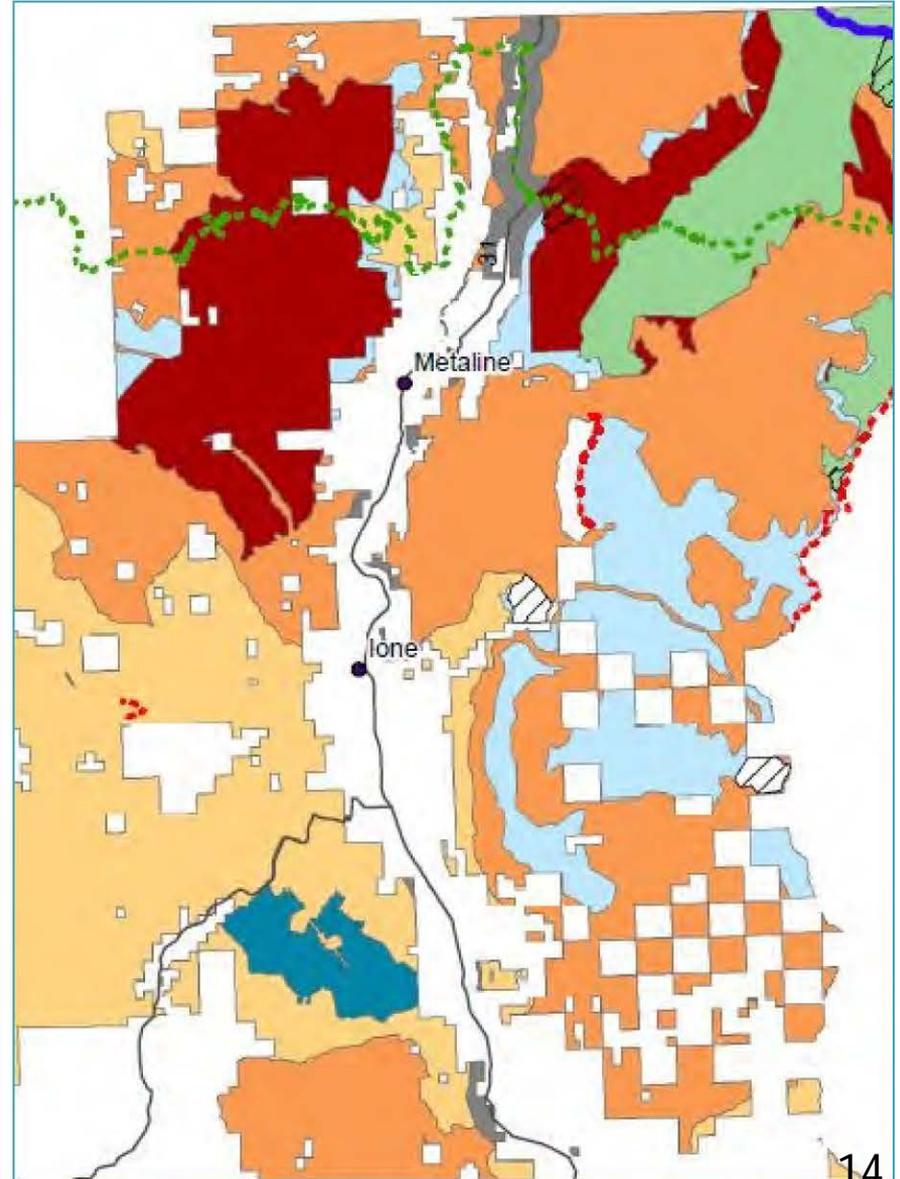
*Until such time Congress designates as Wilderness



No Action (current 1988 plan)

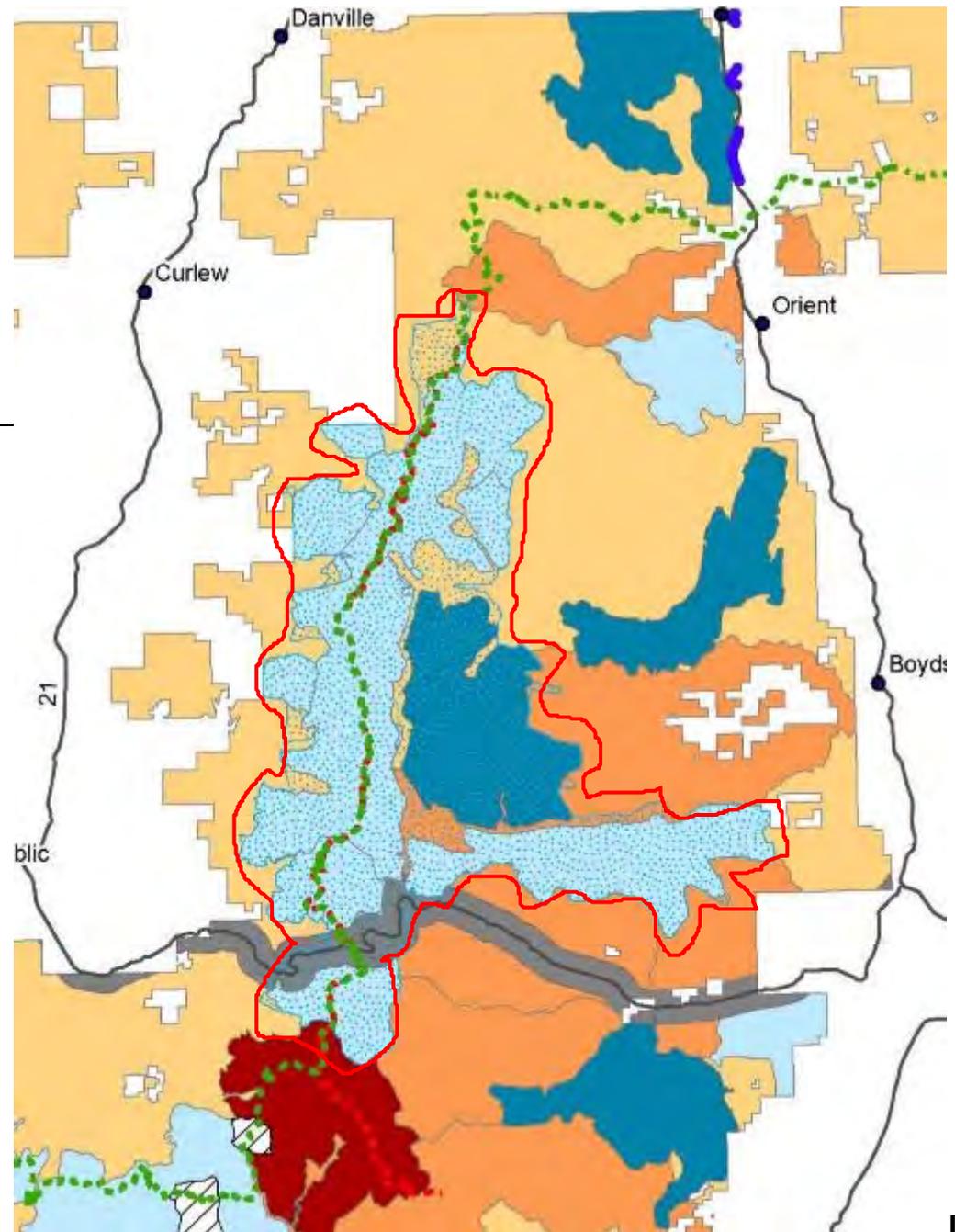


Proposed Action (2011)



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 shows the website for the Colville National Forest, part of the USDA Forest Service. The header includes the USDA logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service" on the left, and "Colville National Forest" with the UAS logo on the right. A navigation bar below the header contains links for "Forest Service Home", "About the Agency", and "Contact the National Office".

The main content area is titled "Forest Plan Revision". It features a large banner with the text "COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST" and "FOREST PLAN REVISION" alongside an image of pine cones. Below the banner, a welcome message reads: "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."

Below the welcome message, a section titled "Draft Plan Ready for Review" states: "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

The left sidebar contains a search box and a "Go" button. Below it is a "Site Map" section with a tree icon, followed by a "Colville National Forest" section with a tree icon and a list of links: Home, Special Places, Recreation, Alerts & Notices, Passes & Permits, Maps & Publications, Land & Resources Management (with a minus sign icon), Planning, Projects, Resource Management, Geospatial Data, Learning Center, Working Together, About the Forest, and News & Events. At the bottom of the sidebar is a "Contact Information" section with the address: Colville National Forest, 765 South Main Street, Colville, WA 99114, and phone number (509) 684-7000. Below that is a "Stay Connected" section.

The right sidebar has a "Quick Links" section with a tree icon and a list of links: Plan Revision Home, Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Draft Revised Plan, Maps, Public Participation, Comment / Contact Us, and Comments Reading Room. Below this is a "Visit Online Open House" section with a tree icon and a link "Visit Online Open House" with an external link icon. Next is a "Submit Formal Comment" section with a tree icon and a link "Submit Formal Comment" with an external link icon. At the bottom is a "Current Forest Plan" section with a tree icon and a link "Current Forest Plan".

On-Line Information - On-line Open House

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



Welcome

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.

Next



read the DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

- Executive Summary
- Vol 1 Draft EIS (7 MB)
- Chapter 1: Purpose and Need for Action
- Chapter 2: Alternatives
- Chapter 3: Effects, Environment and Environmental Consequences (3 MB)
- Chapter 4: Consultation and Coordination
- Executive Order, Summary, Glossary, Appendices and Index

Remember to submit your comments here!

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Contact

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Discussion and Questions