colville NATIONAL FOREST

2014 Year In Review

View of Pend Oreille River Valley from King Mountain

2014 was an incredibly successful year on the Colville National Forest. Our team of hard-working employees delivered a substantial amount of timber to our local mills, provided recreation opportunities, repaired roads, restored fisheries, and continued protection of wildlife habitat and our valuable watersheds. We were also pleased to be part of the national celebrations around the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Wilderness Act. As always, much of what we accomplished was made possible through partnerships and volunteers, including the Northwest Youth Corps, Backcountry Horsemen, our Passport in Time volunteers and so many others. It's only through partnerships with our communities, local tribes, and forest users that we can continue to protect and enjoy this magnificent national treasure that we are so lucky to call our backyard.

We're excited about what's coming up in 2015. We hope you'll stay tuned and stay involved. And above all, be sure to get out and enjoy your national forest!

Colville National Forest at a Glance

- Established in 1907
- 1.1 Million Acres
- Three Ranger Districts
  - Three Rivers R.D.
  - Republic R.D.
  - Newport-Sullivan Lake R.D.
- Acres of National Forest by County
  - Ferry 484,472
  - Pend Oreille 269,621
  - Stevens 208,290
- 27 Campgrounds
- 19 Picnic Areas
- 25 Boat Launches
- 4 Wildlife Viewing Areas
- 57 Trailheads
- Over 475,000 Visitors a Year
- Highest Peak-Gypsy Peak 7309 ft.
- 17 Different Species of Conifers, Including the Colorful Western Larch

Laura Jo West
Forest Supervisor

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The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Forest Plan Revision

In 2003, the Colville National Forest and the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests began a combined effort to revise their respective land management plans (aka Forest Plans). A joint team of natural resource specialists was established, and over the next several years numerous public meetings were held to gather comments and ideas about how the national forests should be managed over the next planning cycle of 10-15 years. In June 2011, the Forests released their proposed action for the new plans based on what they'd heard. Public comments varied widely across the two forests. It quickly became apparent that the issues and concerns facing management of the Colville National Forest (N.F.) were distinctly different than those facing the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. In 2014, the two forests split their efforts and embarked on revising each of their plans separately and along different timelines. A new team was established to move the Colville National Forest's plan revision forward. While it has now been almost twelve years since the revision process began, all of the public input received during that time is being considered. Additionally, the Forest is looking forward to working with local governments, the tribes, and the public as the draft Forest Plan and its associated Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is released in the spring of 2015.

Forest Fact: The Colville National Forest is proud to have 43,348 acres of congressionally designated Wilderness with the Salmo-Priest Wilderness area . The Salmo-Priest was designated in 1984 and offers visitors a rugged and peaceful retreat.

50 Years of Wilderness Celebrations

2014 was the 50th Anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Here on the Colville N.F. we celebrated by developing a short film festival to showcase the beauty and significance of Wilderness in the Northwest. One of the films was a special project, highlighting the Salmo-Priest Wilderness on the Colville and Idaho-Panhandle National Forests, prepared by Professor Greg Gordon's Environmental Studies students from Gonzaga University.

Salmo-Priest Wilderness Area

These six seniors enthusiastically gathered data on the original designating legislation and photos from many sources to produce a short film extolling the wonders of the old growth cedar forest, its exceptional wildlife and opportunities for solitude in this 43,000 acre Wilderness jewel.

Their film was highlighted during the Wilderness Film Festival at six free events developed and organized by the Colville National Forest in partnership with the Lands Council and The Kettle Crest Conservation Association. Six events were hosted and over 200 people attended and enjoyed two hours of wonderful Wilderness adventures and stories.

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Vision 2020—Collaborative Forest Restoration

We have finished our third year of our Collaborative Forest Restoration Project with a lot to be proud of. The partners and forest service employees are a dedicated team that accomplished a variety of restoration projects.

Paradise Peak Prescribed Burn

The Colville National Forest has eight active large-scale ecosystem restoration projects that are intended to reduce fuel loading and restore the forest back to a healthy level. These projects are in various stages from marking, active sales, to follow up fuels treatments. About 170,000 acres of the approximately 430,000 acres that will be analyzed for treatment over the life of the project are in an active implementation phase.

Sherman Creek Streambank Stabilization

In addition, other important restoration work has been completed:

- A large bank stabilization / fish habitat improvement project benefitting a mile of fish habitat on Sherman Creek.
- Replacement of two culverts for Aquatic Organism Passage opened up four miles of fish habitat.
- The forest damage response team completed an entire review of the Vision 2020 area and have blocked most of the OHV unauthorized access points with fences or camouflage. Other sites have been referred to the engineering department for more permanent solutions.
- Northwest Youth Corp worked with the Colville N.F. on range improvement projects, fuels reduction, and a large fencing project that keeps cows out of a recreation area with four lakes totaling 108 acres.

Before Culvert Replacement—Significant Barrier to Fish Passage

Fish Passage Restored After Culvert Replacement

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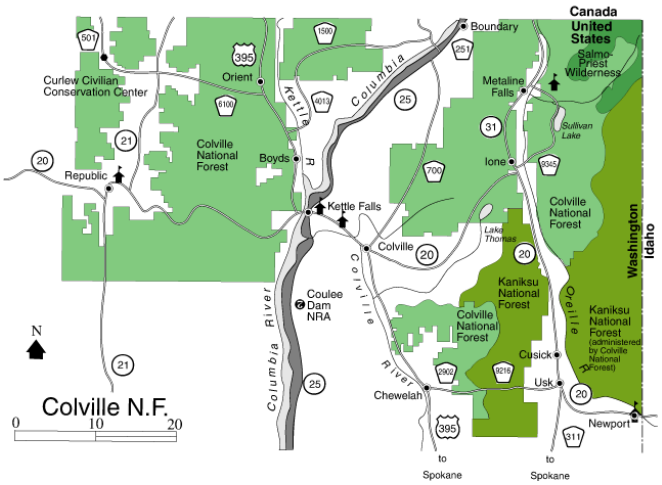
Vision 2020—Collaborative Forest Restoration

- The fisheries team collected genetic samples on Redband trout in a cooperative project with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Through our native plant program we collected native seed that was used on the Sherman Creek Restoration project. Native seed is also being increased at the nursery for future restoration projects
- The invasive species reduction program continued their hard work in spraying noxious weeds.
- We continued to reconstruct or maintain trails and roads to reduce silting of streams and other negative effects to aquatic species across the Vision 2020 area.



2014 Worksource crew reworking a trough

Invasive Plant Reduction Program

The Colville National Forest was able to effectively treat 2,245 noxious weed infested acres with herbicide application

•The Forest, through its employee orientation process, presented invasive plants information to nearly all employees which included noxious weed identification, treatment and prevention measures.

Other Forest Projects

•Three Title II projects totaling $132,00 to combat invasive plants on the Forest were approved and funded in 2014 by the Forest's Resources Advisory Committee. Two were focused on preventative measures on access routes to the Forest and adjacent private lands. The other was for manual treatment of noxious weeds on Forest roads through private lands.

Treating musk thistle

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Being In Community – Making a Difference Locally

Colville National Forest employees reached more than 1,434 children and over 1,370 adults through 43 presentations and activities sponsored by the Forest Service.

Forest Service employees are your friends and neighbors who pride themselves in being an active part of our local communities. Many employees are active in community service clubs like Rotary or Kiwanis. You can also find many employees coaching little league baseball, helping lead 4H, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, being volunteer firefighters, ambulance EMTs and Ski Patrollers. Colville National Forest employees are also active in their local churches, afterschool programs, resource centers and local food banks. Colville employees raised $4,575 for local charities, families in need and our community food bank through the Combined Federal Campaign in 2014 and individual donations. Colville employees also purchased Christmas presents for eight local children in need from the local family resource center.

Smokey with his fans—Republic, WA

2014 Inter-Tribal Natural Resource Youth Camp

The Colville National Forest hosted thirty-eight tribal youths and ten counselors at the 29th annual Inter-Tribal Natural Resource Youth Camp near Usk, Washington this summer.

Tribal youth at the Kalispel Fish Hatchery

For five days, the students and counselors were exposed to various aspects of natural resource management through hands on experience in a field setting all under the guidance of the Kalispel Tribe Natural Resource Department and Forest Service employees. The campers participated in many different projects throughout the week including fisheries, wildlife, hydrology, archeology, recreation, fire and silviculture. Students were also exposed to various cultural aspects of the Kalispel Tribe by presentations given by tribal elders and employees.

Overall, the camp is a great way for tribal youth to obtain exposure to, and hands on experience with potential employment opportunities, either with their respective tribal organization or with the Forest Service.

We're on the Web!

www.fs.usda.gov/colville/

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Northwest Youth Corp—Summer Conservation Corps

Thanks to the hard work and commitment of nine highly energetic 16-19 year olds, the Republic Ranger District was able to complete several years' worth of deferred maintenance at recreation sites across the District during a three-week period in July and August. In all, the Summer Conservation Crew completed 1,236 hours of labor intensive work, the equivalent of 154.5 eight-hour days, during the three weeks they were on the District.

Summer Conservation Crew

The crew, along with its two crew leaders, spent three weeks working on the District. Two weeks were spent camped out at Swan Lake, working on projects at Ferry Lake, Long Lake, and Swan Lake Campgrounds. The third week was spent camped out at Snow Peak Cabin high in the backcountry of the Kettle Crest. During that time, they braved high temperatures, heavy rain, hail, and enough lightening to make them all run for shelter. The crew had a consistently great attitude, received numerous positive comments from forest visitors at all the locations they worked, and worked hard every day, ending their day with a refreshing soak in Swan Lake when the weather agreed.

By the end of their stay on the Colville National Forest, the Summer Conservation Crew had left their mark on the Colville National Forest in a positive and lasting way. The crew is proud of the substantial improvements they made to the District's recreation sites and the positive contacts they made with local recreationists during their stay on the Republic Ranger District. In addition to getting an amazing amount of work done, they learned about careers in various programs (recreation, timber, range, hydrology, etc.) in the Forest Service and got to spend some time with a local outfitter to learn a little bit about working around pack animals

New retaining wall, steps and post and rail fencing at Swan Lake Campground

Crew Heading to Snow Peak Cabin

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Northwest Youth Corp– Summer Conservation Corps

Crew Constructing new Information Board at Swan Lake

At Swan Lake Campground they replaced eighteen feet of failing retaining wall, installed a roadside directional sign that had been torn down by vandals a year earlier, replaced twenty-six site number posts, replaced a deteriorated information/fee entrance board, cleaned-out and refilled the catch basins under ten water hydrants, placed five cubic yards of compactable fill around five outhouses and around water hydrants and garbage cans to improve accessibility, replaced ninety-five feet of rotting post and rail barrier fence along elevated retaining walls, removed brush, vegetation and limbs along all roadways, parking areas, and pathways, and maintained three-tenths of a mile of trail to standard.

Completed Information Board

For More Information on the Pacific Northwest Youth Conservation Corps please visit www.nwyouthcorps.org

At Long Lake Campground, the crew removed several hundred feet of deteriorated (broken upright posts, missing rails, exposed spikes) post and rail barrier fence (which was later replaced with barrier rock), cleared brush from along the roads, parking areas, and pathways, replaced 12 decade-old number posts, and installed a new accessible fire grill that had been stolen during hunting season in 2013. Crew work at Ferry Lake Campground included the replacement of nine decades-old site number posts, heavy brushing of roads and parking areas, and the installation of three accessible fire grills to replace those that had rusted through. During their third week on the District, the youth crew hiked into Snow Peak Cabin and spent the week oiling the exterior walls of the cabin, deep cleaning the interior of the cabin, improving the defensible space around the cabin by removing ladder fuels on 2 acres adjacent to the cabin, and digging the hole for a new outhouse…removing almost 8 cubic yards of dirt and rock by shovel and pick.

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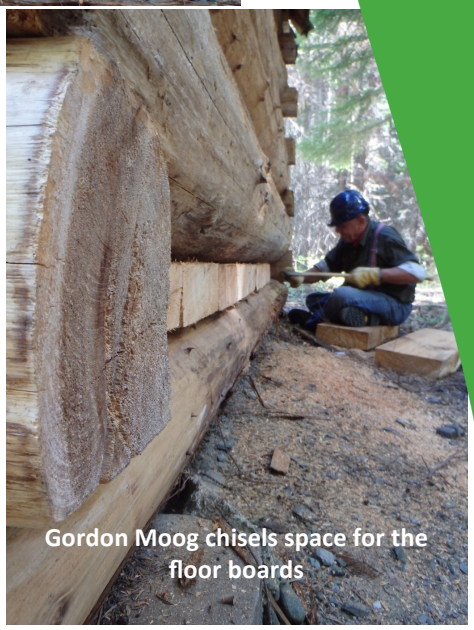
Passport in Time Project—Gypsy Copper

The PIT project crew from left to right: Stu Chilvers, Gordon Moog, Bev Moog, Jay Pape, David Steppe, Kali Steppe, Adrena Bentley, Katie Dahlberg, Brenna Sanders, and Anna Jansson

In July of 2014 an eager group of volunteers of differing skills, interests, backgrounds, and locations came to the Newport and Sullivan Lake Ranger District to preserve and better understand a small piece of local history. Through the Passport in Time (PIT) project, the group completed the continued restoration and preservation of the Gypsy Copper Mining Camp powder house near Sullivan Lake, Washington.

The Gypsy Copper Mining Camp is the partially restored and maintained archaeological site of a early 1900's mining camp located on the historic Metaline Mining District. The site has two structures; a cabin and a powder house -The PIT project focused on the powder house - a building used to keep gun powder dry and a safe distance away from living quarters.

The focus of this summer's work was to continue the restoration on the powder house by inserting boards for flooring, building steps, a door, and adding chinking to the walls of the powder house.



Gordon Moog chisels space for the floor boards

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Passport in Time Project—Gypsy Copper Powder House

The powder house after all work was finished on it during the late July PIT project.

The progress made on the powder house during the July 2014 PIT project was significant. The entire floor of the powder house was inserted. A false foundation was built around the base of the building to keep animals and pests out from beneath it. Steps and a latching door were built. Wood chinking was nailed to the outside gaps, and tin cans were nailed to the gaps on the inside to replicate how the powder house would have been kept dry and snug when it was first used. The site was stripped of all modern additions to maintain the historic integrity of the site and to prepare for possible future PIT projects on the adjacent cabin.

For More Information on Passport In Time Projects Please Visit

www.passportintime.com

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Fire and Fuels —Interagency Cooperation

Colville Fire and Fuels Highlights—2014

- Accident and injury-free season.
- Forty-three wildfires were on Colville NF protected lands.
- Through exception interagency and forest-wide resource sharing, the Colville continues to move forward on the reduction of hazardous fuels and improving forest health and resiliency. For 2014 the Colville exceeded its target acres of hazardous fuel reduction by treating 9,623 acres.
- Utilized a Cooperative Fire Suppression Agreement with three county fire districts to bolster local capacity for initial attack on three different Forest Service fires.
- The fire and fuels staff strives to integrate with the other disciplines on the forest and our interagency partners. 2014 saw crews helping with hazard tree removal, cutting open roads across the forest , helping reduce pine tree encroachment in meadows and thinning in timber stand improvement project. This multi-disciplinary assistance helps the Colville get more done and provides great training opportunities for crews.
- Conducted training events for local and interagency fire suppression classes.
- Safely managed an active aviation program with fifty days of reconnaissance flights, while keeping an air attack available in Deer Park from July 1 to September 15. The Forest also helped oversee five air attack platforms, three Fire Bosses (small scoopers) Two CL-215, and one CL-415 (large scoopers) at the Deer Park airport, as well as a type 3 helicopter (light), type 2 helicopter (medium) and the Recon fixed wing at Colville airport.

During the 2014 Fire Season Colville National Forest fire personnel responded to over 100 fire calls. Colville personnel were critical in helping staff many of the fires in Washington's largest recorded fire season.

In order to improve on interagency cooperation and strengthen relationships with local government, the Colville N.F. hosted a large fire simulation that all three counties participated in along with the Colville Confederated Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Washington Department of Natural Resources.

This simulation allows for discussion of tactics, strategies and contingencies with cooperators in a environment that that allows for deliberate discussion and questions. This will vastly improve the efficiency of decisions during an actual incident.

Republic R.D.—Prescribed fire operations on Malo-Eastlake #1.

For Fire or Prescribed Fire Information on the Web Please Visit www.inciweb.nwcg.gov

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Natural Resources—Restoration and Resources

Natural resources includes wildlife, timber, silviculture, botany, genetics, fisheries, soils, hydrology, and range

Story By the Numbers

- 3,271 acres of vegetation management treatments
- 48,234 MBF timber volume in contracts awarded (108%)
- 90,000 MBF timber volume administered under contract
- 480 acres of forest vegetation established
- 3,218 acres of forest vegetation improved
- 13,990 acres of terrestrial habitat improved
- 4,430 acres of rangeland vegetation improved
- 800 acres of soil and water resources improved
- 124 acres of lake habitat improved
- 34 miles of stream habitat improved
- 2,246 acres of noxious weeds treated

Harlequin ducks surveyed in population study.

Sixty-seven gallons of seed from native species were collected and 3,800 native shrubs were planted.

Kettle Face After Restoration

Six roads were obliterated and trees were planted in a partnership with Seattle City Lights.

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