

## Potential Wilderness Area Trade-offs Colville National Forest

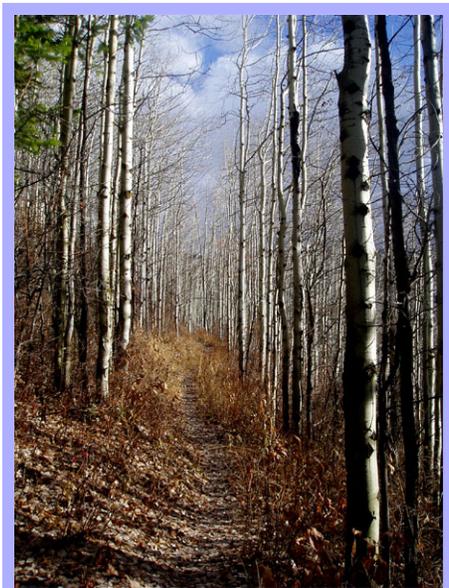
The following information is provided as a tool for your use in reviewing the wilderness evaluation reports for 21 Inventoried Roadless Areas on the Colville National Forest.

These charts provide a summarization of the key points from the “capability, availability, and need” assessment sections of the wilderness evaluation reports. Additional information regarding the evaluation criteria can be found in Forest Service Handbook–1909.12, Land Management Planning Handbook, Chapter 70.

The full write-ups (evaluation reports vary from 9 to 15 pages each) are posted on the forest plan revision project web page.



Jackknife



Abercrombie



Grassy Top



Profanity

## Abercrombie Hooknose Potential Wilderness Area – 37,713 acres

**Setting:** This area offers a wide variety of spectacular scenery. The views from Abercrombie and Hooknose Mountains pan across the Pend Oreille valley and into the Selkirk Mountains of Idaho; across the Columbia River valley and part of the Cascade Range; north into Canada; and south down the ridge towards the upper Pend Oreille and Colville valleys.

| Capability  | Availability   | Need  |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced species and a stock fence improvement).</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities and opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness.</li> <li>• 76% of area is a Class 3 Rural Sky, and 24% is a Class 4 Rural/Suburban Transition Sky.</li> <li>• Contains cultural site with potential eligibility for National Register.</li> <li>• Two peaks listed in Tallest Peaks of Eastern Washington.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of mountain bike use would be displaced.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish.</li> <li>• Some wildlife species could slightly benefit from habitat manipulations that would not occur in wilderness. The area has high priority habitat for American marten and wolverine.</li> <li>• 42% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 32% WUI in area; 23% of that is dry forest. The area is a low to moderate hazard for fires.</li> <li>• Many active mineral claims, mostly on periphery of area. One claim is in the center of the PWA.</li> <li>• Most of area is low to unknown mineral potential, but smaller portions of the area have moderate to high potential.</li> <li>• Section of state DNR land is an inholding within this PWA.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a moderate contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting. The area provides a large wilderness-like setting, but trail opportunities are limited and access is remote.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is high. Connectivity index is high.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution as a whole. For individual underrepresented types, western red cedar and aspen stands are well represented in this PWA.</li> <li>• Underrepresented landforms (Okanogan Highlands) make a high contribution. This area is representative of the Selkirk Range.</li> </ul> |

## Bald Snow Potential Wilderness Area – 20,432 acres

**Setting:** Appearance of the area is one of rolling to moderately steep wooded mountains, with vistas available from the open areas on the higher peaks and rocky outcrops. Much of the area was burned in 1988 in the White Mountain Fire. The rest of the area is covered by dense stands of lodgepole pine trees. Surroundings viewed from the area are the distant major drainages and rolling foothills and mountains; the Colville Reservation on the south; the Thirteenmile PWA on the southwest boundary; and the Profanity PWA on the north.

| Capability  | Availability  | Need   |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced species, stock water improvements, traffic noises near Highway 20, and a rental cabin).</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities and opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness.</li> <li>• Most of area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky.</li> <li>• Contains one proposed Research Natural Area.</li> <li>• Contains cultural sites with potential eligibility for National Register.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate levels of mountain bike use would be displaced. This use is increasing.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish. Some deer and lynx could slightly benefit from habitat manipulations that would not occur in wilderness.</li> <li>• 62% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• No WUI in the area.</li> <li>• Water source protection area totals 2,825 acres.</li> <li>• Adjoins Colville Reservation. Past concerns have included water quality, protection of cultural sites, and concern for wildfire spread.</li> <li>• Rental cabin could not be used for public occupancy if designated wilderness.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a high contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is high. Connectivity index is high.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is low priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is high priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution. In particular, forb lands and aspen stands are well represented.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Bodie Mountain Potential Wilderness Area – 8,408 acres\*

**Description:** Bodie Mountain PWA sits on the divide between Okanogan and Ferry Counties. Topography ranges from steep, lower slopes to rounded rocky upper slopes and rolling broken ridge tops; all typical of the Okanogan Highland Geologic Province. While there are no USFS system trails, there are user-built trails to the summit of Bodie Mountain. Recreational use of the area is low and is primarily by hunters and the Curlew Job Corps Center.

| Capability   | Availability   | Need  |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced plant species, a short drift fence, eleven water developments, and two abandoned roads).</li> <li>• Traffic noises are heard from some portions of this PWA.</li> <li>• Signs of past harvest and settlement are easily viewed from within the area.</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities and opportunities for solitude.</li> <li>• 75% of the area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky; 25% is a Class 3 Rural Sky.</li> <li>• Much of the PWA borders private land where it would be difficult to manage motorized incursions.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for wildlife and fish; however, the area is generally low priority for preserving habitat.</li> <li>• 100% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 72% of area is WUI; 77% of that is dry or mesic forest. Wilderness designation would preclude fuel reduction treatments.</li> <li>• Fire exclusion has resulted in some portions of the area having dense stand conditions. Due to close proximity of private land, this area would not likely support wildland fire use.</li> <li>• Six active mineral claims in T. 39 N., R. 31 E., Sections 35 and 36.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined with other nearby PWAs, this area could make a moderate contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting due to providing a wilderness setting in the Okanogan Highlands landform.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is pending further analysis.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a moderate contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

\***Note:** this PWA is shared between the Colville (4,518 acres) and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (3,890 acres).

## Clackamas Mountain Potential Wilderness Area – 13,212 acres\*

**Description:** Clackamas Mountain PWA sits on the divide between Okanogan and Ferry Counties. Topography ranges from steep, lower bluff-like slopes with gentle to moderate ridge tops. The north side of the PWA is heavily forested with mixed conifer stands, while the south side is more open and dominated by ponderosa pine and pinegrass. The area offers 12 miles of both motorized and non-motorized system trails. The area is mostly used by hunters. Trails originating from the Sweat Creek Picnic Area are popular with trail bikes and ATV users.

| Capability  | Availability   | Need  |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced plant species, a short drift fence, and water developments).</li> <li>• Traffic noises from Highway 20 are heard from some portions of PWA.</li> <li>• Signs of past harvest and settlement are easily viewed from within the area.</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities and opportunities for solitude.</li> <li>• 63% of the area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky; 37% is a Class 3 Rural Sky affected by Republic.</li> <li>• A proposed 1,400 acre Research Natural Area is in the N.E. portion of the PWA.</li> <li>• 3/4 of the perimeter adjoins private land, which would pose challenges for boundary management.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of motorbike and ATV use would be displaced.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for wildlife and fish. The area is generally low to moderate priority for preserving wildlife habitat.</li> <li>• 99% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 76% of area is WUI; 59% of that is dry forest. Wilderness designation would preclude fuel reduction treatments.</li> <li>• Portions of the area have outbreaks of mountain pine beetle and dwarf mistletoe.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined with other nearby PWAs, this area could make a moderate contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting due to the presence of the Okanogan Highlands landform.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is pending further analysis.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is high priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a moderate contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

\***Note:** this PWA is shared between the Colville (437 acres) and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (12,775 acres).

## Cougar Mountain Potential Wilderness Area – 6,145 acres

**Setting:** Appearance of the area is one of rolling to moderately steep wooded mountains with heavy dissection occurring. Vistas are available from openings in the forest canopy on ridge tops and south aspects. Surrounding views from the area are the distant major drainages, rolling foothills and mountains, with human activities evident. The Thirteenmile Trail follows a dramatic gorge which cuts through the Cougar Mountain PWA before entering the Thirteenmile PWA immediately to the east. The scenery along the trail is unmodified.

| Capability   | Availability   | Need   |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced species, a short drift fence).</li> <li>• Highway noises readily heard along western side of PWA.</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities and opportunities for solitude.</li> <li>• Majority of area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky.</li> <li>• A narrow PWA that could be hard to manage.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of mountain bike use would be displaced.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for wildlife and fish.</li> <li>• 98% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 82% of area is WUI; 77% of that is dry or mesic forest. Republic and surrounding area are subject to extreme high fire risk. Wilderness designation would preclude fuel reduction treatments.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined with other nearby PWAs, this area could make a moderate contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is low priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Deer Creek Potential Wilderness Area – 5,831 acres

**Setting:** The appearance of the area is natural. The forested area is common to much of what is found between the Kettle River and the Kettle Crest. Some past forest management activities outside of the area are apparent from higher elevations along North Boulder Ridge.

| Capability  | Availability   | Need   |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced brook trout, small dam and water intake, and remnants of historic mining).</li> <li>• Highway noises can be heard on east side of area from Highway 395.</li> <li>• Roads within a mile of the majority of the PWA.</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities and opportunities for solitude.</li> <li>• Entire area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky.</li> <li>• A small PWA that could be hard to manage; boundaries follow a mix of section lines, harvest units, ridges, and a road.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently open to snowmobiles, but the area does not appear to attract this use.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for wildlife and fish. Some deer winter range habitat could benefit from habitat manipulations that would not occur in wilderness.</li> <li>• 36% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 45% of area is WUI; 83% of that is dry or mesic forest. The eastern portion of the area is near Orient and is a high priority area for fuel treatments, but is also encumbered with steep challenging terrain to treat.</li> <li>• Small dam and water intake are compatible with wilderness but use of motorized tools could become a management issue.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a low contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is low priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a moderate contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Grassy Top Potential Wilderness Area – 15,826 acres\*

**Setting:** The general appearance of the area is of a rolling to steep mountainous terrain. Grassy Top is a moderately steep mountain with a pleasing contrast between the conifer forests and interspersed conifer-grassland vegetation at the summit. This area offers a wide variety of spectacular scenery from the Pass Creek-Grassy Top Trail #503. The trail passes through a wide variety of vegetation types and their associated ecosystems. The summit of Grassy Top Mountain is a ten-minute hike from the Pass Creek-Grassy Top trailhead and offers an excellent panoramic view of the Salmo-Priest Wilderness, upper Priest River, and the upper Pend Oreille valley. A protective strip of uncut timber screens the hiker on the Hall Mountain-Grassy Top trail from many of the sights and sounds of timber harvest activity both in Johns Creek and Harvey Creek.

| Capability   | Availability  | Need  |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with few human influences (bighorn sheep have been reintroduced).</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities.</li> <li>• Surrounding roads and logging units are seen from a number of vantage points.</li> <li>• Entire area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky.</li> <li>• A portion of the area has recognizable boundaries, and a portion of the area has boundaries located on indistinguishable features.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of mountain bike use would be displaced.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish and wildlife.</li> <li>• Habitat manipulation could benefit bighorn sheep, caribou, and grizzly bear. Wilderness designation would complicate habitat manipulation to benefit individual species.</li> <li>• No WUI in the area.</li> <li>• Active mineral claims in 1980s but none currently. Entire area has moderate to high potential for porphyry molybdenum-tungsten mineralization.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a high contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting when considered in juxtaposition to the Salmo-Priest Wilderness.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is high priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a low contribution as a whole. Individual underrepresented types make a low contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

**\*Note:** 13,617 acres of the PWA are on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The remaining 2,209 acres are on the Colville National Forest. We are working with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest who is taking the lead on review of these areas, since the bulk of this PWA is on the IPNF, and will defer to their decision.

## Hall Mountain Potential Wilderness Area – 7,919 acres

**Setting:** The general appearance of the area is of a rolling to steep mountainous terrain. Hall Mountain forms a scenic backdrop on the east side of Sullivan Lake. The contrasts in seasonal colors and the textures of the vegetation around Hall Mountain provide a mosaic of views from the lake area. This area offers a wide variety of spectacular scenery from the Hall Mountain trails, and the Sullivan Lake Trail. The trails pass through a wide variety of vegetation types and their associated ecosystems. From the top of Hall Mountain long distance views can be seen to the north into Canada, west across the Pend Oreille valley, and south up the Pend Oreille valley.

| Capability   | Availability  | Need  |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced bighorn sheep).</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities.</li> <li>• The Sullivan Lake Trail would be difficult to manage as wilderness if a group size limit were applied since the trail is accessed from two large campgrounds and is very popular.</li> <li>• Motorized traffic is heard along the western edge of the area, particularly along the Sullivan Lake Trail.</li> <li>• The interior of the area offers a sense of solitude and remoteness.</li> <li>• Surrounding roads and logging units are seen from a number of vantages.</li> <li>• A portion of the night sky rates as Class 3 on the Bortle Scale, impaired by light pollution from the Metalines and Trail BC. The remainder is Class 2 a Typical Truly Dark Sky.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of mountain bike use would be displaced.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish and wildlife.</li> <li>• Habitat manipulation could benefit bighorn sheep, caribou, and grizzly bear. Wilderness designation would complicate manipulation to benefit individual species.</li> <li>• 62% WUI in area, and 29% of that is dry forest. There is a very small amount of private land, so this appears to be including F.S. campgrounds in WUI. The fire hazard is low to moderate.</li> <li>• One active mineral claim is on the southern boundary of the PWA (may be just in or just out).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a high contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting in conjunction with Grassy Top and Salmo-Priest Adjacent.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is moderate. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is high priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution as a whole. Individual underrepresented types include quaking aspen stands which are well represented in this PWA and make a high contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Harvey Creek Potential Wilderness Area – 6,338 acres

**Setting:** The appearance of the area is of rolling to steep mountainous terrain. Seasonal colors and the textures of vegetation provide a pleasing contrast for viewing. The evidence of human activities is apparent from most vantage points, but dense forest and topography make parts of the area seem isolated.

| Capability   | Availability  | Need  |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with few human influences (introduced brook trout, a Snotel site, and an abandoned road on Molybdenite Ridge).</li> <li>• The area is only two miles wide; motorized noises from the surrounding area are heard within the PWA. Roads are within a mile of the majority of the PWA.</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities; however, with no trails the use is mostly concentrated near roads.</li> <li>• Timbered portions of the PWA offer a sense of isolation and solitude, but views include timber harvest activities in LeClerc Creek and Harvey Creek.</li> <li>• Half the area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky, and half is a Class 3 Rural Sky affected by the Ione and Metaline area.</li> <li>• Considering its small size, the area provides habitat for many rare, listed, or unusual plant and animal species including grizzly bear, caribou, bog lemming, and <i>Sphagnum riparium</i> (this being the only known location in the contiguous western U.S.)</li> <li>• A small PWA that could be hard to manage; boundaries follow a mix of section lines, harvest units, ridges, and a road.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently open to snowmobiles entering from the Idaho side. Wilderness designation could help protect Bunchgrass Meadows from OHV use (a proposed RNA with a rich assemblage of rare or unique species including bog lemmings). Or, it could become an enforcement challenge (the forest is currently preparing a closure order to keep motorized uses off Bunchgrass Meadows).</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for wildlife and fish. Grizzly bear and caribou habitat could benefit from habitat manipulations that would be more complicated to do in wilderness.</li> <li>• 58% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• No WUI in the area.</li> <li>• Snotel site might be considered for relocation if the area were to become wilderness.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined with other nearby PWAs this area could make a low contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is high priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is high priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a moderate contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Hoodoo Potential Wilderness Area – 11,695 acres

**Setting:** Appearance of the area is one of rolling to moderately steep wooded mountains, with some vistas available from the open areas on the higher peaks. Although much of the area is covered by dense stands of lodgepole pine trees, Hoodoo Canyon itself is the primary attractive feature in the area and receives most of the use.

| Capability   | Availability  | Need  |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced species).</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities and opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness.</li> <li>• Half of area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky, half is Class 3 Rural Sky.</li> <li>• These are the only backcountry lakes on the Colville National Forest that are accessed by trail and not by road.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of mountain bike use would be displaced.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish.</li> <li>• Some deer and lynx habitat could benefit from habitat manipulations that would not occur in wilderness. The area has high priority habitat for lynx.</li> <li>• 15% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 18% WUI in area, and 75% of that is dry forest. Fuel loadings are a concern in the eastern quarter of the area. Area is a moderate to high priority for fuel reduction.</li> <li>• Water source protection area totals 699 acres.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a moderate contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is moderate.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a moderate contribution as a whole. However, individual underrepresented types such as forb lands, cottonwood stands, and aspen stands are well represented in this PWA.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Jackknife Potential Wilderness Area – 8,956 acres

**Setting:** The area is a north and east-facing forested slope with small openings. Views are glimpsed through the trees. The top of Alligator Ridge looks out across harvested and settled areas to the south.

| Capability  | Availability   | Need  |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing within the area (1/4 mile of fence).</li> <li>• Offers primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities.</li> <li>• Some portions of the PWA view harvested area, whereas other portions are screened by vegetation and topography. A sense of solitude and remoteness can be had in this latter portion of the area.</li> <li>• The entire sky is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky.</li> <li>• Most of the area has a manageable boundary; however, the area is only two miles wide and narrower in places.</li> <li>• Seven rare plant species are known to occur here.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of 4 x 4 and ATV use would be displaced. This 4 x 4 trail is one of only five on the forest.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish.</li> <li>• Some deer winter range could benefit from habitat manipulations that would not occur in wilderness.</li> <li>• The majority of the area provides wolverine habitat, which is ranked as moderate priority and would benefit from wilderness designation.</li> <li>• 80% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 24% WUI in area, and 82% of that is dry forest. Fuel loadings are a moderate priority for fuel reduction, most likely by using prescribed fire.</li> <li>• The eastern edge of the area has high potential for occurrence of uranium. The southern portion has low to moderate potential for gold and silver.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a low contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is low priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is high priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution as a whole. For individual underrepresented types, forb lands and ponderosa pine cover types are well represented in this PWA and make a high contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Jackson Creek Potential Wilderness Area – 11,063 acres

**Description:** Jackson Creek PWA sits on the divide between Okanogan and Ferry Counties, and borders Canada to the north. Topography ranges from moderate slopes in the upper Cedar Creek drainage to rugged in the Jackson and Little Jackson Creek drainages and the Kettle River Breaks. Mixed conifer stands dominate most of the PWA. Several old abandoned shake mill roads access the area from Canada. The area is used primarily for livestock grazing, hunting, and horseback riding.

| Capability   | Availability   | Need  |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numerous signs of human activity occur within the area including several drift fences, water developments, stock driveways, abandoned roads, shacks and a mill site, and the 40-foot wide cleared international boundary. Firewood cutting is evident bordering the area.</li> <li>• No known introduced plant species.</li> <li>• Evidence of timber harvest is not substantially noticeable.</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities and some opportunities for solitude.</li> <li>• 100% of the area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky.</li> <li>• Special features include a variety of cultural sites including tie cutting and milling, and a trail used to smuggle alcohol across the border during prohibition.</li> <li>• The relatively small size of the area, adjoining private lands, and the international boundary would pose challenges for boundary management.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for wildlife and fish. The area is generally low priority for preserving wildlife habitat.</li> <li>• 100% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 60% of area is WUI; 81% of that is dry forest. Wilderness designation would preclude fuel reduction treatments.</li> <li>• The area has a high incidence of fire starts, and stands are generally in a dense condition.</li> <li>• Portions of the area have outbreaks of mountain pine beetle and dwarf mistletoe.</li> <li>• Large mineral claim blocks are in T. 40 N., R. 31 E., Sections 4, 5, 8, 9, and 16.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined with other nearby PWAs, this area could make a moderate contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting due to the presence of the Okanogan Highlands landform.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is moderate.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is pending further analysis.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is high.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

**\*Note:** this PWA is shared between the Colville (3,014 acres) and Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest (8,049 acres).

## Lost Creek Potential Wilderness Area – 6,642 acres

**Setting:** This area offers a variety of views from different locations. The top of Granite Peak affords views up and down the Pend Oreille valley and over to into the Selkirk Mountain Range of Idaho. Looking north, you can see Abercrombie and Hooknose, the PWA north of Highway 20. Looking west, you can see part of the Columbia River Valley. From within the PWA the thick vegetation and rolling hills obscure the views.

| Capability  | Availability   | Need  |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing within the area (very old remnants of homesteading and logging).</li> <li>• Offers primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities; however, motorized use is the dominant use.</li> <li>• Some portions of the PWA view harvested areas and other portions are screened by vegetation and topography. A sense of solitude and remoteness can be had in this latter portion of the area.</li> <li>• Traffic noises are heard from Highway 20 in the western portion of the area.</li> <li>• Most of the PWA is a Class 3 Rural sky, with light pollution coming from the Ione and Metaline area.</li> <li>• The area is only two miles wide and has a highly irregular and unmanageable boundary that mostly skirts harvest units.</li> <li>• The area is known for its big game and is frequented by hunters.</li> <li>• Granite Mountain, the high point in the area, attracts use as one of the 50 tallest peaks in eastern Washington.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The motorcycle trails in the area are very popular and are part of a larger system. There are only two such systems on the forest.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish and wildlife.</li> <li>• Most of the area offers priority three grizzly bear habitat and priority two wolverine habitat, both of which would benefit from wilderness designation.</li> <li>• 75% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 35% WUI in area, and 46% of that is dry forest. Most of the area has a mixed or moderate severity fire regime.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a moderate contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is low priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is high priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation cover types offer a high contribution as a whole. For individual underrepresented types, western red cedar is well represented in this PWA and makes a high contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Owl Mountain Potential Wilderness Area – 11,083 acres

**Setting:** The area is primarily forested, but summits are rocky with sparse vegetation. The area is surrounded by signs of timber management activities, which are seen from vista points within the PWA.

| Capability   | Availability  | Need   |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing within the area. Permanent installations include the abandoned Talisman Mine with associated structures and a cleared tramway, a translator tower accessed by jeep trail, a water transmission pipeline, 1/4 mile of fence, and a stock improvement.</li> <li>• Offers primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities but the dominant use is motorized.</li> <li>• Most portions of the PWA view harvested areas and roads.</li> <li>• Light pollution affects this area more than other PWAs; 21% of area is Class 4 Rural/Suburban Transition Sky influenced by Grand Forks, BC. 79% of area is Class 3 Rural Sky.</li> <li>• Most of the area has a manageable boundary except the southern boundary which follows old harvest units.</li> <li>• The area is relatively small -- approximately 4 by 5 miles with a broad cherry stem in the middle.</li> <li>• Old growth remains at two locations.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of 4x4 and ATV use on Owl Mountain Trail would be displaced. This 4x4 trail is one of only five on the forest.</li> <li>• An additional 4x4 trail provides access to the Talisman Mine and the TV translator station.</li> <li>• Cleanup at the Talisman Mine will require improving the above 4x4 trail.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness is generally beneficial for fish.</li> <li>• Some deer could benefit from habitat manipulations that would not occur in wilderness.</li> <li>• The area has high priority habitat for lynx, a listed species. Manipulation of lynx habitat would be more complicated if the area is designated as wilderness.</li> <li>• The area provides wildlife connectivity between Kettle Crest and the Wedge.</li> <li>• 3/4 of the area provides wolverine habitat, which is ranked as moderate priority and would benefit from wilderness designation.</li> <li>• 100% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 44% WUI in area, and 72% of that is dry forest. Fuel loadings are a moderate priority for fuel reduction, although the numerous cliff faces limit treatment options in this portion of the PWA.</li> <li>• No current mineral claims. Area is favorable for occurrence of porphyry polymetallic veins. High potential for gold, zinc, copper, and silver in half of area.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a low contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is moderate.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is low priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution as a whole. For individual underrepresented types, the forb lands cover type is well represented in this PWA and makes a high contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Profanity Potential Wilderness Area – 37,712 acres

**Setting:** The Profanity PWA is a long strip of the Kettle Range divide. Surrounding views span the distant major drainages and surrounding rolling foothills and mountains. Appearance of the area is one of rolling to moderately steep wooded mountains, with many vistas available from the open areas on the higher peaks and rocky outcrops. Much of the area is covered by dense stands of lodgepole pine and areas that have burned.

| Capability   | Availability   | Need   |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced species, stock water improvements, and traffic noises near Highway 20).</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities, opportunities for solitude, and a sense of remoteness.</li> <li>• Half of area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky, half is Class 3 Rural Sky.</li> <li>• Cultural site with potential eligibility for National Register.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate levels of mountain bike use would be displaced. This use is increasing.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish.</li> <li>• Some deer and lynx could slightly benefit from habitat manipulations that would not occur in wilderness. The area has high priority habitat for lynx and wolverine.</li> <li>• 93% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 10% WUI in area, and 40% of that is dry forest.</li> <li>• Water source protection area totals 1,429 acres.</li> <li>• Restoration of the Columbia Mountain Lookout would become more challenging with wilderness designation.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a high contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is high. Connectivity index is high.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is high priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a low contribution as a whole. However, individual underrepresented types such as forb lands, alpine meadows, and aspen stands are well represented in this PWA.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Quartzite Potential Wilderness Area – 5,311 acres

**Setting:** The area is generally natural in appearance. However, the views from the area are altered because of its close proximity to private land, some of which has been recently harvested. The Chewelah Valley and U.S. Highway 395 are visible from points inside the area. Sounds from the valley can be heard at various times. The area is moderately steep with rocky ridges. There are numerous large dead trees in the Quartzite PWA resulting from the 2000 Douglas-fir bark beetle epidemic.

| Capability   | Availability   | Need   |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced brook trout, remnants of historic logging).</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities.</li> <li>• There are no system trails allowing opportunities for solitude; however, solitude is affected by nearby roads and sounds.</li> <li>• Entire area is a Class 4 Rural/Suburban Transition Sky affected by the Chewelah and Spokane areas.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Close to 49 Degrees North Ski Area. Future enhancements would be curtailed with wilderness designation.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish.</li> <li>• Wilderness designation would preclude manipulation of deer summer and winter range, as well as remaining old growth habitat which is currently not sustainable due to excess fuel.</li> <li>• Most of area is low priority wolverine habitat.</li> <li>• No cattle allotments in the area.</li> <li>• 100% of area is WUI, and 63% of that is dry or mesic forest. Due to fuel buildup the area has an increased risk of high severity fire, and is a moderate priority for fuel treatments along the western edge.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a moderate contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting if trails are constructed. This is due to its close proximity to Spokane.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is low priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution. In particular, the western red cedar cover type is well represented and would make a high contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Salmo-Priest Adjacent Potential Wilderness Area – 14,022 acres

**Setting:** The area is primarily steep and heavily forested. Where openings occur, the scenery surrounding the PWA generally shows clearcuts and settled areas.

| Capability   | Availability  | Need  |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (some evidence of historic prospecting).</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive, non-motorized recreation opportunities.</li> <li>• Surrounding roads and logging units are seen from a number of vantage points.</li> <li>• The night sky is impaired by light pollution from the Metaline Falls area, Washington and Trail, B.C.</li> <li>• Halliday Fen, a proposed RNA, has a rich assemblage of rare plant species.</li> <li>• Boundaries are well located and manageable.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of mountain bike use would be displaced.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish. The area provides important core habitat for bull trout.</li> <li>• Habitat manipulation could benefit caribou, and grizzly bear. Wilderness designation would complicate manipulation to benefit individual species.</li> <li>• 43% WUI in the western portion of the PWA, and 58% of that is dry forest. The fire hazard is low.</li> <li>• Numerous mining claims have been filed in Sections 1, 6, and 12 in the western portion of the PWA. All are inactive. One is a patented 10-acre claim which is currently only accessed by foot or horseback.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a high contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is high. Connectivity index is moderate.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is high priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is high priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution as a whole. Individual underrepresented types include western red cedar which is well represented in this PWA (over 5,600 acres) and makes a high contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## South Fork Mountain Potential Wilderness Area – 6,489 acres\*

**Setting:** The portion of the South Fork Mountain PWA located on the Colville National Forest is adjacent to two sections of private timber land which has portions that have been logged. The area is covered dense timber, with some minor evidence of activity along the outside edges.

| Capability  | Availability   | Need   |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with minimal human influences within the area (introduced brook trout).</li> <li>• The area is only two miles wide; motorized noises from the surrounding area are heard within the PWA. Roads are within a mile of the majority of the PWA.</li> <li>• There are no system trails, therefore recreation activities are limited to foot travel and snowmobile use. Recreation potential is impacted by the close proximity of roads and harvest units on nearby private land.</li> <li>• The entire area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky.</li> <li>• The area provides recovery habitat for grizzly bear and caribou.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for wildlife and fish. Grizzly bear, lynx, and caribou habitat could benefit from habitat manipulations that would be more complicated to do in wilderness. The entire area provides high priority grizzly habitat and moderate priority wolverine habitat.</li> <li>• No cattle allotments in the area.</li> <li>• 15% of area is WUI, with 37% in dry forest.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a low contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting on the Colville National Forest; however, the adjoining portion of the PWA on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest has more wilderness recreation potential.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is high priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is low priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution as a whole.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

**\*Note:** 5,291 acres of the PWA are on the Idaho Panhandle National Forest. The remaining 1,198 acres are on the Colville National Forest. We are working with the Idaho Panhandle National Forest who is taking the lead on review of these areas, since the bulk of this PWA is on the IPNF, and will defer to their decision.

## South Huckleberry Potential Wilderness Area – 9,939 acres

**Setting:** Appearance of the area is one of rolling to moderately steep wooded mountains with some vistas available from the rocky outcrops found on the upper south slopes. Much of the area is covered by dense stands of lodgepole pine and western larch. Surroundings of the area include the South Sherman Creek drainage to the north, Bangs Mountain to the east, the Barnaby Creek drainage, and the Colville Confederated Tribes Reservation to the south. Management activities including past harvesting and existing road systems are visible both north and south of the area.

| Capability  | Availability   | Need   |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing within the area with a few human influences (range developments, introduced turkeys, historic prospecting activities).</li> <li>• Offers primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities; however, the primary use is motorized.</li> <li>• Some portions of the PWA view harvested areas, whereas other portions are screened by vegetation and topography. A sense of solitude and remoteness can be had in this latter portion of the area.</li> <li>• 38% of the area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky, and 62% is a Class 3 Rural Sky, influenced by the Kettle Falls and Colville areas.</li> <li>• Most of the area has a manageable boundary.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of 4 x 4 and ATV use would be displaced. This 4 x 4 trail is one of only five on the forest.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish.</li> <li>• Deer summer range and remnant old growth stands could benefit from habitat manipulations that would not occur in wilderness.</li> <li>• The majority of the area provides wolverine habitat, which is ranked as moderate priority and would benefit from wilderness designation.</li> <li>• 23% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• 53% WUI in area, and 87% of that is dry or mesic forest. However, the current Bangs Mountain WUI project reduces the need to treat fuel on the eastern flank of this PWA, which would be difficult to treat due to cliff faces. Using prescribed fire proximate to the Lake Ellen recreation site would be beneficial, and would be complicated by wilderness designation.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a moderate contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is low. Connectivity index is low.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is low priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution as a whole. For individual underrepresented types, forb lands, cottonwood, and aspen cover types are well represented in this PWA and make a high contribution.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Thirteenmile Potential Wilderness Area – 12,393 acres

**Setting:** Appearance of the area is one of rolling to moderately steep wooded mountains with some vistas available from the open areas on the higher areas and openings on south slopes. Surroundings viewed from the area are of the distant major drainages and surrounding rolling foothills and mountains, with some human activity evident. The Bald-Snow PWA lies immediately to the east and the Cougar Mountain PWA is to the west.

| Capability   | Availability   | Need   |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced species, signs of grazing).</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities and opportunities for solitude.</li> <li>• Entire area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky.</li> <li>• Two proposed Research Natural Areas.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low levels of mountain bike use would be displaced.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for wildlife and fish.</li> <li>• 100% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• No WUI in area.</li> <li>• Water source protection area totals 2,864 acres.</li> <li>• Adjoins Colville Reservation. No official input from tribe, but past concerns have included water quality, protection of cultural sites, and concern for wildfire spread.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combined with other nearby PWAs, this area could make a moderate contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is moderate. Connectivity index is moderate.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is low priority.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a high contribution. In particular, forb lands are well represented.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |

## Twin Sisters Potential Wilderness Area – 14,560 acres

**Setting:** Appearance of the area is one of rolling to moderately steep wooded mountains, with some vistas available from the open areas on the higher peaks. Much of the PWA is covered by dense stands of lodgepole pine trees. Surroundings viewed from the area are distant major drainages and rolling foothills and mountains, with some evidence of human activities.

| Capability  | Availability  | Need   |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally natural appearing with a few human influences (introduced species and dozer trails).</li> <li>• Currently offers primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities and opportunities for solitude and a sense of remoteness.</li> <li>• Entire area is a Class 2 Typical Truly Dark Sky.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Moderate levels of 4x4 and ATV use would be displaced. This is the most popular and technical 4x4 trail system on the forest.</li> <li>• Roadless or wilderness condition is generally beneficial for fish.</li> <li>• Some deer and lynx habitat could benefit from habitat manipulations that would not occur in wilderness. The area has high priority habitat for lynx and wolverine.</li> <li>• 15% of area is in a cattle allotment.</li> <li>• No WUI in area.</li> <li>• Water source protection area totals 699 acres.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area could make a low contribution to providing a wilderness recreation setting.</li> <li>• Wildlife sustainability index is moderate. Connectivity index is moderate.</li> <li>• Fish habitat need is moderate priority.</li> <li>• Rare plants need is moderate.</li> <li>• Underrepresented vegetation offers a low contribution as a whole. But for individual underrepresented types, the aspen stands are well represented in this PWA.</li> <li>• This area provides a good example of the underrepresented landform Okanogan Highlands.</li> </ul> |