

# BRIEFING PAPER

## N.E. Washington Zone Plan Revision–Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests

We are making progress in revising the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests' management plans. Forest plans are revised to address ecological and social changes, as well as new scientific information on the Forests. Revising a forest plan is a complex, multi-year task. This year we are concentrating on writing a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) and plans for each Forest.

### Current Focus, Next Steps and Background

- The planning team is currently analyzing alternatives and developing two DEISs and drafting two forest plans in response to the comments and issues identified by the public in response to the proposed action.

Release of the DEISs and plans for public review is targeted for spring 2014. A series of public meetings/open houses are planned to share information about the alternatives and comment process. Following a 90-day comment period, comments received will be reviewed followed by preparation and release of a final EIS, targeted for winter 2014. A final decision is expected to be signed and implementation of the new plans to begin spring 2015.

- On June 30, 2011, the Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests released their proposed actions, which initiated the formal NEPA process. We received many comments on the Proposed Action during the 90-day comment period that ended on September 28, 2011.
- Public comments helped us to determine the significant issues that we use to create alternatives to the Proposed Action. Those are *Old Forest Management, Motorized Recreation Trails, Road Access, Preliminarily Administratively Recommended Wilderness, Livestock Grazing, Wildlife, Riparian and Aquatic Resource Management*. A Comment Summary report that further describes the significant issues has been posted to the project website: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/okawen/plan-revision>

Please visit the project website for more information. Meeting notes from earlier public collaboration steps, new scientific technical reports, briefing papers, public comment summaries, and process information can be found on the plan revision website at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/okawen/plan-revision>.

### Questions, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact the Plan Revision Team:

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