Dear Reader,

This letter announces the availability of the final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Decision notice for the Middle and South Fork Mill Creek A to Z Project. The project is now subject to the 45-day objection period.

A draft Decision Notice, which accompanies the EA, describes the proposed decision to select Alternative B (modified proposed action, modified commercial harvest with new road construction) and the reasons for the decision. Both documents are available on the Colville National Forest project website at [http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47517](http://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=47517). Hardcopies can be requested by contacting Christy Merritt, Environmental Coordinator (509) 738-7737, or Joshua White, District Ranger, (509) 738-7728, or by visiting the Three Rivers Ranger District in Kettle Falls, Washington.

**Draft Decision and Final Environmental Analysis**

I intend to implement alternative B (modified proposed action, modified commercial harvest with new road construction) as described in the EA and draft Decision Notice. The decision authorizes commercial harvest on about 14,166 acres of the project area. About 10,776 will be treated with variable density thinning and about 245 acres will be harvested using the seed tree method. About 3,095 acres will be left untreated within treatment units to provide resource protection and/or create structural diversity. See the EA for more details on all planned treatments.

**Objection Process**

During the objection, only individuals and entities who have submitted specific written comments during a designated opportunity for public participation (such as the 30-day comment period) may object (36 CFR 218.5). Objections must meet the requirements of 36 CFR 218.8(d); incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided for at 36 CFR 218.8(b). The responsible official for the project is the Forest Supervisor, Rodney Smoldon.

An objection, pursuant to 36 CFR 218 subparts A and B, must include a description of those aspects of the proposed project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project; if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider; and a statement that demonstrates the connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection, unless the objection concerns an issue that arose after the designated opportunities for comment. Objections may be:

- Emailed to: objections-pnw-colville@fs.fed.us. Please put OBJECTION and the project name in the subject line. Electronic objections must be submitted as part of an actual email message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format. 
format (.pdf) only. For electronically mailed objections, the sender should normally receive an automated electronic acknowledgement of the receipt of the objection. Emails submitted to email addresses other than those listed above, or in formats other than those listed, will be rejected.

- Mailed to: Regional Forester, Objection Reviewing Officer, Pacific Northwest Region (R6) Regional Office, ATTN: 1570 Appeals and Objections, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR, 97208-3623. Objections delivered by mail must be received before the close of the fifth business day after the objection filing period.
- Hand delivered to Regional Forester, Objection Reviewing Officer, Pacific Northwest Region (R6) Regional Office, ATTN: 1570 Objections and Appeals, 1220 S.W. 3rd Ave., Portland, OR, 97204. The office business hours for those submitting hand delivered objections are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.

Objections must be postmarked or received by the Reviewing Officer, within 45 days of the publication date of the legal notice in the Colville Statesman-Examiner. The publication date is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to file an objection should not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

If no objection is received during the 45-day objection period, this Decision Notice may be approved (signed) following the fifth business day, of the end of the objection filing period (36 CFR 218.12(c)(2)) and the project implemented immediately.

If an objection is received by the close of the fifth business day following the objection filing period, a Reviewing Officer will have 45 days for review of the project objections which can be extended for up to 30 days, when necessary, to provide adequate response to objections or to participate in discussions with parties.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this project.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

RODNEY D. SMOLDON
Forest Supervisor

cc: Lisa Green, Josh White, Christy Merritt, Katherine Sanchez Meador, Mike North