

Colville National Forest

2012 Year In Review



Welcome from the Forest Supervisor



Third Graders at Hess Cabin—Three Rivers Ranger District

2012 was another great year on the Colville National Forest! We received funding for the collaborative Vision 2020 project, which will help us restore thousands of acres of national forest; all of this in addition to our ongoing commitment to restore our forest lands to a resilient condition and provide critical timber products to our mills.

The Colville is proud to have been selected as a "Children's Forest". And with the support of our local communities we continue to make great strides in bringing the outdoors to our children through experiential learning,

classroom education and health initiatives. Our employees and volunteers are passionate about sharing their knowledge and expertise with others.

And of course our year was filled with the important work of restoring trails, monitoring our precious streams, eradicating invasive weeds, working with Tribes and partners, managing and preparing for timber sales, and supporting the wildfire suppression activities in Central Washington and across the country.

2013 is shaping up to be our busiest year ever. We plan to implement more innovative projects to tackle the work of restoring even larger landscapes. We remain solidly committed to collaborating on projects with interested members of the public and look forward to strong working relationships with our new county commissioners. Most exciting of all, the Colville is proud to be the national forest that will provide the Christmas tree for the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. in 2013. Stay tuned for more news of local festivities!

When the snow melts and a new summer unfolds, I encourage you to get out and enjoy this treasure that is our national forest. The stewardship we practice on this incredible landscape will be the legacy we leave for our children's future.

Laura Jo West
Forest Supervisor



Smokey Bear with his biggest fans

Forest at a Glance

ESTABLISHED IN 1907
1,099,461 ACRES OVER 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

THE COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST PROVIDED **10,324** CORDS OF FIREWOOD TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES LAST YEAR TO HEAT HOMES AND HELP REDUCE HEATING BILLS. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE AMERICAN LEGION, THE COLVILLE PROVIDED NUMEROUS CORDS OF FIREWOOD FREE OF CHARGE FOR OUR LOCAL DISABLED AND SENIOR CITIZENS.



Colville National Forest

THE COLVILLE'S FIRE CREWS TREATED 2,800 ACRES WITH PRESCRIBED FIRE HELPING TO RESTORE A FIRE RESISTANT LANDSCAPE AND IMPROVING WILDLIFE FORAGE. CREWS ALSO SUPPORTED LOCAL WILD FIRE SUPPRESSION EFFORTS AND THE NATIONAL FIRE FIGHTING EFFORT.

Northeast Washington Vision 2020— Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration

Supporting the local economy through close collaboration with the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition and local communities, the Colville National Forest has been able to meet our objectives of restoring watersheds and creating healthy forests, while supplying the timber



Pierre Lake Crossing
Three Rivers Ranger District

industry with the products it needs to keep our communities working and our local economy robust. In addition to traditional timber products, the forest produced 21,883 tons of bioenergy for local generating stations and improved ecosystem health and restored landscapes on more than 6,855 acres of the Colville National Forest. Additionally, 143 miles of trail system were maintained with the help of the Washington Trails Association, Northwest Youth Corp, and the Pacific Northwest Trails Association. Restoration of a major stream crossing at Pierre lake was reconstructed to improve water

quality and fish habitat. This approach to creating a healthy forest and helping our local communities prosper goes beyond the traditional methods of large diameter timber harvesting. Through innovative tools such as third-party environmental planning, stewardship contracts, exploring larger landscape area treatments with an eye towards greater efficiency in process and effectiveness.

Republic Wind Storm—Emergency Response and Salvage

On July 20, 2012, a wind storm to be remembered blew through the area that encompasses the Republic and Three Rivers Ranger Districts changing the landscape and changing the lives of area residents. The storm tragically killed one woman who was camping on the West Fork of Trout Creek Road, injured 14 others in the county and damaged numerous homes and outbuildings. The storm's 80 mph plus winds were so powerful that they snapped trees and power poles off at the tops and cut power to over 3,500 customers. Downed trees blocked state highways and county and forest roads critical to emergency services that left many people stranded until crews could cut the roads out. The Republic Ranger District Fire Crew was one of the first responders on scene and was instrumental in beginning the process of opening over 100 miles of forest and county roads for vital emergency services and to rescue trapped campers and recreationists.

After the storm the forest employees discovered 4,000 acres of trees broken off or uprooted and toppled, setting the stage for severe fire risk, insects, disease and loss of timber value. Salvage logging operations have begun on over 946 acres of blowdown where it was accessible.



Before



After

Forest Rapid Response Crew funded by The Colville Resource Advisory Committee repaired over 50 cases of damage similar to this on Addy Mountain on the Three River Ranger District.



Downed trees across a road—Republic R.D.



Cleared road—Republic R.D.



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Sharing Washington's Good Nature—2013 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree

The Colville National Forest is honored to provide the 2013 United States Capitol Christmas Tree. Each year since 1970 a national forest has provided the "Peoples Tree",

"THIS IS A GREAT HONOR FOR THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND ESPECIALLY OUR EASTSIDE COMMUNITIES. THIS IS THE FIRST TIME A CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE HAS COME FROM THE EAST SIDE OF THE STATE AND WE ARE HONORED TO PROVIDE WASHINGTON'S GIFT TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE."

LAURA JO WEST
COLVILLE NATIONAL FOREST
SUPERVISOR

a tradition that highlights the importance of the national forests for clean water, renewable resources, recreation and community traditions.

In 2013, the Colville National Forest will provide a majestic tree to grace the lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington D.C.

This summer, the Capitol Architect will come to Northeast Washington and select a tree from the group that Colville National Forest employees and local residents feel meet the

demanding criteria needed to grace the nation's capitol. Washington state communities along with the Colville National Forest will celebrate the theme, "Sharing Washington's Good Nature" with celebrations and thousands of ornaments to decorate this year's tree.

Once selected the Capitol Christmas Tree will make its way across the country, stopping at approximately 24 cities to highlight the holiday season and share what national forests provide for every person in the United States.



U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree-2010

2013 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree on the Web

WWW.CAPITOLCHRISTMASTREE2013.ORG/

- INTERACTIVE MAP TO TRACK THE PROGRESS OF THE U.S. CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE ACROSS THE U.S.
- LIST OF COMMUNITY EVENTS
- ONLINE STORE
- VIDEO STREAM OF THE TREE LIGHTING IN WASHINGTON D.C.



U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree -1913

Restoring Landscapes—Enhancing Recreation Opportunities

The Colville National Forest, in partnership with Kalispell tribe and the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, restored a 2.6 mile long section of fish habitat in the East Branch of LeClerc Creek in Pend Oreille County.

The restoration work included removing four fish blocking culverts located in designated critical habitat for bull trout and reopening over six miles of stream for fish passage.



Before



During



After



Bull Trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)



Colville National Forest

Caring for the Land and Serving People

USDA FOREST SERVICE

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Faces of the Colville National Forest

The Colville National Forest has a rich diversity of employees that come from all over the country and from around the world. Our employees range from newly graduated students to returning veterans.

Lewis Gaëtan, is a French Citizen from Madagascar and graduate from the University of Paris-Est Créteil. Lewis worked on the Newport Ranger District on the trail crew, fire crew and timber crew where he gained a great deal of experience.

Christopher Sweet of Plainfield, Connecticut works on the Newport and Sullivan Lake Districts as a firefighting apprentice. He is also a U.S. Army veteran who served in Iraq and continues to serve in the Army Reserve.

Viviana Varela, a biology student from the Interamerican University of Puerto Rico, worked as a hydrology technician conducting stream surveys on many different parts of the forest. Viviana will take her experiences gained on the Colville National Forest and apply them to studies in Puerto Rico.



Lewis Gaëtan (center)—Newport Ranger District.



Viviana Varela (left) working with fisheries crew—Three Rivers R.D.



Sullivan Lake—Sullivan Lake Ranger District



Republic High School students helping replant trees near Growden Dam

CREWS SUCCESSFULLY TREATED **2,251** ACRES TO PREVENT THE SPREAD AND ESTABLISHMENT OF NOXIOUS WEEDS THAT DEGRADE WATERSHEDS AND REDUCE FORAGE FOR WILDLIFE AND LIVESTOCK.

Connecting with Our Communities

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 \$3,000 for local charities through the Combined Federal Campaign in 2012 and raised \$3,800 for local food banks and families in need across the region.

Professionally, the forest is an active partner in the Interagency Kettle Falls Regional Information Center (KFRIC). KFRIC serves the local community by providing public lands information, permits and passes for the Forest Service and National Park Service. The KFRIC also provides tourism and business information for the local Chamber of Commerce. Colville National Forest employees conducted environmental education and exposure to natural resource related career presentations for 2,432 Northeast Washington youths. This incredible commitment to our communities and our youth is what makes our investment in our communities so special.



Historic Cabin — Three Rivers Ranger District



South Baldy Lookout—Newport Ranger District