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Comments: A forest plan needs to be driven by a healthy Colville National Forest! Today in 2016 we find the forest is way behind in the treatment of acres that if treated we would not be confronted with mountain pine beetle epidemics and spruce bud worm outbreaks as well as other destructive beetles. Currently forests are experiencing large wild fires that are getting larger and larger.

These trends must be slowed down and reversed.

We are fortunate on the Colville National Forest in that we have viable tools today to accomplish the vast task before us. We are blessed with an incredible multifaceted industrial infrastructure that leads the nation in best possible forest restoration and fiber utilization. We either use it or lose it.

It is a reasonable goal that we could thin and treat over 500,000 acres of the Colville National Forest by the year 2050. If started in the next two years we would be able to plan recreations with treatments that would facilitate horse, hiking, motorized and non-motorized trail systems that would be the envy of all national forests.

Local planning and development of our projects (long term) will get buy in and acceptance at all levels of stakeholders.

The Colville must start with a plan that addresses the current health crisis with the pine beetle and the wild fires and get in front of these with urgency and discipline. Then move on to an aggressive program of treating the balance of the forest to a healthy state. Preventative Maintenance always pays!

The pace and scale of wildfire is much greater than the pace and scale of forest restoration on the Colville National Forests. This trend must be reversed now! Do we have resources to change course?

Each year we hear lessons learned on; fire, thinning, salvage, nepa, CE's, Roadside and the list goes on and on. The point is the Colville National Forest is unique. It has capabilities to treat over 30,000 acres per year right now.

So when a new plan is developed let's throw out the current modeling systems designed to work in other forests in other areas; instead of asking for more money and more people, How about asking for new ways of doing business, new ideas, new methods, new policies, new actions with collaborations and business partners?

We all say we want to save our forest and protect it, but we all are coming from different perspectives.. Do we truly want locally healthy forests and communities that have benefit for all or do we want more acres burned every year than are restored?