

# WILDERNESS EVALUATION

## Canyon Creek - 617049

8,915 acres

### OVERVIEW

#### History

The area was inventoried and studied under RARE II. None of the area became wilderness under the Washington State Wilderness Act of 1984. The area was identified as an inventoried roadless area in the 1990 Wenatchee Forest Plan.

The 2006 inventory removed approximately 444 acres from previous inventory due to nonconforming uses such as road construction and logging; 1,377 acres were added to the previous inventory as they met the criteria for a potential wilderness area (PWA) as described in FSH 1909.12, Chapter 70. The Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP) allocates the western portion of the area as late successional reserve (LSR), and the eastern portion as Matrix. The following chart depicts the 1990 Land and Resource Management Plan direction for the 2006 inventoried area.

**Table 1--Management area percentages (rounded)**

Wenatchee National Forest				
GF	RE3	RE4	ST2	WS1
18%	18%	34%	28%	1%

#### Location and Access

The area is located adjacent to the Glacier Peak Wilderness in Chelan County on the Lake Wenatchee portion of the Wenatchee River Ranger District. The area lies between the Little Wenatchee and White Rivers. Road access is via the White River, Sears Creek, Little Wenatchee, and Irving Pass roads. The Poe Mountain and Wenatchee Ridge Trails provide access to Wenatchee Ridge. Remnants of historic trails can be found in the Canyon Creek and Sears Creek drainages and along Wenatchee Ridge.

#### Geography and Topography

The Canyon Creek PWA comprises a ridge system between the White and Little Wenatchee Rivers. Elevations range from 2,000 to 5,000 feet. The land types associated with this area are glacial troughs and scoured glacial troughs. Bedrock underlying this area is generally Cretaceous banded gneiss, Chiwaukum schist, and ultramafic rocks. Large deposits of glacial drift are located on the southern edge of the area, while upper slopes of

an ancient landslide occupy the southeastern corner. Precipitation averages between 70 and 100 inches per year with the majority falling as snow.

### **Current Uses**

The current primary use is dispersed recreation. Activities include hiking, hunting, and rock hounding. Portions of the Poe Mountain and Wenatchee Ridge trails lie within this potential wilderness area. These two trails are closed to motorized use. The Poe Mountain trail briefly swings out of the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness into this PWA as it nears the summit of Poe Mountain. The Wenatchee Ridge trail crosses in and out of the Glacier Peak Wilderness into the PWA as the trail traverses the ridgeline. Other than use of the existing trail system, there is very little recreation use of this area.

### **Appearance and Surroundings**

The area has a high variety of landforms and rock forms, a moderate vegetative variety, and low variety of streams. There are no lakes. The area is highly textured mostly on the north slopes, and more broken and open on the south. There is a broad but rugged ridge top that is open and broken. The area has a natural, undisturbed appearance and is primarily viewed as middle ground from the Little Wenatchee and White River valleys.

### **Key Attractions**

Main attractions are access to Poe Mountain and Wenatchee Ridge. Rock hounds are attracted by the soapstone and actinolite crystals found in the area.

## **CAPABILITY FOR WILDERNESS**

### **Level of natural and undeveloped environment**

Most of this area is in a natural condition and is removed from human sights and sounds. The eastern portion of the area may be influenced by development in the Lake Wenatchee area. There are portions of two system trails located in the area. The portions of three other old trails in the Sears Creek and Canyon Creek drainages, and along Wenatchee Ridge are almost entirely indistinguishable. There are no known populations of noxious weeds in this area. The Canyon Creek PWA is impaired by light pollution.

The entire PWA rates a Class 3 on the Bortle Scale. A Class 3 Rural Sky has some indication of light pollution on the horizon. Clouds may appear faintly illuminated in the brightest parts of the sky near the horizon, but are dark overhead. The Milky Way still appears complex. Light domes from population centers may appear on the horizon (10-15 degrees above horizon). Visual observing is still relatively unimpaired. Time lapse photography could be impaired by light pollution.

Water quality data is not available for most of the PWA; however, due to the relatively low level of disturbance water quality is assumed to be high. A portion of Panther Creek is classified by the Washington State Department of Ecology as Category 2, waters of

concern, which means there is some evidence of a water quality problem, but it does not require a water quality cleanup plan.

There are no surveyed noxious weed species within this PWA.

**Level of outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation:**

Challenge for cross country travel or orienteering would be afforded off the existing trails.

As an addition to the Glacier Peak Wilderness, there would be outstanding opportunities for solitude in this area. The area contains few attractions and does not draw much use. The old Sears Creek, Canyon Creek, and Wenatchee Ridge Trails have not been maintained for many decades and thus are difficult to find and rarely used.

**Special Features**

The area is within the North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone, and in the lynx secondary recovery area, and provides source habitat for wolverine. All of these species have very limited distribution within the region.

**Manageability of Boundaries**

The area is located near portions of the Glacier Peak Wilderness and Henry M. Jackson Wilderness. The area is surrounded by past timber harvest units and by roads on Wenatchee Ridge, as well as by past timber harvest units and roads in the White River drainage. The current boundaries do not follow any identifiable geographical features and therefore would be difficult to manage. The mid-slope boundary would also detract from allowing wildland fire use.

**AVAILABILITY FOR WILDERNESS**

**Recreation**

The area has value for unroaded non-motorized types of recreation activities. As wilderness, use patterns would be likely to change very little. Most of the use would be on the system trails that access the Glacier Peak Wilderness. These trails are open to hiker and stock use.

Due to its proximity to the Henry M. Jackson and Glacier Peak Wildernesses, wilderness designation would likely receive favorable media publicity and could potentially draw more use to the area. However, since the area would offer few new trailed opportunities and trailheads are relatively remote, such use is not likely to be substantial.

**Table 2--Miles of recreation trails**

Motorized Trails	Non-motorized Trails	Snowmobile Trails
0	3	0

**Wildlife**

The area contains habitat for federally listed Canada lynx, gray wolf, grizzly bear, and northern spotted owl. There is mountain goat habitat located in the Wenatchee Ridge vicinity. The area is summer habitat for a small mule deer herd.

The Canada lynx, gray wolf, and grizzly bear use a variety of successional stages across the landscape as their habitat, while the northern spotted owl primarily uses late-successional forests. Approximately half of the PWA is inside designated critical habitat for the northern spotted owl, as well as late-successional reserves allocated by the Northwest Forest Plan (NWFP). The overlap between critical habitat units (CHU) and LSR is approximately 70 percent on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Providing connectivity among northern spotted owl populations may be the most important ongoing function of critical habitat.

Each PWA provides varying levels of habitat for focal wildlife species. To help evaluate the habitat that this area provides, the following information was provided: the focal species emphasized in the area, the amount of habitat for each focal species, the priority ranking for the habitat (based on conservation assessments and recovery plans), and the proportion of the total habitat available on the forest that is within the PWA.

**Table 3--Availability of habitat for federally listed Threatened and Endangered wildlife species and R6 Focal Species**

Wildlife Species	Acres Habitat	Habitat Priority Ranking (1=high, 2=mod, 3=low)	%Total Forest Habitat In Evaluation Area
Grizzly Bear	8,915	2	<1
Canada Lynx	0	NA	0
Wolverine	5,930	1	1
American Marten	1,996	2	1

A key issue relative to the sustainability of wildlife habitats is the identification of the amount of dry forest that is in a late-successional habitat area (LSHA). LSHAs that occur in dry forests can be at high risk of high severity wildfire, insects and disease that reduce the sustainability of the late-successional habitats. Active management such as prescribed fire and thinning may be needed to restore these habitats and enhance their sustainability.

**Table 4--Acres of dry forest habitats that are present within the evaluation area and also within a Late Successional Habitat Area**

Late Successional Habitat Area	Acres of Dry Forest
Little Wenatchee	No dry forest

**Water and Fish**

The Canyon Creek PWA occur in four different subwatersheds (6<sup>th</sup> field Hydrologic Unit Code): 639 acres (or 1 percent) of the 50,329 acre Upper White River Subwatershed; 5068 acres ( 33 percent) of the 15,321 acre Lower White River Subwatershed; 1,782 acres (5 percent) of the 38,178 acre Upper Little Wenatchee River Subwatershed; and 1,428 acres

(5 percent) of the 26,690 acre Lower Little Wenatchee Subwatershed. In these four subwatersheds, the U.S. Forest Service manages the following percentages in each subwatershed: Upper White River (greater than 99 percent); Lower White River (87 percent); Upper Little Wenatchee River (greater than 99 percent); and Lower Little Wenatchee River (99 percent). All of these subwatersheds drain into Lake Wenatchee in the Wenatchee River Subbasin (4<sup>th</sup> HUC).

Stream reach conditions in the Upper White that respond to natural and human caused disturbances were evaluated as fair because collected stream data values were lower than expected values measured in high functioning stream habitat elsewhere on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Subwatershed vegetation conditions match expected natural forest conditions; analyzed road effects were low. Vegetation condition and road effects considered cumulatively were rated good. When vegetation condition and road effects were combined with measured stream responses to summarize overall subwatershed condition, Upper White subwatershed was rated fair.

Stream reach conditions in the Upper Little Wenatchee and Lower Little Wenatchee River Subwatersheds that respond to natural and human caused disturbances were evaluated as fair because collected stream data values were lower than expected values measured in high functioning stream habitat elsewhere on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. Subwatershed vegetation conditions were somewhat altered from expected natural forest conditions; analyzed road effects were moderate. Vegetation condition and road effects considered cumulatively were rated fair. When vegetation condition and road effects were combined with measured stream responses to summarize overall subwatershed conditions, these subwatersheds were rated fair.

When compared against unmanaged subwatersheds in good condition on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, some vegetation condition has changed from expected condition and road density is moderate for Lower White subwatershed. Considering changes in vegetation and road density in combination, this subwatershed was rated fair. Stream reach data has not been collected in sufficient quantity for analysis; therefore watershed condition has not been evaluated.

Habitat supporting listed spring Chinook and steelhead in the Wenatchee subbasin downstream of the proposed of the Canyon Creek PWA was designated as critical habitat by the National Marine Fisheries Service in January 2006.

Within the proposed PWA, Canyon Creek and Sears Creek are the only resident fish-bearing streams. These streams contain rainbow, cutthroat, and bull trout. Lower reaches provide rearing habitat for spring Chinook and bull trout. Ninemile and Elevenmile Creeks are also located in this area, but low flows and steep gradients in the upper reaches of these creeks likely prevent fish use.

The Canyon Creek PWA has a water source protection area totaling 3,111 acres that contributes to a community water system for the Cashmere Water Department.

## **Range**

There are no inventoried allotments within this potential wilderness area. Wildfire has created some transitory forage in upper Canyon Creek, but due to topography, sensitive

soils, and lack of access to adjacent forage areas, the potential for either recreation or domestic stock use is limited.

**Table 5--Percentage of grazing suitability areas and current allotments**

Percent Area Suitable for Cattle Grazing	Percent Area Currently in Cattle Allotments	Percent Area Suitable for Sheep Grazing	Percent Area Currently in Sheep Allotments
1	0	2	0

**Vegetation and Ecology**

Douglas-fir, western hemlock, western red cedar and Pacific silver fir are the dominant tree species. Plantations of Douglas-fir in both Sears Creek and Rainy Creek show excellent growth. Vine maple, sedges, fireweed, huckleberries and blackberries have invaded cutover areas. Cottonwood also has grown vigorously in wet areas following logging.

Generally, the priority for restoration treatments occurs within the wildland urban interface (WUI) or within the mesic forest groups. Because WUI represents about one half of the potential wilderness area, the precluding mechanical restorative treatments is a concern. The concern is decreased, however, by recognizing that mesic forest represents only 4 percent of the area.

**Timber Harvest Suitability**

The underlying criteria for determining timber harvest suitability are found in the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, 36CFR219.12, and Forest Service Handbook 1909.12, Chapter 60.

For the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests, the general criteria for timber suitability that will be used for timber harvest suitability are:

- Is it forest land (10 percent crown cover minimum, productivity >20 ft<sup>3</sup>/ac/yr).
- The area has not been withdrawn from timber harvest or production.
- Soil, slope, or other watershed conditions will not be irreversibly damaged (based on soil attributes for erosion, instability, or compaction potential, slopes >65 percent, and certain land types)
- Reforestation can be assured within five years (lack of shallow soils, low frost heave potential, low surface rock, plant community type, certain land types, and elevation <5,500 feet)
- Economic and technologic viability (<0.5 miles from existing transportation system, species value or condition, volume availability, logging systems)

In consideration of all the criteria for determining timber harvest or timber production suitability and not just the fact that harvestable species can grow at a specific location, it appears this PWA does not have conditions that pass all the criteria. The main criterion for failure is that unacceptable resource impacts would likely occur due to road construction activities. This does not preclude helicopter operations that could fly material over sensitive areas to adjacent road systems. However, in most if not all cases helicopter

logging and the associated expenses (such as manual slash treatments) would not be an economically viable option.

**Table 6--Stand data percentages**

Suitable for Timber Harvest	Forest Groups		WUI	
	0%	Parkland	8%	Total WUI
Cold Dry		0%	WUI in Dry and Mesic Forest	10%
Cold Moist		82%		
Mesic		4%		
Dry		0%		
Non-forest		6%		

### ***Fire***

This area is mostly moist forest with an infrequent, high-severity fire regime. Annual fire occurrence is light to moderate with most started by lightning. The area has a mixture of Douglas-fir, grand fir, and western hemlock with western red cedar and lodgepole pine throughout grading to Pacific silver fir with increasing elevation. The fire regimes are Fire Regime III (mixed severity) of Condition Classes II and III, Fire Regime IV (35-100+ years, stand replacement) of Condition Classes II and III, and Fire Regime V of Condition Class I. The area has a history of large fires in the past.

### ***Insects and Disease***

The Wilderness Act of 1964 allows for the control of insects and disease, but taking such actions in wilderness is rare. Forest Service wilderness policy (Forest Service Manual 2324.11) directs the agency “to allow indigenous insect and plant diseases to play, as nearly as possible their natural ecological role”. Policy also directs the agency to “protect the scientific value of observing the effect of insects and disease on ecosystems and identifying genetically resistant plant species”, and finally, “to control insect and plant disease epidemics that threaten adjacent lands or resources.”

An aerial survey of this PWA was completed in 2007. Numerous pockets of damage by fir engravers were mapped, totaling over 800 acres. Pockets of damage over 100 acres in size were mapped in Canyon Creek.

Very little damage by mountain pine beetles was reported in 2007.

Several pockets of Douglas-firs killed by Douglas-fir beetles were detected, totaling nearly 200 acres. The largest pockets were mapped in the vicinity of Indian Ponds.

### ***Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plant Species***

There are no known records of sensitive plant species at this location.

### ***Noxious Weeds***

There are no surveyed noxious weed species within this PWA.

## **Minerals and Soils**

Due to the proximity to Glacier Peak, some of the soils have formed in volcanic ash and pumice but most of the soils have developed in granitic and glacial residuum.

The combination of geography, land type, and precipitation generally gives low to moderate inherent soil productivity. Productivity for wood fiber is generally low to moderate on the scoured glacial troughs, and moderate to high on the glaciated troughs. Due to the parent material and soil development, most of the soils within this area have a moderate to high erosion hazard.

This area is underlain by Mesozoic metamorphic rocks—primarily gneiss and schist. As a result of investigations of the surrounding areas by the U.S. Geological Survey and the U.S. Bureau of Mines, this potential wilderness area is classified as having no significant mineral potential. The only minerals of potential economic interest in the area are feldspar and limestone. However, most of this speculative interest would be for areas outside the south and southeast portion of the potential wilderness area.

Historically, lode mining claims have been located along the Wenatchee Ridge in the southeast part of this area where the feldspar deposits appear to be located. Currently, however, there are no mining claims located within or adjacent to the potential wilderness area. Except for a small area around the Little Wenatchee Ford, an area that is classified as “prospectively valuable” for geothermal resources, the area is not classified prospectively valuable for leasable commodities. There are no existing leases or pending lease applications.

## **Cultural and Heritage Resources**

Historic use of the Canyon Creek PWA includes the vicinity of the Poe Mountain fire lookout, in existence from 1933 to 1970. Although the Little Wenatchee drainage served as a cross-Cascade route to early American Indians and later to exploring expeditions, travel was directed primarily to the main river corridor rather than across the rugged slopes to the north inside this potential wilderness area. Early explorers to the Little Wenatchee drainage included: the E.F. Cady party in 1860 for whom Cady Pass and Cady Creek were named; D.C. Linsley, with the Northern Pacific Railroad surveys in 1870; and AB. Rogers, with the Great Northern Railroad in 1887.

There was also some use by early fur trappers in the Little Wenatchee drainage and cabin remnants are reported in the upper reaches of the watershed. However, because of the transitory pattern of use within and adjacent to this area, there is not a high potential for the occurrence of significant cultural sites. Unless a site has been determined to be ineligible for the National Register, it is managed as a significant site until such a determination is made. Cultural sites are protected by law; however, a wilderness designation or a roadless designation would afford additional protection to cultural sites from ground disturbing activities.

## **Land Uses and Special Uses**

Other than the occasional and temporary use of the area by outfitters and guides under permit, there are no special land uses occurring within the area.

The Canyon Creek Potential Wilderness Area falls entirely within lands ceded to the U.S. Government under the Yakama Treaty. Indian tribes hold rights reserved under treaty and recognized in statutes, executive orders, and policies. Generally, these included rights to fish at usual and accustomed grounds and stations, the right to hunt and gather on open and unclaimed lands, the right to erect temporary houses to cure fish, and the right to pasture horses and cattle on open and unclaimed lands.

### **Private Lands**

There are no private lands within or adjacent to the area.

## **NEED FOR WILDERNESS**

### **Location and size of other wildernesses in the general vicinity, and distance from proposed area and population centers:**

This area is located immediately adjacent to the Glacier Peak Wilderness (570,573 acres). A small portion of the western side of the area lies adjacent to the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness (100,356 acres). The Alpine Lakes Wilderness (362,789 acres) is also nearby. The area is within one to four hours of driving time from population centers such as Seattle-Tacoma, Yakima, Tri-Cities, and Wenatchee.

In ranking this PWA for its potential to provide a high quality wilderness recreation setting it ranked as high due to adjoining the Henry M. Jackson and Glacier Peak Wildernesses. Many trails entering the wilderness pass through this PWA enroute. The PWA provides high quality scenic destinations that would attract wilderness users. In addition, interconnected trail systems would facilitate both day trips and overnight use.

### **Present visitor pressure on other wildernesses, and trends and changing patterns of use:**

Nearby wildernesses include the Glacier Peak, Henry M. Jackson, and Alpine Lakes. These and other wildernesses throughout the state serve a growing population from both sides of the Cascade Range. Most of the users are from the greater Puget Sound area. Otherwise, wildernesses with easy access to spectacular destinations receive heavy use. However, in general there is adequate wilderness on the east slope of the Cascades to absorb current and future recreation demand while maintaining moderate to low levels of use. The addition of this area as wilderness would not be likely to draw increased use due to the lack of trails and attractions relative to other areas nearby.

### **Extent to which non-wilderness lands provide opportunities for unconfined outdoor recreation experiences:**

Addition of the Canyon Creek PWA to the Glacier Peak Wilderness would preserve opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation, especially along those trails that pass through the PWA then enter the Glacier Peak Wilderness.

To the south, Nason Ridge PWA is a high quality backcountry area that provides a trail system to high lakes, ridges, and peaks. The Nason Ridge area fulfills an important niche for users that aren't wholly wilderness compliant (large groups, beginning backpackers, or cyclists) but otherwise want an alpine natural environment in which to recreate. Nason Ridge generally receives moderate levels of use, with high hiker use on the Merritt Lake Trail.

The Heather Lake PWA lies to the south and west of the area. This area is adjacent to the Henry M. Jackson Wilderness, which is accessed via the Heather Lake, Top Lake, and Minotaur Lake Trails. Heather and Minotaur Lakes receive moderately high use, and Top Lake receives light to moderate use from hikers and horse users.

To the east, the Twin Lakes PWA primarily provides access to the Glacier Peak Wilderness. The Twin Lakes Trail travels about one mile through this area before entering the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Because this trail is adjacent to the Tall Timbers Ranch it receives a high visitation rate from organized groups.

Further to the north, the Rock Creek PWA provides a network of non-motorized and motorized trails, also adjoining the Glacier Peak Wilderness. Most of the trails in this area receive less use due to the absence of lakes, but due attract light levels of use. The Carne Mountain Trail attracts high levels of use from hikers, climbers, and hunters.

**The need to provide a sanctuary for those biotic species that have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings or the need for a protected area for other unique scientific value or phenomena:**

### *Wildlife*

Rare wildlife species that are sensitive to human activities associated with roads can be managed through a roadless designation outside of wilderness. However, wilderness does provide a higher level of protection for these species. In addition, these areas lie adjacent to large blocks of protected areas and would provide additional contiguous habitat for wildlife species such as grizzly bear, gray wolf, wolverine, and American marten. The upper half of the Canyon Creek PWA is designated as late successional reserve under the Northwest Forest Plan and this designation protects biotic species unable to compete with increasing public use and development projects. The wildlife sustainability index is 11.4 (a moderate relative ranking) and the habitat connectivity index is 7.3 (a low relative ranking).

### *Fish*

Several native species in the interior Columbia River Basin have demonstrated an inability to survive in less than primitive surroundings, especially the bull trout. In addition to habitat changes on National Forest System lands, other factors off forest such as hydropower generation, hatchery programs, harvest, and changing ocean conditions further challenge the persistence of some far-ranging native species. Broad-scale assessments have demonstrated a positive correlation between unroaded areas and persisting native fish stocks. Often, assessments like these don't differentiate between wilderness and roadless

areas; rather they combine the two into an “unroaded” category. These assessments show current strongholds (most secure and robust populations) are dependant on wilderness and roadless areas. Some of the more resilient native fish populations in the Interior Columbia Basin are located in unroaded areas on National Forest System lands.

For the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest PWAs were assigned an aquatic ranking based on federally listed and sensitive fish species that are sensitive to human disturbances. A high ranking was assigned when listed fish species occur in the PWA or when ecological process including high quality water help sustain listed fish species downstream of the PWA. All other PWAs are ranked low. This PWA is assigned a high ranking based on these factors.

### ***Rare Plant Species***

An analysis was completed to prioritize which PWAs would contribute the most to providing refugia for those plant species on the species of interest/species of concern (SOI/SOC) list. The analysis ranked three factors. The first factor, the total number of sites occurring within the PWA, ranked as low for this PWA. The second factor, which also ranked as low for this PWA, examined the degree of rarity of any SOI/SOC species present, and also recognized the importance of individual PWAs in supporting a high incidence of populations relative to Washington state as a whole.

PWAs are generally unsurveyed for rare plants due to a relative lack of projects occurring in these areas. Thus an additional factor examined the potential for the PWA to support SOI/SOC species. Based on databases, first the SOI/SOC plant species were identified that are present within a five-mile radius of the PWA, but are not known to occur within the PWA. Then the PWA was analyzed to see if the potential habitat for these species occurs within the PWA. Based on this analysis, this PWA ranks as high.

Finally, a composite score was assigned to each PWA based on combining each of the rankings described above. This PWA ranks overall as moderate priority for preserving rare plant refugia with a wilderness designation.

### **Ability to provide for preservation of identifiable landform types and ecosystems:**

This area represents the East Cascades Ecoregion as classified using Bailey’s Ecoregion Classification System. This ecoregion type is well represented in existing wilderness lands in the Cascade Range.

An analysis compared vegetative cover types that are under-represented in wilderness on the National Forest System in Region 6 with those same cover types present in the PWA. Large-scale cover types were available through existing data layers and represent approximately 20 percent of the vegetative cover of this PWA (1,810 acres). These types include forb lands, non-alpine meadows, and alpine meadows. Taken as a whole, the contribution of underrepresented vegetation types ranks as high for the portion of this area with underrepresented cover types; however, the area ranks as moderate for the number of acres that are represented within this PWA relative to the other PWAs in the planning area.

Some under-represented cover types fill microhabitats such as riparian areas or perched water tables. Such finer scale cover types represented in this PWA include abundant amounts of cottonwood and sparse amounts of quaking aspen.

In particular, the non-alpine meadow and cottonwood cover types would make a significant contribution within the eastern Washington planning area.

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