



*Pend Oreille County*

# *Board of Commissioners*

*Karen Skoog*  
District #1

*Mike Manus*  
District #2

*Stephen Kiss*  
District # 3

*Crystal Zieske*  
Clerk of the Board

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November 5, 2018

Via email to: [objections-chief@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-chief@fs.fed.us)  
And First Class Postal Mail

USDA Forest Service  
Attn: Chris French  
Objection Reviewing Officer  
1400 Independence Ave. S.W.  
EMC-PEEARS Mailstop 1104  
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Objection regarding the Revised Colville Forest Plan

Dear Objection Reviewing Officer:

The objector's name and address are as follows:  
Objector's Designated Representative  
Stephen Kiss, Chairman/Commissioner, District #3  
Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners  
P.O. Box 5025  
Newport, WA 99156  
Telephone: (509)447-4119  
Email: [skiss@pendoreille.org](mailto:skiss@pendoreille.org)

The Pend Oreille County Commissioners object to the following sections of the Colville National Forest Revised Management Plan. Our previous comments on these subjects are contained in our letter dated July 5, 2016 (letter #1008).

**Proposed wilderness:**

Given the fact that Pend Oreille County (POC) currently has 43,348 acres of designated wilderness (Salmo Priest) that attracts less than 1% of forest visitors, we do not support PWA set asides that potentially would double the number of wilderness acres. The PWA's proposed are currently roadless areas which are already protected. The current wilderness acres are adequate to fulfill the need during the 15-year life of the Forest Plan.

The proposed PWA's do not address the problems associated with wilderness management when the boundaries adjoin Wildland Urban Interface areas and private land.

The potential mineral resources in the POC PWA's could be vital to the future well-being of our country.

**Road Density:**

Given the overall restrictions on road construction, a desired condition of two miles of open road per square mile in General Restoration and one mile per square mile in Focused Restoration severely hampers the ability to meet restoration goals. Our landscape is not flat, so it is impossible to traverse a square mile with one mile of road.

**Forest Health – Vegetation Management:**

With listed objectives of 6,000 to 12,000 acres of vegetation management treatments per year for the 15-year life of the plan, progress moving the forest structure towards desired conditions will be very slow. A more aggressive approach is necessary to prevent massive wildfires and to provide the fiber needed to support the manufacturing infrastructure we have left.

A very low estimate LTSY of nearly 100 mm board feet per year will support an ASQ greater than the 67 mm board feet proposed. A more aggressive treatment plan over the next 15 years is needed to move the Forest towards desired conditions in a timely manner. A slow-motion approach as illustrated by a PTSQ (budget constrained model) of 41 mm board feet per year may not even maintain the current unhealthy situation.

**Grazing:**

The narrow Pend Oreille River Valley naturally limits agriculture land to only about 3%. Cattle producers depend upon a summer range to graze cattle on the 59% of Federal lands so that haying can be done on the river valley pastures where the cattle return to in the winter.

Grazing is an effective fire management tool. Grazing creates more foliage and stimulates improved topsoil. Riparian area standards are too restrictive and must be revised.

Approved for submittal by the Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners November 6, 2018.

Sincerely,

PEND OREILLE COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Kiss, Chair

  
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Mike Manus, Vice-Chair

  
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Karen Skoog, Commissioner