

Forest Plan Revision News

Progress Made In Plan Revision

Much has happened since we introduced ourselves in our first newsletter published in September, 2003!



At 12 public meetings held across the State of Washington last fall, many of you expressed your opinions on what needs to change with the forest plans. Many of you have also shared your ideas through letters and e-mail messages. **We are incorporating your comments into the development of issues and the "Report on the Need for Change".**

In this newsletter, you'll find a synopsis of the thoughts you've expressed at the public meetings or through letters and e-mails.

Forest Service employees of all three National Forests have also been collaborating with the forest plan revision team in the development of forest plan issues and the "Report on the Need for Change". This is very important as these employees have been the practitioners who have implemented the existing forest plans for the last 14-16 years.

A **Notice of Intent (NOI)** was published in the Federal Register on 3/09/04. The NOI announces the intent to revise the forest plans of the Colville, Okanogan, and Wenatchee National Forests under the 1982 planning regulations. We are still hopeful that the much anticipated planning rule of 2004 will be forthcoming soon. However, we must continue to make progress in order to meet our planned completion date of September, 2006.

Even though our final completion date of September, 2006 is still on target, we have postponed publication of the "Report on the Need for Change" until Fall, 2004 in order to have more time to incorporate your comments and those of Forest Service employees into the report.

Margaret Hartzell

Forest Plan Revision
Team Leader

Diverse and Opposing Viewpoints Spark Debate

As I have met and worked with you at public meetings and read your letters and e-mails, it has become very apparent that many of you have a tremendous interest about what goes on in your national forests.

People care a great deal about a diverse range of practices, uses, and natural resources present on the national forest.

Topics such as recreation, roads, motorized use, wilderness, timber harvest, and forest health are just some of the areas in which you have provided valuable insights. **As you read this newsletter, you may see that many of the viewpoints presented by you on each of these topics are directly opposite.** Since it would be impossible to satisfy all opposing viewpoints, we need to find ways to find common ground.

So what can we do?

Sustainability is key. The ecology of the forests must be sustained, but so must the economic and social aspects upon which so many depend. It's my job to help facilitate our diverse and opposing views on how to go about it. I'm up for the challenge of **working together**. How about you?



Rick Acosta

Public Affairs Officer &
Lead for Social Issues

What's Inside?

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Local input given at Colville National Forest Plan Revision public meetings

Public meetings held throughout the Colville National Forest during the week of October 27-30 and on December 3, 2003 yielded local ideas and suggestions for needed changes in the Forest's 15 year old plan. The meetings provided attendees a chance to learn about the forest plan revision process and to find out how their comments will be used to help develop new plans.

The following is a small sampling of comments made by people at each public meeting. Please visit our web site and click on "Public Involvement" to view the complete set of public comments. Please contact us if you don't have computer access and would like a hard copy.

October 27
Selkirk High School
Ione/Metaline Falls
7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

- Timber harvest and timber output needs to be specifically addressed. Economic impacts to communities due to reduced harvest levels must be considered.
- Local input is ignored by the Forest Service but should be listened to and stressed by the Forest Service.
- Access to the National Forest is important. "We don't like new road closures." Campgrounds should be kept

open longer.

- Adequate infrastructure needs to be planned and built for present and future recreation growth.
- The Forest Service uses bad science to prevent timber harvest and people's access to the National Forest.

Newport
October 28
Stratton Elementary School
1380 West 5th Street
7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

- Access and infrastructure need to be planned and provided to accommodate increased recreation such as mountain biking, cross country skiing, ATVs, snowmobiling.

•With increasing environmental restrictions, effective amount of area available to special use permits such as ski areas is reduced. Forest plan revision needs to consider permit viability and permit ability to generate revenue.

- The existing forest plan is too general and allows the Forest Service too much flexibility and bias in its decision making.
- Forest Service does not show background information on data it uses from research studies. Accepted data should be backed up with scientific reasons for its use.

Spokane
October 29
Gonzaga University,
Jundt Art Center & Museum
7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

- Address Wildland Urban Interface.
- Balance and provide amount of trail opportunities for motorized and non-motorized users based on quality of experience.
- Keep multi-use trails open to all users (horse, hiker, mountain bikers, ORV users).

- Plan recreation facilities for maximum projected use and build to standards.
- Limit lower elevation winter wildlife areas to snowmobilers. Reduce conflict between recreation use and T&E species.
- Deal with potential roadless areas that could be designated as wilderness and that have never been designated as inventoried roadless areas.



Family Camping, An Important Recreation Activity on the National Forest.



"Address Timber harvest/output"



More ATV Trails Requested.



"Provide for Hiking Also."



"Address Fire in the Wildland Urban Interface."

Colville
October 30
Community Colleges
of Spokane,
Colville Campus
7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

- Define old growth and map its location. There is no standard for old growth.
- Management consideration should be given to wildlife. Plan and specify critical habitat. Lynx is more adaptable than we know.
- Economics needs to be a major part of plan revision. Economics used in extractive resources such as timber, mining, and grazing must be addressed.
- There is a problem with what we define as roadless areas. Some roadless areas have roads in them.
- Address wildland urban interface in the plan. Develop a new management area that addresses conditions and management projects in the wildland urban interface.

- Allow salvage in some scenic areas to reduce amount of catastrophic fires. Court injunctions to stop harvest of forests that are at risk to fire are a problem. We must find common ground to allow selective logging treatment of these stands.
- Need to develop ORV trails. Designate different trails for different uses. Stop making defacto wilderness by designating areas as non-motorized.

Republic
Elementary School
December 3, 2003
7:00 - 8:30 P. M.

- Cumulative effects to communities caused by closing of roads, curtailing of logging, reduction in grazing Animal Unit Months (AUMs), and shut down of mills needs to be assessed and addressed.
- Forest Service public meetings are exercises in futility because nothing locals say makes any difference. The Forest Service needs to build trust with the public again.
- Forest Service employees should be held accountable for bad decisions.
- Salvage dead burned trees before they rot.
- All open and closed forest roads should be open to ORV non-street legal vehicles.

- Remove ladder fuels mechanically rather than through prescribed burning. Log an area before conducting prescribed burning.
- The Forest Service needs to ensure that the public understands all amendments to the Forest Plan including east side screens, INFISH, and Northwest Forest Plan.
- Remove Kettle River as potential candidate for the Wild and Scenic River System.



Diverse National Forest Recreation Opportunities Requested By Many

Meetings held in Communities of the Okanogan National Forest Provide Forum for Local Citizens

The Forest Service hosted public meetings in communities of the Okanogan National Forest during the months of October and November, 2003. The following are excerpts of comments received at each of the three public meetings. Please visit our web site and click on "Public Involvement" to see the complete set of public comments for each of the meetings. If you'd like a hard copy of the public comments, please contact us and we'll be happy to send it to you.

<p>Okanogan October 16 Agriplex Annex 7:00 – 8:30 P.M.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The Forest is a renewable resource and the public wants to see the Forest opened back up to harvest. Logging more would help the Forest Service in its limited finances/budget and also support the local economy. •The Forest Service and its employees should be held accountable to produce and complete timber sales, recreation projects, and grazing projects faster. 	
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- Salvage timber burned in wild fires faster.
- The Forest Service needs to develop and implement plans that reduce fuel loads and help put people back to work. **Burned Forest**
- The Okanogan National Forest and the Wenatchee National Forest should each have a separate forest plan. Input from resource dependent communities of the Okanogan N.F. will be diluted if there is one forest plan for both Forests. Forest Service activities have different impacts to communities of the Okanogan N.F.
- Manage unroaded/roadless areas according to allocations already determined in the existing forest plan.

<p>Methow Valley November 5 Liberty Bell High School 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Produce a flexible recreation management plan that responds to changing conditions and accurately reflects existing conditions. Review mountain bike use, horse use, and hiker use. •Trails should be planned and managed. Deal with user built trails. Do maintenance on all existing trails and do not remove any trails from the forest inventory of trails. •Don't convert inventoried roadless areas to Wilderness which causes constraints on uses. Manage roadless areas for motorized primitive, timber harvest, fire, and other uses. •When doing prescribed burning, adhere to authorities in the 	
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- forest plan that governs air quality. Recognize air impacts within the forest plan.
- Involve the public if forest plan management areas are reassigned or changed.

Trail Maintenance

<p>Tonasket November 25 Tonasket High School 7:00 - 8:30 P. M.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •It doesn't appear that the Forest Service has done much in the last 20 years since we don't see any management on the land. • The Forest Service needs to talk to people affected by forest plan decisions such as timber purchasers, ski area operators, and grazing permittees before there is a final alternative developed. •Two separate plans are needed for the Okanogan N.F and the Wenatchee N.F. since there's a multitude of 	
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- differences between the two Forests and the diversity of both Forests must be ensured.
- A small number of management areas in the forest plan doesn't appear to be workable, realistic, or representative of the two diverse National Forests.
 - The Forest Service needs to build common ground between people with divergent viewpoints by promoting creative pilot projects such as thinning near stream banks to protect streams.
 - Display and evaluate the economic value derived from various activities on the Forest such as grazing, timber harvest, recreation, and nature walks.
 - When planning recreation infrastructure development, the needs of the aging population should be kept in mind.
 - A "road map" is needed to help the average person understand the Forest Plan Revision process and how forest plan decisions are made.

Easy/Accessible Trail

Public Expresses Opinions at Meetings in Communities near Wenatchee National Forest



During the months of October and November 2003, public meetings were held in communities located on both sides of the Cascades. Attendees at these meetings addressed needed changes in National Forest Management and in existing Forest Plans. Some of the comments recorded at each meeting are listed below. **To see a complete listing of comments obtained by the Forest Service at each meeting, please visit our web site and click on “Public Involvement”.** If you do not have computer access, please contact us and we’ll be happy to send you a copy.



Yakima
October 8
Red Lion Yakima
Gateway Hotel,
9 N. 9th St.
7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

- The tremendous amount of recreation use occurring on the Wenatchee National Forest needs more specific attention and direction in the forest plan. More lands needs to be made available for recreation. “We like things the way they are. Don’t make too many changes.”
- Better enforcement of existing sanitation regulations and water quality standards is needed especially in dispersed camping areas.



Campground Maintenance

- More motorized trails are needed. Provide access to 4 wheel ATVs on Forest Service roads. Plan for future use and devote more attention to providing access to all kinds of recreation in the front country.
- Better maintenance of roads, campgrounds, and trails is needed.
- Fire management should occur in wildland urban interface and not in wilderness. Protect wildland urban interface first.
- Any roadless areas next to designated Wilderness should be added to the Wilderness area.
- The Forest Plan should note that recreation residences are valuable uses of the National Forest and should be included in the Forest Plan.
- Mining is an important use of the National Forest.
- Harvest dead and dying trees.
- Logging destroys.

Cle Elum
October 14
Cle Elum R.D.
Conference Room
7:00 – 8:30 P.M.

- Instead of adopting an attitude as adversary, the Forest Service should foster and encourage cooperation between itself and forest users. The Forest Service should clarify its decision making and appeal process. Get input from county and locally.
- Thinning should be done on the whole forest and in summer home tracts to reduce fire risk.
- Maintain access to all recreation use including motorized use. More motorized ORV and ATV trail loops are needed.

- Conversely others say motorized use is driving out non-motorized recreation use and is causing impacts to wildlife.
- Control dispersed camping areas. How bad does it have to be before it gets shut down or a new campground is built?
- Concessionaires need to patrol campgrounds or camp sites need to be closed down.
- Existing trails should be better maintained.
- Meet the needs of grizzly bear habitat and recovery.



Grizzly Bear

Wenatchee
October 23
Red Lion Hotel
7:00 - 8:30 P. M.

- The Forest Plan is not specific enough. The existing Forest Plan is too commodity oriented so the Forest Service may need to go back to scratch on many issues.

- We need more action on noxious weeds.

- Inventoried roadless areas should remain roadless and not be designated as Wilderness.

- Vehicle and motorized recreation use is a huge impact on the forest.

- There is a need to look at commodity possibilities such as small wood. Dispersed and developed recreation need to be emphasized as a value and contributor to local economies.

- Act quickly on fire salvage and get the value of the wood.

- The Forest Service can make a huge impact locally on improving the fire risk situation. The “Dry Forest Strategy” is sound philosophy but needs to be implemented on a larger scale.

- Use history and common sense rather than prolonged research to make decisions and changes.

- Major portions of the Northwest Forest Plan need to be addressed. Incorporating the Northwest Forest Plan into Forest Plan Revision appears to be a significant job.



“...look at commodity possibilities.”

North Bend
November 6
Mt. Si
Senior Citizen Center
7:00 - 8:30 P. M.

- Treat fuels quicker and speed up the thinning process. Thin the forest to remove all dead standing trees and to reduce fuel loads.

- Make criteria available to the public on how timber harvest volumes are determined in the Forest Plan Revision.

- Log diseased trees while they still have value.

- Do not allow an increase in Probable Sale Quantity and unprogrammed timber harvest volumes over current levels.

- Deal quickly with salvaging after catastrophic fires.

- Increase the amount of areas and facilities for non-winter and winter motorized recreation use.

- Keep areas and roads open for recreation and fire suppression actions.

- Consider using roads taken out of the road system as trails for motorized and non-motorized recreation use.

- Re-examine/re-evaluate 300' riparian buffers. Keep motorized access and camping areas.

- Inventory and assess user built trails during Forest Plan Revision.

- Don't make any increase in Wilderness.

- Maximize new Wilderness.

- Recreation residences need to be validated and strengthened in the Forest Plan.

- The Forest Plan needs to plan for people and grizzly bear. The public would like to know who determines how an area is designated as habitat for grizzly bear or lynx.

- Update and change current definition of old growth.

- Incorporate ski area master plans in the revised forest plan.



“Treat Fuels quicker...”



“Maximize new Wilderness.”

“Don't make any increase in Wilderness.”

What We've Heard You Say in Your Cards, Letters, and E-Mails!

We have heard from many of you via e-mail messages and the U.S. Mail. A sampling of the diverse and often opposing viewpoints on a variety of topics are presented below. **The following are written comments we received during the period 2003 through 2-04-04. For a more complete summary of comments, please visit our web site and click on "Public Involvement". If you do not have computer access and would like a hard copy of the more complete summary, write or call us. We'd be happy to send you a copy.**

Motorized Use



- Demand continues to increase for motorized trail recreation.
- The forests need to be planning for and providing for this increased demand with new motorized trails.
- Off Road Vehicles are creating unacceptable impacts to wildlife, watersheds, and non-motorized recreation.
- Snowmobiles are far more capable now and now go to all areas of the national forest. They disturb wildlife, other non-motorized users, and have created impacts unforeseen in the existing forest plans.



•Snowmobiles have received a bad name and much of it is false information. For example, progress made by snowmobile manufacturers (quieter machines, direct & semi-direct injection systems, more precise jetting, and clutching, etc.) was not considered in relation to their use in Yellowstone National Park.

- Snowmobile sno-parks which give rise to uncontrolled trespass problems should probably not remain open.
- There is a great need for additional winter motorized sno-parks -and groomed snowmobile trails to accommodate growth of snowmobiling in WA State.

Recreation



- Concerns of all users should be considered during forest plan revision.
- Maintain diverse motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities on the national forest.
- We need to open and maintain more trails for stock use, not less.
- Do not abandon or reduce level of maintenance on historically maintained trails or any recreation facility without full public disclosure and discussion.



- Camping areas should not become high cost facilities with comprehensive services.
- There is a need for more developed camping facilities.
- Education, not restricting use or denying use is the best way of preserving our forests and environment.
- Forest Plans should state which recreation residence tracts are authorized on the national forests.
- The concept of road to trail conversion needs detailed examination.





Old Growth

- Ensure that all old growth and mature forests are left intact and inviolate.
- Complete an accurate old growth inventory. Provide GIS maps.
- Update old growth/late successional forest definitions for all ecosystems in all of the three national forests.
- No old growth as defined by proper scientific evaluations should be cut on a scheduled or unscheduled basis.
- The following inadequacies in existing forest plans were identified: inaccurate mapping of old growth, lack of transportation plan disclosing impacts on old growth, lack of fire treatment plan for old growth stands, and inadequate protection of old growth from campers and ORVs.



Forest Health

- Forest Health is the paramount issue. All three forests suffer from overstocking which leads to insect and disease problems, all of which preordain catastrophic fire.
- The forest plan must include the long-term fire management objective that fire is an integral part of the landscape.
- An aggressive prescribed burning program that includes quantifiable acreage targets must be developed, funded, and implemented.



- The Forest Service should implement aggressive thinning plans in all of Washington. We need hands on management to control the threat of fire.
- Thinning sales should be in the lowest driest portions of the forest in stands with a heavy historical ponderosa pine component.
- Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas are a high priority for treatment in order to protect private property.

Timber Harvest

- Do not increase scheduled or unscheduled timber harvest levels for any reason above current levels. Further reductions in timber harvest are supported to ensure protection of ecological and recreational values.



- Upcoming forest plans should address timber production as one of the primary goals set for the national forests.
- Set the level of logging based on economic and ecological realities and trends rather than on industry expectations.
- Reasonable timber harvest levels should be aggressively pursued to allow Federal land managers to again become business partners with local communities while producing forest products demanded by U.S. Society. It is important that the public understand that reduced timber production inside the United States does not equate to reduced demand.



It is important that the public understand that reduced timber production inside the United States does not equate to reduced demand.

- Less area should be designated to the commercial timber base and more to wildlife and non-motorized recreation.

Vegetation

- Address the issue of native plants on the forest as a key element of biodiversity including protection of native plants.
- Rate of spread of invasive species continues to rise and increasing acres are significantly impacted by invasive species.
- The first Okanogan National Forest Plan amendment prohibiting the felling of any live tree greater than 21" d.b.h. is completely without scientific merit. The next two generations of trees (next 300-500 years) on many sites are doomed to infection and mortality by dwarf mistletoe.
- As part of forest plan revision, consider NW Plan elimination of Survey & Manage mitigation measures.





Roadless Areas -- Wilderness

- Current Forest Service inventory of roadless lands contains numerous errors and inaccuracies. The Forest Service must complete a thorough, detailed review and re-inventory of all inventoried and non-inventoried roadless and unroaded areas before any credible Wilderness recommendations can be completed.
- Develop, coordinate, and consistently implement a roadless areas definition to allow an accurate inventory of all roadless areas.
- ICBEMP scientific panel has substantiated that all roadless areas greater than 1000 acres are ecologically significant and should be protected from further development.

- Protect the integrity of roadless areas not recommended for Wilderness by allocating them to nondevelopment management allocations.
- Prohibit increase in ORV use and trails in roadless areas.
- All inventoried roadless areas should also remain open to winter motorized recreation and to motorized recreation as they are open for snowmobile use today.
- Recommend to Congress the maximum amount of roadless land for designation as Wilderness.
- Do not recommend more areas for Wilderness. Approximately 40-45% of the Colville, Okanogan, and Wenatchee National Forests are designated as Wilderness, while less than 12% of users actually access Wilderness areas of the Wenatchee N.F and only 8% of users access Wilderness areas of the Okanogan N.F.
- The cost of maintaining trails in Wilderness is too high due to the many restrictions imposed. This is wasteful of taxpayer money.
- The Forest Service should start with the roadless areas inventory produced by Pacific Biodiversity Institute, Winthrop, WA rather than the three decade old RARE II maps.
- Look for other alternatives to Wilderness such as the proposed Backcountry Recreation Area designation that is being promoted.
- Current recommended Wilderness areas should remain open to winter motorized recreation/motorized recreation unless Congress designates them as Wilderness.
- The Forest Service should consider the widely differing impacts on the Wilderness caused by different types of live stock such as horse, mule, llama, donkey, and goat.

Wildlife and Fish

- Implement grizzly bear (Wenatchee and Okanogan NFs) and wolf recovery as part of forest plan revision.
- Please don't consider wolf introduction.
- Protect woodland caribou.
- Evaluate wildlife corridors at landscape level and across political boundaries.
- Ensure lynx studies continue and are addressed in the Okanogan N.F. revised forest plan.
- Include management direction/recovery efforts associated with all Threatened or Endangered salmon/fish species in the revised forest plans.
- Incorporate existing eastside screens and PACFISH riparian protections into the forest plans.
- The forest plan should completely update management requirements for most wildlife and be based upon the latest known scientific information.
- Ensure hindrances to fish passage are adequately identified and targeted for restoration.
- More habitat improvement projects are needed to increase populations of ruffed and blue grouse.
- Revise the restrictions on winter logging as winter logging has less negative impacts on the land. There is little or no negative effect on wildlife caused by winter logging.
- Update carrying capacity estimates. Recreation use must be adjusted in order to account for critical wildlife and Threatened and Endangered species' needs.
- Wenatchee N.F. studies show that snowmobile routes only disturb 11% of focal species. This compares to 22% of focal species disturbed by ski trails, and 52% of focal species disturbed by summer non-motorized trails.
- Off road vehicle use should be prohibited in riparian areas and where it might affect wolverine habitat.
- Closure of motorized trails due to species impacts must be a last resort.
- Management indicator species (MIS) need review and re-designation. There are also several essential habitats without MIS, for example, alpine and wetland.



Economic and Social Issues/Local Communities

- Social and economic desired conditions (as well as biological) must be addressed. These were only superficially considered in the present plan.
- The revised forest plans for eastern Washington should document that the economic well being of local communities has shifted irretrievably from timber to recreation.
- The new forest plan should compile and present new data on the extent to which the local economy is dependent upon timber, grazing, and other extractive activities.
- Measure economic output in terms of total employment and total personal income (including earned and unearned income).
- Estimates of the economic impacts of forest plan decisions must be compared to the actual levels of economic activity within the Economic Influence Zone.
- Establish and implement a logical, well-defined baseline against which to compare current conditions.
- Ecological restoration has the potential to support the long-term viability of communities while fostering a culture of environmental sustainability.
- The economic value of snowmobiling is especially important for the small rural towns that border these national forests in Washington State such as Cle Elum, Leavenworth, Chelan, Okanogan, Omak, Republic, and Colville.



Roads/Access

- A road system analysis for all system, non-system, and user built roads is needed and should include a rationale for each road that is to remain open, be closed, or be decommissioned.
- The Forest Service must consider its roads as an important asset which must be managed to provide the multitude of uses required by Congress.
- Maximize decommissioned road miles and budget for increased rates of road decommissioning.
- We question the wisdom of road obliteration without careful futuristic vision of silvicultural and timber harvest needs, fire management, recreation, and safety needs.

A Sampling of Other Written Comments:

- Determine the appropriate level of **grazing** on the forest.
- Compliance with forest plan monitoring requirements should be prerequisite to renewal of **grazing** permits.
- The economic impact of **ski resorts** to small rural communities needs to be fully acknowledged in forest plans.
- inter sports facilities** operating on national forests require some flexibility from public land managers in order to respond to changing market conditions, consumer preferences, and operating efficiency.
- Jeep access open for **mineral exploration**. Re-open areas that are closed to mineral exploration/legitimate prospectors.
- Expand **Research Natural Areas** (RNAs) to include areas affected by fire, representative of sagebrush steppe in the Okanogan N.F, and serpentine soil complexes in the Wenatchee Mountains.
- Retain the current **Wild and Scenic River** recommendations. Re-study rivers that were excluded in the initial round of forest plans to determine if additional recommendations are appropriate.
- A new management area** for accurately identified Wildland Urban Interface lands should be considered.
- Monitoring** of forest plan and programs such as range management, fish, and wildlife is lacking. Funding for monitoring is essential. Ecosystem management depends on adaptive management which depends on effective monitoring.
- In the present plan, there was **no consensus** reached by the public on desired future conditions of the forest and how to achieve them. This leads to **implementation gridlock**. The **future condition of the forest** must be determined before management strategies can be designed and monitoring developed to see that actions are moving the forest in the desired condition.

Here's How to Contact Us.



You can provide comments to the Forest Plan Revision team when it's convenient for you. If you'd like to e-mail us, our e-mail address is:

r6_ewzplanrevision@fs.fed.us

You can also find out the latest with forest plan revision by visiting our web site:

www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville/cow

If you'd rather send us your comments using U.S. Mail, you can write us at:

**Forest Plan Revision Team for
Colville, Okanogan, and Wenatchee National Forests**

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1240 Second Avenue South
Okanogan, WA 98840**

If talking on the phone is more your style, give us a call at one of the following numbers:

Margaret Hartzell at 509-826-3275 or Rick Acosta at 509-664-9210.

We are available to speak with groups interested in forest plan revision. If your group would like us to attend one of your group's meetings, please give Rick Acosta a call at 509-664-9210.

Get a Closer Look at Public Comments.

In this newsletter, we have tried to provide you a representative sampling of comments made by people who attended last fall's round of public meetings. A representative sample of written comments received through 2/04/04 have also been included in this issue. If you'd like to get a more extensive look at public comments, there are a couple of ways you can do this. If you visit our web site at our web site address listed above, you can view "complete comments" and "comment summaries" for each of last fall's public meetings by first clicking on "Public Involvement". You'll also be able to view a complete summary of written comments that we have received through 2/04/04 by clicking on "Public Involvement" and then by clicking on "Written Comments".

If you don't have computer access, please write us via U.S. Mail or give us a call. We'll be happy to send out more complete comments upon your request.

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