

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/5/2016 12:00:00 AM

First name: Kurtis

Last name: Vaagen

Organization: Vaagen

Title:

Comments: The Colville National Forest is in an interesting place. The infrastructure surrounding the forest creates a healthy market for all the products our forests generate. Other National Forests around the west have trouble finding markets for their products from years of lower than usual harvests off the national forests. Many manufactures that depended upon the National Forest products have gone out of business due to lack of supply. We are lucky to have enough private timberland in our area to sustain our infrastructure for as long as we have. Many of these acres have been cut harder than usual and are in desperate need of a break. Our national forests need to make up this gap. When we are actively managing less than 1% of our treatable acres we are failing to address the problems the forest faces. The Colville National Forest is dying faster than we are treating it and may die faster than it is growing if we continue to manage it as is. Our Forest is in desperate need of a plan that addresses Fire Hazards, Disease and Insect outbreaks. What is the current plan when one of these disturbances happen?

The Colville National Forest has great value and great interest. the amount of people that depend and use the forest continues to grow. We need to treat the Colville that allows everyone that opportunity. We have too many acres in the mid to late successional stand that doesn't allow for a diverse ecosystem. Browsers and other animals that depend on the forest don't have enough food leaving the deepest parts of the forest unused by most animals and people.