

1199 **Chapter 2. Alternatives, Including the Proposed Action**

1200 **Introduction**

1201 This chapter describes and compares the alternatives considered for revising the 1988 Colville Forest
1202 Plan. This section also presents the alternatives in comparative form, describing the differences between
1203 each alternative and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decisionmaker and the
1204 public. The revision includes changing all, or a portion of, the programmatic decisions that make up the
1205 1988 forest plan. Some of the information used to compare alternatives is based on the design of the
1206 alternative (i.e., the arrangement of management areas) and some of the information is based on the
1207 social, environmental, and economic effects of implementing that alternative (i.e., expected outcomes for
1208 social, economic, or ecological conditions). This chapter provides the following four discussions:

- 1209 • Development of alternatives;
- 1210 • Description of each alternative considered in detail, including the preferred alternative and
1211 elements common to all alternatives;
- 1212 • Alternatives considered but eliminated from detailed study; and
- 1213 • Comparison of alternatives.

1214 **Development of Alternatives**

1215 As discussed in chapter 1, this revision of the forest plan is based on the “need for change.” Key issues
1216 were identified in public comment on the proposed action. These issues drove alternative development.
1217 Additional issues common to all alternatives were also identified and considered in the effects analysis.
1218 Some additional items are addressed in the revision because they are required by planning regulations
1219 (i.e., 36 CFR 219.14 through 219.26 (1982 Planning Rule)).

1220 The no-action alternative reflects current management practices under the 1988 forest plan, as amended
1221 and implemented, and provides the basis for comparing alternatives to current management and levels of
1222 output. While all alternatives provide a wide range of multiple uses, goods, and services, some give
1223 slightly greater emphasis to selected resources based on the alternative response to various revision
1224 topics.

1225 The proposed action is based on the need for change identified in the Analysis of the Management
1226 Situation (AMS), implementation and monitoring of the current forest plan, and early public working
1227 group meetings (2004). The alternatives to the proposed action were developed through the public
1228 meetings that continued through 2008 and public comments on the 2011 proposed action scoping. The
1229 alternatives represent a range of possible management options from which to choose.

1230 Forest plans do not make budget decisions. However, alternatives emphasize different programs to
1231 different degrees, with an expectation of appropriate funding. Should Congress emphasize specific
1232 programs by appropriation, a redistribution of priorities would follow, regardless of the alternative
1233 implemented.

1234 All alternatives to the proposed action considered in detail respond to the need for change or address one
1235 or more significant issue. However, not all possible alternatives were carried into detailed study, as the list
1236 of options would have been prohibitively large. Instead, the responsible official identified those
1237 alternatives that both met the criteria and created a reasonable range of outputs, direction, costs,
1238 management requirements, and effects from which to choose. All alternatives would meet law, regulation,
1239 and policy.

1240 **Alternatives Considered in Detail**

1241 In addition to the no-action alternative and the proposed action, the Forest Service developed four action
 1242 alternatives, which respond to the needs for change and issues identified by the public. Table 3 provides a
 1243 short description of each alternative. Additional detail is provided in the following sections.

1244 **Table 3. Short description of alternatives considered in detail**

Alternative	Short Description
1988 Forest Plan – No-action alternative	<p>The no-action alternative reflects current management practices under the existing Forest Plan, as amended and implemented. It provides the basis for comparing the existing condition to the proposed action and the alternatives.</p> <p>If the decisionmaker were to choose to continue to implement the 1988 forest plan versus choosing a revised alternative, interim direction in the Inland Native Fish Strategy for the Intermountain, Northern, and Pacific Northwest Regions (INFISH) and the Management Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem and Wildlife Standards for Timber Sales (Eastside Screens) would be considered final direction for the Colville National Forest (i.e., would no longer be considered interim).</p> <p>Continuing with the current plan would provide an annual predicted wood sale quantity (PWSQ) volume of 41 MMBF with an estimated wage contribution of \$19,335,000.</p> <p>There is no recommended wilderness in the 1988 forest plan.</p>
Proposed Action	<p>The June 2011 proposed action addresses the need for change. It applies landscape ecology concepts to provide for ecological resilience to disturbances, including the effects of climate change and incorporates new science related to the recovery of terrestrial and aquatic threatened and endangered species.</p> <p>The overarching emphasis of this alternative would be to apply active vegetation management in a dynamic landscape approach to increase vegetation resilience and move the landscape toward desired conditions. Silvicultural prescriptions would promote structural and landscape complexity on 71 percent of the forest. Planned and unplanned ignitions would be used as management tools across the forest, but would be emphasized on 30 percent of the forest.</p> <p>The proposed action would provide an annual predicted wood sale quantity (PWSQ) volume of 62 MMBF with an estimated wage contribution of \$31,224,000.</p> <p>The proposed action would recommend 101,390 acres of additional wilderness and would provide backcountry recreation management emphasis on 14 percent of the forest.</p> <p>The proposed action adopts the Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy (ARCS), replacing INFISH with a long-term strategy that uses best science and aligns species and water quality recovery plans.</p>
Alternative P	<p>The overall vegetation management approach, outputs in alternative P, and backcountry recreation management would be similar to the proposed action.</p> <p>Alternative P would create the Kettle Crest Special Interest Area (approximately 82,800 acres). This management area allocation would recognize and protect outstanding recreation opportunities in a semi-primitive setting while allowing continued motorized and mechanized recreation opportunities.</p> <p>In response to comments on the proposed action, alternative P would recommend 68,300 acres of wilderness.</p> <p>Like the proposed action, alternative P would adopt ARCS. However, it also would expand the key watershed network, and increase riparian protection through additional plan components (ARCS-modified).</p>

Alternative	Short Description
Alternative R	<p>Alternative R would emphasize a large-scale reserve approach for late-successional forest structure, emphasizing a passive management approach to reach desired conditions. Silvicultural prescriptions would be used on 22 percent of the forest, in consideration of 21-inch upper diameter limit on cutting live trees. Planned and unplanned ignitions would be used as management tools across the forest, but would be emphasized on 75 percent of the forest.</p> <p>Alternative R would provide an annual predicted wood sale quantity (PWSQ) volume of 14 MMBF with an estimated wage contribution of \$6,692,000.</p> <p>Alternative R would recommend 207,800 acres of additional wilderness.</p> <p>Alternative R would take the same aquatic strategy approach as alternative P through ARCS-modified.</p>
Alternative B	<p>The intent of alternative B is to address the concerns of multiple constituencies in one alternative by balancing land allocations between areas emphasizing active management (timber management zones) (43 percent), emphasizing a mix of active and passive management (Restoration Areas) (31 percent), and emphasizing passive management (recommended and designated wilderness) (23 percent).</p> <p>Alternative B would retain the Eastside Screens, 21-inch upper diameter limit for cutting live trees, and the large-scale reserve approach for late-successional forest structure. It would include additional plan components limit mechanical restoration treatments (timber harvest) in late-successional structure to dry plant association groups only.</p> <p>Alternative B would provide an annual predicted wood sale quantity (PWSQ) volume of 37 MMBF with an estimated wage contribution of \$17,428,000.</p> <p>This alternative would recommend 220,330 acres of additional wilderness and would emphasize non-motorized recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Alternative B would retain and integrate the INFISH, continuing riparian area management similar to the no-action alternative.</p> <p>Where plan components were not identified by the collaborative group, the 1988 Colville Forest Plan (no-action alternative) would provide plan direction (remain unchanged).</p>
Alternative O	<p>Similar to alternative B, the intent of alternative O is to balance land allocations between areas emphasizing active management (Responsible Management Areas) (39 percent), emphasizing a mix of active and passive management (Restoration Areas) (34 percent), and emphasizing passive management (backcountry and recommended/designated wilderness)(25 percent).</p> <p>Similar to alternative P, alternative O would create the Kettle Crest Special Interest Area (approximately 99,000 acres). This management area allocation would recognize and protect outstanding recreation opportunities in a semi-primitive setting while allowing continued motorized and mechanized recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Similar to alternative B, alternative O would retain the Eastside Screens, 21-inch upper diameter limit for cutting live trees, and the large-scale reserve approach for late-successional forest structure. It would include additional plan components to limit mechanical restoration treatments (timber harvest) to a one-time entry.</p> <p>This alternative would recommend fewer acres of additional wilderness (15,950 acres) than alternative B, and would instead emphasize backcountry recreation opportunities (21 percent).</p> <p>Alternative O would provide an annual predicted wood sale quantity (PWSQ) volume of 38 MMBF with an estimated wage contribution of \$17,465,000.</p> <p>Where the collaborative group did not identify plan components, the proposed action would provide plan direction. This includes the proposed action's approach to adopt ARCS.</p>

1246 **The Preferred Alternative**

1247 The responsible official, the regional forester for the Pacific Northwest Region, has identified alternative
1248 P as the preferred alternative for this DEIS, which is presented as the proposed plan. **This does not**
1249 **represent a decision, but rather an indication of the agency's preference at this stage of analysis.**
1250 Public comments on the effects analysis and additional analysis of effects may result in refinement of this
1251 alternative in the final EIS, or selection of a different alternative in the record of decision.

1252 **Elements Common to All Action Alternatives**

1253 All alternatives represent, to varying degrees, the principles of multiple-use and ecological and economic
1254 sustainability. The alternatives provide basic protection of forest resources and comply fully with
1255 applicable laws, regulations, and policies. In addition, all the alternatives would:

- 1256 • Meet the purpose and need for change or address one or more significant issues;
- 1257 • Conserve soil and water resources and not allow significant or permanent impairment of the
1258 productivity of the land;
- 1259 • Provide protections for riparian areas;
- 1260 • Contribute to the recovery and viability of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife and plant species;
- 1261 • Maintain air quality that meets or exceeds applicable Federal, State, and/or local standards or
1262 regulations;
- 1263 • Include measures for preventing the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat for
1264 threatened and endangered species;
- 1265 • Protect heritage resources;
- 1266 • Recognize the unique status of American Indian tribes and their rights retained by trust and
1267 executive order with the United States, including consultation requirements;
- 1268 • Provide sustained multiple uses, products, and services in an environmentally acceptable manner
1269 (including leasable and locatable minerals, timber, livestock forage, and recreation opportunities);
- 1270 • Retain existing designated areas (e.g., wilderness areas, scenic byways, national scenic trails);
1271 and
- 1272 • Retain all existing permitted activities and facilities.⁷

1273 In addition, the following plan components are common to all alternatives. (The components are
1274 described in detail in the proposed revised plan, which accompanies this document.)

1275 **Desired Conditions**

1276 Desired conditions include descriptions of desired outcomes because of Forest Service management. The
1277 desired conditions are described in detail in the proposed revised plan, which accompanies this document.

1278 **Objectives**

1279 Objectives are time-specific, measurable statements of a desired rate of progress toward a desired
1280 condition or conditions. They should be based on reasonably foreseeable budgets.

⁷ All permits will be reviewed for compliance with the revised forest plan. Any permit found to be out of compliance will be brought into compliance as soon as practicable using a variety of tools, including modifications or amendments to the permit.

1281 **Forestwide Standards and Guidelines**

1282 Standards and guidelines include design considerations, mitigations, and constraints for project-level
1283 decisions. Although the action alternatives share some common forestwide standards and guidelines,
1284 many vegetation and road-related components vary by alternative. Riparian area plan components also
1285 vary by alternative.

1286 **Suitability of Uses**

1287 The criteria for the suitability of various uses (e.g., livestock grazing, timber harvest, recreation
1288 opportunity) are the same in all alternatives. However, when the criteria are applied to the different
1289 alternatives, there may be variations in the amount of land suitable for certain uses (i.e., if an alternative
1290 has more recommended wilderness, there would be less land suitable for timber harvest).

1291 **Monitoring Strategy**

1292 Monitoring and evaluation provide the strategy for determining the degree to which on-the-ground
1293 management is maintaining or making progress toward desired conditions. All action alternatives share a
1294 common monitoring framework, whereas the monitoring strategy for the no-action alternative is unique.

1295 **Plan Components Common to All Action Alternatives**

1296 Management direction for the following resource topic areas remains unchanged between action
1297 alternatives.

1298 ***Vegetation***

1299 All action alternatives include the same long-term vegetation desired condition, which is defined by the
1300 historic range of variability (HRV). The historical range of variability refers to the dynamic behavior and
1301 function of ecosystems before dramatic changes occurred with European settlement, generally considered
1302 to be the mid-1800s for this area (Aplet and Keeton 1999). The historical range of variability provides a
1303 framework to determine changes to ecosystem attributes that have occurred between historical and current
1304 conditions and recognizes that ecosystems experience a range of conditions across which processes are
1305 resilient and self-sustaining.

1306 We used an assessment of forest dynamics and the historical range of forest structure to develop a range
1307 of desired representation across structural stages within five vegetation types (Douglas-fir dry; Northern
1308 Rocky Mountain conifer; Spruce/Subalpine fir; Subalpine fir/Lodgepole pine; and Western
1309 redcedar/Western hemlock). These vegetation types reflect the plant association groups found on the
1310 Colville National Forest.

1311 Having a range of forest structural stages provides resilience and is compatible with maintaining
1312 characteristic disturbance processes such as wildland fire, insects and diseases, as well as habitat
1313 conditions for associated wildlife species. A range of structure contributes to aesthetic settings,
1314 particularly along scenic byways and highways.

1315 Table 4 describes forestwide desired conditions for each vegetation type. Although all action alternatives
1316 include similar desired conditions for vegetation structure, the management approaches used to achieve
1317 desired condition vary by alternative. Each alternative description provides more detail.

1318 **Table 4. Desired condition for forest structure⁸ (percent)**

Vegetation Type	Early	Mid Open	Mid Closed	Late Open	Late Closed
Douglas-fir dry	6-16	2-8	4-13	38-78	1-32
Northern Rocky Mountain mixed conifer	9-25	1-3	18-30	4-6	44-60
Western hemlock / Western redcedar	4-24	0	7-27	0	55-83
Subalpine fir / Lodgepole pine	45-65	0	33-53	0	3
Spruce / Subalpine fir	14-46	0	13-41	0	29-57

1319 All action alternatives provide the same desired conditions (goals), standards and guidelines for non-
 1320 forested vegetation types. Non-forested vegetation types such as subalpine and montane meadows, shrub-
 1321 lands and wetlands are managed as unique habitats for plants and wildlife.

1322 *Invasive Species*

1323 A 2005 decision that updated methods of treatment and increased the emphasis on prevention of invasive
 1324 plant species in the Pacific Northwest Region amended the current forest plan. Management direction
 1325 provided in this decision, the *Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant Program Preventing and*
 1326 *Managing Invasive Plants Record of Decision* (USDA Forest Service 2005), is common to all
 1327 alternatives.

1328 *Wildland Fire Management*

1329 Use of natural ignitions for resource benefits would be expanded to the whole Forest, with the exception
 1330 of administrative and recreation sites. Analysis of weather conditions, ignition location, and resource
 1331 concerns would be used to make decisions related to the use of natural ignitions to achieve resource
 1332 benefits. Planned ignition would be allowed to achieve resource objectives forestwide in all action
 1333 alternatives. Desired conditions, guidelines, and standards for wildland fire management would remain
 1334 the same across all alternatives. The *Record of Decision, Nationwide Application of Fire Retardant on*
 1335 *National Forest System Land, December 13, 2011*, (USDA Forest Service 2011) established new national
 1336 direction for the use of fire retardant applied from aircraft to manage wildfires and would be applicable
 1337 across all alternatives.

1338 *Air Quality*

1339 The State of Washington regulates air quality. Existing laws and regulations define requirements. Desired
 1340 conditions, guidelines, and standards would remain the same as shown in the draft plan across all
 1341 alternatives.

1342 *Soils*

1343 Management direction for soils would be common across all action alternatives.

1344 *Grizzly Bear*

1345 Management of grizzly bear habitat does not vary between action alternatives. Grizzly bear management
 1346 is defined by the 1986 Interagency Grizzly Bear Guidelines, Colville National Forest Guidelines for

⁸ Structure Definition

Early	Trees less than 10 inches diameter at breast height (d.b.h.) or canopy cover less than 10 percent
Mid Open	Trees 10 to 20 inches d.b.h., canopy cover 10 percent and greater, but less than 40 percent
Mid Closed	Trees 10 to 20 inches d.b.h., canopy cover 40 percent or greater
Late Open	Trees 20 inches d.b.h. or greater, canopy cover 10 percent and greater, but less than 40 percent
Late Closed	Trees 20 inches d.b.h. or greater, canopy cover 40 percent or greater

1347 Management in Occupied Grizzly Bear Habitat (USDA 1988), Grizzly Bear Recovery Plan (USFWS
1348 1993), and Amended Biological Opinion for the Continued Implementation of the Colville National
1349 Forest (and the Idaho Panhandle National Forest) Forest Plans (USDI 2001). The Forest would
1350 incorporate management guidance from these documents in all action alternatives considered in this
1351 DEIS. The forest has occupied grizzly bear habitat.

1352 *Woodland Caribou and Canada Lynx*

1353 Management for woodland caribou and Canada lynx would not vary between action alternatives.
1354 Woodland caribou habitat management currently follows direction identified in the 2001 USFWS
1355 biological opinion for seasonal habitat needs and the Colville National Forest winter recreation strategy⁹
1356 (USFS 2003). Current management direction for Canada lynx is provided through the Canada Lynx
1357 Interagency Agreement that relies on the science summarized in the Canada Lynx Conservation
1358 Assessment and Strategy (ILBT 2013). The Forest would incorporate the management guidance from
1359 these documents in all action alternatives considered in this DEIS.

1360 *Heritage*

1361 Laws and regulations provide guidance for protecting and managing heritage resources. The heritage
1362 resource is also coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office and Indian tribes. This emphasis
1363 and protection would be the same in all alternatives.

1364 *Livestock Grazing*

1365 The revised plan proposes no changes in the status, location, or boundaries of permitted range allotments
1366 or type of livestock. However, plan components that affect management of livestock grazing would vary
1367 by alternative.

1368 *Minerals, Locatable*

1369 Federal lands open to locatable mineral entry under the Mining Act of 1872 would not change by
1370 alternative. Desired conditions, guidelines, and standards concerning locatable minerals would be
1371 common to all alternatives.

1372 *Minerals, Saleable*

1373 Federal lands available for mineral material permits do not change by alternative. Desired conditions
1374 concerning saleable minerals would be common to all action alternatives.

1375 *Motorized Recreation Suitability*

1376 Motorized recreation would not be suitable in research natural areas, designated wilderness areas, and
1377 recommended wilderness in all alternatives. (Although in some alternatives, use of existing motorized
1378 trails within recommended wilderness management areas would be allowed to continue.) Suitability for
1379 motorized use varies within other management areas.

1380 Current seasonal restrictions for deer and elk winter range would be maintained in all alternatives.

1381 *Wild and Scenic Eligible Rivers*

1382 As there has not been a change in circumstances since the inventory was completed for the 1988 forest
1383 plan, evaluation of eligibility for additional rivers was not a revision topic and is not addressed in the
1384 DEIS. The two rivers identified as eligible for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River System for the 1988

⁹ The Colville National Forest winter recreation strategy was completed to balance the needs of secure winter habitat for caribou with access for winter recreation activities.

1385 forest plan (8 miles) are carried forward in this revision effort and would not vary by alternative. All
 1386 action alternatives would include plan components to maintain the free-flowing characteristic and protect
 1387 the outstandingly remarkable values of eligible rivers.

1388 **Table 5. Colville National Forest eligible wild and scenic rivers by segment and classification**

River name	Recommended classification	Miles
South Fork Salmo River	Wild	5
Kettle River	Recreational	3

1389 *Scenery Management System*

1390 Scenery would be managed through the Scenery Management System in all action alternatives. The
 1391 valued landscape character descriptions would not replace other desired conditions, such as vegetation.
 1392 Rather, the vegetation desired conditions are a key component of the valued landscape character. Scenic
 1393 integrity objective zones would overlay the management areas. The direction for scenery management
 1394 applies regardless of the management area boundary. Applicability of plan direction is guided by the
 1395 principle that where there is an overlap of scenery management direction with other plan components, the
 1396 most restrictive plan direction applies, depending on site-specific conditions and the activity or use.

1397 *Lands and Special Uses*

1398 The Forest Service “Lands” program includes activities such as landownership adjustment, boundary and
 1399 title management (including land exchanges and acquisitions, granting or accepting of easements), and
 1400 other activities that are primarily real estate-type actions. The goals of this program include:
 1401 (1) consolidating landownership patterns to meet the objectives of forest land and resource management
 1402 plans and to improve land management efficiencies; (2) securing and protecting the rights, title, land, and
 1403 resources of public land from unauthorized use and occupancy; and (3) providing legally defensible
 1404 boundaries and accurate, complete landownership records of NFS lands. These program activities will
 1405 continue and management direction would not change across the action alternatives.

1406 The Forest administers a variety of lands and recreation uses under special use permits, leases, or
 1407 easements. The types of recreation and special use opportunities would remain the same across
 1408 alternatives, although the areas and acres of the forest where they might occur vary. Forest plan
 1409 management direction applicable to areas defined by special use permit, lease, or easement would not
 1410 change across the action alternatives.

1411 **Management Areas**

1412 Although all alternatives include management area allocations with applicable desired conditions,
 1413 standards, and guidelines, the land management emphasis, acres, names, and associated plan components
 1414 of the management areas vary by alternative. The no-action alternative (the 1988 plan) identifies
 1415 13 management areas based on vegetation and land use. The action alternatives offer a varying array of
 1416 management area prescriptions designed to achieve the need for change or address significant issues.
 1417 Management area direction ranges from areas emphasizing passive management in wilderness (natural
 1418 processes dominate vegetation change) to areas emphasizing active management in focused restoration or
 1419 responsible management areas (vegetation management through timber harvest and planned fire use).

1420 Table 6 provides an overview of all proposed management areas and their application across alternatives.
 1421 A ‘-’ indicates the management area is not included in the indicated alternative. Maps of the alternatives
 1422 are provided in the supplement folder and on the website. Two management areas overlay other
 1423 management areas as shown with an asterisk in the table. These are the riparian habitat

1424 conservation/riparian management areas in all alternatives and the Kettle Crest recreation special interest
1425 area in alternatives P and O.

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Table 6. Proposed management area (MA) descriptions and percentages of total forest by alternative

Management Areas	Description	No Action	Proposed Action	R	P	B	O
Wood/Forage	The management goal is to achieve optimum production of timber products while protecting basic resources.	39	-	-	-	-	-
Scenic/ Timber	The management goal is to provide a natural appearing foreground, middle, and background along major scenic travel routes while providing wood products.	20	-	-	-	-	-
Old Growth Dependent Species Habitat/ Late Forest Structure	The management goal is to provide essential habitat for wildlife species that require late and old forest habitat components (e.g., structure such as large and old trees, large snags, and downed wood) and contribute to the maintenance of diversity of wildlife habitats and plant communities.	3	-	51	-	-	-
Caribou Habitat ¹⁰	The management goal is to provide seasonal habitats for woodland caribou to contribute the Colville National Forest portion of a fully recovered population as specified in the Caribou Recovery Plan.	3	-	-	-	-	-
Winter Range	The management goal is to meet the habitat needs of deer and elk to sustain carrying capacity at 120 percent of the 1980 level, while managing other resources (e.g., timber harvest, recreation) consistent with fish and wildlife management objectives.	11	-	-	-	-	-
Scenic/Winter Range	The management goal is to provide a natural appearing foreground, middle, and background along major scenic travel routes while providing for winter range management.	7	-	-	-	-	-
Focused Restoration ¹¹	Management area emphasis would focus on the restoration of ecological integrity and ecosystem function at the landscape scale using both active management (mechanical treatment and prescribed fire) and passive management (natural processes, including disturbances and succession) to restore natural processes and improve resiliency, while emphasizing important fish and wildlife habitats. Spatially, these areas include the key watersheds, and grizzly bear and caribou recovery areas not included in Backcountry and Backcountry Motorized management areas. The active management focus in key watersheds would promote riparian goals.	-	23	-	28	-	-

¹⁰ The woodland caribou recovery area is integrated with the Focused Restoration management area under the proposed action and alternative P, and integrated with the Late Forest Structure management area in alternative R.

¹¹ In the proposed action provided to the public in June 2011, Focused Restoration was labeled as Active Restoration 2.

Management Areas	Description	No Action	Proposed Action	R	P	B	O
General Restoration ¹²	Management area emphasis would focus on enhancing ecological integrity and ecosystem function at the landscape scale using active management (mechanical treatment and prescribed fire) to restore natural processes and improve resiliency.	-	48	22	45	-	-
Active Management/ Responsible Management Areas	Management area emphasis would be to use active forest management (timber harvest and prescribed fire) to provide forest products to the local economy and move the forest toward desired conditions for resilience to insects, disease, and uncharacteristic wildfire. While the management emphasis would be the same for both these MAs, the "Responsible Management Area" was named through a collaborative process and is retained to honor the collaborative process.	-	-	-	-	43	39
Restoration	Like the Focused and General Restoration MAs, management area emphasis would focus on the restoration of ecological integrity and ecosystem function at the landscape scale using both active management (mechanical treatment and prescribed fire) and passive management (natural processes, including disturbances and succession) to restore natural processes and improve resiliency, with limited mechanical treatment in late forest structure habitat. The landscape would be natural appearing in the majority of this management area, but in comparison to the Backcountry and Backcountry Motorized management areas, these areas have National Forest System roads and areas of intensive, concentrated management activity or facilities.	-	-	-	-	31	34
Backcountry	Management area emphasis would be to provide non-motorized backcountry recreation opportunities in a natural-appearing landscape. Mechanized uses may be allowed. The MA would contribute habitat conditions for species that benefit from an unroaded and summer non-motorized landscape.	8	8	2	8	less than 1	16
Backcountry Motorized	Management area emphasis would be to provide motorized backcountry recreation opportunities in a natural-appearing landscape. Summer motorized use would be suitable and allowed where identified on the Forest's Motor Vehicle Use Map. Both cross-country and trail-based winter over-snow vehicle use would be suitable. Mechanized would also be suitable. These MAs would contribute habitat conditions for species that benefit from an unroaded landscape.	1	6	less than 1	5	less than 1	5

¹² In the proposed action provided to the public in June 2011, General Restoration was labeled as Active Restoration 3.

Proposed Revised Land Management Plan

Management Areas	Description	No Action	Proposed Action	R	P	B	O
Recreation	The management area goal is to provide roaded and unroaded recreation opportunities in a natural appearing setting, to provide semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation while meeting objectives of wildlife management, and to provide for quality winter recreation opportunities including downhill skiing, Nordic skiing, and other compatible uses. (This MA includes general recreation, recreation/wildlife, and skiing areas in the 1988 Forest Plan.)	5	-	-	-	-	-
Wilderness – Designated	Congress has designated the Salmo-Priest Wilderness on the Colville National Forest (31,445 acres). Management area emphasis is, and would continue to be under all action alternatives, to preserve the five qualities of wilderness character - untrammelled, natural, undeveloped, opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and other features of values. In addition, the management areas direction in all alternatives proposes specific objectives, standards, and guidelines for the use of prescribed fire in wilderness.	3	3	3	3	3	3
Wilderness – Recommended	Management area emphasis would be to protect and maintain the social and ecological characteristics that provide the basis for the wilderness recommendation. Depending on the alternative (see detailed alternative descriptions), non-conforming wilderness uses including motorized trail maintenance and reconstruction, and mechanized uses (e.g., mountain biking) may be allowed to continue until Congress takes action to designate the areas as wilderness.	-	9	19	10	20	1
Research Natural Areas	Research natural areas (RNA) are established to provide study and protection of a full range of habitat types and remain in a relatively unaltered condition for non-manipulative research, observation, and study. Plan direction would continue to emphasize maintaining the research values of the areas. Management activities in a research natural area must be consistent with the purposes for which the RNA was established (or proposed) or specifically maintain the values of the RNA.	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1
Eligible and Suitable Wild and Scenic Rivers	Portions of two rivers on the Colville National Forest, the Kettle River (classified as recreational) and the South Fork Salmo River (classified as wild), have been identified as being eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River Inventory. Plan direction would continue to emphasize maintaining the free-flowing characteristic and outstandingly remarkable values for which the river is determined eligible.	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1

Management Areas	Description	No Action	Proposed Action	R	P	B	O
Scenic Byways	Management area emphasis would be to maintain or enhance the qualities of the byway. The Colville National Forest includes all or part of the Sherman Pass Scenic Byway (designated as both a Washington State Scenic Byway and a National Forest Scenic Byway), the North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway (designated as a Washington State Scenic Byway), and the International Selkirk Loop (designated as an All-American Road). A ½-mile strip on either side of the byway centerline defines the scenic byway management area. Management direction would only apply to portions of the byway within National Forest System lands.	less than 1	2	2	2	2	2
Nationally Designated Trails	Management direction is for all nationally designated trails located within the administrative boundaries of National Forest System lands. The corridor where management direction applies consists of the visible foreground, which is generally one-half mile in width either side of the centerline of the trail, including viewpoints, water sources, campsites, and spur trails to these features.	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1
Kettle Crest Special Int. Area*	Special interest areas (SIAs) are a category of administratively designated special areas with outstanding special characteristics or unique values. These unique values consist of scenic, geological, botanical, zoological, paleontological, historical, or recreational values. SIA management areas overlay other management areas. For example, a special interest area could also be managed for Focused or General Restoration. If there are management area guidance conflicts, the most protective guidance will apply. Management area emphasis would be to ensure protection of the values for which the area is designated.	-	-	-	8*	-	9*
Administrative and Recreation Sites (Includes permitted and developed recreation sites)	The sites are established as separate management areas rather than overlays or inclusions in other management areas. The management direction remains unchanged from current plans.	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1	less than 1

Proposed Revised Land Management Plan

Management Areas	Description	No Action	Proposed Action	R	P	B	O
RHCA/RMAs*	Depending on alternative, riparian habitat would be allocated to riparian management areas (RMA) under the Aquatic Restoration Conservation Strategy (ARCS) or riparian habitat conservation areas (RHCA) under Interim Inland Native Fish Strategy for the Intermountain, Northern, and Pacific Northwest Regions (INFISH). This MA would overlay other MAs. They are mapped at the forest-scale, therefore locations may change based on project-level reconnaissance. RMAs and RHCAs occur on the margins of standing and flowing water and widths vary depending on feature type. The RMA/RHCA MA emphasis is to maintain and restore the riparian structure and function of perennial and intermittent streams, ponds, reservoirs, lakes, seeps, spring, and wetlands. This MA also provides connectivity for riparian-dependent plants and animals.	13	16	16	16	13	16
TOTAL ¹³		100	100	100	100	100	100

1427
1428

*Overlaps with other management areas

¹³ Numbers in this table are rounded, and several management areas overlap other management areas; therefore, not all columns add up to exactly 100 percent.

1429 **Alternatives Description**

1430 The proposed action is based on the need for a change. We developed additional action
1431 alternatives in response to significant issues the public raised during the comment period. Each
1432 sub-heading in this section (e.g., Timber Production, Access, Recommended Wilderness)
1433 represents an issue as described in chapter 1. A comparison of alternatives is included at the end
1434 of this section.

1435 **No Action**

1436 The no-action alternative is the current land management plan as amended. Major amendments to
1437 the current land management plan include the Interim Inland Native Fish Strategy for the
1438 Intermountain, Northern, and Pacific Northwest Regions (INFISH) (1995), Continuation of
1439 Interim Management Direction Establishing Riparian, Ecosystem and Wildlife Standards for
1440 Timber Sales (Eastside Screens) (1995), and the Pacific Northwest Region Invasive Plant
1441 Program, Preventing and Managing Invasive Plants (2005).

1442 *No-Action Alternative Relationship to the Significant Issues and the Need for Change*

1443 **Late-successional and Old Forest Management**

1444 The 1988 forest plan management direction emphasizes a fixed reserves approach for old growth
1445 habitat (MA 1) on about 3 percent of the forest (approximately 30,740 acres). Maintaining a fixed
1446 reserve system does not guarantee all the allocated acres are in a condition that currently contain
1447 old forests. Due to ongoing natural disturbance processes (fire or insect and disease), some stands
1448 may currently be in an early or midseral forest structural stage. Fixed reserves are at least
1449 300 acres in size, no scheduled timber harvest is permitted, and appropriate suppression occurs on
1450 all wildfires.

1451 Vegetation management on all other suitable lands follows the Eastside Screen amendment,
1452 designed to maintain habitat components for species associated with eastside late-successional
1453 forests including retention of live trees over 21 inches d.b.h. (diameter at breast height). The
1454 intent of the screens was to retain key habitat features, promote vigor and health of the forests,
1455 and preserve management options until replaced by a landscape-scale analysis process.

1456 **Timber Production**

1457 The 1988 Colville National Forest Plan describes the long-term sustained yield (LTSY) for the
1458 forest at 170.7 million board feet (MMBF) per year with an annual allowable sale quantity (ASQ)
1459 of 123 MMBF.

1460 However, amendments such as INFISH and the Eastside Screens have changed the
1461 implementation of forest plan, reducing both the LTSY and the ASQ. The effects of these
1462 subsequent amendments are included in chapter 3.

1463 Scheduled timber production is suitable on 49 percent of the forest. Timber harvest for other
1464 resource objectives is allowed on 29 percent of the forest. The annual predicted wood sale
1465 quantity under the no-action alternative (1988 forest plan, as amended) is 41 MMBF.

1466 **Motorized Recreation Trails**

1467 The current forest plan provides direction for motorized uses associated with both seasons. It
1468 identifies where motorized recreation use may not be authorized or may be limited for the
1469 protection of aquatic, plant and wildlife habitats. In addition, summer motorized recreation use is

1470 also restricted to those routes (roads and trails) identified on the Forest's current-year motor
1471 vehicle use map (MVUM), which was developed in response to Subpart B of the 2005 Travel
1472 Management Rule (Forest Plan Amendment #31 – Clarification of Forest Plan Direction
1473 Regarding Motor Vehicle Use (2008)). Summer motorized trails make up 36 percent of the total
1474 summer trail miles designated for motor vehicle use on the Forest.

1475 About 1.2 percent of total forest acreage is in a backcountry motorized recreation management
1476 area, providing limited motorized recreation opportunities in an unroaded setting.

1477 **Access**

1478 Currently, the Colville National Forest manages approximately 4,000 miles of National Forest
1479 System roads. The 1988 forest plan identifies 83 percent of the forest as suitable for road
1480 construction, but plan direction requires newly constructed project roads to be closed after use
1481 unless otherwise justified in a site-specific analysis. Road density desired conditions vary from
1482 0.4 mile per square mile to 1.5 miles per square mile of open road depending on the management
1483 area emphasis to protect species such as elk and deer. Additional direction from the Interagency
1484 Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC) describes open road density (1 mile per square mile) and total
1485 road density (2 miles per square mile) within bear management units in the Selkirk Ecosystem of
1486 the Grizzly Bear Recovery Zone. Other access management and road construction suitability
1487 guidance comes from the 2013 Lynx Conservation Assessment and Strategy, the Caribou Winter
1488 Recreation Strategy, and the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

1489 However, there is concern that the current road system is not aligned with current and future
1490 management objectives or budgets. In addition, the current forest plan does not address how roads
1491 and road management may affect hydrologic function and processes, and water quality, or the
1492 best science related to road-related disturbance effects to a broader list of species.

1493 **Recommended Wilderness**

1494 The Salmo-Priest Wilderness (congressionally designated) covers about 3 percent of the Colville
1495 National Forest. The 1988 forest plan does not include any recommendations for additional
1496 wilderness.

1497 **Wildlife**

1498 The 1988 forest plan emphasizes habitat for deer and elk through guidelines for human access
1499 (see previous Access section), retention or creation of thermal cover, and retention or creation of
1500 forage. Other species were addressed through management area designation or specific standards
1501 and guidelines. In 1995, the forest plan was amended with the Eastside Screens to provide
1502 additional management guidance for wildlife species associated with late successional and old
1503 forest habitat. However, this was intended to be interim direction, and implementation over the
1504 last 20 years has revealed shortcomings in this one-suite of species management approach. In
1505 addition to the issues related to addressing vegetative system resiliency for late-successional and
1506 old forests discussed previously, the diameter size emphasis of the Eastside Screens lacks
1507 direction for other important habitat structure elements such as snags and downed logs.

1508 In addition, the no-action alternative does not address the need to incorporate the conservation
1509 strategy, critical habitat, and recovery plan direction for federally listed species and best science
1510 for providing viability for other at-risk species.

1511 **Riparian and Aquatic Resources**

1512 The Colville Forest plan was amended by the Inland Native Fish Strategy (INFISH) (USDA
 1513 Forest Service 1995a) which provides additional watershed direction intended to restore and
 1514 maintain the ecological health of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems on National Forest lands for
 1515 native resident fisheries. INFISH established riparian habitat conservation areas (RHCA) and a
 1516 priority watershed network. INFISH also incorporated riparian management objectives (RMOs),
 1517 and additional goals, standards and guidelines (with no distinction between standards and
 1518 guidelines) to restore and maintain riparian and aquatic resources into the Colville Forest plan.

1519 The 1995 INFISH was intended to be an interim strategy and does not provide a comprehensive
 1520 watershed, aquatic, and riparian conservation and restoration strategy. Although there are
 1521 indications aquatic habitat conditions may be slowly improving under current management,
 1522 continuing with the interim strategy would not address the need to integrate restoration of
 1523 terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems or facilitate integrated management of aquatic resources with
 1524 upslope terrestrial vegetation and recreation management.

1525 **Riparian Widths**

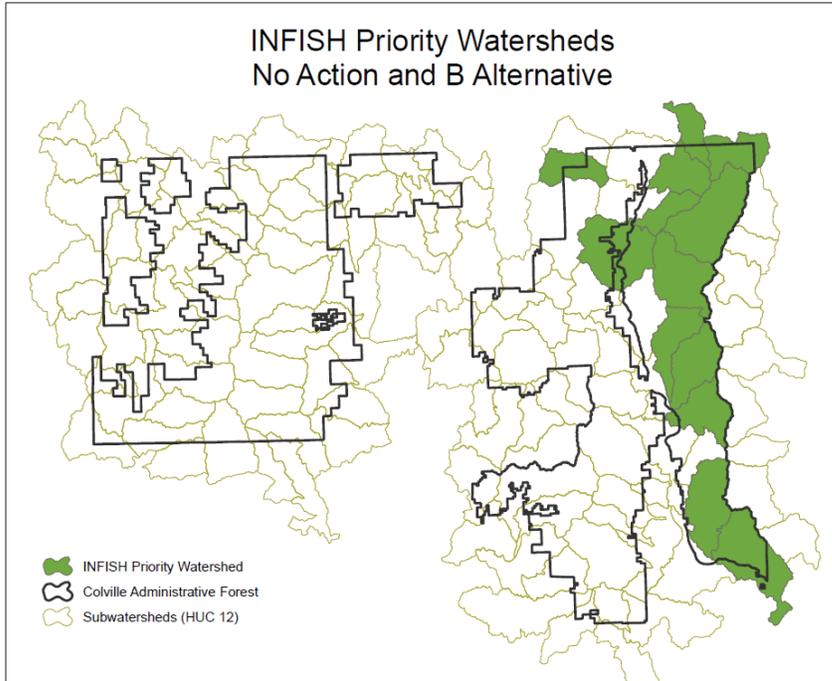
1526 RHCAs defined in INFISH are areas where riparian-dependent ecosystems receive primary
 1527 emphasis, and management activities are subject to specific standards and guidelines (USDA
 1528 Forest Service 1995a). RHCA widths are shown in table 7. RHCA widths may be increased or
 1529 decreased when necessary to attain RMOs when site-specific data supports the change.

1530 **Table 7. Riparian habitat conservation area (RHCA) width**

Stream and water body classification	RHCA width
Fish-bearing streams	300 feet slope distance on each side (600 feet total)
Permanently flowing non-fish-bearing streams	150 feet slope distance on each side (300 feet total)
Ponds, lakes, reservoirs and wetlands greater than 1 acre	150 feet slope distance around feature
Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams, wetlands less than 1 acre	100 feet slope distance in priority watersheds, 50 feet slope distance in non-priority watersheds.

1531 **Priority Watershed Network**

1532 INFISH priority watersheds on the Colville National Forest were originally designated in 1998
 1533 and updated in 2001. INFISH designated as “priority” watersheds those areas “having excellent
 1534 habitat or strong assemblages of inland native fish, particularly bull trout, or watersheds that
 1535 provide for population distribution goals, or watersheds having a high restoration potential”
 1536 (USDA Forest Service 1995a). The INFISH priority network on the Colville National Forest is
 1537 shown in figure 3. RHCA widths in priority watersheds under INFISH are wider than RHCA
 1538 widths in non-priority watersheds for non-fish-bearing intermittent streams and wetlands less than
 1539 1 acre (table 7). In INFISH priority watersheds, watershed analysis is required before certain road
 1540 activities and construction of new recreation facilities are permitted in RHCAs, and there are
 1541 specific protections against increased sedimentation through prioritization of road treatments in
 1542 priority watersheds.



1543
1544

Figure 3. INFISH Priority Watersheds for no action and alternative B

1545 **Proposed Action**

1546 We developed the proposed action to address the need for change related to managing vegetation
1547 to be more resilient to disturbances, to maintain or restore ecological conditions that contribute to
1548 species diversity and the recovery and viability of at-risk species, and to provide integrated
1549 management direction to maintain and restore properly functioning watersheds. It also addresses
1550 the need to provide a sustainable flow of timber and both motorized and non-motorized recreation
1551 opportunities to provide economic and social contributions to the community and nation.

1552 In particular, the proposed action: (1) applies landscape ecology concepts to provide for
1553 ecological resilience to disturbances, including wildfire and the effects of climate change,
1554 (2) incorporates science related to the recovery of terrestrial and aquatic threatened and
1555 endangered species, (3) integrates plan components for water resources and riparian areas, and
1556 (4) recommends 101,390 acres as additions to the Wilderness Preservation System.

1557 Both active management, which includes timber harvest, non-commercial thinning, planned
1558 ignitions, and passive management, which includes using unplanned ignitions and natural
1559 processes, would be used to move vegetation toward desired conditions.

1560 *Proposed Action Alternative Relationship to the Significant Issues*

1561 **Late-Successional and Old Forest Management**

1562 Unlike the 1988 forest plan (no-action alternative), the proposed action would use a dynamic
1563 landscape approach¹⁴ for providing late forest structure, allowing late structure forests to shift
1564 location in response to ecological processes (e.g., wildfires). Forestwide desired conditions for
1565 forest structure would be based on historic range of variability (see table 4). Late-successional

¹⁴ See chapter 3 for a detailed description of the dynamic landscape approach.

1566 forests would be managed in different ways depending on the management area-specific desired
1567 conditions. For example, in management areas where roads are present, planned ignition and
1568 timber harvest may both be utilized whereas in areas with less access or with other management
1569 emphasis, unplanned ignitions may be the optimal tool.

1570 **Timber Production**

1571 Scheduled timber production would be suitable on 59 percent of the forest. Timber harvest for
1572 other resource objectives would be allowed on 19 percent of the forest. The annual predicted
1573 wood sale quantity would be 62 MMBF.

1574 **Motorized Recreation Trails**

1575 The proposed action would increase the opportunity for backcountry motorized and non-
1576 motorized recreation to address the increase in visitor use due to population growth and changing
1577 demographics described in the need for change related to social systems. It would offer a range of
1578 recreation settings in both the front (roaded setting) and backcountry (unroaded setting) to
1579 accommodate how people use and access the forest.

1580 Approximately six percent of the forest would be allocated to the Backcountry Motorized MA,
1581 which would be suitable for summer and winter motorized recreation. Approximately eight
1582 percent of the forest would be allocated to the Backcountry MA, which would emphasize non-
1583 motorized recreation opportunities and would not be suitable for motorized recreation. (Both would
1584 be suitable for mechanized use.) The other roaded management areas would provide an additional
1585 71 percent of the forest as suitable for summer and winter motorized recreation.

1586 **Access**

1587 The proposed action would reduce suitability for roads to 73 percent of the forest (compared to
1588 83 percent in the no-action alternative). It would also include desired conditions for total road
1589 densities to address terrestrial wildlife (e.g., grizzly bear), hydrologic function, and aquatic
1590 species (e.g., bull trout) habitat needs while continuing to maintain an access system of
1591 authorized roads that are safe, affordable, and environmentally sound. The road density desired
1592 conditions would vary from 2.0 miles per square mile in the Focused Restoration MA to 3.0 miles
1593 per square mile in the General Restoration MA (both averaged at the 5th field watershed).

1594 **Recommended Wilderness**

1595 By law, all NFS lands must be evaluated for possible wilderness recommendation during the plan
1596 revision process. This evaluation showed a need for additional wilderness opportunities on the
1597 forest.

1598 The proposed action would recommend 9 percent of the forest for wilderness. These areas would
1599 include Abercrombie-Hooknose (35,080 acres), Bald Snow (15,200 acres), Hoodoo
1600 (11,010 acres), Profanity (26,550 acres), and Salmo-Priest Adjacent (13,550 acres) inventoried
1601 roadless areas. Forest plan components would direct that the wilderness character and potential
1602 for each area recommended is to remain intact until congressional action is taken or the area is
1603 released from consideration through a future plan amendment or revision. Existing mechanized
1604 uses would be allowed to continue, but no new motorized or mechanized recreation opportunities
1605 would be allowed.

1606 **Wildlife**

1607 In addition to the ecosystem plan components for managing vegetation through a dynamic
 1608 landscape approach and addressing habitat connectivity through road density desired conditions
 1609 (described above), the proposed action would include species-specific management direction for
 1610 surrogate wildlife species associated with late-successional habitat structures through proposed
 1611 plan components for late successional habitat, retention of snag habitat, and down woody debris.

1612 **Riparian and Aquatic Resources**

1613 The proposed action would address the need for updated, integrated direction for watershed,
 1614 aquatic and riparian management and would increase the pace and scale of aquatic restoration.
 1615 Riparian and aquatic resource direction that would be included in the proposed action is based on
 1616 the Region 6 Aquatic and Riparian Conservation Strategy (ARCS) (USDA Forest Service 2008),
 1617 which is a refinement of earlier strategies and plans including the Aquatic Restoration Strategy
 1618 (ARS) (USDA 2005), the Northwest Forest Plan (USDA Forest Service and USDI BLM, 1994),
 1619 PACFISH (USDA and USDI 1995), and INFISH (USDA Forest Service 1994c and 1995). ARCS
 1620 includes designation of riparian management areas, designation of a key watershed network, and
 1621 a core set of desired conditions, objectives, standards and guidelines, designed to provide
 1622 ecological conditions conducive to maintaining, restoring, and enhancing habitat necessary to
 1623 sustain aquatic and riparian-dependent species on NFS lands.

1624 **Riparian Widths**

1625 Riparian management areas (RMAs) are areas where riparian-dependent resources receive
 1626 primary emphasis and are designated for all streams and aquatic features. RMAs would not
 1627 prohibit management activities, but management in RMAs should contribute to maintaining or
 1628 moving RMAs toward desired conditions. Compared to the no-action alternative, the RMAs in
 1629 the proposed action would be more protective due to the increased RMA-width buffer on
 1630 intermittent streams and natural lakes and ponds.

1631 **Table 8. Riparian management area width**

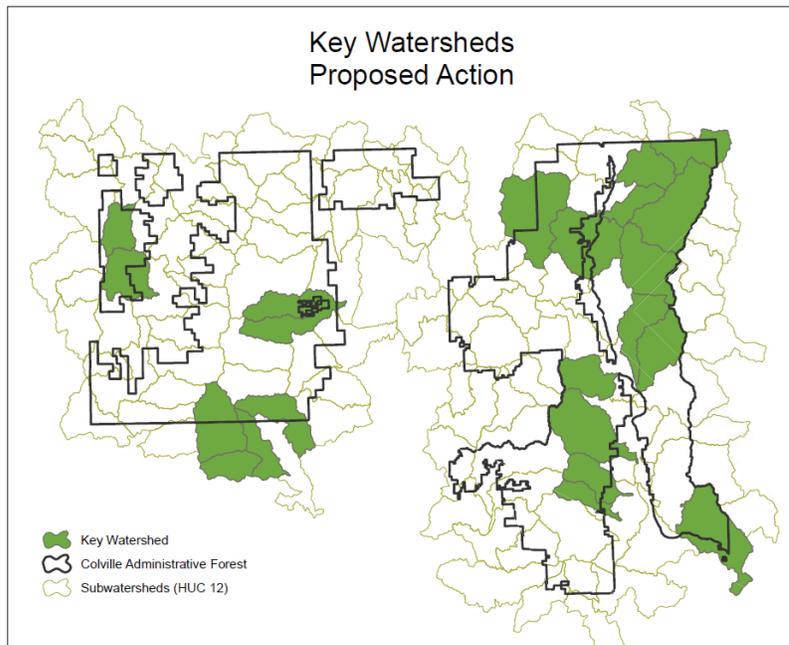
Stream and water body classification	Riparian Management Area width
Fish-bearing streams	300 feet slope distance on each side (600 feet total)
Permanently flowing non-fish-bearing streams	150 feet slope distance on each side (300 feet total)
Lakes and natural ponds	300 feet slope distance around feature
Constructed ponds, and reservoirs and wetlands greater than 1 acre	150 feet slope distance around feature
Seasonally flowing or intermittent streams; wetlands, seeps, and springs less than 1 acre, and unstable or potentially unstable areas	100 feet slope distance from stream (200 feet total), 100 feet slope distance around wetland, seep, spring, or unstable or potentially unstable area

1632 **Key Watersheds**

1633 Key watersheds are a network of watersheds that serve as strongholds for important aquatic
 1634 resources or have the potential to do so through focused restoration (USDA Forest Service 2008).
 1635 Key watersheds are designated at the subwatershed scale and were selected based on population
 1636 condition of focal aquatic species (interior redband trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and bull
 1637 trout), and aquatic habitat condition and function. Management in key watersheds minimizes risk
 1638 and maximizes restoration and preservation of ecological health. The key watershed network in
 1639 the proposed action was identified in 2011, and would expand the INFISH priority network in the
 1640 no-action alternative with the addition of 13 additional subwatersheds. Four subwatersheds in the

1641 INFISH priority network were not included in the key watershed network for the proposed action
1642 because they did not have the aquatic habitat conditions or focal species population necessary for
1643 designation as a key watershed.

1644 The proposed action also includes measureable restoration objectives for key watersheds. The
1645 establishment of a key watershed network and measurable restoration objectives for key
1646 watersheds is a significant difference between the proposed action and the no-action alternative.



1647
1648 **Figure 4. Key watershed network under the proposed action¹⁵**

1649 Alternative P (Modified Proposed Action)

1650 Alternative P responds to public concern that management direction as shown in other
1651 alternatives could result in lower revenue to local economies, reduced ability to address fuel
1652 levels and wildfire risk to adjacent communities, protection of water quality, and ability to
1653 provide a mix of recreation opportunities, while also addressing multiple-use management and
1654 development of resilient landscapes. This alternative would propose the same management areas
1655 as the proposed action, but would vary the location of those allocations on the landscape with the
1656 intent to provide a sustained flow of economic contributions to the local communities, and adds
1657 the Kettle Crest Special Interest Area (approximately 82,800 acres).

1658 In particular, alternative P would: (1) apply landscape ecology concepts to provide for ecological
1659 resilience to disturbances, including wildfire and the effects of climate change, (2) incorporate
1660 science related to the recovery of terrestrial and aquatic threatened and endangered species,
1661 (3) integrate plan components for water resources and riparian areas using ARCS-modified, and
1662 (4) recommend 68,300 acres as additions to the Wilderness Preservation System.

¹⁵ Management direction and desired conditions apply only to NFS lands. Portions of key watersheds outside the Colville National Forest boundary are shown for informational purposes only.

1663 Both active management (timber harvest, non-commercial thinning, and planned ignitions), and
1664 passive management (unplanned ignitions and natural processes), would be utilized to move
1665 vegetation toward desired conditions.

1666 *Alternative P Relationship to the Significant Issues and the Need for Change*

1667 **Late-Successional and Old Forest Management**

1668 Unlike the no-action alternative, alternative P would use the dynamic landscape approach
1669 described in the proposed action to manage vegetation toward desired conditions (figure 4).

1670 **Timber Production**

1671 Scheduled timber production would be suitable on 60 percent of the forest. Timber harvest for
1672 other resource objectives would be allowed on 18 percent of the forest. The annual predicted
1673 wood sale quantity would be 62 MMBF.

1674 **Motorized Recreation Trails**

1675 Alternative P is similar to the proposed action, increasing the opportunity for backcountry
1676 (unroaded setting) motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities. Approximately five
1677 percent of the forest would be allocated to the Backcountry Motorized MA, which would be
1678 suitable for summer and winter motorized recreation. Approximately eight percent of the forest
1679 would be allocated to the Backcountry MA, which would emphasize non-motorized recreation
1680 opportunities and would not be suitable for motorized recreation. (Both would be suitable for
1681 mechanized use.) The other roaded management areas would provide an additional 73 percent of
1682 the forest as suitable for summer and winter motorized recreation.

1683 **Access**

1684 Alternative P would reduce suitability for roads to 75 percent of the forest (compared to
1685 83 percent in the no-action alternative). Similar to the proposed action, it would also include
1686 desired conditions for total road densities to address terrestrial wildlife (e.g., grizzly bear),
1687 hydrologic function, and aquatic species (e.g., bull trout) habitat needs while continuing to
1688 maintain an access system of authorized roads that are safe, affordable, and environmentally
1689 sound. However, in alternative P, the road density desired conditions would vary from no greater
1690 than 1.0 mile per square mile in the Focused Restoration MA to no greater than 2.0 miles per
1691 square mile in the General Restoration MA (both averaged at the 5th field watershed).

1692 **Recommended Wilderness**

1693 Alternative P would recommend 6 percent of the forest for wilderness. These areas would include
1694 Abercrombie-Hooknose (37,660 acres), Bald Snow (14,693 acres), and Salmo-Priest Adjacent
1695 (16,710 acres) inventoried roadless areas. Forest plan components would direct that the
1696 wilderness character and potential for each area recommended is to remain intact until
1697 congressional action is or the area is released from consideration through a future plan
1698 amendment or revision. Existing mechanized uses would be allowed to continue, but no new
1699 motorized or mechanized recreation opportunities would be allowed.

1700 **Wildlife**

1701 Like the proposed action, alternative P would provide ecosystem plan components for managing
1702 vegetation through a dynamic landscape approach, and would address habitat connectivity
1703 through road density desired conditions and motorized recreation suitability (described above).

1704 And, like the proposed action, it would include species-specific management direction for
1705 surrogate wildlife species that are associated with these late-successional habitat structures
1706 through proposed plan components for large trees, retention of snag habitat, and down woody
1707 debris.

1708 **Riparian and Aquatic Resources**

1709 Riparian and aquatic resource direction in alternative P would be based on ARCS (described in
1710 the proposed action), but would incorporate additional management direction to address issues
1711 specific to the Colville National Forest. The incorporation of additional desired conditions,
1712 objectives, and standards and guidelines is referred to as “ARCS-modified.”

1713 Examples of the additional plan direction in ARCS-modified include:

- 1714 1. Additional desired conditions for general water resources and roads in RMAs.
- 1715 2. Clarity to riparian management area objectives that address improvement of riparian
1716 function at dispersed and developed recreation sites, restoration of riparian processes
1717 altered by roads, and restoration of upland vegetation in riparian management areas
1718 toward historic range of variation.
- 1719 3. Additional objectives for key watersheds tied to the National Watershed Condition
1720 Framework and threatened, endangered and sensitive species recovery plans.
- 1721 4. Plan components to prevent and control aquatic invasive species, improve watershed
1722 and aquatic habitat function, improve aquatic organism passage, and address
1723 livestock grazing effects to greenline areas.

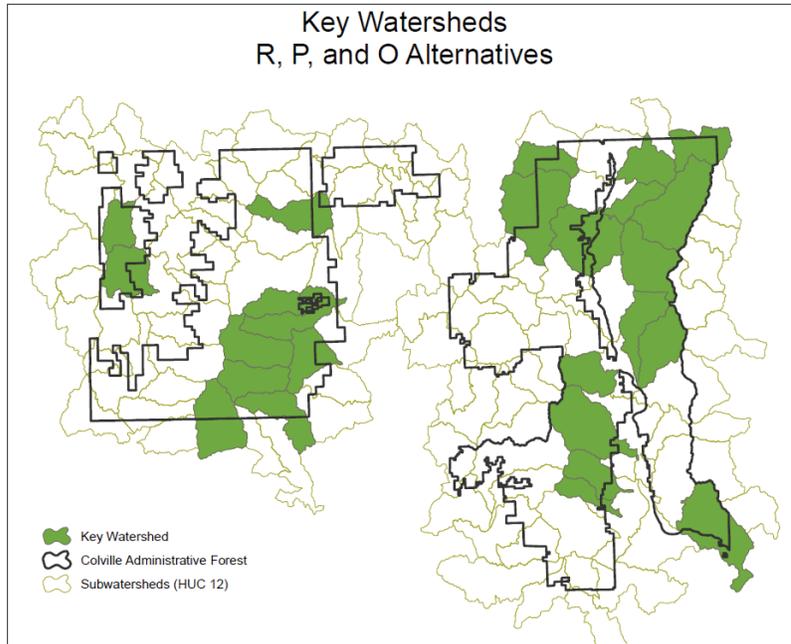
1724 **Riparian Widths**

1725 RMA widths would be the same as the proposed action (table 8).

1726 **Key Watersheds**

1727 At the time the proposed action alternative was released to the public, the key watershed network
1728 was delineated at the subwatershed scale. Boundaries, names, and numbers of subwatersheds
1729 have changed since that release, and additional fish distribution and aquatic habitat data were
1730 gathered. The key watershed network in alternatives R, P, and O was updated using the most
1731 current (2014) subwatershed delineations, fish distribution data, and aquatic habitat condition
1732 data (figure 5). The key watershed network would be larger in alternative P than in the proposed
1733 action.

1734 Compared to the proposed action, five subwatersheds were added to the key watershed network
1735 and three subwatersheds were removed because they had less than 25 percent Colville National
1736 Forest ownership.



1737
1738

Figure 5. Key watershed network under alternatives P, R, and O

1739 **Alternative R**

1740 Alternative R responds to the public comments that support static late forest structure reserve land
1741 allocations, emphasis on maintaining habitat components for species associated with eastside late
1742 successional forests, and a 21-inch upper diameter limit on cutting live trees, similar to the no-
1743 action alternative. Public issues concerning potential impacts that road access and summer
1744 motorized trail use may have on aquatic, riparian, and wildlife habitats, including grizzly core
1745 areas and habitat connectivity are addressed through lower road density desired conditions, few
1746 acres allocated for backcountry motorized recreation, and a high proportion of recommended
1747 wilderness areas. Likewise, alternative R responds to public concerns that ARCS would not
1748 provide watershed, aquatic, and riparian resource protection as effective as the INFISH.

1749 In particular, alternative R would: (1) substantially increase late-successional reserves in both the
1750 number of acres and the size and connectivity of the areas, (2) integrate plan components for
1751 water resources and riparian areas using ARCS-modified, and (3) recommend 207,800 acres as
1752 additions to the Wilderness Preservation System.

1753 Although active management (timber harvest, non-commercial thinning, and planned ignitions)
1754 would be used as management tools where suitable, alternative R would have more emphasis on
1755 passive management (unplanned ignitions and natural processes) to move vegetation toward
1756 desired conditions as a result of management area allocations.

1757 *Alternative R Relationship to the Significant Issues and the Need for Change*

1758 **Late-successional and Old Forest Management**

1759 Like the no-action alternative, this alternative would use a fixed reserve management approach to
1760 maintain late forest structure in fixed geographic locations. Fixed reserves would be allocated
1761 across 51 percent of the forest in a Late Structure MA. Although not suitable for timber
1762 production, timber harvest would be used as a management tool to maintain and improve

1763 resiliency of the late and old forest habitat components (e.g., structure such as large and old trees,
1764 large snags, and downed wood). In addition, alternative R would retain emphasis on maintaining
1765 habitat components for species associated with eastside late successional forests and the 21-inch
1766 upper diameter limit on cutting live trees.

1767 **Timber Production**

1768 Scheduled timber production would be suitable on 12 percent of the Forest. Timber harvest for
1769 other resource objectives would be allowed on 66 percent of the Forest. The annual predicted
1770 wood sale quantity would be 14 MMBF.

1771 **Motorized Recreation Trails**

1772 The amount of area allocated to backcountry recreation opportunities (unroaded setting) is similar
1773 to the no-action alternative. Less than one percent of the forest would be allocated to the
1774 Backcountry Motorized MA (suitable for summer and winter motorized recreation) and
1775 approximately two percent of the Forest would be allocated to a Backcountry MA (not suitable
1776 for motorized recreation). (Both would be suitable for mechanized recreation use.) Although the
1777 other roaded MAs would provide an additional 73 percent of the Forest as suitable for summer
1778 and winter motorized recreation, the increase in recommended wilderness (see description below)
1779 would reduce both motorized and mechanized recreation opportunities compared to the no-action
1780 alternative.

1781 **Access**

1782 Alternative R would reduce suitability for roads to 75 percent of the Forest (compared to
1783 83 percent in the no-action alternative). It would also include desired conditions for total road
1784 densities to address terrestrial wildlife (e.g., grizzly bear), hydrologic function, and aquatic
1785 species (e.g., bull trout) habitat needs while continuing to maintain an access system of
1786 authorized roads that are safe, affordable, and environmentally sound. The road density desired
1787 conditions would vary from no greater than 1.0 mile per square mile in the Late Forest Structure
1788 MA to no greater than 2.0 miles per square mile in the General Restoration MA (both averaged at
1789 the 5th field watershed).

1790 **Recommended Wilderness**

1791 This alternative would recommend 19 percent of the Forest as wilderness. The areas that would
1792 be recommended are described in table 9. Forest plan components would direct that the
1793 wilderness character and potential for each area recommended is to remain intact until
1794 congressional action is taken or the area is released from consideration through a future plan
1795 amendment or revision. Mechanized and motorized use would not be suitable and a site-specific
1796 prohibition (per 36 CFR 261) would accompany the record of decision for the forest plan.

1797

1798

Table 9. Alternative R recommended wilderness

Inventoried Roadless Area	Acres
Abercrombie-Hooknose	37,650
Bald Snow	18,810
Cougar Mountain	6,210
Deer Creek	5,820
Grassy Top	2,200
Hall Mountain	7,890
Harvey Creek	5,720
Hoodoo	11,060
Jackknife	8,940
Owl Mountain	11,060
Profanity	37,770
Quartzite	5,340
Salmo-Priest Adjacent	15,980
South Huckleberry	9,680
Thirteenmile	10,890
Twin Sisters	14,610

1799

Wildlife

1800
1801
1802
1803
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1805
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1807

Although alternative R would maintain the fixed reserves management approach for late-successional and old forest habitat, it also would include species-specific management direction for surrogate wildlife species that are associated with these late-successional habitat structures through proposed plan components for large trees, retention of snag habitat, and down woody debris. Also, compared to the no-action alternative, habitat connectivity would be addressed through reduced road density desired conditions and reduced acres suitable for motorized recreation. (See previous motorized trail recreation, access, and recommended wilderness descriptions).

1808

Riparian and Aquatic Resources

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Riparian management area widths, the key watershed network and designation process, and riparian and aquatic resource goals, objectives, standards, and guidelines (ARCS-modified) are the same as alternative P. Unlike the no-action alternative, this addresses the need for updated, integrated direction for watershed, aquatic, and riparian management.

1813

Alternative B

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Alternative B combines feedback from timber and environmental interest groups and incorporates management strategies supported by the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition. Alternative B would address the concerns of multiple constituencies in one alternative by balancing land allocations between areas emphasizing active management (timber management zones), emphasizing a mix of active and passive management (restoration areas), and emphasizing passive management (designated and recommended wilderness).

1820
1821
1822

Like the no-action alternative, alternative B would retain the Eastside Screens, 21-inch upper diameter limit for cutting live trees, and the large-scale reserve approach for late-successional forest structure. However, it would include additional plan components to limit mechanical

1823 restoration treatments (timber harvest) in late-successional structure to dry plant association
1824 groups only.

1825 Where plan components were not identified by the collaborative group, the 1988 Colville Forest
1826 Plan (no-action alternative) would provide plan direction (remain unchanged).

1827 Active management (timber harvest and non-commercial thinning) would be emphasized in the
1828 Active Management MA, although the retention of the Eastside Screens would limit their
1829 continued application over time. Passive management (unplanned ignitions and natural processes)
1830 would be emphasized in the other management areas across the Forest.

1831 *Alternative B Relationship to the Significant Issues and the Need for Change*

1832 **Late-Successional and Old Forest Management**

1833 Like the no-action alternative, this alternative would use a fixed reserve management approach to
1834 maintain late forest structure in fixed geographic locations on 31 percent of the Forest. However,
1835 alternative B would include plan components to exclude timber harvest as a management tool in
1836 late-successional mixed conifer stands. Restoration of ecological integrity and ecosystem function
1837 would be achieved primarily through natural process with limited active management activity in
1838 late forest structure habitat. In addition, alternative B would retain the 21-inch upper diameter
1839 limit on cutting live trees.

1840 **Timber Production**

1841 Scheduled timber production would be suitable on 35 percent of the Forest. Timber harvest for
1842 other resource objectives would be allowed on 43 percent of the Forest. The annual predicted
1843 wood sale quantity would be 37 MMBF.

1844 **Motorized Recreation Trails**

1845 Alternative B would provide less backcountry motorized recreation opportunities (unroaded
1846 setting) than the no-action alternative as less than one percent would be allocated to the
1847 Backcountry Motorized MA. Although an additional 74 percent of the Forest would be suitable
1848 for summer and winter motorized recreation in the other roaded management areas, the increase
1849 in recommended wilderness (see description below), would reduce both motorized and
1850 mechanized recreation opportunities compared to the no-action alternative.

1851 **Access**

1852 Alternative B would reduce suitability for roads to 74 percent of the Forest (compared to
1853 83 percent in the no-action alternative). Additionally, this alternative would cap total miles of
1854 NFS roads at the current level, about 4,000 miles, and would include a standard stating that for
1855 any miles added to the NFS road system, an equal amount of existing road miles would be
1856 required to be decommissioned. This standard was developed to address public concerns about
1857 potential resource damage caused by the road system and would be intended to mitigate road-
1858 related resource impacts in contrast with the road density desired condition approach of the
1859 proposed action.

1860 **Recommended Wilderness**

1861 Alternative B would recommend 20 percent of the Forest for wilderness. The areas that would be
1862 recommended are described in table 10. Forest plan components would direct that the wilderness
1863 character and potential for each area recommended is to remain intact until congressional action

1864 is taken or the area is released from consideration through a future plan amendment or revision.
 1865 Mechanized and motorized use would not be suitable and a site-specific prohibition (per 36 CFR
 1866 261) would accompany the record of decision for the forest plan.

1867 **Table 10. Alternative B recommended wilderness**

Inventoried Roadless Area	Acres
Abercrombie-Hooknose	37,600
Bald Snow	19,880
Bodie Mountain	4,510
Clackamas Mountain	430
Cougar Mountain	6,140
Deer Creek	5,820
Grassy Top	2,200
Hall Mountain	7,890
Harvey Creek	5,690
Hoodoo	11,690
Jackknife	8,940
Jackson Creek	3,000
Owl Mountain	11,060
Profanity	37,650
Quartzite	5,360
Salmo-Priest Adjacent	15,960
South Fork Mountain	1,190
South Huckleberry	9,920
Thirteenmile	10,870
Twin Sisters	14,530

1868 **Wildlife**

1869 Like the no-action alternative, alternative B would maintain the fixed reserves management
 1870 approach for late-successional and old forest habitat, but it also would include species-specific
 1871 management direction for surrogate wildlife species that are associated with these late-
 1872 successional habitat structures through proposed plan components for retention of snag habitat
 1873 and down woody debris. Also, compared to the no-action alternative, habitat connectivity would
 1874 be addressed through reduced acres suitable for roads and motorized recreation. (See previous
 1875 motorized trail recreation, access, and recommended wilderness descriptions.)

1876 **Riparian and Aquatic Resources**

1877 Like the no-action alternative, alternative B would continue riparian and aquatic management
 1878 under INFISH. Riparian habitat conservation area widths, the priority watershed network, and
 1879 riparian and aquatic resource goals objectives, standards, and guidelines would all remain the
 1880 same as the current forest plan.

1881 **Alternative O**

1882 Alternative O was designed to reflect areas of agreement expressed by participants at a series of
1883 public meetings that focused on motorized recreation, wilderness recommendations, and
1884 vegetation management.

1885 Similar to alternative B, the intent of alternative O would be to balance land allocations between
1886 areas emphasizing active management (Responsible MA), emphasizing a mix of active and
1887 passive management (Restoration MA), and emphasizing passive management (backcountry MAs
1888 and recommended/designated wilderness). Like the no-action alternative, this alternative would
1889 retain the Eastside Screens, 21-inch upper diameter limit for cutting live trees, and the large-scale
1890 reserve approach for late-successional forest structure.

1891 Where the collaborative group did not identify plan components, the proposed action would
1892 provide plan direction. This would include management direction to (1) incorporate science
1893 related to the recovery of terrestrial and aquatic threatened and endangered species and
1894 (2) integrate plan components for water resources and riparian areas (ARCS).

1895 Alternative O would designate 99,000 acres as the Kettle Crest Recreation SIA.

1896 *Alternative O Relationship to the Significant Issues and the Need for Change*

1897 **Late-Successional and Old Forest Management**

1898 Like the no-action alternative and alternative B, this alternative would use a fixed reserve
1899 management approach to maintain late forest structure in fixed geographic locations on
1900 34 percent of the Forest. It would include plan components to exclude timber harvest as a
1901 management tool in late-successional mixed conifer stands. Restoration of ecological integrity
1902 and ecosystem function would be achieved primarily through natural process with limited active
1903 management activity in late forest structure habitat. In addition, alternative O would retain the 21-
1904 inch upper diameter limit on cutting live trees.

1905 **Timber Production**

1906 Scheduled timber production would be suitable on 32 percent of the Forest. Timber harvest for
1907 other resource objectives would be allowed on 46 percent of the Forest. The annual predicted
1908 wood sale quantity would be 38 MMBF.

1909 **Motorized Recreation Trails**

1910 Alternative O would increase the opportunity for backcountry (unroaded setting) motorized and
1911 non-motorized recreation opportunities. Approximately 5 percent of the Forest would be allocated
1912 to the Backcountry Motorized MA (suitable for summer and winter motorized recreation) and
1913 approximately 16 percent would be allocated to the Backcountry MA (not suitable for motorized
1914 recreation). (Both would be suitable for mechanized use.) An additional 73 percent of the Forest
1915 would be suitable for summer and winter motorized recreation in the other roaded MAs.

1916 Unique to this alternative and in acknowledgement of ongoing public disagreement around
1917 wilderness recommendations, a 99,000-acre recreation special interest area along the Kettle Crest
1918 would be created including areas both north and south of Sherman Pass. Management emphasis
1919 of the Kettle Crest Special Interest Area would emphasize outstanding recreational values in a
1920 semi-primitive setting and would allow uses (roads, motorized and non-motorized recreation, and

1921 vegetation management for example) to the extent that the uses were in harmony with the special
1922 recreation values of the area.

1923 **Access**

1924 Alternative O would reduce suitability for roads to 74 percent of the Forest (compared to
1925 83 percent in the no-action alternative). Additionally, this alternative would cap total miles of
1926 NFS roads at the current level, about 4,000 miles, and would include a standard stating that for
1927 any miles added to the NFS road system, an equal amount of existing road miles would be
1928 required to be decommissioned. This standard was developed to address public concerns about
1929 potential resource damage caused by the road system and would be intended to mitigate road-
1930 related resource impacts, in contrast with the road density desired condition approach of the
1931 proposed action.

1932 **Recommended Wilderness**

1933 Alternative O would recommend 1 percent of the Forest for wilderness, the Salmo-Priest
1934 Adjacent area (15,950 acres). Forest plan components would direct that the wilderness character
1935 and potential for each area recommended is to remain intact until congressional action is taken or
1936 the area is released from consideration through a future plan amendment or revision. Existing
1937 mechanized uses would be allowed to continue, but no new motorized or mechanized recreation
1938 opportunities would be allowed.

1939 **Wildlife**

1940 Like the no-action alternative, alternative B would maintain the fixed reserves management
1941 approach for late-successional and old forest habitat, but it also would include species-specific
1942 management direction for surrogate wildlife species that are associated with these late-
1943 successional habitat structures through proposed plan components for retention of snag habitat
1944 and down woody debris. Also, compared to the no-action alternative, habitat connectivity would
1945 be addressed through reduced acres suitable for roads and motorized recreation. (See motorized
1946 trail recreation, access, and recommended wilderness descriptions above.)

1947 *Riparian and Aquatic Resource Management*

1948 Like the proposed action, riparian and aquatic resource direction would be integrated through the
1949 implementation of ARCS. However, riparian area widths and the key watershed network and
1950 designation process would be the same as alternatives R and P.

1951 **Alternatives Considered but Eliminated from Detailed Study**

1952 Federal agencies are required by NEPA to rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all
1953 reasonable alternatives and to briefly discuss the reasons for eliminating any alternatives that
1954 were not developed in detail (40 CFR 1502.14). Public comments received in response to the
1955 proposed action provided suggestions for alternative methods to address the need for change.
1956 Some of these alternatives may have been outside the scope of the need to revise the forest plan,
1957 duplicative of the alternatives considered in detail, or determined to be components that would
1958 cause unnecessary environmental harm. Therefore, a number of alternatives were considered but
1959 dismissed from detailed consideration for reasons summarized below.

1960 **Biological Capability Only**

1961 It was suggested that biological capability should be the only consideration in developing
1962 alternatives, rather than considering budget or perceived political or social constraints.

1963 First generation forest plans were developed and approved under national direction unconstrained
1964 by budget assumptions. Without considering reasonably foreseeable budgets, the 1980s-era forest
1965 plan established unrealistic expectations of activity and output. It would be disingenuous to
1966 continue to portray unrealistic objectives based on unconstrained or much higher budget levels.
1967 The Forest Service has learned it is important to analyze the effects of plan alternatives within the
1968 fiscal capability of the unit, because financial constraints are often the primary limiting factor in
1969 achieving desired conditions.

1970 **Alternatives that give priority to a single resource**

1971 The public suggested alternatives that would emphasize protection and restoration of watershed
1972 conditions or the unconstrained use of mineral-rich areas over all other resources. Alternatives
1973 that would not meet the intent of the NFMA's regulations for revising forest plans were also
1974 suggested.

1975 Use of biological considerations only, or managing the Forest as if it were all critical habitat for
1976 threatened or endangered species, in developing alternatives would not meet the intent of NFMA
1977 regulations for revising forest plans. The regulations speak to considering ranges of resource
1978 outputs, being responsive to public issues and management concerns, and delivering plans that
1979 provide for multiple uses. Access to and use of minerals is already covered by existing law,
1980 regulation, and policy.

1981 **Snowpack alternative**

1982 This alternative would emphasize retaining snowpack and returning stream flows to historic
1983 levels, implying that current stream flows are less than past conditions. The suggested approach
1984 to accomplish this would be by limiting tree cutting. However, increasing the density of the forest
1985 canopy would not feasibly increase stream flows (water yield). Rather research has shown that
1986 water yields increase and run-off time is altered when a substantial amount of the tree canopy
1987 area of a forested watershed is removed (Bosch and Hewlett 1981).

1988 **Inventoried Roadless Areas alternatives**

1989 Some members of the public suggested an alternative that promoted removing any constraints to
1990 road building and commercial timber harvest within inventoried roadless areas.

1991 However, management of inventoried roadless areas (outside of Idaho and Colorado), must
1992 follow the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule (36 CFR 294 Subpart B). The rule generally
1993 prohibits new road construction and reconstruction in inventoried roadless areas, and timber
1994 harvest is only permitted under a few limited exceptions. While NEPA allows consideration of
1995 alternatives that are contrary to rules, this issue has been litigated and affirmed by the courts.

1996 **Forest Rangeland and Renewable Resources Planning Act**

1997 The planning regulations at 36 CFR 219.12(f)(6) (1982) require that at least one alternative be
1998 developed "which responds to and incorporates the RPA [Resources Planning Act] Program
1999 tentative resource objectives for each forest displayed in the regional guide."

2000 The last RPA Program was developed in 1995. The requirement for a "RPA Program" was
2001 replaced in the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 with a requirement for the
2002 Agency to develop a Strategic Plan. Currently, the Forest Service Strategic Plan (FY2014 to
2003 2018) provides broad overarching national guidance for forest planning and national objectives

2004 for the Agency. All of the alternatives considered in detail in this EIS integrate these broad
2005 strategic objectives.

2006 **Minimum Level of Management**

2007 Under this alternative, only the minimum level of management needed to maintain and protect the
2008 Forest as a part of the National Forest System would be accomplished. No acres would be
2009 classified as suitable for timber production or grazing, no trees would be harvested, and no timber
2010 would be produced. Management would be solely focused on preventing resource damage or
2011 addressing the safety of forest visitors and would be limited to management of the recreation
2012 facilities, roads and trails. Treatments in wildland urban interface areas would continue to meet
2013 liability concerns.

2014 It was determined that this alternative should not be considered in any further detail because it
2015 would not meet the need for change identified for revising the current forest plan or address the
2016 significant issues raised by the public. It would also not meet the legal requirements of the
2017 Multiple Use Sustained Yield Act and National Forest Management Act to provide for multiple
2018 uses and benefits of the national forests.

Comparison of Alternatives

Chapter 3 presents a detailed description of the effects of the varying management allocations and plan components across alternatives. The following table provides a summary of effects by revision topic.

Table 11. Comparison of some plan revision key indicators

Resource and Indicator	No Action Alt	Proposed Action	Alt P	Alt R	Alt B	Alt O
Vegetation						
Uses a Fixed Reserves and Diameter Limit Management Approach for Managing Late-successional Reserves and Old Forest Habitat Versus Dynamic Landscape Management Approach	Fixed Reserves and Diameter Limit	Dynamic Landscape	Dynamic Landscape	Fixed Reserves and Diameter Limit	Fixed Reserves and Diameter Limit	Fixed Reserves and Diameter Limit
Timber Production ¹⁶						
Acres/Percentage Suitable for Timber Production	535,725 48%	653,242 59%	656,628 60%	129,420 12%	384,485 35%	347,535 32%
Acres/Percent Harvest Allowed for Other Resource Objectives	323,025 29%	205,508 19%	202,122 18%	729,330 66%	474,265 43%	511,215 46%
Predicted Wood Sale Quantity (PWSQ) MMBF CCF	41 82,800	62 125,900	62 125,400	14 28,900	37 77,000	38 77,000
Roads						
Percent of Forest Suitable for Roads	83%	73%	75%	75%	74%	74%

¹⁶ All outputs present in annual measurements

Proposed Revised Land Management Plan

Resource and Indicator	No Action Alt	Proposed Action	Alt P	Alt R	Alt B	Alt O
Total Road Density Desired Conditions versus Capping Road Miles at Existing	Road densities between 0.4-2 mi/mi ²	Road densities between 2-3 mi/mi ² and no net increase in key watersheds	Road densities between 1-2 mi/mi ² and no net increase in key watersheds and riparian MAs	Road densities between 1-2 mi/mi ² and no net increase in key watersheds and riparian MAs	Cap on existing mile and no net increase in key watersheds	Cap on existing miles
Recommended Wilderness						
Acres/Percent Recommended for Wilderness	0	101,390 9%	68,300 6%	207,800 19%	220,330 20%	15,950 1%
Existing Mechanized and Motorized a Suitable Use	Does Not Apply	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Change to Miles of Trail Currently Designated for Motor Vehicle Use (MVUM)	0	0	0	-39	-39	0
Change to Miles of Trail Suitable for Mechanized Use (Mountain Bikes)	0	-155	-177 ¹⁷	-220	-228	-31 ¹⁸
Designation of Kettle Crest Special Interest Area	No	No	Yes (82,800 acres)	No	No	Yes (99,000 acres)
Recreation						
Percent Forestwide Where Roads, Trails, and Areas may be Designated for Motor Vehicle Use (Suitable for Motorized Recreation)	89%	79%	80%	76%	75%	78%
Percent Forestwide with Non-motorized Recreation plan direction—Includes non-motorized Backcountry MA, RNAs, Recommended Wilderness, and Wilderness	11%	21%	20%	24%	25%	22%

¹⁷ Change in miles is based on effects if recommended wilderness became wilderness through congressional designation.

¹⁸ Change in miles is based on effects if recommended wilderness became wilderness through congressional designation.

Resource and Indicator	No Action Alt	Proposed Action	Alt P	Alt R	Alt B	Alt O
Socio-Economic						
Estimated Employment Contribution (no. of jobs all resource areas)	937	1,146	1,144	721	904	910
Estimated Wage Income Contribution by Timber Harvest (\$1,000s)	\$19,335	\$31,224	\$31,089	\$6,692	\$17,428	\$17,465
Wildlife						
Old Forest Management Plan Direction Contribution to Viability	Low	Moderate	High	High	Low	Low
Snag Habitat Plan Direction Contribution to Viability	Low	Moderate	High	High	Low	Low
Habitat Connectivity Plan Direction Contribution to Viability	Low	Moderate	High	Moderate	Low	Low
Plan Direction Contribution to Recovery (Caribou/Lynx)	Low/Low	High/Moderate	High/High	High/Moderate	Low/Low	Low/Low
Riparian Habitat						
Acres/Percent within Key or INFISH Priority Watersheds	214,283 acres/19% — INFISH Priority Watersheds	371,943 acres/34% — Key Watersheds	451,525 acres/41% — Key watersheds	451,525 acres/41% — Key Watersheds	214,283 acres/19% — INFISH Priority Watersheds	451,525 acres/41% — Key Watersheds
Riparian-dependent Wildlife and Fish Species – Riparian Management Direction Relative Contribution to Recovery and Viability	Least of all alternatives	Higher than no action, but less than Alts P and R	Second highest of all alternatives	Highest of all alternatives	Least of all action alternatives, but better than the no action	Better than no action and Alt B, but less than Alts P and R
Number of Subwatersheds with Improved Trend	7	12	15	15	15	7

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