

Community Character of the *Chelan-Douglas Human Resource Unit*

The Spokane Field Office contracted James Kent Associates (JKA) to collect information on communities in the planning area. They collected information within Human Resource Units (HRU) which are roughly equivalent in size to a county but seldom correspond to county boundaries. HRU boundaries are derived by JKA from seven cultural descriptors and by self-reporting of residents living in these areas. The Cultural Descriptors are Settlement Patterns, Publics, Networks, Support Services, Work Routines, Recreation Activities and Natural and Human caused Features of the Landscape. This document presents a synopsis of the information collected by JKA for the *Chelan-Douglas HRU*. **More detail can be found at the RMP website where the full JKA report is posted.**

Chelan and Douglas Counties are quite different even though they are part of the same HRU. Chelan County has many more people, more urbanization, more economic diversity, and more diverse geography and natural settings. Douglas County has a much lower population, it is very rural in outlook, agricultural in its economic base, and is mainly characterized by arid sage steppe lands. The area is agriculturally rich with a diversity of crops that includes winter wheat, spring wheat and fruit crops which in recent years has expanded to include blueberries and wine grapes. The area is well-known for its diverse habitats, from upland forests to the sage steppes of the lowlands. High technology firms are reported locating in the area as well, including Microsoft and Yahoo, apparently attracted to the low power rates.

People say different groups are coming into the area. Professional people, retired people, people who want out of the rat race on the “Westside” are beginning to change the feel of the towns in this area. The perception here is that recreation development and the attractiveness of the areas “outdoor lifestyle” is in part responsible for the growth. People are reportedly moving here from the coast and from California. Retirees are bringing money with them. There also seems to be a settlement pattern in which middle-age people come back to care for their aging parents and then stay.

Community Concerns related to BLM

Citizens had much to say about **outdoor recreation**; noting a low awareness of BLM outside of motorized uses, access issues and mitigation of resource damage. Others noted concern with safety and resource damage related to **motorized uses of public land**. Many of these motorized users expressed their concern regarding resource damage, access and a decreasing availability of ORV opportunities. In addition to motorized uses, **conflicts with mountain biking** (resource damage and safety) were noted. Management of existing **trails for all uses** and their expansion was also expressed. Others noted that BLM has forced cattle numbers down and noted that a flexible plan was needed for **grazing to continue**. **Fragmented BLM lands** were a concern and people suggested land tenure adjustment for consolidation. Specific areas mentioned were **Douglas Creek** where a desire for resource protection with multiple uses was apparent. In addition, interest in hunting, wildlife and access around **Jameson Lake** was expressed. Citizens also noted concern with **Vandalism, Road Maintenance, Access to BLM, Updated Maps, Fire Management, Weed management, Law enforcement, and Resource Protection**.

Are there other concerns related to BLM in your area?