

Community Character of the *Colville 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 *Colville HRU*. **More detail can be found at the RMP website where the full JKA report is posted.**

The Colville HRU includes Pend Oreille, Stevens, Ferry and parts of Okanogan County. The JKA acknowledged longstanding family and social links between this area and British Columbia from the beginning of white settlement in the area. The economic driver of the region is primarily timber, agriculture, mining, recreation and tourism. Hunting, fishing, hiking, skiing, ORV use, and camping are all a part of the draw to this area. The Columbia River runs through the area from North to South and brings multi-recreation assets as well as employment. Spokane is the closest and largest city for the region and is valued for its, shopping, medical and other services. The Colville Indian Reservation and the Spokane Indian Reservation are contiguous to this region and have some influence across its boundaries. Area development trends emphasized during discussions with JKA were regional recreation planning, the EAST Wedge project (which has resulted in collaborative forest management resulting in recent increases in timber product availability), and the start of a biomass facility in Springdale. Pride was expressed that this area has been able to hold onto its timber mills better than other areas of the Northwest. Outdoor recreation is said to be increasing in this area although no studies were discovered by JKA to substantiate this. People said that most outdoor recreation is local and from the Spokane metropolitan area.

Community Concerns related to BLM

Citizens noted a **low awareness of BLM's** purpose and its location. A desire for coordination with the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition's goal for interagency management of 600,000 acres in order to **promote successful timber sales and greater timber production**. **Access and maps** was noted as a important for these uses and future recreation use. Strong interest in **regional recreation planning** was expressed; the intent of the current effort is to **inventory current recreation resources, programs and projects**, assess the **opportunities for future recreation development**, and to **coordinate planning** in the region. Noxious weed were noted of concern; additionally the Weed Board would like to consult with BLM about BLM projects and coordinate future efforts. Interest in future **mining on BLM** in the area was also noted; some expressed interest in additional mining in the area. Area residents are very aware of the **land acquisition and disposal** in the area and wonder what about BLM's future intent. Specific areas mentioned included **Huckleberry Mountains** where access issues exist.

Are there other concerns related to BLM in your area?