

INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ON THE COLVILLE INDIAN RESERVATION

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The Colville Tribe has developed and approved an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the 1.4 million-acre reservation covering the fifteen-year period of 2001-2016. This document was prepared in accordance with federal regulations (43 CFR 1600) and incorporating the desires of the membership of the confederated Tribes. The document preparation included an environmental impact statement to ensure that a thorough analysis of management applications would lead toward the future conditions desired by the Tribe. This document reflects the interactive relationship between Tribal members and the land, both in their current lifestyles and their traditional values. The balancing of modern technological developments with the traditional, spiritual values has resulted in a plan that considers and respects both. The plan demonstrates awareness that management of the land is both necessary for Tribal economic self-sufficiency and ecological forest health. Today's forests can meet the Tribes' needs for income, employment and spiritual gratification. Through careful management that complements the natural processes, the Tribe plans to bring their forests into a more sustainable and dynamic balance. Key to this plan is the need to develop a forest with a healthy distribution of various stages of development for a variety of plant association groups (PAGs). The difference from current conditions to desired future conditions of more large trees will require the harvest of large quantities of small diameter trees and planting of seral species. The current forest conditions dictate the need for significant reductions in stocking and conversion to more historic species composition ratios.

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