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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

1. Local tribes of Indians joined together to form the Colville Confederated Tribes to enter a treaty with the Federal Government which allowed white settlers onto the North Half of the Colville Indian Reservation in the late 1800s. This included all of the North Half of Ferry County excepting those land already allotted to Indians. Hunting, fishing, and gathering rights were reserved by this Treaty for the Indians and descendants. Closure of roads on the North Half restricts these Treaty rights severely.

2. Twenty five per cent of net proceeds of timber sales on National Forest shall be given to support local schools and county roads. Lack of timber sales result in local landowners paying the very maximum in property taxes allowed by law. As a result the junior government districts receive no monies even if a levy were to be passed. Only fifteen per cent of the North half is privately owned, much of which is timber company lands. And the Forest Service wants better schools, law enforcement, and county roads.

3. Employment created by harvesting, and other timber management practices create jobs, and those dollars support local businesses. In the late 1800s, opening of mining and construction of railroads brought employment to many, these people farmed, started businesses, harvested timber, mined minerals, and created a self-supporting community. Then timber sales disappeared, mining became restricted, sawmills left, and only service and government jobs remain.

4. The Colville Forest is not healthy. Crop management includes harvesting, thinning, planting and other activities, the same as growing radishes.

Thank you for accepting the comments of a resident of 72 years and frequent commenter.

The Colville National Forest will consult with the Colville Confederated Tribes on projects proposed within the "North Half".