

## **Community Character of the *Kittitas and Yakima Human Resource Units***

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 *Kittitas and Yakima HRU*. **More detail can be found at the RMP website where the full JKA report is posted.**

The Kittitas and the Yakima HRUs are separate geographic areas but united by the Yakima River Canyon. BLM's actual holdings in these two separate HRUs are not great which warranted single treatment by JKA. The geography of the Kittitas HRU provides for diverse recreation including; Yakima River Canyon for rafting, fishing and camping, to Moses Lake trails, camping and ORV site, and of course the Cascade Mountain range for hiking, skiing, and biking. There has been population growth during the last couple of decades which local people attribute in part to the recreation appeal of the area.

## **Community Concerns related to BLM**

Citizens noted the importance of **recreation uses on BLM** such as boating, fishing, birding and camping in areas such as the Yakima River Canyon. **However problems with permit availability, trash, overuse of campsite, and a lack of boat launches and law enforcement** were expressed. Others noted a **low awareness of BLM** regarding where it is located and expressed a desire for maps; keeping pace with increasing technology, such as GPS use by the general public and the popularity of online maps, was noted. A **lack of recreation guidance**, for all uses, in the current RMP was noted as well. Motorized users expressed a desire for **motorized access, additional local opportunities and a desire for additional infrastructure improvements such as restrooms and better signage**. Specific areas mentioned included the **William O. Douglas Trail** where interpretive opportunities, better trail maintenance and fast track land tenure adjustment is desired. The "remote designation" of the **Rattlesnake Ridge** area was mentioned. In addition, official motorized use designation is desired for the informal ORV area called **Rankville**, located a couple miles north of Zillah.

**Are there other concerns related to BLM in your area?**