

# Forest Plan Revision for the Colville, and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests

## -- Briefing --

### Synthesis of Public Comments from 2008 Colville Public Workshops Regarding Recommending Wilderness

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## Introduction

The Colville National Forest is currently revising its Forest plan. A required part of the process is to evaluate the inventory of roadless areas, called *potential wilderness areas* (PWAs), for their wilderness potential. The evaluation process considers the degree to which each area has wilderness characteristics (capability), the resource benefits and tradeoffs that would occur if the area became wilderness (availability), and how well each area would enhance the National Wilderness Preservation System or provide for the needs of plants and animals that need unmodified landscapes in which to survive (need). The Forest Supervisor is tasked with deciding which areas will be recommended for wilderness designation. Ultimately, only Congress can designate wilderness.

## Public Involvement

To date, the public has participated in the process in a variety of ways including sending letters, e-mails, and participating in meetings. In 2007, the Colville National Forest hosted a series of collaborative public meetings related to the Forest plan revision. The wilderness recommendation process was among a number of topics that were discussed. Further discussions were postponed pending additional analysis; however, three areas of agreement were reached at this time.

The Lost Creek Potential Wilderness Area should not be recommended for wilderness designation.

The Salmo-Priest Adjacent Potential Wilderness Area should be recommended for wilderness designation.

The remaining PWAs needed more discussion, but there was agreement that they should continue to be managed for their unroaded characteristics.

Public meetings resumed in September and October of 2008 to help inform the Forest Supervisor and the recommendation process. This document distills the range of management options various groups of the public felt the Forest Supervisor should recommend. ***Please note that the comments are those of the public recorded during the public workshops. The information provided by the public in these comments has not been reviewed by the Forest Service for accuracy.***

To help facilitate discussion, the Forest Service provided a list of management area options that could be considered instead of wilderness. All of these options would result in these areas remaining virtually unroaded. Refer to **Appendix A** of this document for the description of management area options. The summarized comments in this document are framed in the context of which management area recommendation the meeting participants would choose if they were the Forest Supervisor. Public comments continue to be welcome via a variety of means (letters, e-mails, etc.).

## **General Public Comments Made During the Meetings**

A number of public comments were made repeatedly throughout the public meetings. While these comments express important values and considerations, they were not specific to any particular PWA and thus did not help narrow down specific recommendations. These are as follows--

### ***There is already too much wilderness***

Already 31 wilderness areas in Washington State, totaling over four million acres (1/10 total state acreage.) 50% of National Forest land in Washington State is wilderness.

Areas that allow for four-wheel drive use are fully accessible to all segments of the public including disabled persons; but wilderness is difficult for disabled people to access.

The local rural economies are among the poorest in the state and wilderness will only make it worse.

Too many opportunities previously open to motorized use have already been lost through travel management. Shared uses and expansion of motorized trail systems is needed.

Wilderness designation precludes further options, but not vice versa.

### ***Wilderness would restrict use of motorized / mechanized tools***

Allotment permittees described how their operations are already financially marginal. Wilderness would make their operations more expensive primarily due to limitations on motorized use.

Clearing trails with chainsaws is quicker, easier, and cheaper than using handtools.

Fighting wildfires is difficult in wilderness.

### ***Potential wilderness areas should be used for natural resource extraction***

Natural resources such as timber and minerals should be made available for use in the PWAs. (Note: Previous collaboration recommended all PWAs be managed for their roadless character. Logging and mineral exploration would generally not be allowed in PWAs to protect the Roadless characteristics.)

### ***Congress makes the decision about Wilderness and would rather have local decision-making.***

### ***Consider not recommending for Wilderness when***

The boundary is next to private land.

Mineral exploration opportunities exist.

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### ***There is not enough wilderness***

Primitive areas are very scarce and need the lasting protection of wilderness designation. Wilderness ensures preservation for future generations.

There isn't enough wilderness in eastern Washington. The Salmo-Priest Wilderness is only three percent of the Colville National Forest; other Washington forests have substantially more wilderness acres.

If you live in Spokane, you have to drive a long ways to access wilderness. The Spokane area is growing, and there will be increasing demand for wilderness recreation opportunities.

***Wilderness preserves certain values and is lasting legacy***

Wilderness provides an unmodified area for research.

Wilderness preserves unique scenery, geology, and generally provides for biodiversity of plants, wildlife, and fish.

Groups of PWAs serve to varying degrees as wildlife migration routes from north to south or east to west. For example Jackson Creek, Bodie and Clackamas connect Canada to Moses Mountain area on the reservation. Bald Snow, Thirteenmile, and Cougar Mountain provide an east-west crossing of the Kettle Crest.

All PWAs on the Colville National Forest represent the Okanogan Highlands landform. The Salmo-Priest Wilderness is currently the only wilderness in this landform, and thus is not well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Wilderness helps preserve primitive skills such as cross-cut saw use and horsemanship, and other “backcountry” type experiences (hiking, hunting, skiing, scenery, physical challenges, and spiritual experiences.)

***Research supports that wilderness designation is beneficial to rural economies.***

Wilderness puts a place on the map and draws more non-local use

Provides a source of and protection for drinking water.

Contributes to the range of recreation experiences; and balances the managed and unmanaged lands on the Forest.

***Consider recommending a PWA for wilderness when***

Mountain bike use is low.

The PWA is outside of WUI.

It would protect Native American sacred / spiritual sites and other historic sites.

PWA has Ponderosa pine and aspen stands, which are underrepresented in the national Wilderness Preservation System.

***Since grazing and wildfire suppression is allowed in Wilderness, these are not valid reasons against recommending wilderness.***

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***Reasons for Back country non-motorized management***

This would keep the area’s wilderness character, but allow more people to visit and enjoy the area.

This continues to allow existing mountain bike use.

Allows for more access to manage fuels and fight fires than in wilderness.

***Reasons for Back Country motorized management***

Would allow motorized access to areas where users could experience quiet and have solitude

Allows for motorized access to cultural and historic sites for disabled and senior citizens.

Allows for more management flexibility and options, especially for fuels reduction.

Allows for motorized use.

## Synthesis of Comments for Management Options by PWA

This section of the document distills the range of management options various groups of the public felt the Forest Supervisor should recommend. *Please note that the comments are a synthesis of those made by the public participants during the fall 2008 Colville National Forest public workshops. The information provided by the public in these comments has not been reviewed by the Forest Service for accuracy.*

### PWA: ABERCROMBIE HOOKNOSE

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Due to the size of the PWA, it can offer excellent solitude</p> <p>Currently there are no motorized trails in PWA, so wilderness designation would not shift this activity out of the area.</p> <p>Great hiking is available.</p> <p>This PWA is relatively close to the existing Salmo-Priest Wilderness and would provide connectivity to the Salmo-Priest Wilderness.</p> <p>Would provide connectivity for wildlife species to move across the Forest.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>This management option would allow the current low amount of mountain biking use to continue. (Mountain biking is not allowed in a wilderness.)</p> <p>Forest health could be improved through management actions that are possible under this management option, but generally not possible under a wilderness designation.</p> <p>This area has potential for increased use in the future for activities that would not be allowed within a designated wilderness.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
Not recommended
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
Not recommended
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
Not recommended

## PWA: BALD-SNOW

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Protect the Snow Peak rental cabin. <i>(USFS Note - Wilderness designation would likely result in no longer allowing rental of this cabin.)</i></p> <p>It is part of a large area made up of the 3 PWAs (Cougar Mountain, Thirteenmile, and Bald-Snow). Connecting all three would make a viable and cohesive wilderness.</p> <p>Would protect vegetation, especially the aspen and the high mountain wetlands.</p> <p>Would allow for a wildlife migration corridor from north to south and east to west. Would protect wolverine denning habitat, forage habitat for lynx, big game summer range, and has the best wildlife habitat of the 7 PWAs considered.</p> <p>Would provide a connection to the Kettle Crest Trail system, and a connection running from Moses Mountain to the Canadian border. Would protect the Kettle Crest National Recreation Trail <i>(USFS Note - this is a National Recreation Trail and a portion of the proposed Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail which would go from the Pacific Ocean to Glacier National Park).</i></p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Of the options, this is the best because there is noise pollution from the highway, and light pollution from Republic.</p> <p>Would allow continued use of the Snow Peak Shelter as a rental.</p> <p>This PWA has better access than some of the other PWAs.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Would allow continued use of the Snow Peak Shelter as a rental.</p> <p>Would allow more options for mineral exploration and development.</p> <p>This would continue the current uses.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Could emphasize winter sports - snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, use of Snow Peak Shelter for winter recreation destination. Area could be nationally known for winter sports.</p>
<b>Public Rational to Manage As Is</b>
<p>No specific reasons given by public.</p>

## PWA: BODIE MOUNTAIN

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Bodie is a low elevation PWA, may fill gap in national system by contributing low elevation vegetation types.</p> <p>Not accessed by a lot of people right now, no crowds, provides opportunities for high quality solitude, beautiful trail, views, and provides wilderness-based recreation opportunity.</p> <p>Intermittent streams feed Taroda Creek where lots of homes get water.</p> <p>Caves, exposed basalt columns and interesting canyons between Bamber Mtn and Bodie Ridge.</p> <p>Provides habitat for elk and mule deer. Jackson, Bodie, and Clackamas together provide wildlife connectivity from Canada to the Colville Reservation. The sum is worth more than the parts.</p> <p>Provides seasonal secure habitat, low elevation earlier and snowbound later.</p> <p>Provides a good representation of Okanogan-Highlands landform. Diverse scenic landscapes include rolling terrain to very rugged topography with caves, deep canyons, and basalt flows.</p> <p>Vegetation ranges from expansive grassy slopes and sparse forest to dry-moist dense forest.</p> <p>Small pieces important because so valuable relative to surrounding landscape. FS managers want to allow other uses.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Good opportunities for solitude due to rugged terrain. Less human impact.</p> <p>Connectivity for wildlife.</p> <p>Area is surrounded by private lands and is not isolated.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Need access to mineral claims.</p> <p>Would allow both motorized and non-motorized recreation. Potential opportunity to increase motorized uses in future. It is small area by itself adjacent to other motorized recreation area.</p> <p>Bodie Bamber trail has been a user trail for a long time.</p> <p>Allows for more diverse management practices, vegetation, WUI treatments and manipulations can occur such as harvest thinning, fire suppression. Too much WUI to consider for wilderness.</p> <p>Snowmobile use is adjacent – should be available for off-trail snowmobile uses.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
<p>Fences have to be maintained on county line.</p> <p>No place that you can't hear traffic.</p> <p>One east edge, PWA comes within feet of designated snowmobile trail.</p> <p>Abandoned radar station on Bamber Mountain – roads associated with site (group thinks this is Bubble Mountain).</p> <p>Bodie-Bamber trail.</p> <p>Preserve existing management scheme (applies to all) because there may be a need for future changes, Current management primarily Backcountry – motorized, and can do trail maintenance.</p> <p>Frequency of fire needs fire and timber management. Wilderness would not support wildland or prescribed fires (WUI treatment).</p> <p>Close to private land. Residents get water from Toroda Creek.</p> <p>Hunting – highly used area.</p>

## PWA: CLACKAMAS

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>It contains a Research Natural Area.</p> <p>Large amount of habitat that would likely support more rare plants, (Okanogan flame flower)</p> <p>Close proximity to Republic – good access, allows wilderness experience. Opportunities for wilderness-based recreation, solitude, no crowds.</p> <p>Trail system, Several miles maintained by hunters and hikers with desire for solitude, Loop trail gets fair amount of use by variety of users goes through old growth (comes out of Sweat Creek). Jackson, Bodie, and Clackamas together provide wildlife connectivity from Canada to the Colville Reservation. The sum is worth more than the parts. Good for habitat for elk, mule deer, great grey owl. Low elevation earlier and snowbound later, half of area is deer winter range.</p> <p>Beautiful old growth forest.</p> <p>Provides a good representation of Okanogan-Highlands landform. Diverse scenic landscapes include rolling terrain to very rugged topography with caves, deep canyons, and basalt flows. Vegetation ranges from expansive grassy slopes and sparse forest to dry-moist dense forest.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Long-term opportunity to maintain trails</p> <p>Horseback use for trail maintenance is important – doesn't need motorized. Lot of water sources for pack stock.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Would allow for more vegetation management/maintenance, harvest, fuel reduction, and fire suppression.</p> <p>Surrounded by private land. Difficult to manage wilderness against private land.</p> <p>To accommodate current uses and allow for variety of management practices.</p> <p>Excellent for full multiple use. High use of bikes, ATVs and snowmobile use, etc.</p> <p>No trails is not accurate, area has trails, 8 mile loop trail. Public access along Ferry County line. Loop trail gets fair amount of use by variety of users goes through old growth (comes out of Sweat Creek). Would like trail put back on the system.</p> <p>Keep open for mineral extraction.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Possible to manage the negative impacts of other options.</p> <p>Allows for fire management.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
<p>Because it works fine the way it is (trail maintenance, etc). May be less expensive to leave it, it will be easier to manage.</p> <p>Great public access, highly used during hunting season. Public access along Ferry County line.</p> <p>Area currently provides habitat for wildlife escapement and seclusion.</p>

## **PWA: COUGAR MOUNTAIN**

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Area has low elevation ecosystems, such as mature ponderosa pines stands, which are not well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Also have aspen stands.</p> <p>Area has a dramatic and scenic gorge (Thirteenmile and Ninemile Creeks trails) that offers a full wilderness experience. Primitive recreation opportunities, hunting, hiking and riding are excellent.</p> <p>It is part of a large area made up of the 3 PWAs (Cougar Mountain, Thirteenmile, and Bald-Snow). Connecting all three would make a viable and cohesive wilderness. There are trails connecting all three.</p> <p>Compared to other PWAs, this area has excellent opportunities for solitude and not affected as much by light pollution</p> <p>Area has big game summer range and important winter range for mule deer.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Should not be Wilderness because you can see and hear Hwy 21, see Brown Mountain tree orchard, weather station, roads and logging, and hear fire siren in Republic.</p> <p>Area has better access than some other PWAs and should keep that access.</p> <p>Because of proximity to other PWAs (Bald Snow and Thirteenmile) would make a nice area for non-motorized recreation.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>More options to manage for key winter range.</p> <p>Allows management of the stock trail and sheep camps.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Nothing provided by public.</p>
<b>Public Rational to Manage As Is</b>
<p>No specific reasons given by public.</p>

## **PWA: DEER CREEK**

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Protect plant diversity including old growth and rare plants.</p> <p>Provides for solitude and excellent primitive recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Would not displace motorized use since minimal use occurs here.</p> <p>Need to consider relevance of fire class in WUI.</p> <p>Protect watershed for Orient.</p> <p>Protect habitat for wolverine and lynx.</p> <p>Protect important wildlife migration corridor.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Allow for various management practices while protecting some wilderness characteristics.</p> <p>Allows better fire access and opportunities to reduce fire risk than wilderness.</p> <p>Treat stands with insect and disease issues.</p> <p>Offers unique opportunities for primitive recreation.</p> <p>Protect watershed for town of Orient.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Allows for a variety of management tools.</p> <p>Allow for snowmobile use.</p> <p>Would facilitate management of grazing allotments. Better access for managing fire.</p> <p>Best designation for interface with private lands.</p> <p>Would facilitate management of grazing allotments. Better access for managing fire.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Protect watershed for town of Orient.</p> <p>Best choice for aligning with Ferry County planning goals.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
<p>Need to treat fuels in WUI, especially with close proximity to Highway 395.</p> <p>Better allowances for grazing management.</p> <p>Protect watershed for town of Orient.</p> <p>If it is a wildlife corridor now, then wilderness is not needed.</p> <p>Enhance current motorized recreation opportunities.</p>

## PWA: HALL MOUNTAIN

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Low displacement of current uses, such as mountain biking.</p> <p>Offers connectivity to the existing Salmo-Priest Wilderness Area and the nearby Grassy Top PWA.</p> <p>Could offer a wilderness recreation experience in close proximity to the Sullivan Lake Campground.</p> <p>Hall Mountain has large, grassy meadows.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
Not recommended
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
Not recommended
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
Opportunity to increase recreation tourism.
<b>Public Rational to Manage As Is</b>
Not recommended

## PWA: HARVEY CREEK

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Uses / activities are currently those allowed in a Wilderness (hiking, hunting, etc.), while motorized uses are not currently present and snowmobiling is not allowed.</p> <p>Area has sensitive plants and meadows. There is a beautiful cedar stand in the SE part of the PWA.</p> <p>Area currently includes a Research Natural Area (Bunchgrass RNA) that would be protected by wilderness designation.</p> <p>Important to the Kalispel Tribe.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
Sno-Tel Site access.
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
Not recommended
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
Not recommended
<b>Public Rational to Manage As Is</b>
Not recommended

## PWA: HOODOO

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Integral to unroaded portions of the Kettle Crest. Adjacent to other PWA's on the Kettle Crest. Offers outstanding opportunities for hiking and backpacking in Hoodoo Canyon to Emerald and Lily Lakes, as well as a sense of quiet and solitude. These opportunities, including lakes in a backcountry setting, are not well represented on the Colville NF.</p> <p>Current authorized recreation uses are non-motorized.</p> <p>Future opportunities to link up the trail system to the rest of the Kettle Crest.</p> <p>The geology of Hoodoo Canyon is unique and spectacular.</p> <p>Diversity of species and habitats. Part of a north-south migratory bird corridor. Redband trout are in PWA. Offers habitat connectivity for wildlife. Protect habitat for rare wildlife species.</p> <p>Features are unique to the Colville NF and National Wilderness Preservation System.</p> <p>Allow for the free play of natural processes.</p> <p>Offers a balance of managed land with unmanaged land.</p> <p>Supported in the NEWFC wilderness proposal.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Would protect wilderness-like setting but allow for more flexibility in management.</p> <p>There are enough motorized opportunities elsewhere on the Colville NF. Protect Hoodoo Canyon as non-motorized.</p> <p>Could support if grazing use is allowed.</p> <p>If Twin Sisters can remain motorized, then it would be OK to manage Hoodoo as non-motorized.</p> <p>Could support if 4-wd trails are also allowed.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>The area has a 4-wd and ATV trail through it which should remain open to use.</p> <p>The area doesn't provide for solitude.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Management options are well suited to Hoodoo.</p> <p>Best choice for aligning with Ferry County planning goals.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
<p>Preserve opportunity for mountain bike use.</p> <p>Allow for manipulating wildlife habitat.</p> <p>Better situation for managing catastrophic events.</p> <p>There are better areas for wilderness.</p> <p>Keep option open to manage for responsible backcountry motorized use.</p> <p>Five different management areas have made the area what it is today (Old Growth Dependant Species Habitat, Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized Recreation, Recreation MA3A, Scenic Timber, and Wood/Forage)</p> <p>The area has too much light pollution, noise pollution, and noxious weeds to meet the outstanding wilderness criteria.</p> <p>Allow for non-motorized use in south half and motorized use in north half near Deadman Creek Road.</p> <p>Provides better access and reduces costs for fire fighting.</p>

## PWA: JACKKNIFE

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Protect plant diversity and 7 known rare plant species.                      Making Jackknife wilderness would enhance the wilderness characteristics of the Kettle Crest.                      Connects to Twin Sisters and Profanity via more than one trail. Opportunity for a long non-motorized trail. Provides for solitude and excellent primitive recreation opportunities especially in combination with other PWA's.                      Would provide for backcountry hunting. Big game includes moose, elk and deer, and this is a good place to produce them.                      Preserve from increasing OHV use. If made wilderness, replace 4-wd trail elsewhere first.                      Area provides unique scenery and geologic features, especially Merkel Canyon.                      Preserve for wildlife values. Protect habitat for wolverine and lynx.                      Terrain limits the spread of fire.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Protect wildlife habitat                      Would offer a non-motorized experience for hunters.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Provide for existing limited 4-wd use and non-motorized use. Motorized experience here is unavailable elsewhere.                      The 4-wd trail is 1 of only 5 on Colville NF. Use of this trail would be higher if it is repaired.                      Enhance motorized opportunities.                      Allow for snowmobile use.                      Close to campground at Davis Lake which brings recreation.                      Allows for a variety of management tools including management of fire and fuel loadings, reducing the risk of catastrophic fire.                      Would facilitate management of grazing allotments. Would allow vacant sheep allotment to be restocked. This would benefit wildlife habitat.                      Best designation for interface with private lands.                      Better access for managing fire.                      Preserve access.                      Allow for historic and cultural uses that are part of heritage.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Best choice for aligning with Ferry County planning goals.                      Would allow for continued use of 4-wd trail.                      Definition suits the area.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
<p>Treat deer winter range.                      WUI is a large portion of the PWA.                      80% is in an active allotment. Better allowances for grazing management.                      Consider split of Backcountry Motorized with other management allocations for this PWA.</p>

## PWA: JACKSON CREEK

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Protect plant diversity including old growth and rare plants (<i>Okanogan flame flower, velvet leaf blueberry</i>)</p> <p>Would provide example of under represented vegetation type ponderosa pine to national wilderness preservation system (<i>2000 acre old growth to protect</i>).</p> <p>Area lacks light pollution.</p> <p>Area has no system trails and no crowds, which could provide for good opportunities for solitude and wilderness-based recreation.</p> <p>Protect important wildlife migration corridor north to south, east to west. Jackson, Bodie, and Clackamas together provide wildlife connectivity from Canada to the Colville Reservation. The sum is worth more than the parts. Provides seasonal secure habitat, low elevation earlier and snowbound later.</p> <p>Provides habitat for wolverine and marten, N. goshawks, elk, mule deer winter range, fish-bearing stream. Located 35 miles from N. Cascades grizzly bear recovery area.</p> <p>Could help provide Canadian border security.</p> <p>Provides a good representation of Okanogan-Highlands landform. Diverse scenic landscapes include rolling terrain to very rugged topography with caves, deep canyons, and basalt flows. Vegetation ranges from expansive grassy slopes and sparse forest to dry-moist dense forest. Jackson Creek is small, but even more valuable to protect relative to altered surroundings.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Area has lost roadless acres since original inventory as roadless – needs more protection. Canadian border access, international boundary, illegal immigrants coming through. Lots of old roads, area not as isolated, surrounded by private land.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Allows for more diverse management options. Keep open for minerals, fuel treatment and motorized recreation. Extreme human impacts are present.</p> <p>Area 60% WUI, surrounded by developed private land. Would allow for more management/maintenance; specifically tree harvesting for fire risk reduction.</p> <p>Clackamas 76% WUI – need to be able to manage in WUI.</p> <p>Consistent with current use. Difficult to manage wilderness against private property.</p> <p>Gets snowmobile use. User maintained trail along Jackson Creek. Provides opportunity to visit historic sites (access).</p> <p>Easily accessible from Canada. Better allowances for border security activities.</p> <p>Allows for use of chainsaw for trail maintenance.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Possible to manage the negative impacts of other options. Allow for fire management.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
<p>60% WUI. Frequency of fire presents a need for management (fuels treatment).</p> <p>Proximity to Canadian border presents a need for management; can hear traffic on Trans-Canada Highway. Canadian harvest activities nearby.</p> <p>Evidence of human impacts- Nickleson Creek – views of Buckhorn mine. Can find stumps, Cedar Creek drainage was extensively logged in the late 1970s. Several cultural sites: mill sites.</p> <p>Opportunity to access historic sites. Possible impacts to tribal access/ sacred sites.</p> <p>Leave it as is because it works fine (trail maintenance, grazing, wildlife refuge, hunting area, etc.)</p>

## PWA: OWL MOUNTAIN

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Offers unique opportunities for primitive recreation.                      The area has good wilderness recreation opportunities.                      Preserve from increasing OHV use. Provide a quiet recreation setting. Relocate OHV use elsewhere so they don't lose opportunities.                      Protect the edge of the Kettle Range for its unique characteristics.                      Protect plant diversity which ranges from dry ponderosa pine forest to interior rain forest with cedar groves.                      Protect habitat for wolverine, lynx, and redband trout. Protect important wildlife migration corridor, including movement to and from Canada.                      Protect unique geologic features.                      Area provides unique scenery.                      Protect rare plants.                      Recommend for wilderness, but exclude Talisman Mine and TV translator station.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Doesn't conflict with drug interdiction and border patrol operations.                      Allows better opportunities to reduce fire risk than wilderness.                      Treat stands with insect and disease issues.                      Allow for improving deer habitat, and protect wildlife corridors.                      Allow for improving range values.                      Allows better fire access.                      Existing light and noise pollution detract from wilderness setting.                      The area does offer non-motorized opportunities.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Allows for existing limited 4-wd use, including a few places to camp.                      ATV opportunities are beautiful, excellent, and diverse.                      One of only five 4-wd trails on Colville NF.                      Existing low motorized use levels don't conflict with other values.                      Allows for a variety of management tools.                      Only designation for interface with private lands.                      Facilitates management of grazing allotments.                      Better access for managing fire.                      The nearby road system (cherry stem) degrades a wilderness setting.                      Human developments (roads, vehicles, power lines) and high levels of light pollution detract from a wilderness setting.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Laws provide adequate protection.                      Best choice for aligning with Ferry County planning goals.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
<p>Allow for management of fire and fuel loadings.                      Allow for historic and cultural uses that are part of heritage.                      Enhance current motorized recreation opportunities.                      Consider combination of backcountry motorized with other management allocations.                      Maintain access.</p>

## PWA: PROFANITY

### Public Rationale for Wilderness

Profanity is the crown jewel of the Kettle Crest. Profanity is the largest roadless area on the forest, it is already very attractive to the public, it has an extensive accessible non-motorized trail system that accommodates overnight backpacking and is a good place for trail riding on horses, and it provides for a high degree of solitude and physical challenge. Thirty miles of the Kettle Crest National Recreation Trail is in the area. This area provides the most popular non-motorized trails on the Colville National Forest, and the best backcountry skiing in northeastern Washington. Profanity provides all the characteristics of wilderness.

If choosing between various PWA's, this one is one of the most important for wilderness.

Important to provide something for a variety of needs. There are good multiple use trail systems elsewhere. There would be no net loss of motorized or mountain bike trails.

Wilderness would protect the Columbia Mountain Lookout Cabin and rare habitats, which would provide an economic benefit to communities.

Large area important for wildlife including connectivity, secure habitat for listed species such as wolverine and lynx, ensuring biodiversity, and protecting a north-south raptor migration corridor and wildlife corridor.

Allow for natural processes.

Provide for sustainability of rare plant populations (including 2 species of moonwort) and unique plant communities such as the subalpine sagebrush meadows. Protect high ecological values including a variety of tree species.

High quality watershed within the PWA contributes to quality of entire watershed. Contributes high quality water for fish habitat below the falls.

The area has geological features from the last ice age and earlier.

Large enough to make a good wilderness on its own. Even if other PWA's don't become wilderness, they would provide a roadless buffer to Profanity.

Preserves an area free from human-caused noise pollution. Trail maintenance would be non-mechanized. Forest Service should provide saws for trail maintenance. Various user groups are willing to perform trail maintenance using primitive skills.

Area not well suited to timber management due to high ridgelines and vulnerable tree species.

This cattle allotment should be substituted for another area.

Wilderness would not adversely affect the timber economy.

Wilderness would provide a different experience than other management areas.

### Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized

The area lacks wilderness characteristics due to human alterations. Noise is heard from nearby roads, roads, traffic, and power lines are visible. Light pollution is visible from the Republic area. Allows for more flexibility in managing recreation setting. Leaving the area open to mountain bikes benefits more users. This is a premier area for mountain biking and attracts mountain bikers from British Columbia. Allow for current mix of recreational use.

If designated wilderness, a potential group size limitation would affect users including stock users.

Allows for vegetation management such as improving habitat for rare plant species, controlling invasive plants, and leaving options open for future timber management.

Current management is working, although more needs to be done to prevent wildfires.

This allocation is working now for managing grazing allotments. Trails need to be opened to allow more cattle.

A non-motorized designation is more compatible with motorized use of adjacent areas than wilderness would be.

Allow for vehicular use, but not chainsaw use.

Would protect the wilderness/backcountry setting but allow for volunteers to use chainsaws for trail maintenance. It already takes 2 weeks to open the trails each year using chainsaws; access would be further delayed if wilderness.

**Profanity/Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized—Continued:**

A Backcountry Non-motorized designation is adequate protection, and allows for changes without an act of Congress  
Ensures protection for important historic sites such as historic mining claims and old cabins.  
Old Stage Coach Road is used by horse-drawn vehicles that would be prohibited in wilderness.  
Old Stage Coach Road was the original Washington State Highway 1. Allow snowmobile use on Old Stage Coach Road. Consider making area north of Old Stage Coach Trail wilderness, and leaving the area to the south as Backcountry Non-motorized.  
Wilderness could interfere with adjacent property rights.

**Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized**

The area lacks wilderness characteristics due to human alterations. Noise is heard from nearby roads.  
Large diverse area that should be open to all types of recreational use; hiking, mountain biking, OHV use, snowmobile use. Diverse use will draw more tourism and have a greater economic benefit. The area offers opportunities for new trails.  
Open Old Stage Coach route to OHV and snowmobile use, but not passenger cars and pick-up trucks. Open Old Stage Coach Road to all motorized uses. Mechanized equipment is needed to maintain the Old Stage Coach Road.  
Backcountry Motorized would improve access for fire suppression efforts. Construct fire roads along top of the Kettle Crest that are managed for non-motorized recreation.  
Provide a healthy watershed by managing towards old growth timber stands and not allowing for fire in the landscape.  
Address forest health issues.  
Manage for OHV use to accommodate needs of disabled visitors.  
Keep options open for future generations.  
More affordable to maintain springs, water sources, and trails than wilderness.  
Wilderness precludes fire control, weed control, and limits a grazing tax break.  
Concern that wildlife migration corridors should be viewed at a local scale, and not on the scale of Yukon to Yellowstone.  
Wilderness is limited to a few people.  
The area has already been rejected twice by Congress for wilderness consideration.

**Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area**

Allow for motorized and non-motorized use with minimal developments. Allow for snowmobile use.  
Open Old Stage Coach Trail to motorized use to allow access by disabled persons and to provide an east/west route for OHV use across the Kettle Crest.  
The existing human alterations in the area fit a Recreation Special Interest Area rather than wilderness.

**Public Rationale to Manage As Is**

Maintenance of trails and stock improvements would be less expensive than if designated wilderness. Would allow for maintenance of the Pacific Northwest Trail with chainsaws.  
Preservation and maintenance of the Columbia Mountain Lookout would be less expensive.  
Would allow for fuel reduction projects.  
Would allow for improvement of lynx habitat, which is currently in poor condition due to lack of timber stand treatments.  
The Taylor Ridge jeep trail needs to be added to the map.  
The area has "good" qualities, but not the "outstanding" qualities associated with wilderness.

## PWA: QUARTZITE

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Compared to other PWAs, this one is close to Spokane and easily accessible from Highway 395. This would allow for environmental education about wilderness.</p> <p>Existing uses in the PWA are compatible with wilderness.</p> <p>Economic benefits from increased tourism in Chewelah, and increased use of 49 Degrees North Ski Area. Backcountry skiing opportunity accessible from 49 Degrees North Ski Area.</p> <p>Area has a unique old growth western red cedar grove and hemlock stands that would be protected by wilderness designation.</p> <p>Wilderness designation enhances the views / scenery as seen from 49 Degrees North Ski Area, Betts Meadow, and other points.</p> <p>Wilderness would provide good habitat for northern goshawk and great gray owl.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>More management flexibility than wilderness designation.</p> <p>More options for people to experience a wilderness-like experience without as many restrictions (party-size, mode of travel) as wilderness.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Allows motorized use and access to the area, including snowmobile use.</p> <p>Level of solitude is affected by shape, size, and nearby communities and roads; making this less of a candidate for wilderness designation than other PWAs.</p> <p>Would offer more access and options for treating the fuels, forest health improvement for wildlife habitat, allowing more options for fire suppression access than wilderness designation.</p> <p>Would offer a place near Spokane, easily accessible, for environmental interpretation.</p> <p>Would benefit the economy of the local area.</p> <p>Would protect the red cedar grove.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Fits with the current uses of the area.</p> <p>Would allow both motorized and non-motorized use.</p> <p>Would protect the cedar grove by allowing motorized access for treatments</p> <p>Would allow fire protection for the community and fire prevention activities.</p> <p>Economics.</p>
<b>Public Rational to Manage As Is</b>
<p>Nothing offered by public.</p>

## PWA: SOUTH HUCKLEBERRY

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Could link to other Kettle Crest areas. Provides for solitude and wilderness quality recreation opportunities especially from the Lake Ellen side. Close to developed sites.</p> <p>Would protect a low elevation setting with vegetation that is not well represented in the National Wilderness Preservation System including aspen stands and dry forest.</p> <p>Would provide for backcountry hunting.</p> <p>The scenery is excellent.</p> <p>Would displace only 3 miles of 4-wd trail.</p> <p>Low suitability for grazing. Allotments are currently vacant in a large portion of the area.</p> <p>Habitat for mule deer, American marten, wolverine, and lynx is excellent. Part of a lynx analysis area. Provides an important east-west wildlife migration corridor.</p> <p>Protect watershed.</p> <p>Protect cultural sites.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Would offer a wilderness-like setting without wilderness designation. Provides good fishing and hunting opportunities.</p> <p>Low use and few trails.</p> <p>Important for protecting wildlife corridors.</p> <p>Nearby sounds diminish a wilderness setting.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Allows for a variety of management tools.</p> <p>Provide for existing limited 4-wd and ATV use on several trails.</p> <p>Would facilitate management of grazing allotments.</p> <p>Best designation for interface with private lands.</p> <p>Better access for managing fire.</p> <p>Consider combination of backcountry motorized with other management allocations.</p> <p>The area does not offer solitude expected of a wilderness setting.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Would allow for continued use of 4-wd trail.</p> <p>Would provide a recreation setting close to developed areas.</p> <p>Manage fire risk and fuels near homes.</p> <p>Low elevation setting.</p> <p>Best choice for aligning with Ferry County planning goals.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
<p>Manage fire risk and fuel loadings due to high portion of WUI (75%).</p> <p>Current motorized use cannot be replaced. This is only one of five 4-wd trails on the Colville NF.</p> <p>Would allow for current use and access.</p> <p>Create new non-motorized trails.</p> <p>Popular hunting area for Colville Tribe. Also important area for local residents who are not tribal members, and thus don't have recreational access to tribal lands.</p> <p>Use is heavy.</p> <p>Deer summer range and remaining old growth stands need vegetative treatment for sustainability.</p> <p>Lodgepole pine stands are in need of vegetative treatment.</p> <p>Opportunity to reopen vacant cattle allotment. Currently only 23% of area is in an active allotment.</p> <p>Allow for historic and traditional uses that are part of heritage.</p> <p>Wolverine habitat would benefit from vegetative treatment.</p> <p>No capability as wilderness due to factors such as small size.</p> <p>Better economic value.</p>

## **PWA: THIRTEENMILE**

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Would add low elevation ecosystem to the National Wilderness Preservation System, including ponderosa pine stands.</p> <p>Compared to other PWAs, this area has excellent opportunities for solitude and not affected as much by light pollution</p> <p>To protect the substantial old growth in area and the wetlands.</p> <p>It is part of a large area made up of the 3 PWAs (Cougar Mountain, Thirteenmile, and Bald-Snow). Connecting all three would make a viable and cohesive wilderness. There are trails connecting all three offering multi-day backpacking. Thirteenmile Trail is an outstanding hiking recreation feature.</p> <p>Ridge tops offer views of Kettle Range and Okanogan Highlands.</p> <p>Area has 3 proposed Research Natural Areas.</p> <p>There is unique and interesting geology and geologic features.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>This area has better access than some other PWAs.</p> <p>This would protect wetlands, provide solitude, and best manage the trail system that is present now.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Would allow for noxious weed management.</p> <p>From this area, you can see roads and logging activity, hear vehicles, see a tree farm; so it is more suited to this option.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Nothing provided by public.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
<p>Leave as is.</p>

## PWA: TWIN SISTERS

<b>Public Rationale for Wilderness</b>
<p>Provides an opportunity to link trails to the Kettle Crest. Connect to other PWA's.                      Recreation setting offers superior views, hiking, and hunting.                      Provide comparable 4-wd motorized trails elsewhere to address displacement of motorized use.                      Motorized routes may be closed anyways due to wildlife concerns.                      Protect viewshed of Kettle Crest.                      Offers diverse wildlife and superior wildlife habitat. Protect east-west wildlife migration corridor and north-south migratory bird corridor.                      Integral as unroaded core of Kettle Range.                      Supports the NEWFC proposal.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Non-motorized</b>
<p>Protect uniqueness of area.                      Could support if grazing use is allowed.                      Could support if 4x4 trails are also allowed.                      There are enough motorized opportunities elsewhere.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Backcountry Motorized</b>
<p>Most challenging 4-wd trail on Colville NF. This existing use has been established for a long time and is the dominant use of the area. Motorized use and wildlife can co-exist.                      The area offers dispersed camping.                      Existing use doesn't meet Wilderness Act criteria for outstanding solitude and primitive recreation.                      Noise from motorized use and nearby roads detracts from a wilderness setting.                      The area has human habitation. Trapper cabins.                      Retain the option to manipulate wildlife habitat.                      Extensive woodcutting in this area diminishes a wilderness setting and would not be allowed if made wilderness.                      The entire area is in a cattle allotment. Allowing for motorized use improves economic feasibility of managing the allotment.</p>
<b>Public Rationale for Recreation Special Interest Area</b>
<p>Management options are well suited to Twin Sisters.                      Best 4-wd trail on the Colville NF and more 4-wd opportunities are needed. 40% of the 4-wd trail miles on the forest are in this PWA.                      Public commitment to provide good OHV trails in this location. Works well to provide multiple use recreation opportunities.                      Best choice for aligning with Ferry County planning goals.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage As Is</b>
<p>Grazing and motorized uses support the local economy.                      Provide access for as many people as possible.                      Allow current uses.                      Intensify management of the area by requesting more financial resources.</p>
<b>Public Rationale to Manage as 1/2 Motorized and 1/2 Non-Motorized</b>
<p>Allows for current uses.                      Could support a wilderness recommendation if equally challenging 4-wd drive opportunities could be provided elsewhere.</p>

**APPENDIX A:**

**POSSIBLE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS**  
**For protection of roadless/semi-primitive character**

<p><b>Recommended for Wilderness:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Preserve wilderness character</li> <li>▪ <b>New road construction not allowed</b></li> <li>▪ Primitive recreation is allowed. Motorized and mechanized recreation may continue until wilderness designation.</li> <li>▪ Facilities are minimal and provided only for resource protection.</li> <li>▪ Timber harvest would only occur when essential for controlling introduced insects and disease or to restore habitat for listed species. Prescribed fire may be used to restore ecosystem structure and function.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Backcountry Non-motorized</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mostly undeveloped &amp; natural in appearance</li> <li>▪ <b>New road construction not allowed</b></li> <li>▪ Non-motorized recreation is allowed, motorized recreation not allowed</li> <li>▪ Facilities are limited, little to no developed opportunities</li> <li>▪ Management of activities is low, vegetation manipulation is limited</li> </ul>
<p><b>Backcountry Motorized</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Mostly undeveloped &amp; natural in appearance</li> <li>▪ <b>Temporary roads are allowed, system road construction not allowed</b></li> <li>▪ Motorized &amp; non-motorized recreation is allowed</li> <li>▪ Facilities &amp; other developments are limited</li> <li>▪ Management of activities is low to moderate, vegetation manipulation may occur</li> </ul>
<p><b>Special Interest Areas</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Limited areas of national forest system lands may have outstanding special attributes (such as a recreation activity) that merit special management.</li> <li>▪ Managed to emphasize recreation and other specific related values.</li> <li>▪ Mostly undeveloped &amp; natural in appearance.</li> <li>▪ <b>Temporary roads are allowed, system road. construction not allowed</b></li> <li>▪ Motorized &amp; non-motorized recreation is allowed</li> <li>▪ Facilities &amp; other developments are limited.</li> <li>▪ Management of activities is low to moderate, vegetation manipulation may occur if identified in area management plan.</li> </ul>