Indian Creek Management Plan

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Kalispel Natural Resource Department (KNRD) continued to mitigate the wildlife habitat losses as part of the Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation Project. Utilizing a combination of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funds, US Forest Service Community Forest Program Grant funds, and Kalispel Tribe of Indians (Tribe) funds, we were able to purchase the Indian Creek property on October 4, 2012 totaling 554.7 acres. It is the Tribe's intent to retain approximately 14.5 acres of Parcel 4B for housing along LeClerc Road. The 56.9 acres known as Downs Island was part of the Tribe's purchase as there were a few title anomalies that kept BPA from purchasing that entire portion. It is however the best in-kind habitat for Albeni Falls Dam impacts. The remaining 483.3 acres of this Washington property will be managed as part of the ongoing collection of properties that partially mitigate wildlife losses from Albeni Falls Hydropower facility (Martin, et, al. 1988).

This document is meant to serve as a site specific Wildlife Management Plan for Indian Creek and become an appendix to the Habitat Management Plan: Kalispel Tribe Wildlife Management Area (Plan) for mitigation lands within Washington. This plan represents the management activities that will take place to protect, operate and maintain, and in some areas enhance wildlife habitat on Kalispel acquired lands in Washington State (Merker and Scholz. 1990).

Habitat Evaluation Procedures (HEP) have been used in the past to estimate baseline habitat conditions. These procedures were the standard loss estimator in all hydroelectric loss statements submitted to the Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPC). Bonneville Power Administration required the use of HEP on a project-specific basis for increased detail and accuracy. As part of the Tribe's mitigation effort this property will be included in the Upper Columbia Wildlife Monitoring and Evaluation Project (UWMEP) for routine monitoring towards meeting its desired future condition. As part of that project, a series of data will be collected at permanent grid plots within each of the proposed habitat management types. This data will provide baseline composition and abundance information for avian, small mammal, and amphibian populations as well as additional vegetative composition detail for specific habitat types. These data will also serve as the means for evaluating the success and/or failure of management activities. The majority of the property is in the forest cover type and was evaluated for current and desired future conditions. The former owner enrolled the open grass/pasture lands into a contract with the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to maintain the water right from Indian Creek and get funding to create the circle pivot irrigation system. Most of those grass/pasture lands will be used to grow grass hay for the buffalo herd and 20 acres is dedicated for the field nursery. The riparian area along Indian Creek will be maintained to protect and conserve the Creek for fish management and future enhancement activities. Indian Creek is designated as critical habitat for bull trout, a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

The acquisition of the "Indian Creek" property will provide BPA with an estimated 1,087.42 Habitat Units (HUs) for the 483.3 acres involved. This estimate of 2.25 HUs per acre is based on the average of past acquisitions and will be used as full credited value of the property as agreed to in the 2012 Kalispel Fish Accord (Accord).

These lands acquired by the Kalispel Tribe with BPA funding, will be managed to benefit wildlife habitat with associated species, populations, and guilds.

INTRODUCTION

This plan addresses the management actions that will be conducted on the Indian Creek acquisition (481 acres) which provides protection, mitigation, and enhancement for wildlife species affected by the construction and operation of the Federal hydroelectric facilities on the Columbia River System. The properties would be used for wildlife habitat and would provide BPA with credits for partial mitigation of wildlife losses due to the construction of Albeni Falls Dam.

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians, supported by BPA funding will manage this land under this document for restoration, protection, and management of wildlife habitat and species and be included in the Tribes' Plan for acquired lands located in Washington.

The purpose of this site-specific plan is to outline baseline habitat conditions and management strategies that would be employed in the management of these Kalispel mitigation lands over time. This plan after review and acceptance will be added as Appendix I in Habitat Conservation Plan for the Kalispel Tribe Wildlife Management Area (WMA) (Stovall, 2006).

HISTORIC AND PRESENT CONDITIONS

Indian Tribes were the earliest inhabitants of this area. Pend Oreille County was first explored by white fur traders in about 1809. The fur traders were followed by Protestant and Catholic missionaries in the mid 1800's, then by miners, lumbermen, and finally homesteaders. In the late 1850's gold was discovered near Metaline in the northern part of the county. There was some gold found in placer mining, but hard rock mining of lead and zinc from 1928 to 1950 was when most of the mining boom times occurred. Over a long period of time, the timber resource here has been one of the, if not the most, prolific industries. Much of the area was in a checkerboard ownership that was granted to the railroads. This land was never opened up to homesteading as was intended. Instead, big timber companies acquired millions of acres and numerous sawmills were operating in the early 1900's. Homesteaders arrived in about 1910, but this area has fewnatural open areas and finding suitable farmable areas was difficult. For a time, dairies proliferated in the valleys. Homesteading in this area was difficult at best, and many settlers abandoned their homesteads by 1935. Floods from the river and forest fires contributed to the difficulty of operating farms in the early years.

This area was still part of Stevens County until 1911 when the legislature passed a bill designating the easternmost part of Stevens County as Pend Oreille County. The Kalispel Tribe maintains a significant presence in the county. The Kalispel Tribe is a relatively small tribe, approximately 400 members on a small reservation of less than 5,000 acres. The tribe operates an off-reservation Casino in Airway Heights, and many of the casino profits are used on the reservation.

The Pend Oreille County economy historically and even today is dependent upon natural resources. Timber and agriculture are still mainstays of the economy, although tourism and recreational opportunities have become bigger segments of the economy in recent years. Based upon the 2010 census estimates, the county population was 13,001, an increase of 10.8% over the 2000 census figure of 11,732. Washington Office of financial management population estimates for 2011 indicates a population of 13,000, virtually unchanged. About 25% of the county population lives within the incorporated towns of Newport, Ione, Metaline, Metaline Falls, and Cusick.

PROJECT SCOPE

The Tribe followed an extensive process to formulate and prioritize wildlife resource goals. The KNRD provided guidance in identifying on-site opportunities. To prioritize specific goals, the Albeni Falls Interagency Work Group (AFIWG) and the Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Authority (CBFWA)

Wildlife Caucus were consulted for the Albeni Falls mitigation sites. From this consultation process, the Tribe identified the primary goal for the area:

> ***"Protect and restore riparian deciduous forest and freshwater wetlands to mitigate losses resulting from reservoir inundation and operations at Albeni Falls and Box Canyon Dams."***

Indicator target species benefiting from management will include mallard, breeding and wintering bald eagle, Canada goose, black-capped chickadee, yellow warbler, pond-breeding amphibians, white-tailed deer, muskrat, and beaver. Additional plant and animal community data will give the Tribe a better understanding of ecosystem health and will aid the Tribe in deciding which management actions produce the desired results.

The construction of Box Canyon Dam in 1952 and Albeni Falls Dam in 1954 inundated approximately 9,000 acres of wetlands once used by the Tribe and area residents. Fluctuations in water levels both above and below the dams impacted riparian habitat and precluded the re-establishment of riparian plant communities. Habitat impacts have occurred for 40 years and caused cumulative wildlife impacts. These factors have resulted in both direct and indirect impacts to wildlife. Other limiting factors impairing wildlife habitat quantity, quality and function include habitat conversion and land use practices such as farming, grazing, and residential and recreational development.

The Project Area is intended to partially mitigate wildlife habitat losses due to construction and inundation by Albeni Falls Dam. The Indian Creek property contains 483.3 acres for wildlife mitigation and contributes 1,087.42 Habitat Units (HUs). To achieve this fully restored value of HU'**s**, it is necessary for BPA to fully fund restoration associated with this plan and provide O&M funding in perpetuity consistent with the 2012 Kalispel Accord. Vegetation and wildlife populations/guilds will be monitored to determine habitat function and an appropriate approach to adaptive management.

GENERAL SITE DESCRIPTION

The Indian Creek Project Area is located in Pend Oreille County, Washington. A general vicinity map of the Indian Creek property is located in Figure 1 below.

Access to the property is gained by traveling east from Newport on U.S. Highway 2 east across the Newport bridge, then turning north onto LeClerc Road, following the road in a northwesterly direction, approximately 10 miles to its intersection with Indian Creek Road. The subject lies along north of LeClerc Road on both sides of the intersection and along Indian Creek Road north for about one mile. Alternately, the property can be accessed from the Reservation by driving south from Usk along LeClerc Road for about 11 miles to the intersection of Indian Creek Road. GPS coordinates at the intersection of LeClerc and Indian Creek Roads are: 48° 14' 43.25" N, 117° 08' 50.68"W. The property is mostly mixed coniferous forest that was lightly to moderately harvested. The only open areas are in irrigated hay fields with the exception of the western 30-acre opening that is being actively reforested as a mosaic of forest and upland meadow. Indian creek and the associated riparian zone bisect the property flowing north to south where it empties into the Pend Oreille River.

Downs Island is located upstream of Indian Creek and is accessible only by boat from the Pend Oreille River. It is one of ten large islands in the Pend Oreille River downstream from Newport. It is a total of 56.9 acres in size based upon the county assessment records and original BLM land status plats. In reality, about 20 acres of the total size are normally submerged and in high runoff years the entire island is submerged. In 1996, flood flows covered the entire island (considered a 25 year occurrence). The island is long and narrow, about 4,300 feet long northwesterly by southeasterly, and varies from about 700 feet in width at the widest point to a sharp point on the downstream side. The island property has a mix of open meadows, shrub (hawthorn, willow, alder, etc), and deciduous forest areas. The highest area has a band of mature

ponderosa pine and black cottonwood in the center of the property. The topography on the island is best described as undulating. Elevation changes are less than 10 feet throughout with the elevation shown on USGS topography maps at roughly 2,040 feet. A Cultural Resource Survey was conducted in 2013 to determine the extent and distribution of any resources (Philmon, 2013). The island was not purchased as part of the Wildlife Mitigation program and any management conducted is funded by the Kalispel Tribe.

In the past this property provided housing, pasture for dairy cows, boarding of horses, haying, logging, and an area for various recreational pursuits. In addition, a large portion of the northwest corner was developed for paintball gaming in the hopes that revenue could be generated using a large landscape arena.

When the Tribe acquired the property the building structures were in need of maintenance and/or repair and the entire area was becoming covered with noxious weeds. Some immediate steps taken to secure the area included:

- Walking the perimeter and determining fence security needs
- Identifying and addressing noxious weeds on the property
- Securing the storage buildings by adding doors and locks
- Demolishing the old cabin and dairy barn
- Improving the access roads to the buildings
- Adding gates and locks were necessary
- Cleaning up the various slash piles for burning
- Gathering up all the accumulated junk and irrigation pipe to sell for scrap
- Providing signage and removing the old signs on the property
- Entering into short-term haying agreement with our neighbor to maintain quality hay and maintain water rights deeded with the property
- Develop a Tribal nursery to produce plant materials used in restoration projects

The Tribe identified the primary goal for the area as a place to conduct wildlife mitigation:

> ***"Protect and restore riparian deciduous forest and freshwater wetlands to mitigate losses resulting from reservoir inundation and operations at Albeni Falls and Box Canyon Dams."***

Wildlife species benefiting from management will include waterfowl, breeding and wintering bald eagle, Canada goose, black-capped chickadee, yellow warbler, pond breeding amphibians, white-tailed deer, muskrat, and beaver. Additional plant and animal community data when collected will give the Tribe a better understanding of forest health and will aid the Tribe in deciding which management actions produce the desired results.

The Indian Creek property in Pend Oreille County provides habitat to various species. The shoreline and creek provide for waterfowl and furbearing animals such as muskrat, beaver, skunk, weasel, mink, and otter. Moose, elk, mule and white-tailed deer, and black bears are all native to the area and will utilize the forested areas for part of their life requirements. Upland areas of hardwoods contain ruffed grouse as well as numerous species of resident and neo-tropical migrant birds. Raptors that nest within the project area include bald eagles, ospreys, marsh hawks, and owls. Amphibians and reptiles are also present in the area but not yet assessed.

White-tailed deer habitat in Idaho is dominated by dense conifer forests interspersed with natural brush fields, logged areas, river bottoms, and farm lands. Eastern Washington whitetails subsist almost entirely on a diet of browse during the winter. During the coldest months and deep snow

conditions, deer select habitats for cover value and eat whatever is available in these habitats. During the winter, whitetails are usually located at lower elevations in association with river bottoms and lake shores. The Indian Creek property will provide winter habitat for elk as well as white-tailed deer.

Riparian habitat enhancement would benefit white-tailed deer and a variety of other species. Over time, enhancement activities designed to improve winter browse availability and habitat conditions for reproductive life requisites are expected to increase the prey base of listed predator species. The opportunity to enhance protected areas that are better suited for maintaining or increasing specific habitat values could provide additional long-term benefits for all listed species.

The Tribe would restore degraded forested wetland areas to black cottonwood-dominated forests, with an understory of willow and red-osier dogwood. Scrub-shrub wetlands would be enhanced to achieve greater crown cover and shrub density for focal target species.

Several water rights are associated with the property, which we intend to use. The source of the water is Indian Creek and provided domestic as well as irrigation and livestock needs. The Tribal nursery will utilize the portion once used for livestock watering. We will maintain the irrigation use to develop forage for the Tribal Bison herd. The irrigation system consists of an intake pipe allowing water from Indian creek to travel via gravity to the booster pump located next to Indian Creek road above the nursery and goes under the road to the circle pivot in the 90 acre hay field. The Tribe has a lease agreement with our neighbor to farm the circle pivot field and receive a portion of the crop as payment for its use. The nursery tapped into the system to provide water for plants and doesn't impact the farming operation nor exceed the water withdrawal allowed by the water right. The property deed shows the following information concerning these rights.

Below are the water rights associated with this property. The water rights will still be utilized but changed from livestock to wildlife use.

S3-006318CL Livestock use, 25 GPM, Indian Creek
S3-006319CL Irrigation use, 204 acres, 4 CFS, Indian Creek 2920 Ac-ft
G3-126913CL Irrigation use, 10 GPM, well
S3-23554CWRIS Domestic use, 0.01 GPM, Indian Creek 1 Ac-ft
S3-20133CWRIS Irrigation use, 12 acres, 0.24 CFS, Indian Creek 24 Ac-ft
S3-02003CWRIS Irrigation use, 12 acres, 0.03 CFS, Indian Creek

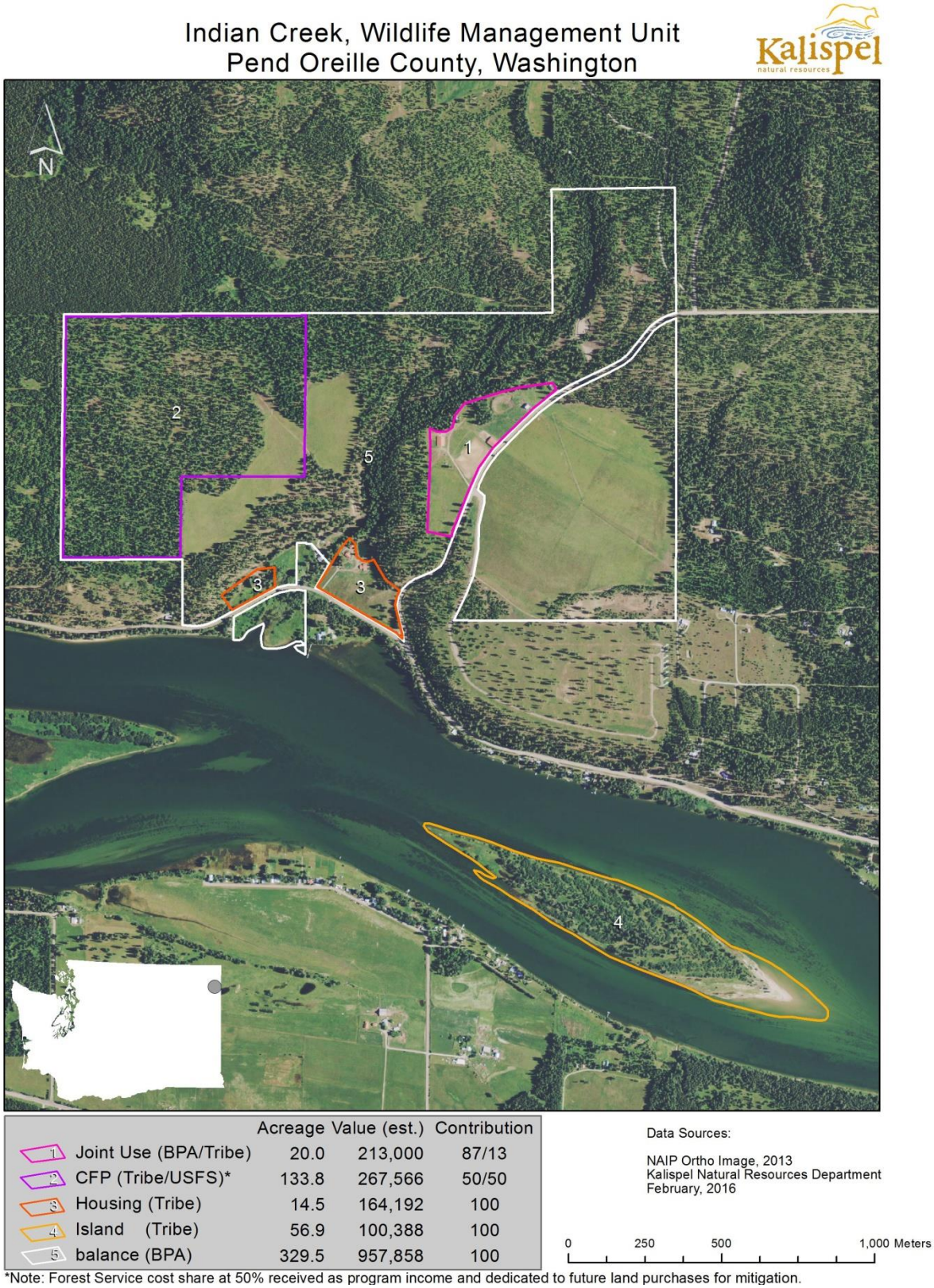

Figure1. Project Area general vicinity map.

Climate

The native vegetation is mainly conifers, shrubs, forbs, and grasses. Elevation is 2,000 to 3,400 feet. The average annual precipitation is 27 inches, the average annual air temperature is about 44 degrees F, the average growing season (at 28 degrees) is 90 to 110 days, and the average frost-free period (at 32 degrees) is 75 to 105 days. In winter, the average temperature is 27 or 28

degrees F and the average daily minimum temperatures are 20 or 21 degrees. The average seasonal snowfall is about 65 inches.

Soils

The soils are deep, somewhat excessively drained occurring on terraces and old alluvial fans. It formed in sandy, gravely, glaciofluvial material of mixed mineralogy. The soils of the Indian Creek property are **20 Bonner silt loam**, 0to10 % slopes, **21 Bonner gravelly silt loam**, 0 to 10 % slopes, **126 Sacheen loamy fine sand**, 15 to 25 % slopes, **128 Scotia fine sandy loam**, 0 to 7 % slopes, **145 Typic Xerrothents**, 30 to 65 % slopes, and other minor inclusions of other soils.

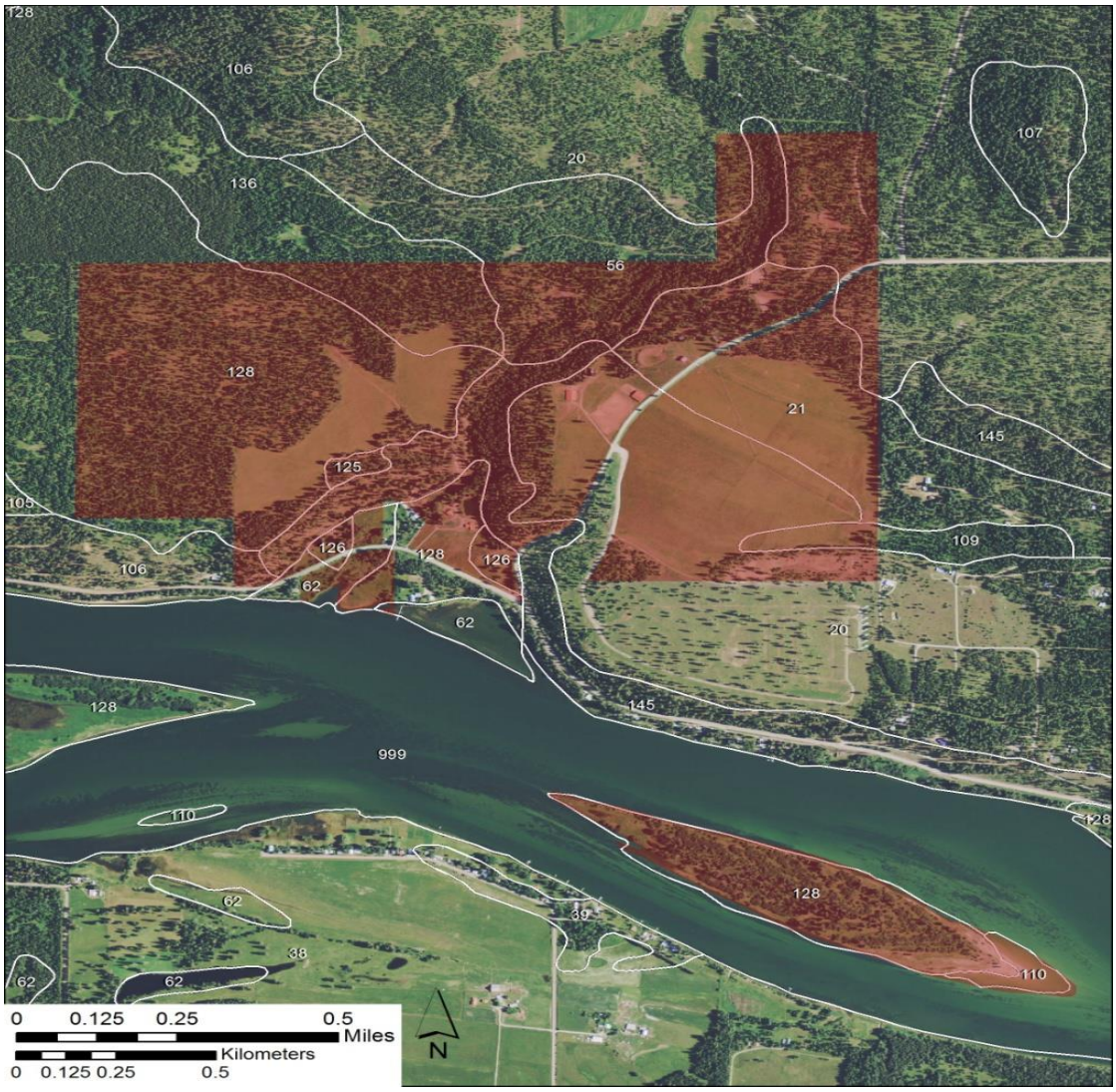

Figure 2. Indian Creek Soils map.

METHODS

General

The evaluation of current habitat quality and quantity as well as the potential for restoration and/or enhancement required the use of multiple tools. Baseline conditions for both the vegetative and animal communities were assessed through the use of plot and transect data collection to describe community composition and distribution across the Project Area Enhancement recommendations were derived by the use of comparative analysis. Remote sensing imagery (aerial photography) was compared to detect former vegetation and hydrologic composition prior to habitat alteration. Although completely undisturbed reference sites are virtually non-existent for comparison of composition and function, a

limited number of predominantly undisturbed sites served as additional references toward which Tribal management actions should strive to achieve.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Several methods will be employed to determine the baseline condition of wildlife guilds and vegetation. Baseline conditions for small mammals, neo-tropical migratory birds, migratory waterfowl, and vegetative characteristics for each representative habitat will also be collected. This data will be compared to the reference sites in order to provide the managers with information crucial to the function of each habitat type. In future years, comparisons will be made to determine habitat progress toward meeting the goals and objectives for the project. The Upper Columbia united Tribe's (UCUT) Wildlife Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (M&E Plan), a modified monitoring plan from the Albeni Falls Wildlife Monitoring and Evaluation Plan which is contained in the Conservation Plan for Washington mitigation projects (Stovall, 2006). This comprehensive M&E Plan was developed in response to the Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP) questions regarding project monitoring and adaptive management. The M&E Plan was revised and implemented in order to determine project success as compared to reference site conditions for the various habitats types under modification. This M&E Plan was also expanded regionally to include all wildlife mitigation projects for the five member tribes of UCUT.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Indian Creek property presented the Kalispel Tribe with the opportunity to meet community needs by providing an area to establish:

- A native plant nursery and storage buildings for equipment was created (20 acres) to supply plant materials for restoration activities taking place on tribally managed lands.
- In conjunction with our neighbor who leases the agricultural land (91 acres) to maintain the water right on the property and provide a share of the hay production for quality forage for theTribal buffalo herd); If we take out the circle we have to pay a depreciated value to the NRCS for the cost of the system. Senior water right of 4csf BPA pays nothing for the acreage under use.
- A community forest plan was created in conjunction with the USDA Forest Service Indian Creek Community Forest grant (see appendix C). The grant helped in funding the acquisition and in no way changes the purpose of the mitigation program. It allows the community to provide input into managing the forested portions of the property with the focus based upon primary, secondary, graduate, post graduate, and community based educational opportunities in the natural resources field.
- A blister rust resistant white pine forest stand will be established and maintained filling in the 33 acres of grassland cover type back to conifer forest cover type.
- Riparian areas along Indian Creek will be restored and maintained, increasing the deciduous forest component.

The acquisition of the Indian Creek property provided BPA with 1,087.43 Habitat Units (HUs) for the 483.3 acres funded. This estimate was based on the average of past acquisitions and the ratio of 2.25 HUs per acre. This ratio will be used as a baseline until a HEP study can be completed to provide true numbers. The Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) was used to determine baseline habitat suitability on mitigation land acquired by the Kalispel Tribe of Indians.
The Accord with BPA describes how HU crediting, restoration, and O&M funding will take place over the length of the Accord.

COVER TYPES

Grassland

Grassland habitat is an area of land where the major vegetation is composed of grass. Often found adjacent to water, and depending on the species composition and height of herbaceous vegetation, grassland can provide food and cover HUs for Canada goose and mallard. The primary factors limiting Canada goose habitat suitability are proximity to open water and secure nesting habitat providing protection for nesting pairs from predators (Ball et. al, 1981). The agricultural fields on this property do not provide any habitat value to Mallard or goose. The hay fields provide no cover for nesting or food and is not close to open water thus the area is not used

as habitat by these species (Mackey, et. al., 1987). The open grassland areas adjacent to the forest will be restored to forest habitat over time specifically to stands of ponderosa pine and Western White pine. This cover type was delineated but not surveyed and no HU's were determined for Canada goose and Mallard suitability on this project. However because the reported HU value is an average of existing habitats credit was given.

Deciduous Forest Wetland

This cover type is described as stands of deciduous trees and/or shrubs greater than 20 feet in height. This cover type provides avian species the necessary habitat for nests and cover. It also serves species needs by available perch and resting areas as well as food sources. White-tailed deer use this cover type for food and cover. This cover type is limited to the wetland areas near the mouth of Indian creek and the majority of Downs Island. HU's were estimated for Bald eagle, Black-capped chickadee, mallard, and White-tailed deer suitability but values were collectively averaged from existing cover on acquired lands.

Conifer Forest

Conifer tree species in homogeneous or mixed stands including fir, spruce, larch, hemlock, cedar, and or pine species depending on the soil substrate and availability of water. This cover type was delineated and HU's were determined collectively for Bald eagle, Black-capped chickadee, and White-tailed deer suitability on acquired lands. This is the dominant cover type on this acquisition.

Mixed Forest Wetland

This cover type is similar to the deciduous forest wetland except for the addition of some conifers that are growing within the deciduous stand. Some examples are cedar mixed with larch and aspen. This cover type occurs on the upper banks of Indian Creek in small areas less than one acre in size depending on soils and slope and on Downs Island. This area was included in the collective HU's for Bald eagle, Black-capped chickadee, mallard, and White-tailed deer suitability on acquired lands.

Riparian

This cover type exists as a narrow band on both sides of Indian Creek where it enters the property all the way to the mouth where it empties into the Pend Oreille River. This creek is shaded throughout the property and supports good quality fish habitat. The mouth of the creek needs restoration and shading for full function as quality fish habitat.

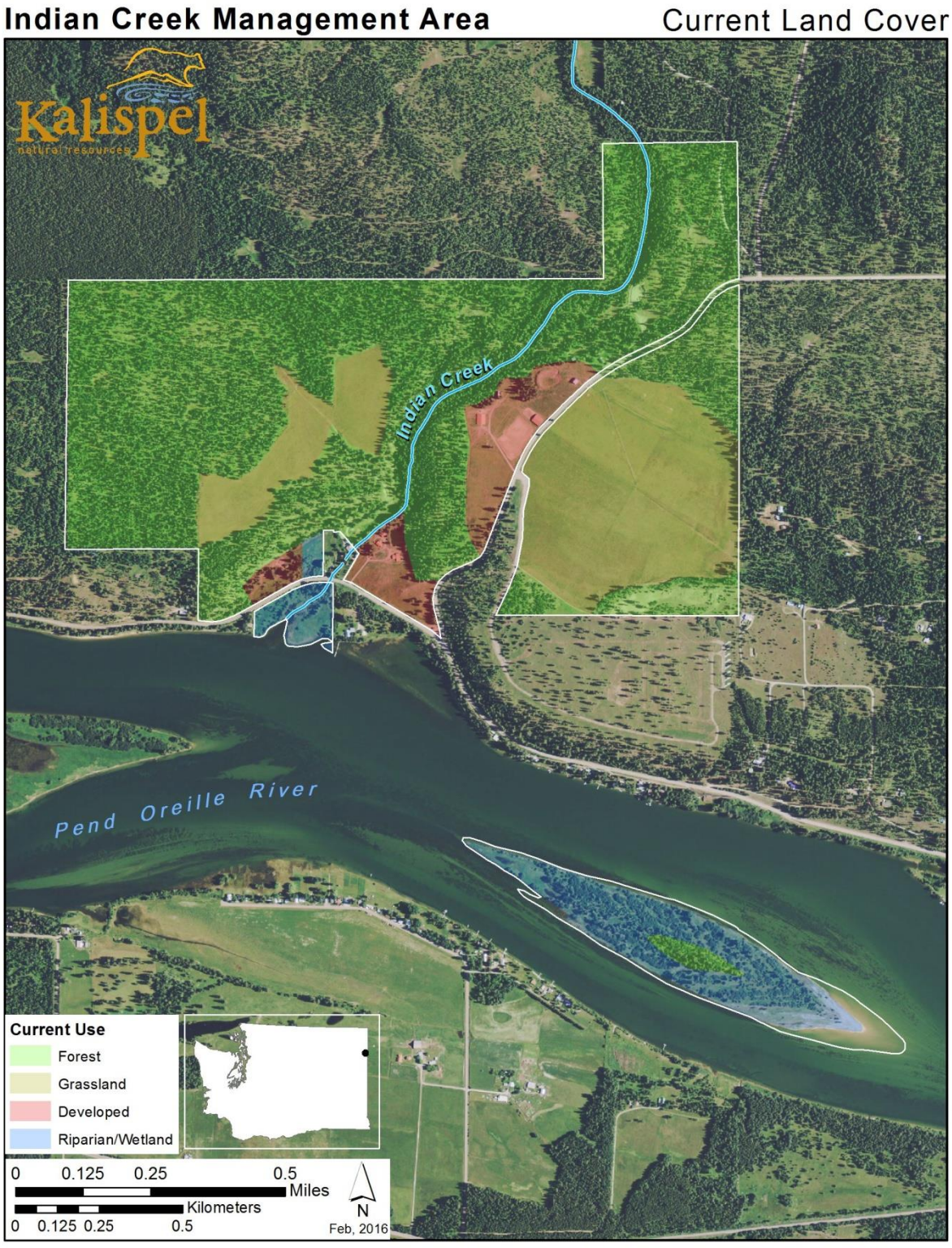

Figure 3. Indian Creek Current Cover Types.

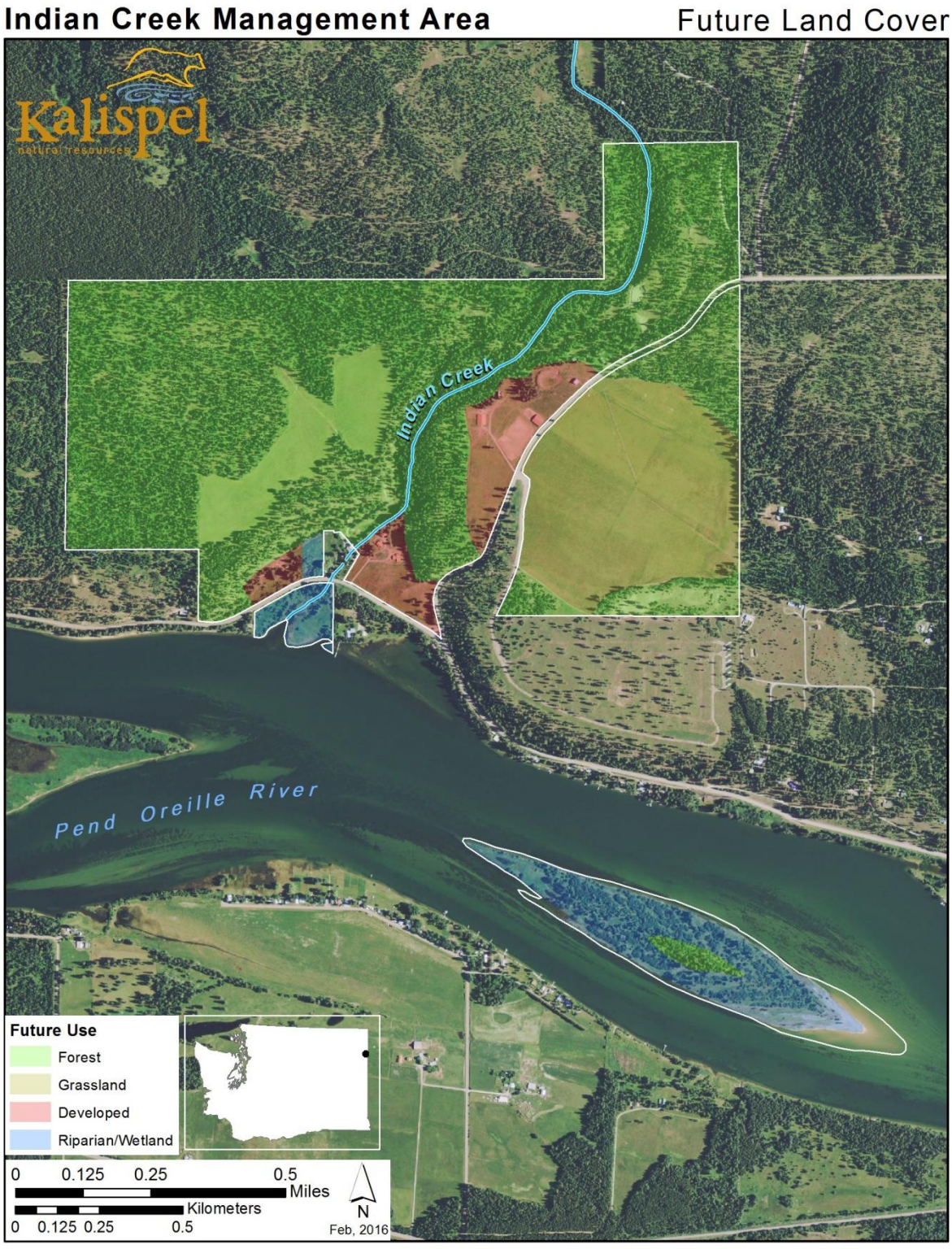

Figure 4. Indian Creek Future Cover Types.

Implementation

The Indian Creek property has the potential for developing quality habitats through restoration and management actions. The total of 520.2 acres excluding the 34.5 acres of development will be managed for wildlife to address hydropower losses from Albeni Falls Dam.

Table 1. Indian Creek Cover types with acreage Current and Future Conditions

Current Cover types	Acres	Managed Cover types	Acres	Net Change
Forest	350.2	Forest	380.5	+30.3
Grassland	118.2	Grassland	87.9	-30.3
Riparian	51.8	Riparian	51.8	0
Developed	34.5	Developed	34.5	0
Totals	554.7		554.7	

Most of the area is covered throughout by noxious weeds from lack of weed management. In 2013 we began addressing this problem by chemical applications and management actions designed to reduce or eliminate the weed problem.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND TASKS

Goals

The goal of habitat conservation is to conserve the full range of species, natural communities, habitats, and ecological processes that are characteristic of an area. The initial goal of habitat management within this Wildlife Management Unit (WMU) is to ensure continued and/or enhanced use by targeted wildlife species.

***Objective 1*.** Determine baseline plant and animal community composition, abundance and distribution.

***Strategy 1.1*.** Determine baseline habitat availability by cover type.

In 2014, staff from the Kalispel Natural Resources Department (KNRD) conducted baseline surveys of the Indian Creek WMU. Various protocols were used to document the quality and quantity of available habitat for selected wildlife species.

***Objective 2*. Operation and Maintenance**

Operate and Maintenance of Indian Creek WMU as part of the Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation Program.

***Strategy 2.1*.** Reduce human-induced wildlife disturbance through access management.

- Hunting, fishing, and trapping would be allowed on the Indian Creek WMU with permission from the KNRD. Bag limits and season lengths follow Washington State regulations and are enforced by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Hunters and trappers are required to take whatever precautions are available to them to ensure public safety. Hunters may access the WMU by foot, even for the purpose of retrieving harvested game.

- Cross-country skiing and snow-shoeing would be subject to seasonal restrictions, and allowed on existing roads and by permission only.

- Horses would not be allowed access on the WMU. Dogs would be allowed throughout the WMU as long as they are leashed at all times.

- Overnight camping, camp fires, and outdoor barbeques are prohibited on the WMU without a KNRD permit.

- Cutting of dead and downed trees for personal firewood use is prohibited without a KNRD permit.

- Commercial berry gathering and harvesting is prohibited on the WMU.

- Hiking is allowable and is subject to seasonal restrictions.

Objective 3. **Perimeter Fencing**

Maintain, repair and replace entry gates and perimeter fencing on an as needed basis.
A total of five miles of Perimeter fencing needs to be maintained. This fence is currently a four strand barbed wire supported by steel posts every 15 feet with wooden brace and corner posts as necessary (4-5 "x 7 'treated post buried at least two feet into the ground). As this fence ages, the wire will be replaced with smooth wire because no livestock currently impact the fence. Steel posts (6 ft) are driven and wooden posts are augured or hand dug. Wire is attached either by clips or staples. Gates are metal 12 to 16 foot Powder River stock gates across access roads on the property.

Objective 4. **Control Noxious Weeds**

Weed species, life cycles, abundance, and dispersion will dictate the mechanism(s) for elimination. An inventory was done in 2013 on this property to map abundance and distribution of noxious weeds. Since then ten percent or more of the total acreage has been addressed to control noxious weeds. Methods include chemical applications, burning, mechanical, and hand removal.

Strategy 4.1 Chemical Applications
Chemical applications to noxious weeds will cover at least 20% of the property for the next five years

Strategy 4.2 Implement controlled burning.
Controlled burning will be used to promote native vegetation renewal and decrease fire hazards. It will be used as a management tool to increase disturbance in riparian areas, upland forest, forest meadows, and deciduous tree stands. Currently there is no burn plan developed for this property and we will not conduct controlled burns on this unit for the next five (5) years.

Objective 5. **Conifer Reforestation**

Practice sustainable forest management in a way that maintains biodiversity, productivity, and regeneration capacity, and that does not cause damage to other ecosystems. Provide for educational opportunities that support all educational levels for natural resources related opportunities for the broader community on 133.8 acres of forest land. The conifer forest will expand to fill in the cleared area to contain 380.5 acres of this cover type. The community forest plan is attached as an appendix.

Objective 6. **Wetland Reforestation**

Management actions for restoring plant communities on wetland areas will preserve the unique assemblage of plants and animals (Kusler and Kentula. 1990). Management objectives will target the mouth of Indian Creek and inward where deciduous stands occur and need to be managed to maintain species numbers and density over the next five years.

Objective 7. **Upland Forest Management**

The forest lands on Indian Creek are in good condition. Past land use targeted marketable timber leaving the area with increased understory trees. Management actions will thin (cut and pile for burning) 10 acres over the next five years creating forest openings and help provide areas for species conversion. The increase of Western White pine and Ponderosa pine will provide healthy stands for long term forest health. A 10 acre stand of W.W. pine will be established and maintained. P. pine will be maintained across the forested landscape (20 acres per year will be converted annually).

Objective 8. **Increase Deciduous Tree Density**

Black cottonwood and Aspen stands near the mouth of Indian Creek and elsewhere on the property will be evaluated to determine age class, recruitment, structure, and stand health. Management actions will be applied to increase the amount (planting stock) and quality (uneven aged stand) of this habitat to provide structure and cover for wildlife species (Lea and Frederick. 1992). Methods to stimulate suckering will be used (knife aeration, disking, plowing, burning, etc.) to increase existing populations. A total of 200 large stock trees will be planted on 10 acres for Aspen and 5 acres of cottonwood will be released on existing sites over the next five years.

Objective 9. **Nursery Management**

The nursery will be managed to produce large tree stock to be planted across the various mitigation lands. The management includes the actions needed to water, fertilize, prune, and maintain potted trees until of age to be restored on site. Each year 5,000 new seedlings will be potted to replace the stock going out to maintain around 20,000 trees.

Objective 10. **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The wildlife mitigation program uses EWU subcontractor to continue monitoring and evaluating species on the property. The team measures the response to habitat management by using a reference site of ideal habitat for those species.

Management activities that will take place on this property over the next five years are designed for the benefit of wildlife and provide mitigation for losses associated with Albeni Falls Dam. The ten objectives described in this site plan will be implemented over the next five years and estimated costs are described below.

Table 2. Management area cost by objective through 2020.

	Cost by year					
OBJECTIVE	1	2	3	4	5	6
Inventory	5,000	2,500	1,000	0	0	0
Weed Control	5,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Tree Density	7,000	7,500	8,000	5,000	2,500	0
Riparian Restoration	5,000	5,000	1,000	1,000	500	500
Wetland Restoration	10,000	5,000	5,000	2,000	2,000	1,000
Grassland	10,000	5,000	5,000	2,000	2,000	0
O&M & M&E	60,000	75,000	60,000	55,000	50,000	45,000
Annual Total	102,000	110,000	90,000	70,000	62,000	51,500

Table 3. Baseline Operations Budget

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
Personnel		
Program Manager	.2 FTE	$12,500
Biologist	.25 FTE	$15,600
Bio-technician	1.3 FTE	$48,600
Benefits	44% of Salaries	$33,748
Contract Needs		
Supplies & Materials	Supplies, materials, travel, etc.	$28,650
Indirect Costs	16.5% of Annual Costs	$13,910
Subtotal		**$153,008**
Objective 1	Baseline Inventory	
Initial Data Collection	Subcontract and Technicians	$30,000
Objective 2	Operation and Maintenance	
O&M	included in Objective 1	$0
Objective 3	Perimeter Fencing	
New fence	1mile plus gates and parking lots	$10,000
Maintain existing	maintain 5 miles of perimeter fence and gates	$1,500
Objective 4	Noxious Weed Control	
Survey	Initial survey	$5,000
Initial Control	First three years	$10,000
Maintenance	Next two years	$5,000
Objective 5	Conifer Reforestation	
Reforestation	W. White pine plantings	$2,500
Objective 6	Wetland Reforestation	
Wetland Restoration	10 acres @ 450/acre	$4,500
Shoreline Vegetation	5 acres @ $250/acre	$1,250
Hydro Restoration	10 acres @ 250/acre	$2,500
Objective 7	Upland Forest Management	
Thinning	20 acres @$100/acre/year	$2,000
Species Conversion	20 acres @$100/acre/year	$2,000
Objective 8	Increase Deciduous tree Density	
Sup. plantings	25 acres @ $250/acre/year	$6,250
Aspen Release	10 acres @$250/acre/year	$2,500
Cottonwood Release	5 acres @ $250/acre/year	$1,250
Objective 9	Nursery Management	
Nursery Operations	Maintain vegetation health	$5,000
Plantings	Pot 2,000 cottonwood /yr	$5,000
Objective 10	Monitoring and Evaluation	
Property Surveys M&E	EWU subcontract for 4 years	$80,000
Total Improvements		**$329,258**

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Appendix A. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SECTION.

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians held a public open house to receive input on proposed habitat objectives and strategies for wildlife mitigation on the Indian Creek property the Tribe purchased using funds provided by the Bonneville Power Administration. The open house took place May 28, 2015 at 1802 Indian Creek Road (field Office) from 5:00pm until 8:00pm. Due to the lack of participation we decided to mail out copies of the management plan with a signed copy of the letter below so our neighbors would be informed and able to comment on the management plan.

28 May, 2015

Dear Neighbor,

We are inviting you our neighbors, to comment on the Kalispel Tribe's Site Specific Management Plan for Indian Creek (Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) funded wildlife mitigation acquisition).

The Kalispel Tribe proposes to enhance and maintain 481 acres of wildlife habitat on this property, Pend Oreille County, Washington as part of the Albeni Falls Wildlife Mitigation Program. The Kalispel Tribe is proposing this action to meet the need to mitigate the adverse effects on wildlife and wildlife habitats caused by the construction and operation of Albeni Falls Dam. This "Site Plan" when approved would enable the Tribe to enhance and maintain a variety of forest, wetland and riparian habitats and implement long-term habitat management activities. Within the 481 acres of managed wildlife habitat include the Tribal nursery, Community Forest Area, and fish management area.

Management actions on these areas will be guided by and included in the overall Management Plan for the Kalispel Tribe Wildlife Management Area (KTWMA). The Indian Creek Site plan describes the management actions necessary to maintain and enhance wildlife habitat within the KTWMA. Three proposed management sections are analyzed: habitat restoration and enhancement, operation and maintenance (O&M), and monitoring and evaluation (M&E).

The Tribe's decision to purchase this property was based on several criteria, not the least of which included the presence and/or the ability to manage for a rich diversity of habitats, plant and animal species, invertebrates, and other biota, many of which are considered tribally significant, rare, or threatened. All of the parcels that comprise the KTWMA were purchased at market value on an open real estate market from willing private landowners.

We appreciate any and all comments on these acquired lands, the management plan, and how we can continue to be good neighbors while carrying out our management activities. We have included a comment sheet so you can provide written remarks. For a CD copy of the Management Plan, please contact us or visit us during our public open house on May 28, 2015.

Thank you for your time and comments.

Sincerely,
Ray Entz, Director of Wildlife and Terrestrial Resources
Kalispel Tribe of Indians

COMMENT SHEET

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

EMAIL _____

Kalispel Tribe of Indians
Matt Berger, Wildlife Program Mgr.
Office # 509-447-7244
mberger@knrd.org

JUL-14-2015 11:12 FROM:MINERNEWSPAPERS 5094479222 TO:4451640 P.1/1

KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS
WILDLIFE MITIGATION PROJECT
OPEN HOUSE

When: May 27, 2015 5:00pm to 7:30pm
Where: Field Office, 1802 Indian Creek Road

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians will hold a public open house to receive input on proposed habitat objectives and strategies for wildlife mitigation on the Indian Creek property purchased using funds provided by the Bonneville Power Administration.
Contact Matt Berger (509) 447-7244 or mberger@knrd.org for more information.

KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS
Kalispel natural resources

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KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS
Kalispel natural resources

PO# 152377

Late Charge _____
New balance due _____
Late charge _____
New balance due _____

INVOICE

The Newport Miner
421 S. Spokane Ave. • Newport, Washington 99156
(509) 447-2433 or (208) 437-4275
www.pendoreillerivervalley.com

No. KALTRI Date May 20th, 2015

STATE OF WASHINGTON, Pend Oreille County

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Newport Miner, a weekly newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a weekly newspaper in Newport, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was published in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Newport Miner was on the 24th day of June, 1941 approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of said Pend Oreille.
The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Newport Miner, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, (Attached) was published

May 20th, 2015

The fee charged for the aforegoing publication is $154.80

JEANNE M. GUSCOTT NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF WASHINGTON Commission Expires MARCH 13, 2019

Subscribed and sworn to before me on May 20th 2015

Jeanne M. Guscott

Notary Public in and for the State of Washington, Residing in Newport

In addition to the mailings and open house, we had several Community Forest Plan open house meetings on the Indian Creek property to solicit public comment on how the property will be used in the future. Their questions and answers are below.

INDIAN CREEK CFP PUBLIC MEETING
SUMMARY NOTES
10/21/14

The 1st public meeting for the Indian Creek CFP was held on site at the Indian Creek Property on 10/21/14. Ten people were in attendance for this meeting. 5 attendees participated in a field tour of this area.

Below are listed the comments and suggestions recorded at the 1st public meeting for the Indian Creek CFP.

- Is there a restriction or limitation on who can use the property? We said no. Answer is no, unless it is deemed as inconsistent with the over arching wildlife management plan. Or there is a safety or other issue associated with the user group.
- Can the structures on site be rented out for use? IF so, will there be a charge for use? Who will administer this? Who will administer this? Yes, but more likely free if consistent with the CFP and for education. Not for general rental for activities not covered in the plan. Weddings, parties, etc… will not be included in the CFP. If rented, the Tribe will administer the rental and charges. Income from rental will be part of the CFP. We could develop a special account for CFP funds.
- Are the buildings to be included in the plan (since they are outside of the designated area)? Yes, as described in the plan and consistent with it.
- Will there be fees for classes for non-profit individuals or groups? No, not if consistent with the plan and over arching wildlife management plan.
- Can NRCS cost-share grants be used on this property? Possibly, if consistent with the CFP and wildlife management plan. So long as the funding requirements to not become a wildlife program burden and can be managed by the CFP.
- What is being done to get local schools involved in field activities? The Conservation District has funding available (school bus fuel / lunches) to help schools participate. This is part of why we are engaging the community to help develop the CFP. We need participation from the community to help develop those connections with local and area schools in the hopes of developing lasting relationships, curriculum, and support for the forest's use in environmental education.
- Will the center pivot irrigation system continue to be used? Matt said yes it will. Alfalfa is anticipated to be grown and will be harvested by (?). The Tribe will get a share of the harvest for the buffalo herd. Yes, we have an existing agreement to manage the 100 acre pasture for grass hay to add to feed for the Tribe's buffalo herd.
- There will be no expansion of structure development within this property. Not necessarily true. We could expand structures or upgrade if funding and support can be found and are consistent with the two plans.
- Will the house and or bunkhouse be finished and can they be used for educational/classroom purposes? Yes – make sure that is part of the community plan and they meet county building code standards. Any necessary funding to do so will need to be found or raised as part of the CFP. The Tribe or KNRD have no special funding for this project.
- There was a discussion on developing a native species nature trail. This could include native brush, tree, medicinal plants, and mushrooms. Yes –develop as part of the plan.

- Hunting was discussed. The different perspectives between traditional hunting and uses by Tribal members vs short season congested hunting (and sometimes partying) by non-Indians. As of the wildlife plan and current direction, hunting on the property will be by permission only.
- The potential for a cold water Tribal fish hatchery on site was discussed. This may happen due to the unique features of Indian Creek. (spring fed, steady flow, cooler temperatures, within bull trout overlay) – Could be an option. Very premature to identify that as an option now and would not be considered as part of the CFP.
- Would it be possible to work with Columbia Children's Forest for their stamp of approval. This involves no cost and may be an avenue to get future grants. Absolutely! Someone will need to take that on and provide leadership toward that end.
- How will monitoring of activities be done? To be determined by the committee and for the CFP. As part of the wildlife program, the property will be monitored via the Upper Columbia Wildlife Monitoring and Evaluation project for all wildlife properties. Data and techniques can be found online at the Kalispel GEDMS database.
- Can this property be considered for DNR cost share Forest Stewardship? I would think so, but would need to be administered separately from the wildlife project – however needs to be compatible with it.
- Will this property become Tribal Trust in the future? (The actual 133 acre CFP area cannot become trust but the remainder of the property can become trust) Maybe. Not known for sure if it will be considered for that transfer action, however the actual 133 acre CFP designated area cannot be placed into trust.
- The priority management objective for the CFP will be wildlife habitat management and improvement. No – the primary objective for the CFP is to provide for educational opportunities consistent with the over arching wildlife management plan. So in essence wildlife habitat is a priority, but not for the CFP.
- Is there active ongoing management for noxious weeds? Yes. Prior to the land purchase through the BPA it was required that the boundaries were fenced and a noxious weed assessment be completed.
- There will be no "for profit" activity allowed on this area. All monies generated by activities on this property must be utilized for wildlife management/improvement uses. Also, if funds are generated by and from the CFP, we can use those to support activities within the CFP separate from the over arching wildlife management plan, unless inconsistent.
- The goal of the native species nursery on site at Indian Creek property is to develop native species for restoration purposes on both Tribal mitigation lands and on private lands.
- Add adult education to K-12 and college education purposes.
- Is hunting considered consumptive use? Earlier it was said that consumptive use activities would not be allowed on the CFP. Consumptive uses can be part of the CFP if consistent with the wildlife management plan. Hunting is a consistent consumptive use.
- Will management goals include restoring Camas growth? Probably not for the CFP or the Indian Creek property as camas would not have occurred in the forested portion of the Indian Creek parcel. It is being addressed in other areas and other projects.
- Education use must include ways to reach different age groups. Cell phone use by some groups may hinder instructors' capability to teach. Can cell phone blockers be used during classes? No, but I would ask that instructors or classes be explicitly instructed not to have phones on during classes.
- How about the use of QRC codes for the interpretive trail? Yes – put it in the plan.

- Traditional native values should be promoted when working with the children. We will need Culture Department help with this part. I agree it is very important, but KNRD should not lead this portion of the planning. Could be in a future iteration of the plan.
- Prescribed burning is anticipated on these lands. Has anyone considered contacting the Rocky Mountain Elk foundation for potential help with burning costs? Not yet, but planned and encouraged.
- This plan should include the intention for special forest product classes. Agreed, make sure it is discussed and planned for.
- Educational boxes (hands on material) are available through the National Wild Turkey Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the Safari Club International. Find information regarding getting products in stock and available for the CFP. No shortage of places to go or products to start collecting for educational purposes. The sky is the limit.
- The Pend Oreille Conservation District has a Forestry Box available for use. – We need to make sure we have these resources on hand so they are available when needed and we are not competing for the same resources. Having additional copies around cannot hurt.

Response to BPA Comments on Site Plan

1. Will BPA fund the O&M in perpetuity?
BPA is expected to fund the Wildlife Mitigation program at some level consistent with the 2012 Kalispel Accord.

2. How will the water rights associated with the property be used?
The water right use will be maintained what will change is the purpose. The NRCS invested a large amount of money developing the water delivery system and circle pivot for livestock use. We intend to continue using the circle pivot by leasing its use and area for hay production and additionally supplying water to the nursery.

3. What is the irrigation system?
The NRCS and former owner created an underground gravity flow pipeline (10" steel pipe) to supply water from Indian creek (intake box) to the booster pumps allowing the circle pivot to move upslope and complete the circle covering around 90 acres. The system diverts at the pumps to channel water for the nursery to use.

4. Who has the lease and why are we continuing this use on the property?
The lease is necessary to maintain the water right and not have to pay back the NRCS for the depreciated cost of the system. The lease holder is our neighbor to the north and is familiar with running and maintaining the irrigation system. He takes care of all the costs of operation and provides 70 ton of quality hay annually.

5. On the subject of Prescribed burning, more info is needed on this. How will you plan this out, how often, what area, which vegetation is targeted, what is the desired outcome? If burn plans are done please include as an appendix but also summarize.
Currently no burn plans have been developed for this property and for next five years no areas are in need of this management technique other than preexisting burn piles from past logging activities.

6. Why aren't parts of the Community Forest Plan incorporated within the Indian Creek Management Plan? These are two different documents and need to be kept separate. BPA funds the acquisition, enhancement, operation and maintenance, and monitoring of this property. The Community forest plan uses community input to suggest management strategies for future forest development and educational opportunities in the natural resource field. The Community Forest Plan does not supersede the BPA

management plan and any activities must comply with mitigation objectives or they will not be allowed on this property.

Appendix B. TRIBAL NURSERY SUMMARY

Started 2011 with HUD Grant
Location: 1802 Indian Creek Road

Nursery Goal: to develop large stock plant materials used for restoration within the Pend Oreille Watershed.

Time line:
2009 KNRD submits proposal for TWG for proposed nursery
2010 Proposal rejected by TWG
2010 Started HUD grant
2011 HUD grant awarded
2012 Nursery location changed – materials ordered, fence constructed
2013 Nursery development started – pond liners, pots, etc.
2014 Nursery irrigation system started –Building secured, plugs planted, rows added
2015 Second year of operations – improvements to system finished, trees out planted to restoration sites.

GOAL:
1. Develop a field large stock nursery to supply plants for restoration projects in the Pend Oreille Watershed.
2. Develop forestry career apprenticeship opportunities for KTI members through KCTC.

ASSETS:
Ford Flatbed pickup
Dump-bed Trailer
John Deere Tractor w/ mower, cultivator, forklift, and backhoe
20 Acres by Tribal Resolution for nursery space

KTI Department Support:
Planning – all plumbing onsite and labor to install and maintain irrigation system
KNRD – labor and materials
KNRD – annual support in plant materials

Other Support:
BPA – commitment to continue funding for restoration materials
EPA – annual contribution for materials and supplies for ecosystem health
PUD – funding for plant materials

Desired Outcome
20,000 plants growing at Nursery with 2,000 large plant stock available each year for out planting on restoration sites within the Pend Oreille Watershed.

The picture below shows the current set up and development of the Tribal nursery.

Appendix C. Indian Creek Community Forest Plan.

INDIAN CREEK

COMMUNITY FOREST PLAN

December 15, 2014

Discrimination Notice:

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)
To file a complaint of discrimination: write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Table of Contents

Indian Creek Community Forest Plan

List of Preparers

Bob Gilrein	Kalispel Tribe, Forest Manager
Tim Larkoski	Kalispel Tribe, Silvicultrist
Carol Mack	Kalispel Tribe, Extension Office
Matt Berger	Kalsipel Tribe, Wildlife Manager

List of Reviewers

Special thanks – This is a note of appreciation to those who reviewed and commented on the Community Forest Plan. Their input was greatly appreciated.

Annette Brewer	Kalispel Tribe, Forester
Ray Entz	Kalispel Tribe, Director of Terrestrial and Wildlife Resources
Zach Welker	Kalispel Tribe, Senior Policy Analyst
Jim Lemieux	Kalispel Tribe, GIS Administrator
Joe Maroney	Kalispel Tribe, Director of Fisheries and Water Resources

Indian Creek Community Forest Plan (CFP)

The Indian Creek Community Forest property totals 133 acres and is located in Pend Oreille County in northeastern Washington, approximately 60 miles north of Spokane, Washington; and 7 miles north of Oldtown, Idaho/Newport, Washington (Figure 1). This property is part of a larger acquisition that the Kalispel Tribe of Indians refers to as the Indian Creek Conservation Project. The Indian Creek Conservation Project and Community Forest are within the Tribe's ceded lands and are considered to be an important component of its vision to protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem functions.

The total forested acreage of the Indian Creek Conservation Project is 350 acres (Figure 2). This Indian Creek Community Forest Plan (CFP) has been expanded to include all 350 acres to maximize public benefit and to simplify management. Access from Usk, Washington is via the LeClerc road south and then east along Indian Creek road. The CFP is surrounded by a variety of landowners including the Colville National Forest. Elevations range from just under 2,075 feet in its southwest corner adjacent to LeClerc road south to just over 2,450 feet in its northwest corner. Terrain is generally flat with the exception of the incised draw flanking Indian Creek that has very steep canyon-like slopes. The area has recently undergone an intensive silvicultural reconnaissance that did not identify any imminent forest health concerns based on the wildlife conservation objectives.

The Indian Creek Community Forest was acquired pursuant to a U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (Forest Service) grant awarded to the Kalispel Tribe of Indians. The purpose of this acquisition is to implement the goals of the Forest Service's Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program in accordance with the provisions of Section 7A of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) of 1978 as amended. Such purposes are to provide public benefits to communities including economic benefits through sustainable forest management; environmental benefits including clean air, water, and wildlife habitat; benefits from forest-based educational programs; benefits from serving as models of effective forest stewardship; recreational benefits secured with public access; and to acquire private forest lands that are threatened by conversion to non-forest uses.

The majority funding for the Indian Creek Conservation Project was part of the Kalispel Fish Accord (2012) through the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). These federal rate payer funds are part of the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's Columbia Basin Fish and Wildlife Program as partial mitigation for wildlife habitat lost as a result of the construction of

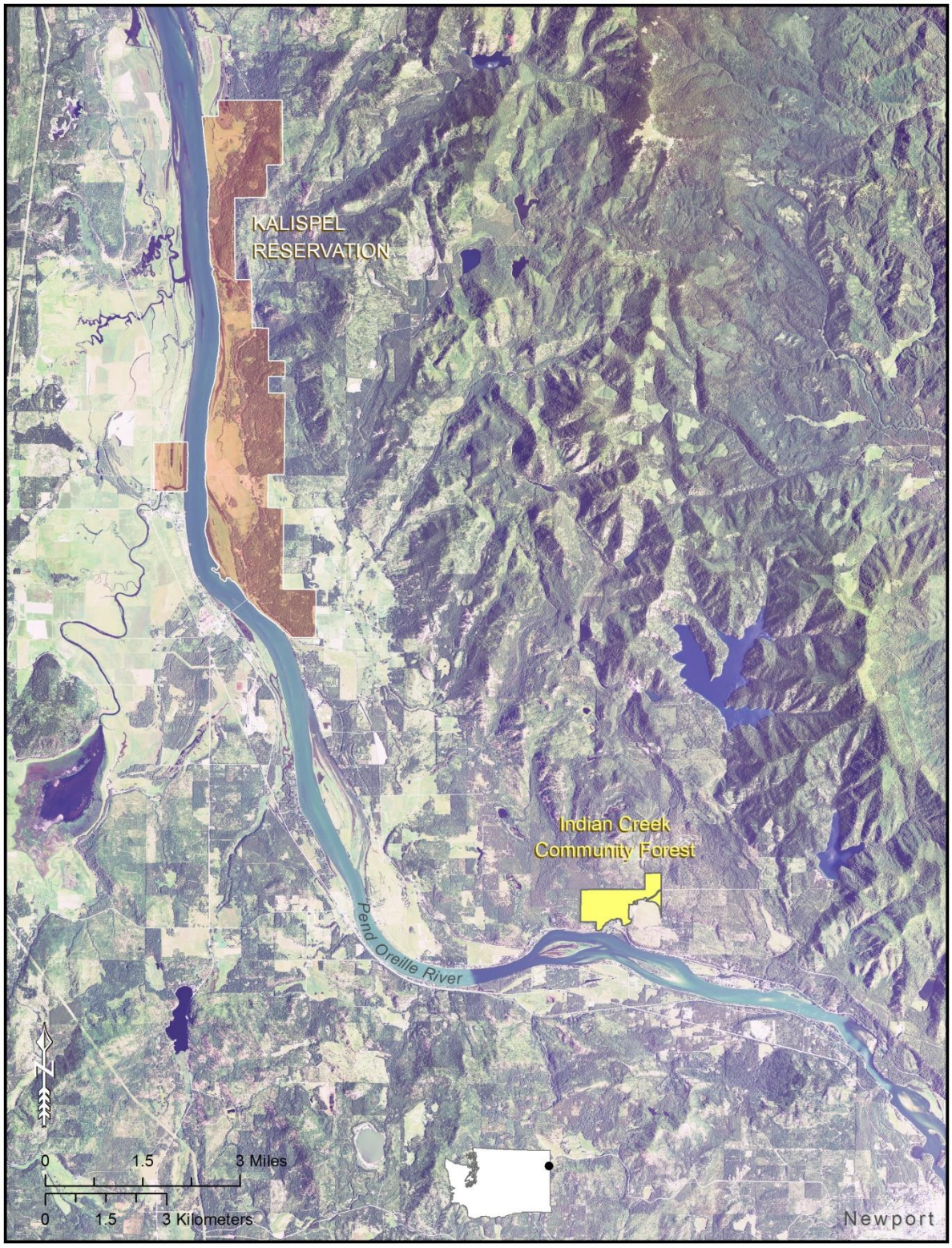


Figure 1 Indian Creek Community Forest Vicinity

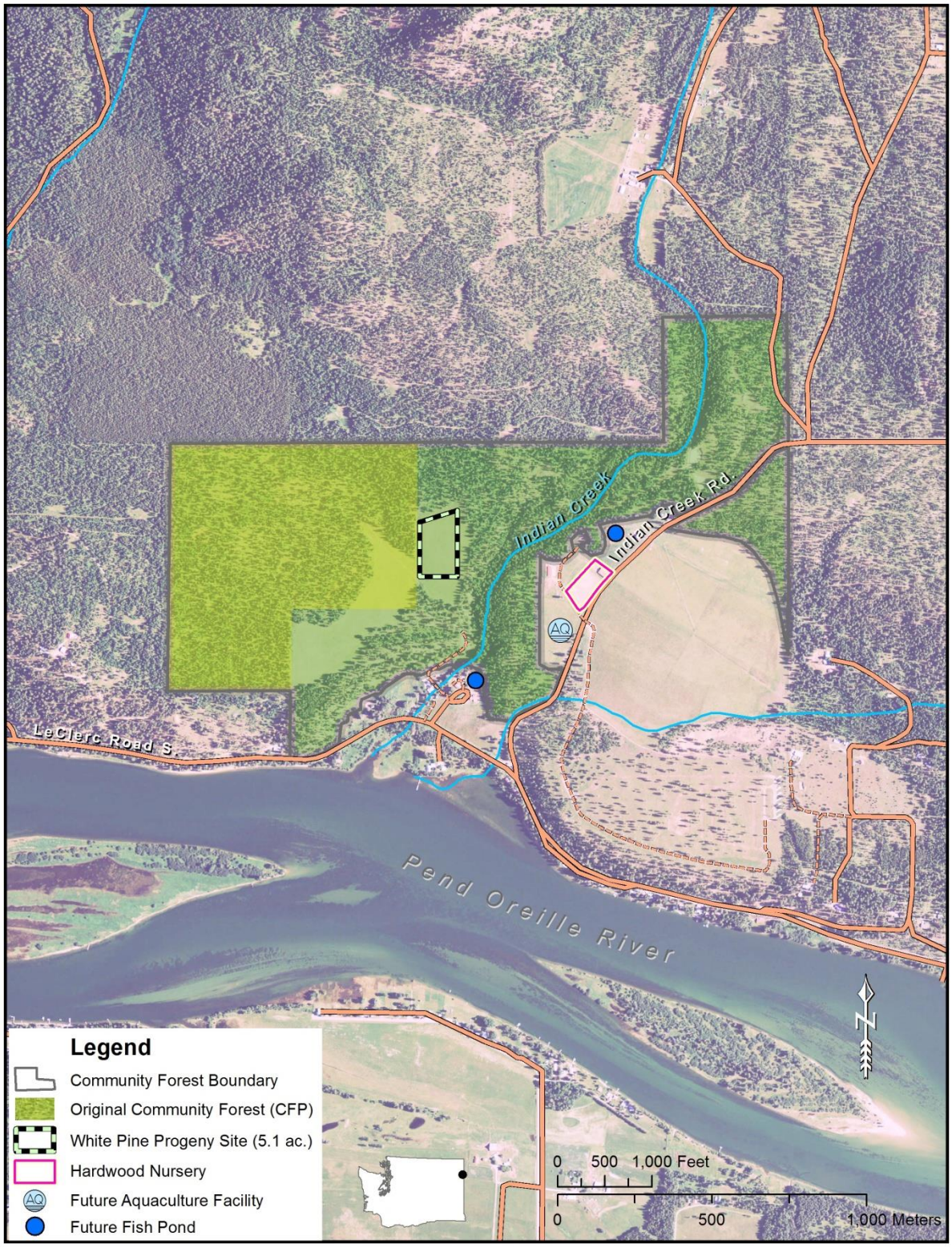


Figure 2 Indian Creek Proposed Activities

Albeni Falls Dam. The entire property is covered by a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the BPA and the Kalispel Tribe which, in part, directs management activities on "mitigation" lands. Under this MOA the Kalispel Tribe shall prevent any activity on or use of mitigation lands that are inconsistent with the conservation purpose or its conservation values.

The MOA requires restoration of such areas or features that are damaged by an inconsistent activity or use.

The Indian Creek Management Plan, a site specific plan for this property written by the Tribe for the BPA, is the umbrella Management Plan for the CFP. This document is currently in draft form and is expected to be approved and signed during 2015.

CFP Management Guidelines:
The Kalispel Tribe shall protect the property under the CFP as wildlife habitat on behalf of BPA; preventing any and all uses of properties that are inconsistent with the mitigation MOA of 1999. The purpose of the MOA is to protect, mitigate, and enhance wildlife and wildlife habitat permanently through acquisition, easement and/or management of these lands. Any revenue derived through the management of this property can be used to offset costs associated with managing project land or to implement the plan.
Management direction for the Indian Creek Community Forest will be applied to all 350 forested acres on the Indian Creek Conservation Project, even though the actual CFP portion of the property is 133 acres.
Compatible activities consistent with both the Community Forest Grant and the BPA/Kalispel MOA:

- Wildlife habitat management practices designed to achieve and maintain native habitat that is self-sustaining.
- Promote management practices to secure and improve baseline conditions designed to protect wildlife and their habitats.
- Develop education/instructional pathways or opportunities including long term educational development for grades K-12, undergraduate, graduate and post graduate educational/research opportunities at area schools/colleges, including adult education
- Non consumptive/non-invasive activities with low potential to damage wildlife habitat or that disturb target wildlife communities/species
- Dispersed non-consumptive public recreational activities such as hiking, birding, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing

Prohibited uses:

- Concentrated, consumptive, or destructive activities – other than short term actions related to community goals for the project with the exception of permitted hunting.
- Off-road bicycles, motorized vehicles, camping, or fires.
- Horse, cattle, sheep, or other livestock to inlcude grazing without specific permission and protocols to reduce or eliminate noxious weed transmission.
- Any and all “for profit” activities not related to property/habitat management covered in the site specific management plan.

Other activities that are covered under wildlife habitat management:

- Prescribed burning
- Fire suppression
- Forest harvest
- Road maintenance or abandonment

Past uses of Indian Creek Property:
The land has had multiple uses in the past including housing, pasture for dairy cows, boarding of horses, hay production, timber harvest operations, as well as rock and gravel extraction. A large portion of the northwest corner of the CFP was developed for paintball gaming in the hopes that revenue could be generated using a large landscape arena.

Existing conditions and recent management actions on the Indian Creek Conservation Project:

When purchased, this property included several structures in need of maintenance and/or repair. In addition, several species of noxious weeds had become established throughout much of this property. Immediate steps taken after purchase included:

- Determining perimeter fence security needs
- Identifying and addressing priority noxious weeds on the property
- Securing the storage buildings
- Demolishing old unused buildings
- Improving access roads
- Adding gates and locks to access roads
- Cleaning slash piles for burning
- recycling accumulated junk and irrigation pipe
- Updating signage
- Creating short-term agreement for agricultural component
- Developed a Tribal native plant nursery to produce plant materials used in riparian and wetland restoration projects

Project Objectives:
The guidance and direction provided by this community forest plan is designed to:

- Develop a community outreach and educational process for this plan and any amendments to it.
- Create opportunities for working with local schools and colleges to develop interest in individuals for careers in natural resource management.
- Increase and improve working relationships with other professional groups and organizations in natural resource management; WADNR, USFS, BLM, USFWS
- Protect/enhance/maintain fish and wildlife habitat, aesthetic values, and cultural resources.
- Manage for diverse, healthy forest ecosystems.
- Maintain and restore natural processes.
- Minimize conflicts with competing uses of the forest.
- Develop natural resource management educational sessions/programs for all age groups with focus on hands on activities.
- Provide public access to properties consistent with Kalispel Tribal laws, customs, and managing agreements.

Land Management Objectives:

- Protect the area from conversion of forested cover types to non-forest uses.

- Return forest species and structure to historic conditions on a portion of 30 acres of previously cleared lands to agricultural uses (DNR MOA for white pine progeny, etc…).
- Reintroduce prescribed burning for hazardous fuel reduction and forest health.
- Increase seral native species composition.
- Enhance/restore wildlife habitat for focal species. (White-tailed deer, Bald eagle, black capped chickadee, etc…)
- Treat and control noxious weeds.
- Develop public access and recreational activities consistent with the BPA site specific wildlife management plan.
- Create educational and interpretive materials and opportunities (e.g., nature trail with signage for native shrub and tree species).
- Protect/enhance/restore water quality and fish habitat in Indian Creek.

Forest Habitat Types and Vegetative Cover

Several Forest habitats (Daubenmire & Daubenmire, Washington State University) are found on the Indian Creek CFP and adjacent Kalispel Tribal forest lands. Forest habitats are an index of forest productivity and identify dominant overstory and understory species at the end point of succession for each specific area, barring any catastrophic disturbances. Examples of catastrophic disturbances are wildfire, logging, tornadoes, and forest conversion. Forest habitat types are a useful index of soils, topography, precipitation, and other factors affecting growth of trees and other organisms. The dominant habitat types on the Indian Creek CFP in order of abundance are as follows; Grand fir/twinflower, Grand fir/beadlily, Douglas fir/ninebark, Douglas fir/ snowberry, Ponderosa pine/ Idaho fescue, Ponderosa pine/bluebunch wheatgrass, Western hemlock/beadlily and Western red cedar/beadlily.

Forest cover type is another important type of forest delineation (Figure 3). A forest cover type describes the dominant overstory species mix in a forest stand. Forest cover type, when used in conjunction with habitat type, can give critical information to forest landowners for management practices effective in achieving desired future forest stand conditions. They are a visual first step in analyzing forest health conditions. Forest Cover Types oftentimes contain multiple habitat types.

Currently, the majority of forested land within the CFP and associated Kalispel Tribal Indian Creek property, is represented by four cover types; Ponderosa pine, Mixed conifer, Riparian, and Agriculture cover types. The Ponderosa Pine Cover Type delineated on the Community Forest is located on the south and southwest facing slopes. Ponderosa pine is the dominant species, both in the overstory and understory. Recent harvest operations in these stands have left a healthy overstory of ponderosa pine. Recent pre-commercial thinning operations in the understory of these stands have created a healthy, well-spaced stand of sapling/pole-sized ponderosa pine. Within the ponderosa pine cover type, Ponderosa pine/Idaho fescue and Ponderosa pine/bluebunch wheatgrass habitat types are present.
The Mixed Conifer Cover Type identified on the Community Forest dominates most of the remainder of the forested land. The overstory of this cover type is dominated by western larch, western white pine, Douglas fir, and western hemlock. Grand fir, lodgepole pine, and western red cedar are also present. The understory is dominated by grand fir, western hemlock, and

Douglas fir seedlings/saplings/poles. Recent harvest operations have resulted in a stand with residual basal area of 90 square feet per acre. This cover type includes a significant percentage of hardwood species including birch, aspen alder and black cottonwood. Within the Mixed Conifer Cover Type all listed habitat types are present except Ponderosa pine/Idaho fescue and Ponderosa pine/bluebunch wheatgrass, Western hemlock/beadlily and Western red cedar/beadlily.

The Riparian Cover Type present on the Community Forest is the area immediately adjacent to Indian Creek. This cover type is dominated by an overstory of western hemlock and western red cedar. The understory is pre-dominated by western hemlock and western red cedar. This cover type is on very steep slopes ranging from the mixed conifer plateau down to Indian Creek itself. Contained in the Riparian Cover Type are Western hemlock/beadlily and Western red cedar/beadlily habitat types.

The last Cover Type present within the Community Forest is the Agriculture Cover Type. This Cover Type is the grass hay field located northwest of the house and barns. This Agriculture Cover Type, if left undisturbed would convert to the Mixed Conifer Cover Type.
Numerous brush and forbs are also found within each cover type on this property. Among those species are oceanspray, ninebark, twinflower, rocky mountain maple, serviceberry, kinnickinnick, Oregon grape, snowberry, dogwood, hazel, wild rose, Scouler's willow, huckleberry, balsamroot, queenscup beadlilly, wild strawberry, and bracken fern. There are a variety of grasses at hand; bromes, pinegrass, and bunchgrasses making up the vast majority.

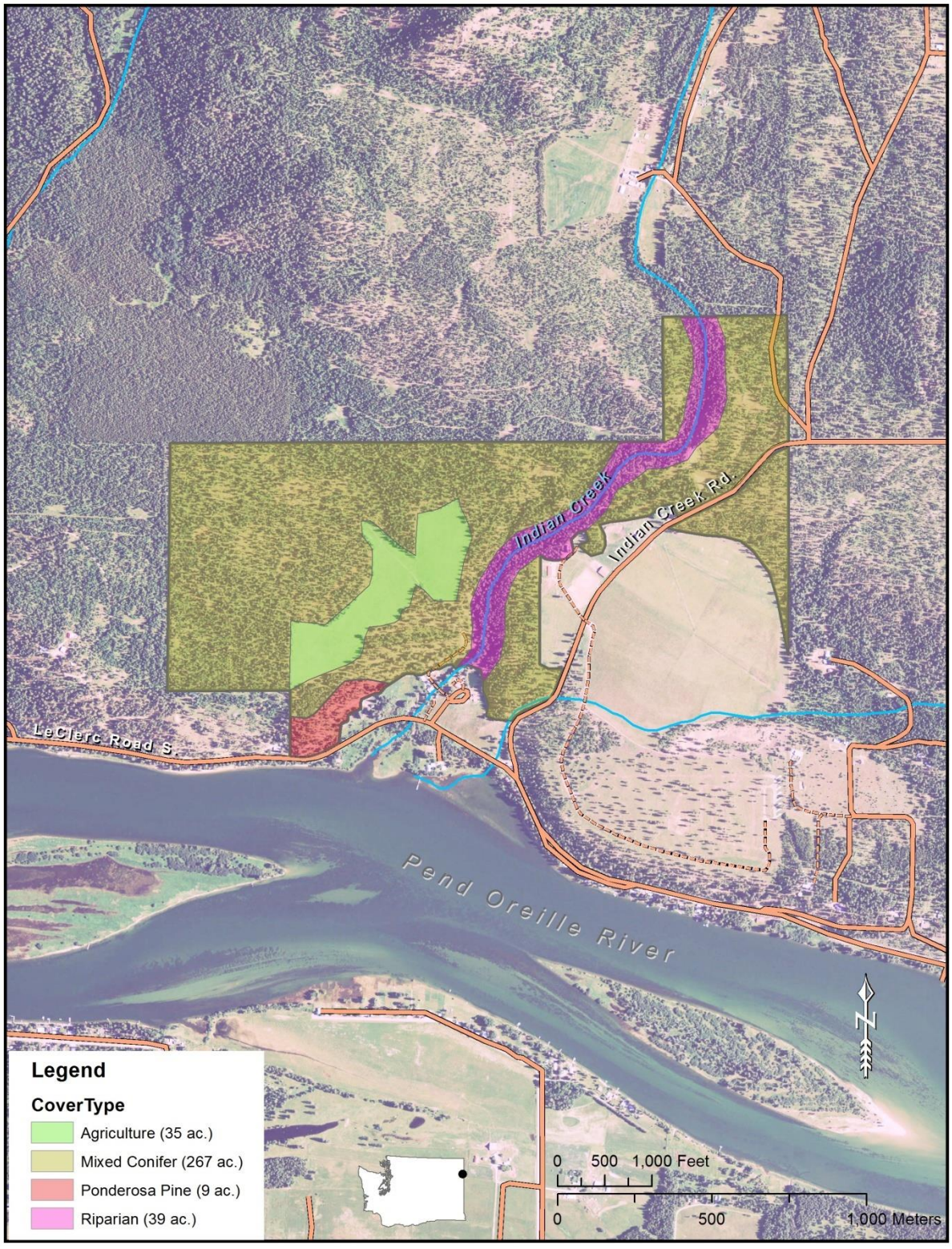


Figure 3 Indian Creek Cover Types

Forest Health

Annosus and Armillaria root rots are the prominent forest health issues within the CFP site. Armillaria root rot will impact all conifers under age fifteen. Armillaria will also impact birch. After age 15, the tree species most likely to be impacted are Douglas fir and grand fir. The

common identifier for Armillaria is oozing of pitch at the tree base and the presence of the rot as mycelial fans under the bark at soil level. Once infected, all of the tree foliage turns chlorotic yellow with tree death imminent. Armillaria is transmitted through the soil and tree roots at a pace of three feet per year. Stumps of cut infected trees can also spread the disease. While Armillaria can be devastating to conifers and birch, it does produce openings within the forest that convert to brush species which oftentimes are beneficial to wildlife. Armillaria also creates snags. If growing coniferous species is the objective, the most effective treatment for Armillaria is planting conifers less susceptible to the disease such as western white pine, western larch and ponderosa pine.

Annosus root rot is also present. Annosus is usually diagnosed by exclusivity to grand fir. Other species may be impacted but rarely. Annosus has the same negative and positive affects as Armillaria.

Both Armillaria and Annosus root rots predispose trees to bark beetle attacks. The most common bark beetle in this area is Western Pine Beetle, Dendroctonus brevicomis. Although present, it is having an insignificant impact on the CFP forest. The combination of root rot and bark beetles is most often fatal to conifers. Field operations to treat root rot activity are not recommended within the CFP at this time due to:

* The widely scattered and relative small size of the current root rot pockets,
* Their potential benefit through providing both snags and of understory browse species,

Monitoring the expansion of the root rot pockets every five years is recommended. If the pockets continue to expand, regeneration harvest operations followed by site preparation and planting of less susceptible species would be advised.

White pine blister rust, which is an introduced pathogen and not native to the United States, is and will continue to impact the western white pine in the CFP and surrounding forest. Blister rust is evident by excessive pitching and yellowish cankers on the bole and dying needles. Numerous examples of dead and dying trees criss-cross the property. The most effective strategy to fighting this disease is introducing rust-resistant seedlings.

This approach of identifying naturally resistant families is the basis for the white pine progeny site that exists within the Community Forest. In the spring of 2014, the Kalispel Tribe and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WADNR) entered into a 30-year agreement to jointly pursue a western white pine progeny test site. This site is located in the upper hay field in the northeast corner. The site is fenced to prevent browse by big game animals. The area is approximately five acres in size. The fenced site was broadcast-treated with herbicide to suppress grass growth.
The study was designed by two forest pathologists out of the Olympia, Washington WADNR office. Just over 1,000 western white pine seedlings were grown for two years at the U.S. Forest Service nursery in Oregon. These seedlings will be planted in the spring of 2015. The seedlings are from unique, wild families from across northwestern United States. The desired outcome of the study is to identify which families possess the greatest natural resistance to white pine blister rust.

The study area has rectangular grids established with wooden stakes. Each grid area will accommodate one family and each tree will have a metal pin placed by for additional identification. The control for the study will be 100 western white pine trees located outside of the fenced area that have regenerated naturally on the landscape. The control trees will also be

pinned and spatially oriented with a GPS device. All monitoring and data collection will be performed by the WADNR pathologists.

Pruning the lower 6 to 8 feet of branches prior to observing and visible signs of rust, always leaving 50% live crown, is another very effective method of offsetting blister rust. In one documented study, pruning has reduced the rate of rust infection into white pine by more than 90%. The negative aspects of pruning are twofold; number one it is expensive and number two it is very labor intensive.

Another forest health concern present in this forest is encroachment of grand fir and lodgepole pine regeneration occurring throughout the mixed conifer cover type. These two species aggressively out compete the other trees present in-stand establishment. In addition, both Grand fir and lodgepole are highly susceptible to several diseases and have relatively short life spans. However, this encroachment does provide hiding cover and oftentimes thermal cover for big game. It should be monitored every five years. Management options to limit the encroachment include controlled burning, thinning and slashing.

Invasive Species and Current Treatments:
The Indian Creek Conservation Project acquisition was surveyed for ground vegetation in 2012. Noxious weeds were identified, located, and management methods were applied. Major concerns involved areas of habitation and the many access roads within the property boundary. A total of 159 acres of the 481 acres at Indian Creek were chemically treated in 2014 and 2015 to address noxious weeds.

The Kalispel Tribe uses a licensed and bonded professional applicator to conduct this noxious weed management. The chemicals used include but are not limited to Milestone, Escort XP, Perspective, Oust XP, Weedmaster, and Opensight. The Tribe does not use any Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP).

Soils:
There are multiple soil types within this forested area. In order of magnitude; Scotia fine sandy loam, Bonner silt loam, Inkler gravelly silt loam, Smackout loam, Typic Xerothents (on steep slopes adjacent to Indian Creek), Bonner gravelly silt loam (the gravel pit), and Sacheen loamy fine sand. In the context of northeastern Washington and northern Idaho these soil types are considered moderate to good for vegetation and tree growth. When wet, all of the loam related soil types listed above are prone to compaction, rutting and loss of permeability.

Roads:
There are currently three access points on to the Indian Creek property (Figure 5). Two of the access points are off of the county Indian Creek Road while the third access point is off of the county LeClerc Road. All three access points are gated and locked. Depending on the level of activity the all season surface portions may or may not be plowed of snow. There are two bridges spanning Indian Creek. The bridge off of LeClerc Road is concrete and constructed for industrial passage. The second bridge is accessed off of the Indian Creek Road and has wooden stringers with a wooden plank deck. This wooden bridge is not recommended for vehicular traffic and will be restricted to non-motorized passage.

The 3,900 feet of seasonal road will be inspected annually for any sediment delivery to Indian Creek. In addition to delivery inspection the running surfaces will be inspected for rutting, shifting of road prism and any other abnormalities that would jeopardize the integrity of the seasonal road locations. The identified 3,900 feet of seasonal road will allow vehicular traffic when the running surface is dry or frozen.

The two bridges will be inspected annually. The wooden bridge inspection will focus on surface plank and stringer integrity. Any significant shifting of location of this bridge will be evaluated. The concrete bridge inspection will focus on running surface inspection (both top and bottom), channel shifting beneath the bridge and orientation\integrity of the bulkheads in relation to the stream channel. Refer to the Figure 4 for map locations.

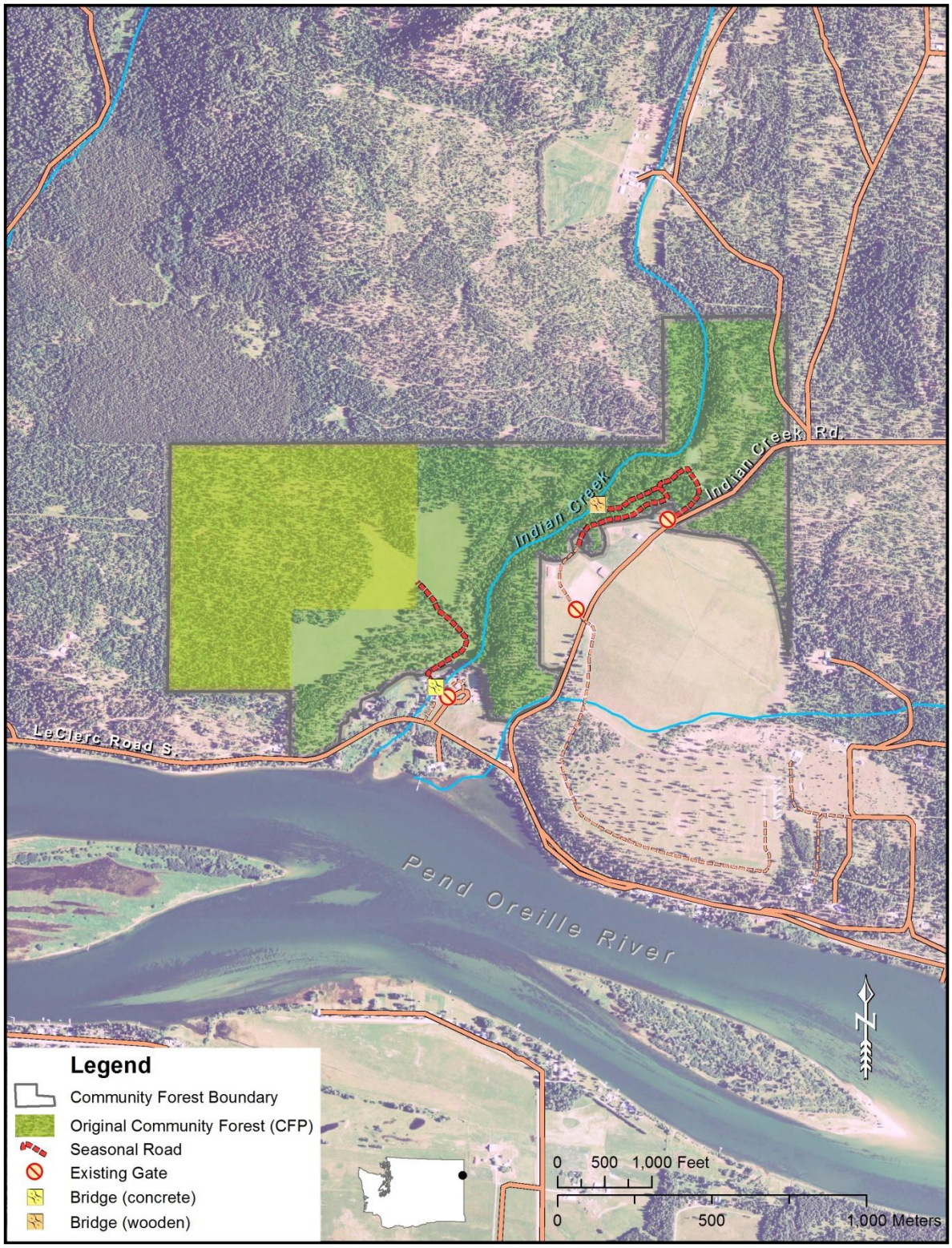


Figure 4 Indian Creek Roads/Gates

Indian Creek Fisheries:
Indian Creek flows through the CFP and has been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), under the Endangered Species Act, as critical habitat for bull trout (Figure 5).

Indian Creek is one of the shortest tributaries (3.84 km in length) to the Pend Oreille River but has great potential for native fish recovery, especially for bull trout. Indian Creek is naturally confined in a narrow valley already restricting the stream's course to a confined meander belt. The headwaters of Indian Creek begin at approximately 2,800 feet in elevation and join the Pend Oreille River at 2,032 feet in elevation with approximately an overall average gradient of 2.2%. The stream is entirely spring fed with relatively stable flows. Flows on average are approximately 7 cubic feet per second (cfs). Minimum flows reach 2.6 cfs and maximum flows reach 14.8 cfs. Being spring fed confers another advantage for native fish habitat in that temperatures are moderate with little fluctuation. Average temperature is approximately 9.3^{o}C and maximum temperatures approach 13^{o}C. The combination of stable flows and cool temperatures make Indian Creek a great potential for native fish recovery (Figure 5).

The lower reaches of Indian Creek have been degraded by land use practices such as road development, agriculture, residential development and livestock grazing. As a result, the stream lacks structure and channel complexity. The main habitat limiting factor in Indian Creek is the lack of pool habitat. The lower two miles are composed of essentially riffle habitat providing virtually no wintering or holding waters. The introduction of non-native fish (e.g. brook trout) is recognized as the main limiting factor for bull trout and cutthroat trout recovery.

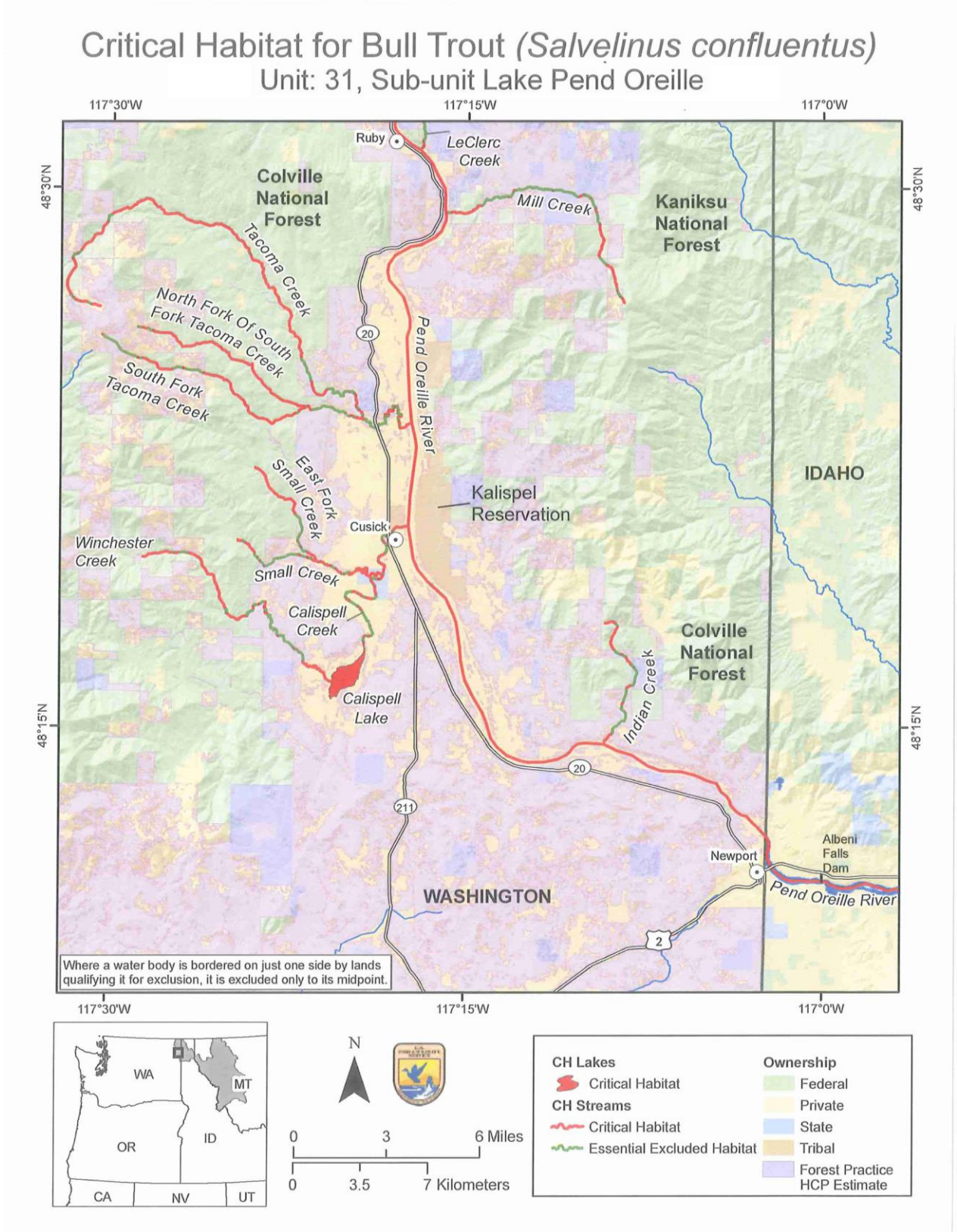


Figure 5 Bull Trout Habitat

Wildlife Species and Habitat:

Wildlife and forest habitats are significant features of the community forest. The Indian Creek watershed is rich with quality winter range for ungulates and exhibits abundant wildlife. Important ungulate species such as white tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus), moose (Alces alces), and Rocky Mountain elk (Cervus canadensis) are known to utilize the property. The shoreline and creek provide habitat for waterfowl and furbearing animals such as muskrat, beaver, skunk, weasel, mink, and river otter. Upland areas of hardwoods contain habitat for ruffed grouse as well as numerous species of resident and neo-tropical migratory birds. Raptors that nest within the project area include bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*), northern harriers (*Circus cyaneus*) , red-tailed hawks (*Buteo jamaicensis*), goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) , and great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*). Amphibians and reptiles are also present in the area.

Riparian habitat enhancement would provide benefits for white-tailed deer populations and a variety of other species. Over time, enhancement activities designed to improve winter browse availability and winter habitat conditions will help the property support a healthier and more robust deer population.

The Indian Creek project is within 20 miles of critical habitats for caribou (Rangifer tarandus caribou) and grizzly bear (Ursus arctos horribilis), both listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Other species of concern include gray wolf (Canis Lupus),Canada lynx

(Lynx Canadensis), wolverine (Gulo gulo), fisher (Martes pennant), long ear myotis (Myotis evotis), and long-legged myotis (Myotis Volans) are known to occur in the project's vicinity.

Advisory Committee

The first step in developing guidance for this CFP is the identification of an "Advisory Board". This group should be composed of individuals from the Kalispel Tribe, varying professional organizations, and the local community. The Advisory Board should be made up of 5-7 individuals and should be have a designated facilitator. Suggestions for board members include one individual from each of the following groups;

- Kalispel Tribal representative (Tribal Council)
- Kalispel Tribal member
- Kalispel community member (may or may not be Tribal member)
- Individual representing one of the area higher educational institutions (WSU,UI,EWU,Whitworth,SKCC,SCC,SFCC)
- Representative from local school district (Supt, Principle, science teacher)
- Natural resource professional (BLM, USFS, DNR)
- KNRD member

Establishing an advisory committee for the community forest would serve several purposes:

- Provide direction and general oversight to ensure value to the varied user base
- Involve a variety of community organizations as partners
- Increase avenues for project fund-raising and volunteer and/or staff involvement
- Provide a variety of viewpoints in discussing contentious issues
- Promote communication about the forest between partners, and to the general public
- Establish project priority protocol

Roles/Guidance for Advisory Board:

- Advise project priorities
- Monitor and recommend changes/modifications to ongoing project activities as needed
- Attend quarterly-annual meetings to review/assess on-going project activities
- Identify and delegate workload (assign work groups as needed)
- Develop recommendations future projects with associated timelines.
- Refer all policy decisions to Tribe and KNRD for direction

Community Input

Public input for this CFP is seen as an ongoing process that will continue to shape management and direction into the future. Specific measures to solicit input during the fall of 2014 included two local newspaper front-page articles (Newport Miner) regarding the project and related public meetings. Additional outreach included announcements in Kalispel Tribal newsletters and Washington State University (WSU) Pend Oreille County Extension newsletters, flyers posted in public places, hand-distributed to reservation households and mailed to tribal members, and

invitations to participate which were emailed to county and regional decisionmakers and educators (appendix ?).
WSU, through the staff at the Kalispel Tribal Extension Office, assisted with public outreach for this planning phase and will continue to partner with Kalispel Natural Resources Department (KNRD) to develop and implement educational community forest projects.
Two public meetings were held: an on-site meeting at Indian Creek on October 21, attended by 12, and a reservation community meeting November 5, attended by 9.
KNRD and WSU Extension staff introduced the project with maps, project information packets nd a short video of the property (which was prepared and donated by a neighboring landowner in response to a newspaper story on the project). Attendees heard a short history of the Indian Creek land acquisition and the decision to expand the community forest planning beyond the 133 acres purchased through USFS grant funds to include all 350 forested acres. This was followed by a description of community forest requirements and guidelines as well as the wildlife habitat mitigation requirements for BPA funding.

It was noted that while expanding the plan to cover a much larger area has obvious benefits, the wildlife habitat mitigation requirements of the additional property will exclude consideration of incompatible recreational opportunities such as off-road motorized access. It was also noted that implementation of some proposed actions will require securing funding from other sources. Inclusion of actions in this plan does not gaurentee that they will occur. Howeverit should help in writing sucessful grant proposals. The balance of time in each of the two meetings allowed for attendees to ask questions regarding the project, submit public comment, and discussion of possible projects to include in the plan. These questions and comments were recorded and distributed to meeting attendees and other interested parties.

Other sources of input concerning the CFP and future related projects included email and personal communications.

Comments sorted by issue/proirity are summerized below:

1. **Youth Education**

Comments included a recognized need to get young people outside and involved in hands-on natural resource education. This fits well with community forest objectives and was a recurring theme in public input.

Local K-12 school teachers recognize the importance of getting kids outdoors but are limited by lack of funding for transportation and lack of time to plan field trip activities. Comments included the convenience of having a destination close to Newport schools in saving both transportation time and money. Having a selection of "ready-to-go" activities available would be a great incentive to organize field trips. (e.g., interpretive trails, outdoor classroom stations with corresponding lesson plans and materials, developing a contact list of local experts to lead tours or activities on the CFP, etc...)

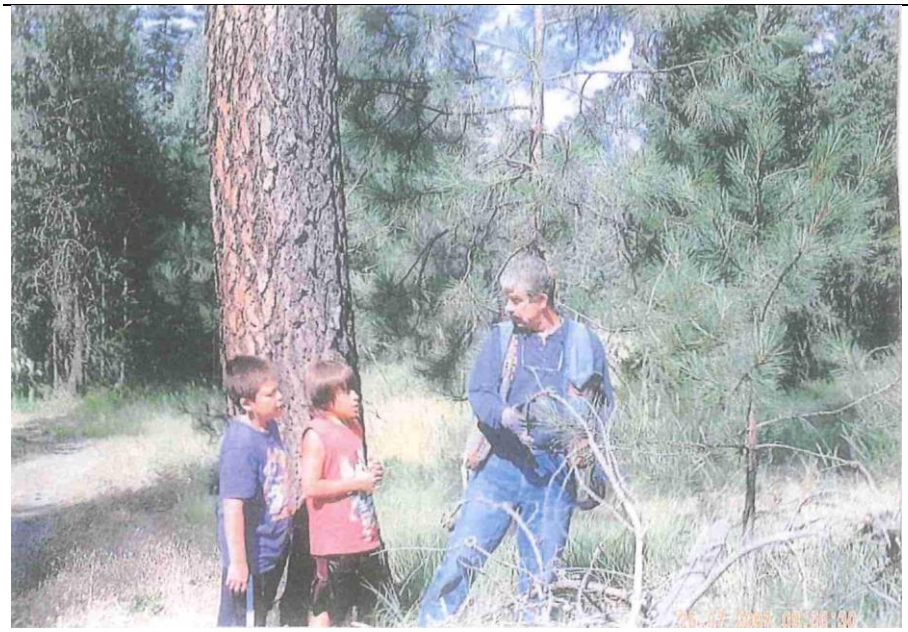
The Pend Oreille Conservation District (POCD) has a history of sponsoring K-12 events like Sixth Grade Conservation Days, Envirothon, and Forestry Contest. This site would work well for reinstating those activities. Funding is currently available through POCD grants to help defray transportation costs for school or other local youth group field trips. POCD has developed a box

of forestry tools and another for K-12 firewise education which are available for public use, and they can help procure additional educational "trunks" through Safari Club. POCD is active in the Upper Columbia Children's Forest which can provide a "stamp of approval" for family outdoor education events. This recognition may help in securing future grant requests.

WSU Extension's 4-H youth program includes many projects specific to forestry and natural resources as well as promoting other outdoor educational activities and recreation. The network of adult volunteer leaders is coordinated through the county office in Newport and the Kalispel Tribal Extension office in Cusick. The WSU Master Gardener program is also active in the county with around 60 volunteers who have a yearly volunteer time requirement to fulfill. Both groups may be a source of leaders for youth activities on the forest. Extension has developed an email listserv POoutdoored@lyris.cahnrs.wsu.edu to facilitate communication around the subject of outdoor education between the variety of entities and individuals who have expressed interest. An extension publication was suggested that details how to seek funding for and develop a variety of natural resource outdoor activities: http://fsc.fernbank.edu/PDF/Outdoor%20Classroom.pdf

Kalispel Tribe youth programs include day care, afterschool, and summer programs from pre-school through high school. One participant commented on the importance of mentoring tribal youth to eventually take leadership roles in tribal natural resource decision-making. To that end, youth programs emphasize Science, Tech, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities for all ages goups through among other things, field trips, high school internships with KNRD staff, sponsoring interagency fire training (Multi-Agency Wildland Drill) and participating in Idaho-Washington Forest Owners Field Day. The Community Forest will provide additional opportunities for hands-on education and mentoring. Language revitalization and culture are central to the youth programs. The importance of horses to culture was mentioned, with the hope that there might be someplace on the property where a horse program could be initiated. There was discussion about noxious weed problems correlating to horse use and how that could be an issue with the habitat goals of establishing native browse and eliminating invasives. Any horse program would be outside the forested area considered in this plan, and would need to have long-term funding and support for weed prevention and management built into it. There was also discussion about the cultural significance of canoes and of reestablishing white pines for traditional canoe construction. Participants also emphasized the importance of teaching traditional values to youth, including respect for elders and for the natural world.

Installing a ropes or tree-climbing course was suggested as an activity that could be offered to a variety of youth groups for team-building work. As a community forest activity, it could also be tied in to canopy layer biology studies to study crown health, successional forest stages, stand density dynamics and wildlife use of forest canopy.



2. College Level and Graduate Education

The Kalispel Career Training Center has recently instituted a 2-year degree program in Natural Resources through distance learning provided by Salish Kootenai Tribal College in Pablo, Montana. The fieldwork component for students is provided through KNRD. Suggestions included setting up designated training plots for students to practice basal area estimations, tree measurements, and other forestry skills. Students and staff could also establish permanent plots where forestry and wildlife data could be recorded and tracked over time. An "arboretum" or interpretive trail of native tree and shrub species would be an aide to forestry education for all ages, and it was suggested that Quick Response codes (QR) could be used for this. QR is a trademark of a two dimensional barcode. This barcode is machine readable optical label that contains information about the item it is attached to. A variety of management practices from prescribed burning and planting to sustainable harvesting could provide valuable field experiences.

Whitworth Verbrugge Environmental Center is located in the Little Spokane watershed about 10 miles southwest of Newport. http://www.whitworth.edu/Academic/Resources/VerbruggeEnvironmentalCenter. The property is used by Whitworth College staff and students for research and for education, including K-12 teacher training. There are plans to construct a retreat center on the property and continue to develop it for environmental education, including outreach to surrounding communities. Whitworth College representatives have met with KNRD staff to explore ways to coordinate the Verbrugge Environmental Center with the Indian Creek Community Forest project and remain in close communication on this topic.

There are many other higher education institutions in the area as well. Washington State University is in the process of reestablishing a forestry degree program and has expressed interest in connecting students to the community forest for individual projects. University of Idaho has an active forestry program. Both have natural resource related graduate programs as well with students needing field projects. Eastern Washington University recently worked with

KNRD to provide field experience for archeology students, using the buildings on the Indian Creek property as a field station. Community Colleges of Spokane has a center in Newport which may also be interested in using the forest for class field trips or projects. By 2018 we intend to coordinate with these institutions and develop working MOU's or similar documents through which meaningful opportunities for higher education are available at the ICF.

3. Adult Education

WSU Extension conducts a variety of adult education classes which could make use of the site. Regularly offered forestry classes include the Coached Forest Stewardship Planning Course, and individual workshopson wildfire preparation and forest health. In addition, the state "special forest products" educator volunteered to offer classes on topics including Post harvest care of wild edibles; Marketing, from barter to international trade; Management of native plants for health and products; Value-added activities for native plant products; and Gaining access to non-tribal lands to harvest products. The DNR/Extension annual Eastern Washington Forest Owners Field Day is an event that attracts 300-400 landowners, and the Indian Creek property has been noted as an ideal venue. The existing field nursery plus development of teaching plots will enhance the use for landowner forestry education.

Kalispel cultural education has been another theme of comments. Possibilities include interpretive signage and trails as well as outreach through classes and activities. Education and projects surrounding growing and harvesting traditional food and medicine plants was also mentioned as a positive activity to help addiction recovery.

4. Buildings

It was noted that the unfinished structure, bunkhouse, barn, and other structures on the property would be a great asset for public education, providing a classroom area for smaller classes, protection from weather for larger educational events, and possible lodging for students engaged in forestry projects . Comments encouraged including these buildings in the plan and seeking funding as necessary to finish these buildings to include educational use, assure Adults with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, as well as meeting county building codes. The use of this property will either free to users or scheduled and managed by the Kalispel Tribe for a fee. Any funding derived from these uses will be held by the Tribe and used specifically to improve CFP related actions.

5. Fee/trust lands and hunting access

Several questions at public meetings were about whether the Indian Creek Consevation Project acreage would be moved from "fee" to "trust" land category. The 133 acres purchased through the USFS Community Forest funds are required by statute to remain in fee -simplestatus. The remaining acreage could be transferred into "trust" status. Questions about both public and tribal hunting access were addressed as well. Hunting is a compatible Tribal use of the forestland. Hunting will be restricted to Tribal members only. Hunting guidelines and oversite will need legal review and Tribal Council approval. Public access is approved for compatible, non-consumptive uses such as hiking, birding, snowshoeing.

6. Shooting Range

There was an expressed desire to use an existing, inactive gravel pit on the property as a shooting range. Discussion included questions of compatibility with other uses and safety of other users. This activity would most likely require further analysis of impacts and of liability issues, and development of a long-term plan and management agreement. It is an optional action that will be implemented only once determined compatible, feasible, and fundinng is secured for its development.

Community Forest Plan Project Schedule:
Immediate action items – in order of priority (0-3 years timeframe):

- Establish Advisory Committee within the first six months of approved CFP
- Identify and prioritize project needs within the first year of the apporoved CFP
- Seek grant funding for high priority projects
- Rehab paintball area (remove targets, pick up trash, manage invasives)
- Develop relationships and MOU's with local school districts and colleges (WSU, UI, EWU, Whitworth, SKCC, SFCC, SCC) to create curriculum that promotes development of natural resource management opportunities to Tribal members and local community.
- Purchase already developed natural resource educational kits (RMEF, Safari Club International, and Pend Oreille Conservation District. These provide readymade curriculum and learning opportunities.
- Continue current natural resource educational activities such as summer youth educational field trips, Kalispel Tribal culture camp, and USFS Native American NR camp
- Develop outreach to natural resource professional organizations (BLM, USFWS, USFS, WADNR)
- Build Kiosks for signage at each CFP access roads.
- Develop parking areas at gates to CFP forested roads for public access.
- Build walk-through gates at appropriate gated access roads.
- Create riparian/streamside interpretive trail
- Develop a CFP website, which will eventually house:
  - Background information on CFP with map
  - Photos of area
  - Contacts (Tribal and Project leads)
  - Objectives
  - Educational project updates and status
  - History of Tribe
  - Worksheets and curricula materials for community forest youth activities
- Create interpretive forestry native species trail

Short term targets: (3-6 year timeframe)

- Revisit plan, identify new opportunities/actions, and prioritize projects
- Seek grants and funding sources for identified project needs
- Provide established/identified areas for various natural resource sessions including permanent plots for forestry education
- Seek curriculum development (with SKCC/KNRD program coordinator) through local universities.
- Identify and develop structural needs of buildings currently on site for educational purposes

Long term targets: (6+ years)

- Upgrades and maintenance to structures on site.
- Establish permanent plots – for various natural resource management ie, CFI plots/cruise plots/marking plots/wildlife small and large mammal plots
- Photo points for monitoring forest and species compositional changes over time.

Appendix


Tribal CFP letter.pdf


CFP_information_handout.pdf


Tribal_meeting_attendence.pdf


IndianCreek_meeting_attendence.pdf


public input documents (except m