

NEWS RELEASE

PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION



Colville National Forest

765 South Main St., Colville, WA 99114 OR www.fs.usda.gov/colville

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June 28, 2012

Upper Columbia Children's Forest Geocaching Game 2012

Colville, WA - Come outside and play this summer on the Colville National Forest!

From July 1, 2012 to Labor Day there will be 11 easy to access geocaches located at recreation sites on the Colville National Forest near Kettle Falls, Republic and Colville, WA.

Geocaching is like a treasure hunt using a GPS (Global Positioning System) unit. You input the coordinates and the GPS unit leads you to the geocache. While the activities are geared towards 8 to 12 year olds, all of the geocaches require driving to the recreation site followed by a very short walk. Navigating to and from the sites, helping out with reading maps and working the GPS is a great opportunity for everyone in the family. There are opportunities to learn about how to read maps, how GPS works, and learning about wildlife, trees, plants and cultural history you will encounter along the way.

The geocaches are small, 6" x 6" plastic boxes that contain a card with information and a short activity specific to the recreation site. Any child to collect all 11 cards and present them at the Kettle Falls Information Center will be eligible to claim a small prize.

This event takes place on the Colville National Forest, which has been designated as part of the Upper Columbia Children's Forest. A Children's Forest can be thought of as an outdoor classroom, and it can be anything from the local city park or schoolyard all the way to remote wilderness. What distinguishes Children's Forests from other education efforts is the focus on partners and place. In Children's Forests, communities and partners work collectively to provide places and educational opportunities that get kids outside.

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The mission of the USDA 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. The Agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to State and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. The USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

If your family does not own a GPS, there are a limited number of GPS units available to borrow at the Kettle Falls Information Center located at 425 West 3rd Kettle Falls, WA 99114

If you want to play - go to geocaching.com and search "Upper Columbia Children's Forest geocaches" and get the coordinates to input into your GPS Unit. For more Information on geocaching on the Colville National Forest, please visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/colville/> and look for geocaching under Quick Links, or call (509) 684-7000.

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