

[Let your Voice be heard](#)

Please submit a comment – **Deadline is July 5**
Draft Colville National Forest Management Plan

The draft Forest Plan Revision for managing the Colville National Forest is open to public comment through July 5. The Forest Plan establishes management direction and sets specific standards & guidelines that will guide the management of the Colville National Forest for at least the next 15 years -- likely much longer. The current Forest Plan is 28 years old.

Between the Cascade and the Rocky Mountains in northeast Washington lie the Columbia Highlands. This special place features stunning subalpine peaks and majestic old-growth forests. And it provides a home for lynx, bull & redband trout, mountain caribou, grizzly bears and many other species.

For 40 years, it has been our mission to permanently protect the wildlands of the Columbia Highlands for present and future generations.

Now there's a new opportunity to designate much needed wilderness in northeast Washington, including on the wild Kettle Crest at the core of the Columbia Highlands.

[Please submit a comment](#) to the Forest Service today calling for increased wilderness recommendations and other sensible protections on the Colville National Forest.

We need your help to ensure that vital wild areas on the Forest are protected!

The Columbia Highlands region is especially important because it connects the Cascades and the Rockies for wildlife to safely raise their young and survive. Hikers, skiers, hunters, and others also find splendor and solitude there, providing important economic benefits for local communities.

But only a tiny fraction – less than 3 percent -- of Colville National Forest has been permanently protected as congressionally-designated wilderness. These wildlands face widespread motorized recreation, potential uranium mining, and other threats.

[By acting today](#), [YOU](#) can help protect forests for decades.

Please urge the Forest Service to *at a minimum* **recommend wilderness** designation for these roadless areas: Profanity, Bald Snow, Hoodoo, Twin Sisters, Abercrombie-Hooknose, Salmo-Priest Adjacent, Grassy Top, Thirteenmile, and Quartzite.

The Forest has drafted several alternatives to be considered as Management Plan updates. Their Preferred Alternative P has serious problems, most notably, it falls miserably to protect Kettle Crest wilderness collaboratively agreed to during years of public involvement. Instead of Kettle wilderness, it proposes the toothless and weaker administrative designation of Special Interest Area for this cherished wild place.

Please support Alternative B – it offers the right balance of conservation, recreation, forestry, and other forest uses. – a product of ten years of community collaboration - and its goals of restoring ecological resilience, job creation, protecting wildlife & watersheds, and safeguards for ancient forests. [Click here](#) for a map of Alternative B.

Please oppose the weaker Special Interest Area designation in the Kettle Crest and insist instead that the Forest Service recommend wilderness in this largest and wildest region of the Colville National Forest.

Please oppose large group camps along Albion Hill Road that would accommodate more than 100 people that would destroy the solitude that makes the Kettle Crest equally important to wildlife and backcountry recreation.

Please [submit your comments Today!](#) to Supervisor Rodney Smolden. Speak out for wildlife and future generations!

Here are some important sample talking points:

Dear Forest Supervisor Rodney Smoldon,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Colville National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan Revision. The Forest and its wild roadless areas are important to me and my family. Wild areas provide refuge to many fish and wildlife species. It's important to protect and conserve the Forest for future generations. I support Alternative B.

Despite its vital habitat and connectivity values for wildlife and cherished recreation areas, less than 3 percent of the Colville National Forest is currently protected. Wild roadless areas on the Forest should be protected because they conserve critical habitat for wildlife, protect solitude, support outdoor recreation, and benefit local economies.

I urge you to adopt conservation and wilderness measures to ensure a wild, healthy future in northeast Washington. At a minimum, please recommend the following wild roadless areas on the Colville National Forest as wilderness: Profanity, Bald Snow, Twin Sisters, Hoodoo, Abercrombie-Hooknose, Salmo-Priest Adjacent, Grassy Top, Thirteenmile, and Quartzite.

Fully 80 percent of the Colville National Forest is not eligible to be recommended wilderness. Of the 20 percent that is eligible, the wild roadless areas of the Kettle Crest are of paramount importance and must be protected as wilderness. I oppose the proposed Special Interest Area designation in the Kettle Crest.

I support Special Interest Area (SIA) designations where existing infrastructure will benefit most. Please establish SIAs for the Swan Lake and Cougar Area in Ferry County and Calispell Area in Stevens & Pend Oreille County.

I most like Alternative B for its collaborative approach to restore ecological resilience, reduce damaging roads, protect big trees, increase use of fire as a restoration tool, and preservation of wilderness characteristics.. As part of the Forest Plan revision, I urge you to adopt Alternative B after adding explicit restoration and maintenance standards for large old trees.

Thank you again for accepting public comments on this important issue.

Submit comments online: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=45826>

PLEASE ALSO CONSIDER WRITING A PERSONAL LETTER AND SENDING IT TO:

Attn: Forest Plan Revision Team
Colville National Forest
765 South Main Street
Colville, WA 99114

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING COMMENTS IS JULY 5