

# Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

## Integrated Resource Management Plan

### *Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement*

## Scoping Meetings Report



Prepared by  
**THE CENTER FOR APPLIED RESEARCH**  
March 8, 2016

# Programmatic EIS Scoping Meetings

## October 26 – 29, 2015

### *Introduction*

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation have prepared an Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the Colville Reservation. The plan updates the expiring 2000 IRMP and provides goals and objectives to guide future management of the Tribes' natural resources. The Colville Business Council has chosen to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the environmental and socioeconomic impacts that are likely to occur with the implementation of the IRMP.

In November of 2014, the Tribes published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register announcing preparation of the IRMP and EIS and the intent to conduct scoping meetings to elicit comments from the public and tribal stakeholders concerning the analysis of impacts in the EIS.

A series of community meetings were announced on the Tribes' website, public notices were posted at community facilities and email notices were sent to interested members of the Reservation community. Public scoping meetings were held at community centers in Inchelium, Keller, Omak and Nespelem during the week of October 26 – 29, 2015. In addition, the IRMP Core Team held scoping meetings at the Tribes' administration building in Nespelem on October 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

The scoping meetings included a presentation of the IRMP planning process, the alternative management approaches that were considered by the IRMP Core Team and the Colville Business Council, and the alternative rankings by the participants in the Community Survey. The presentation also provided an overview of the content of the IRMP and the management enhancements developed as part of the preferred management alternative. The Scoping Meeting presentation is included in this report.

The Programmatic EIS process and requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) were also presented. The scoping meetings were a part of this process where participants were invited to provide comments and concerns to be considered in the analysis for the EIS.

The IRMP Core Team scoping effort also included a review of the 2000 Programmatic EIS with additional discussion in IRMP meetings in November. Team members also submitted additional written material concerning EIS content and methodology.

## *Community Input*

An immediate concern of the participants in the scoping meetings were the impacts of the 2015 wildfires on the Reservation environment and the timber harvest schedule proposed in the IRMP. Among these concerns were the erosion impacts of the wildfires.

The assessment of harvest treatments and leave tree requirements on forest health and scenic values were suggested for consideration. The impact of forest road construction and the development of construction standards and maintenance were also suggested for inclusion in the EIS.

The effects of weather variations and climate change on natural resources were also proposed for consideration in the impact analysis. Concerns about drought and water supply were expressed.

The control of noxious weeds was suggested for inclusion, especially in regard to the impacts of pesticide use.

Livestock impacts on riparian zones and the impacts of grazing on surface water quality were mentioned. In contrast, it was also suggested that the beneficial impacts of grazing on range health and weed control be included in the assessment.

The effects of IRMP implementation on watershed health was suggested, including the impacts on the health of streams and lakes. The loss of perennial streams was expressed as a concern. Impacts on wetlands and groundwater quantity and quality were also of concern.

Participants expressed concern that protection of designated wilderness areas be included in the assessment. The loss of old growth forest and impacts to wildlife habitat were suggested for inclusion in the analysis.

Impacts to culturally important plants from both forestry practices and livestock grazing were suggested for inclusion in the EIS.

The question of population growth resulting from the plan implementation, as well as possible changes to the transportation network was expressed.



## *IRMP Core Team Review of the 2000 FEIS Methodology and Conclusions*

The IRMP Core Team reviewed the analysis of environmental consequences in the 2000 Final EIS in an effort to identify useful data and analysis for the new EIS. It was noted that the forest section did not adequately address environmental impacts and was needlessly complicated. It was suggested that the EIS analyze environmental impacts of the alternatives using measureable or comparable attributes that tie back to the desired future conditions.

It was also noted that wildfires may have changed the landscape more than the proposed harvest and silvicultural treatments outlined in the IRMP. There was no way for the plan to predict the large changes to the landscape that would occur from fire. It is likely this will continue to be the case during the next planning period.

It was suggested that the EIS focus on the proposed goals and objectives and compare the differences between the alternative management approaches.

There was concern that the FEIS did not provide enough detail regarding impacts on big game populations, which are culturally very significant and should be considered just as much as threatened and endangered species. The predicted impacts for threatened and endangered species were fairly accurate, though they excluded wolves.

It was noted that with the lack of comprehensive road management, monitoring and data, it is difficult to determine the impacts of forest roads, especially on fish bearing streams of the Reservation.

It was commented that risk factors for fish habitat in the FEIS seemed skewed towards overly optimistic outcomes of practices, even if the plan had been implemented perfectly. The connotation of the wording seemed generally positive as opposed to neutral.

It was noted that the FEIS made an assumption of no net increase in road density and a possible reduction under some of the alternatives. It was commented that it has not been demonstrated that any appreciable reduction in road density took place during 2000-2014 planning period, while the chronic and acute effects of the existing road network continued to be realized.

Concern was expressed that the FEIS did not consider impacts to traditional cultural properties and also predicted that archaeological sites and historic structures would be protected if avoided during timber harvest projects. It was noted that several of these sites were damaged or destroyed in fire and windstorm events because fuels and timber in the area were not removed.

The FEIS assumed that cultural plant specialists would work with planners to develop strategies to protect and promote cultural plants with the knowledge that some cultural plant habitats would be temporarily sacrificed. It was noted that the cultural plant specialist position was not occupied throughout this period and coordination was intermittent.

It was commented that the FEIS focused on ground disturbance and vegetation modification and did not assess alteration of hydrologic functions. Impacts to water resources from sedimentation caused by road construction and harvest activities were underestimated with little basis for the assumptions. It was argued that the assumption that designation of Riparian Management Zone buffers would effectively prevent degradation to streams is not supported by current science, given the designated size of the buffers.

Concern was expressed that cumulative impacts to the Reservation and the region were not adequately addressed in the FEIS.

It was suggested that management directions identified in the FEIS were contradictory between the various resources and many were not implemented. It was asserted that natural resource programs received no funding to implement the directions or to perform monitoring and there was no process to confirm implementation of the management directions.

Staff members generally commented that baseline information for natural resources is often lacking and monitoring information is incomplete or non-existent. Some departments are working toward establishing valid baseline data, however, due to the size of the Reservation, inventories and surveys can take years to complete.

There are, however, several monitoring programs that have been active during the last planning period and some useful information has been collected that can provide a basis for analysis in the new EIS. These include two range inventories, the Continuous Forest Inventory, fish and wildlife population surveys, water quality monitoring, a forest road inventory, and two extensive hydrology reports, among others.

### **The Programmatic EIS**

The Tribes' IRMP consultant, The Center for Applied Research, is preparing the Programmatic EIS as part of the IRMP Core Team effort. The Center will conduct the environmental impact analysis of the preferred alternative for the IRMP, utilizing data provided by the Tribes' natural resource departments, the Resource Assessment, the Community Survey, and other sources.

The Programmatic EIS will describe the existing environment and socioeconomics of the Colville Reservation and will present the likely impacts of the Forest Management and Range Management plans as they are implemented over the next 15 years. The analysis will compare these anticipated impacts with the likely impacts of four other management alternatives that were developed in the course of the IRMP project.

The Draft Programmatic EIS will be circulated for review by agencies and the general public. The IRMP Core Team will collect and compile comments and questions received and respond to them in the Final Programmatic EIS.

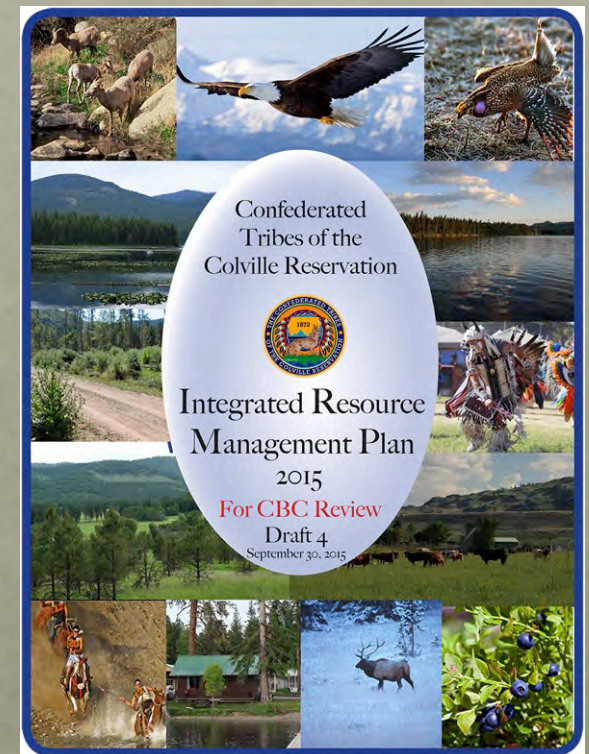
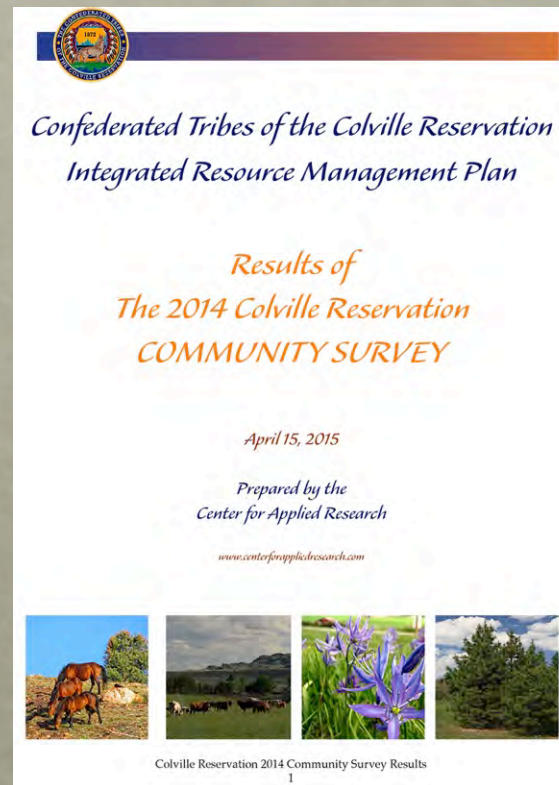
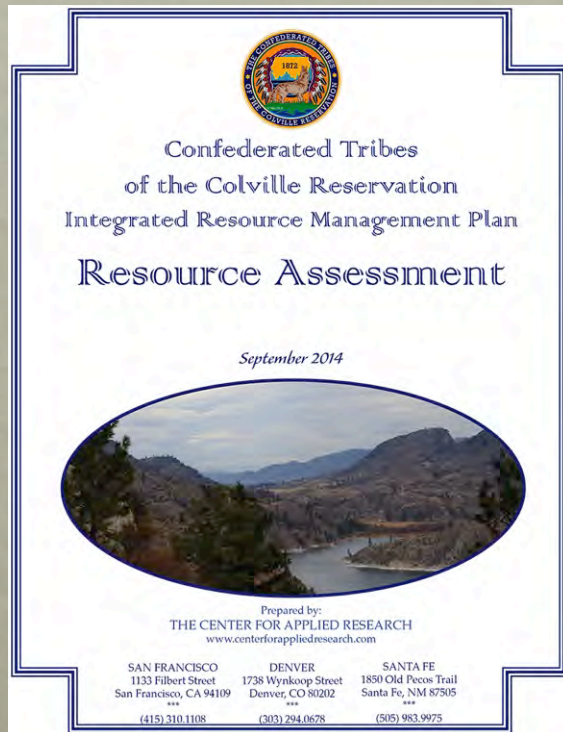
# Integrated Resource Management Plan



## Scoping Meeting Presentation

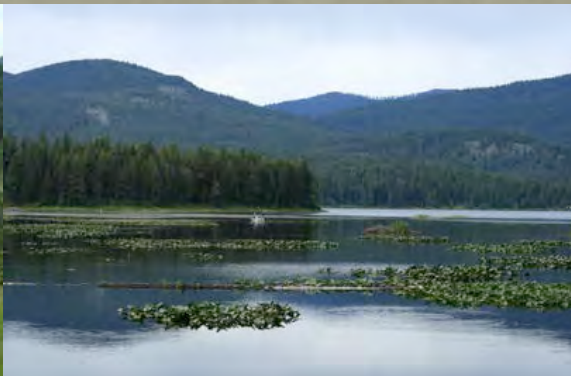
October 26-29, 2015

# IRMP Planning Process



# Management Alternatives

1. Continue the current management strategy.
2. Enhance and improve the current management strategy.
3. Concentrate on forest and rangeland health problems.
4. Expand forest and cattle production.
5. Eliminate timber harvesting and livestock grazing.



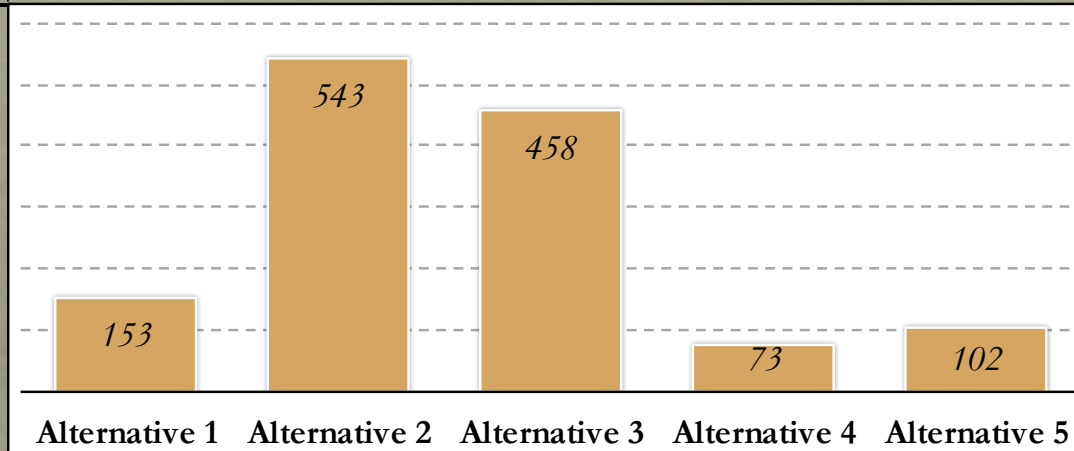


# Community Input

## Respondent Views on Alternative Approaches to Forest and Range Management

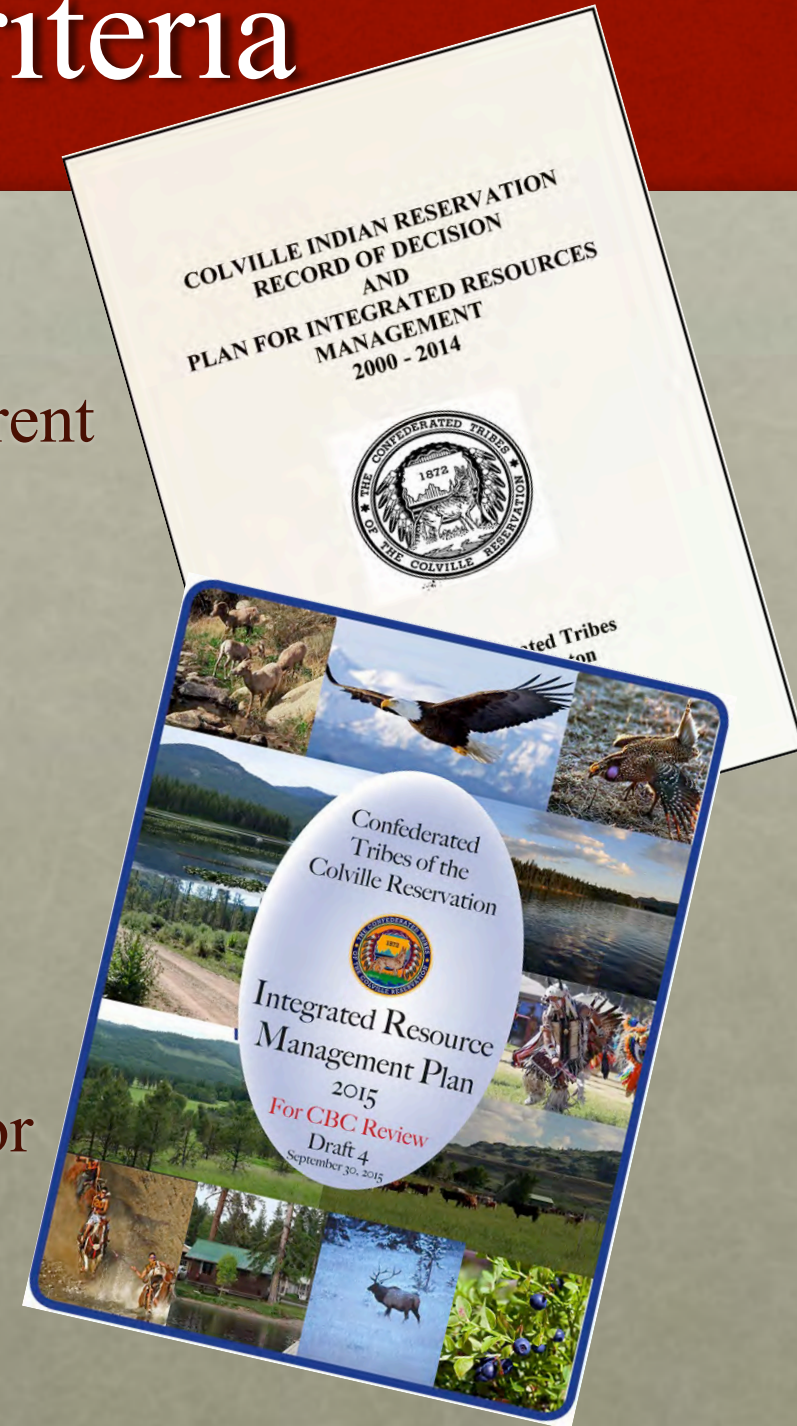
2014 Community Survey Responses by Age Group

Age Group	Sample Size	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3	Alternative 4	Alternative 5
		<i>Continue the current strategy</i>	<i>Enhance and improve the current strategy</i>	<i>Concentrate on forest and rangeland health problems</i>	<i>Expand forest and cattle production</i>	<i>Eliminate harvesting and livestock grazing</i>
18-24	62	18%	39%	26%	6%	15%
25-34	220	17%	52%	40%	5%	8%
35-44	187	15%	49%	39%	8%	12%
45-64	392	10%	61%	55%	7%	8%
65 or older	143	23%	46%	43%	10%	13%
Not indicated	22	14%	27%	23%	5%	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1026</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>10%</b>



# IRMP Plan Design Criteria

- Enhance and improve the 2000 IRMP.
- Update goals and objectives to reflect current conditions.
- Improve adaptive management with goals and objectives that provide management flexibility.
- Create an IRMP that provides clear and concisely stated goals and objectives, and functions as an informational document for the CBC and the Reservation community.



# IRMP Table of Contents

- Introduction
- Resource Management Planning
- Tribal Codes and Federal Laws
- The 2014 Community Survey
- Holistic Goal & Desired Future Conditions
- Trust Claims Settlement and the Natural Resources Restoration Plan



- Soil, Water and Air
- Agriculture
- Rangeland
- Forests
- Forest Roads
- Fish, Wildlife & Habitat
- Cultural Resources
- Parks & Recreation
- Climate Change Strategy
- Management Alternatives

2015 IRMP

Enhancements and  
Improvements

# 1. Establish Special Emphasis Management Areas

Lake Management Areas

Wildlife Habitat And Travel Corridors

Cultural Plant Gathering Areas



## 2. Enhanced Best Management Practices

Forestry

Agriculture

Grazing

Best Management Practices (BMPs) reduce impacts to water quality by preventing pollution, erosion and stream sedimentation.



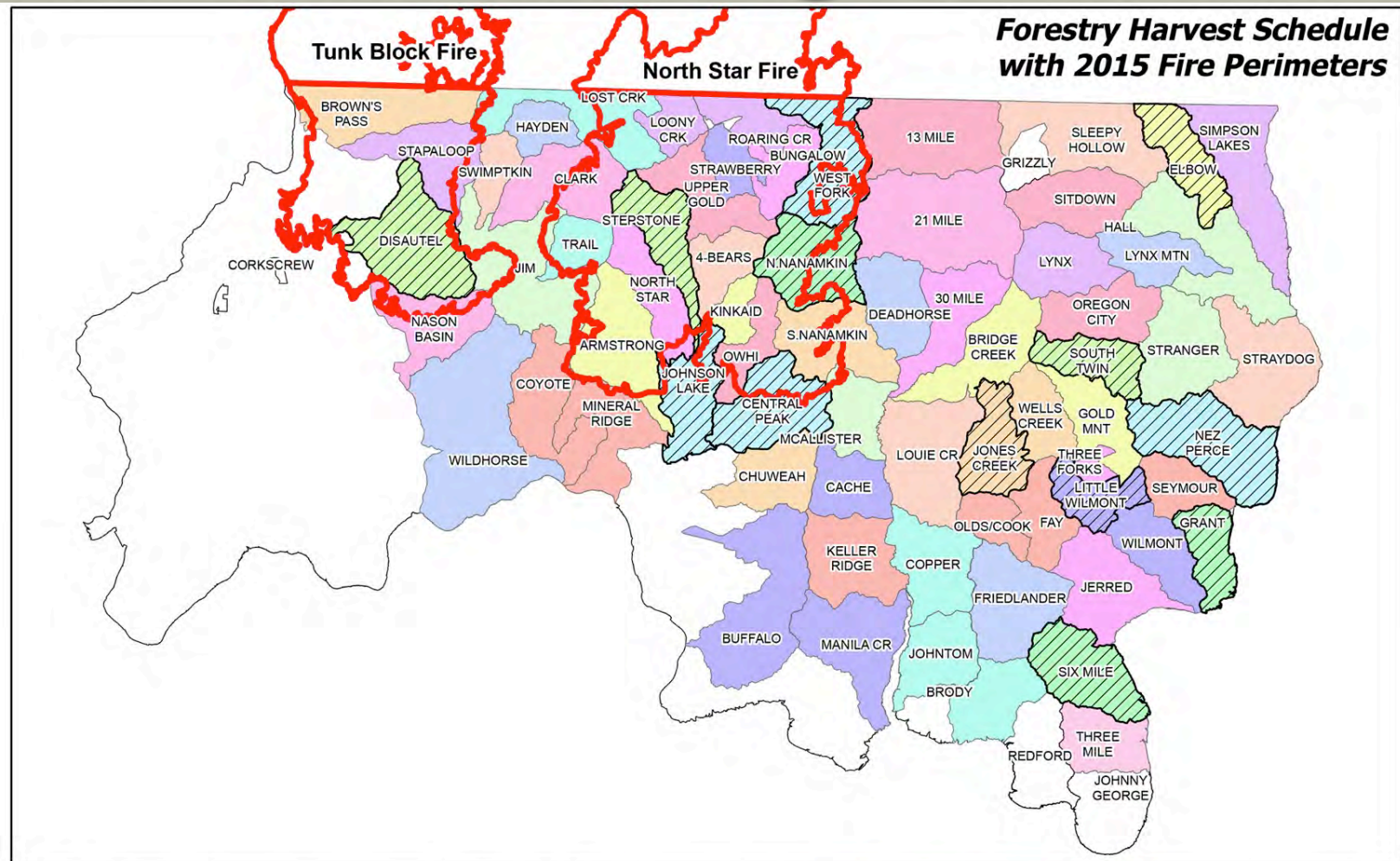
# 3. Adaptable Harvest Volume

Adaptable Harvest Volume For  
Timber Sales Based On Site  
Conditions.

Adaptable harvest scheduling to  
respond to wildfire events and market  
fluctuations.



# Timber Harvest and Wildfire Damage



**\*\* Disclaimer \*\***  
Data information used may be updated without any notification.

**LEGEND**

No Planned Treatment	2017	2021	2025	2029
2013	2018	2022	2026	Two Harvest Entries Planned
2015	2019	2023	2027	2015 Fire Boundaries
2016	2020	2024	2028	

Author: Alexander Besemann  
Coordinate System: NAD\_1983\_UTM\_Zone\_11N  
Date printed: 28 September 2015

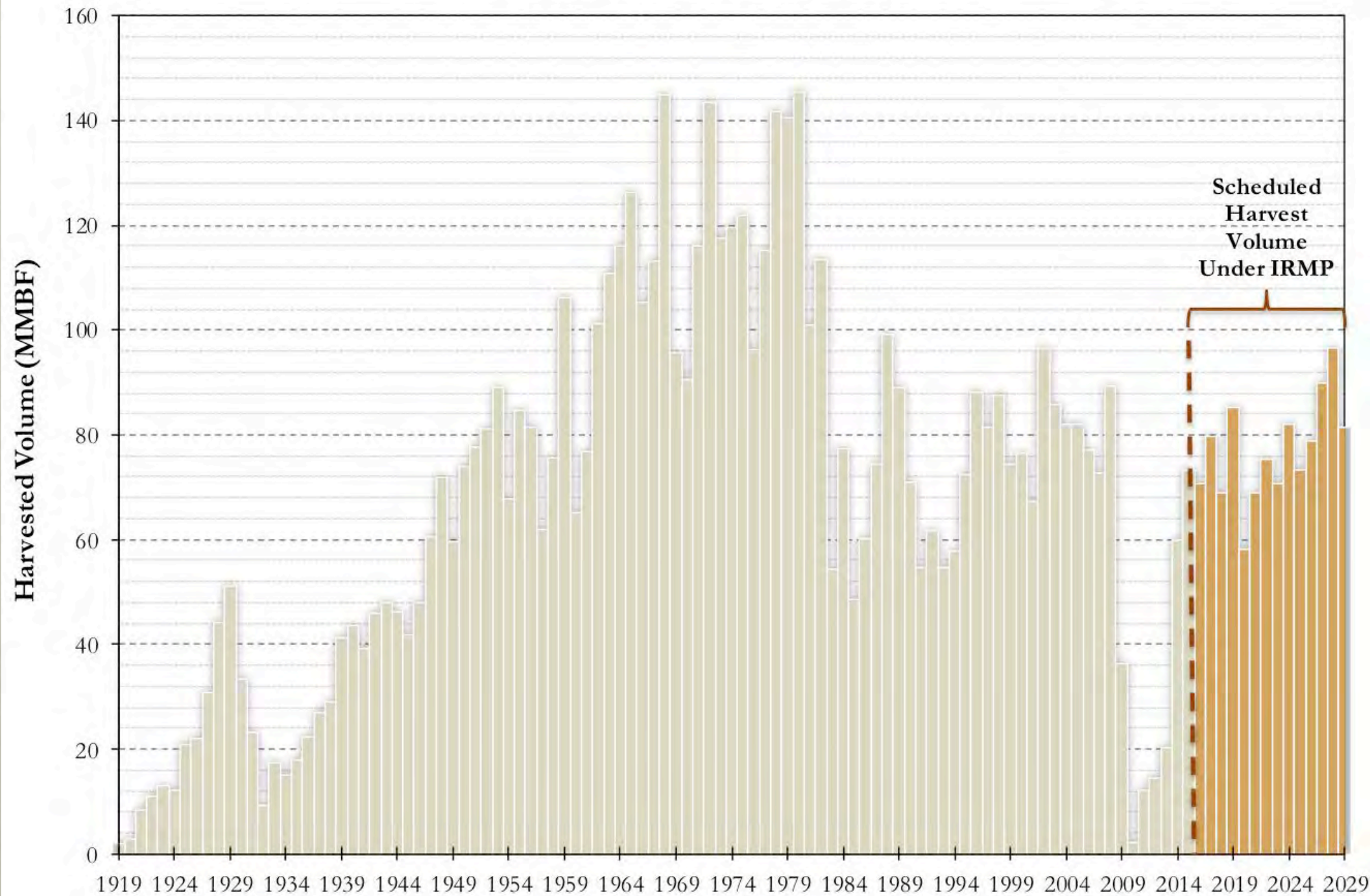
1:500,000

0 4.5 9 18 27 36 Miles



# HISTORICAL AND FUTURE HARVEST VOLUMES, 1919-2029

*MILLIONS OF BOARD FEET (MMBF)*



# 4. Improved Range Unit Permit Compliance

Increased coordination with Range  
Unit Permittees to support compliance  
with Conservation Plans.

Improved Enforcement Of Rangeland  
Grazing Permit Requirements.

Promotion of grazing best  
management practices.

\* \* \*

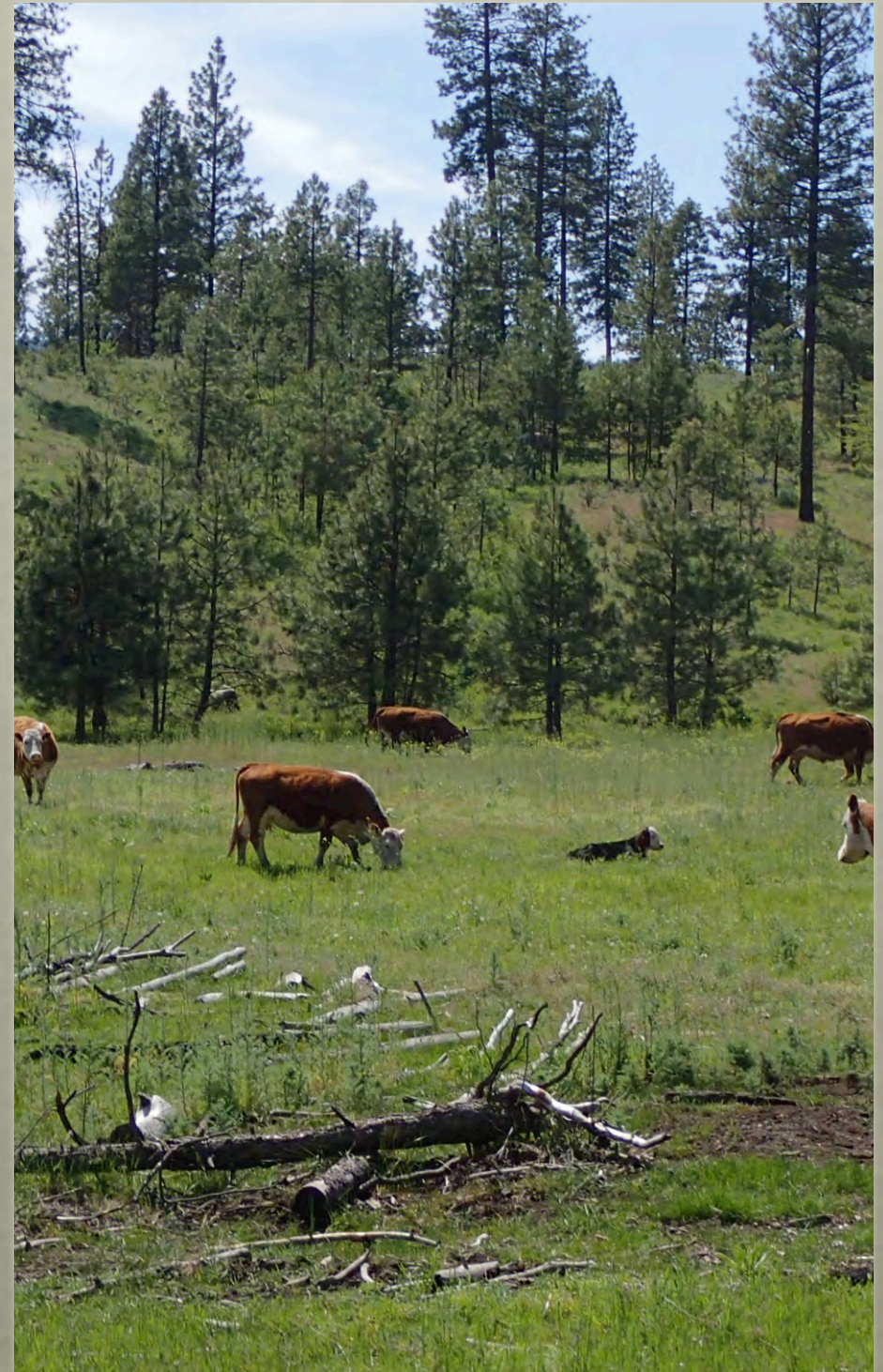
Continue:

Take half/Leave half standard to  
accommodate wildlife.

Potential grazing level: 47,000

Approved level: 13,000

Actual permitted cattle: 3,800



# 5. Forest Road Management Plan

Development Of A Forest Road Management Plan With Construction And Closure Standards.

Development of Tribal Code road standard requirements.

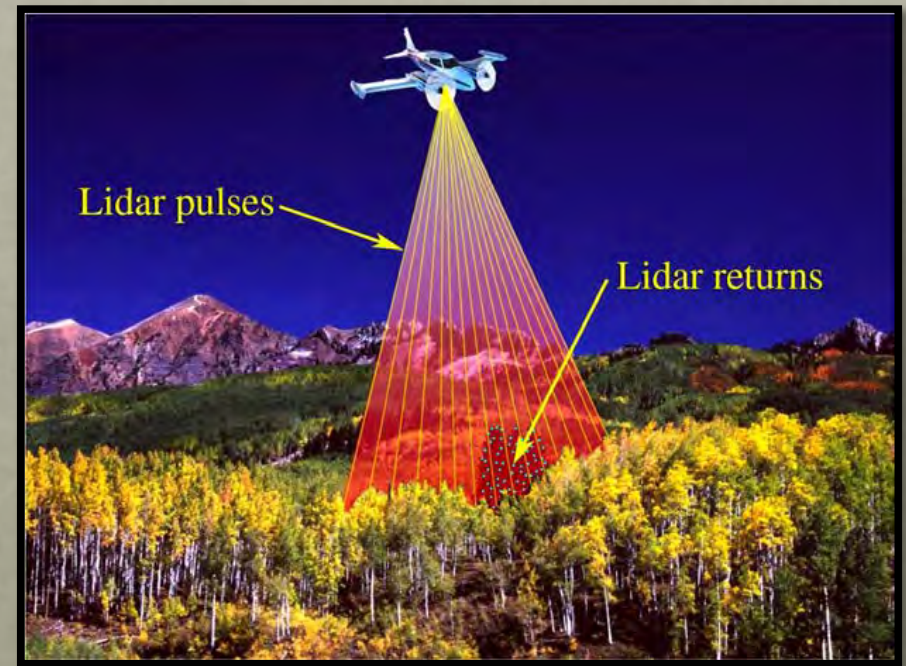
Establishment of long-term funding for road maintenance and closure.



# 6. LIDAR Technology

State-of-the-art technology for aerial mapping and landscape analysis.

Transportation and Timber Harvest Plans to be developed with LIDAR Technology.





# 8. Native Plants

Fish & Wildlife Department  
developing Memorandum of  
Understanding with BPA To Re-  
establish Native Plants In Mitigation  
Areas.



# 9. Control Invasive Weeds

Increased Efforts To Control Invasive Weeds.

Emphasize Non-herbicidal Treatments.



# 10. Augmentation of Wildlife Populations

Additional Wildlife Population  
Augmentation For Species With  
Diminishing Numbers.





# 11. Aboriginal Territories



Okanogan Nation Alliance  
Collaboration Regarding Traditional  
Rights in Aboriginal Territories.

# Resource Specific Plans Supporting the IRMP

- 2015 Forest Management Plan
- Range Management Plan 2015-2029
- Agricultural Resource Management Plan
- Integrated Weed Management Plan
- Forest Roads Management Plan
- Mount Tolman Wildfire Prevention Plan 2011-2015
- Fish and Wildlife Interim Five Year Management Plan 2012-2017
- Parks & Recreation Plan 2011
- Natural Resources Restoration Plan
- Cultural Resource Management Plan 2006
- Traditional Cultural Plant Community Restoration Plan 2013
- Soil and Water Management Plan 2015
- Quality Assurance Project Plan For Water Quality Monitoring 2014
- Non-Point Source Water Pollution Management Plan 2012
- Wetland Program Plan 2012
- Wellhead Protection Plan 2000
- Wildlife Site-Specific Management Plans

# The Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement

Assessing the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of the proposed IRMP and the identification of appropriate mitigation measures.

Comparison of the potential impacts of the five management alternatives developed by the IRMP Core Team.

# NOTICE OF INTENT

November 21, 2014

This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in cooperation with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Tribes), intends to gather information necessary to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (Programmatic EIS) for the proposed Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the Colville Reservation.

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Indian Affairs

[AAK6006201 134A2100DD  
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#### Intent To Prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Integrated Resource Management Plan for the Colville Reservation in Okanogan and Ferry Counties, WA

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs,  
Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), in cooperation with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Tribes), intends to gather information necessary to prepare a programmatic environmental impact statement (Programmatic EIS) for the proposed Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP) for the Colville Reservation in Okanogan and Ferry Counties, Washington. This notice also announces public scoping meetings to identify potential issues and content for inclusion in the Programmatic EIS.

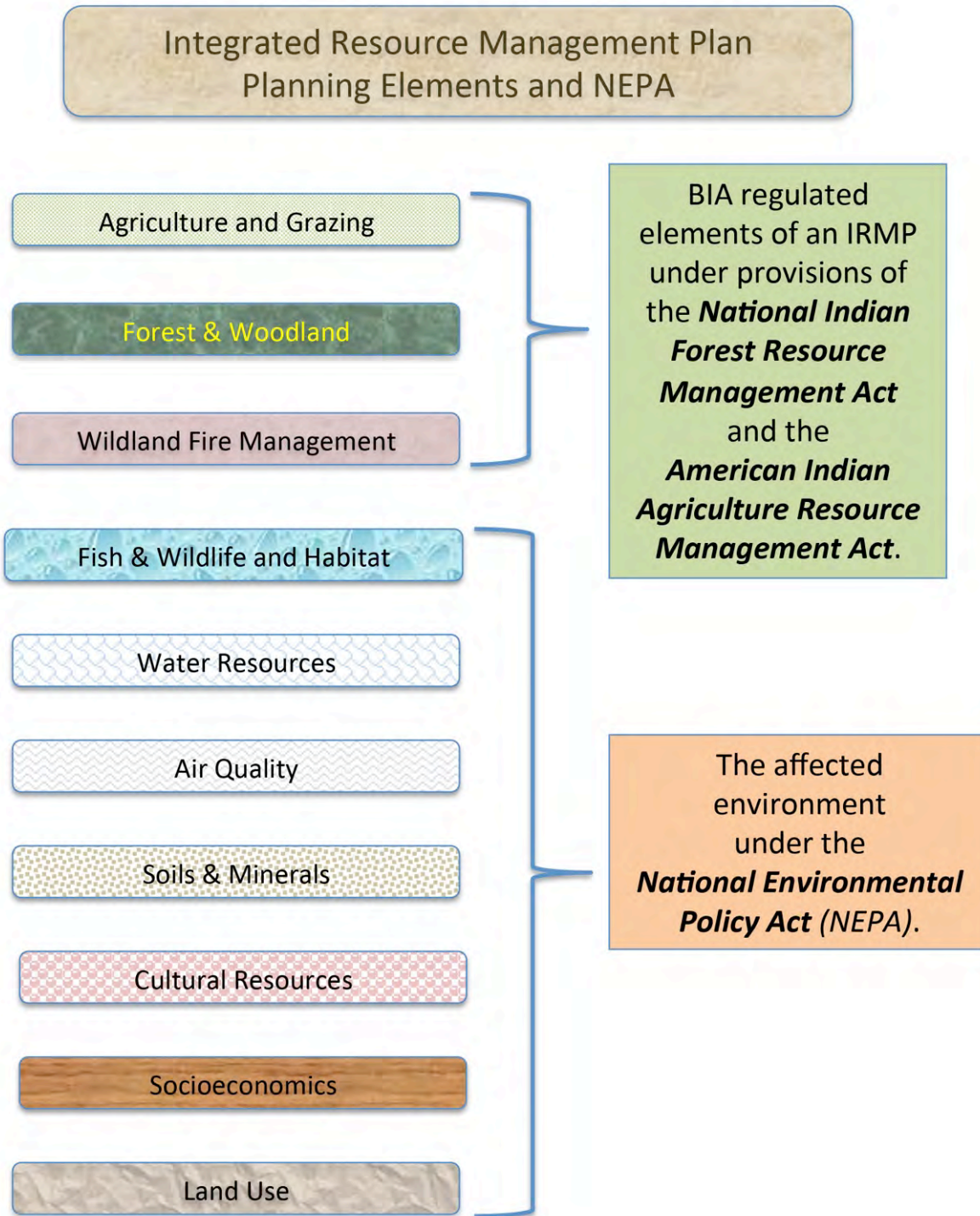
**DATES:** The dates and locations of public scoping meetings will be published in the Omak-Okanogan County Chronicle, the Statesman Examiner, the Star, and the Tribal Tribune. Additional information will also be posted at the Tribes' Web site:

[www.colvilletribes.com](http://www.colvilletribes.com). Written comments must arrive within 30 days following the public scoping meetings.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments may be submitted by mail, email, hand carry or fax to: Dr. BJ Howerton, Environmental Services Manager, BIA Northwest Regional Office, 911 NE 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232-4169, Phone: (503) 231-6749, Fax: (503) 231-2275, Email: [bj.howerton@bia.gov](mailto:bj.howerton@bia.gov); or Debra Wulff, BIA Superintendent, Colville Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 111, Nespelem, WA 99155-0111, Phone: (509) 634-2316, Fax: (509) 634-2355, Email: [debra.wulff@bia.gov](mailto:debra.wulff@bia.gov).

# NEPA PROCESS AND THE IRMP

- Scoping Meetings with Colville Reservation Communities
- Preparation of the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
- Public Review and Comment
- Response to Comments
- Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
- BIA/DOI Approval
- Approval and Adoption of the IRMP & FEIS by CBC



# IRMP PROGRAMMATIC EIS

## SCOPING MEETING

Community input concerning the  
scope of the Programmatic EIS