

# U.S.D.A. Forest Service News



Colville National Forest  
765 South Main Street  
Colville, Washington 99114  
(509) 684-7000  
FAX (509) 684-7280



Monday, January 27, 2003    Contact: Steve Rawlings    [srawlings@fs.fed.us](mailto:srawlings@fs.fed.us)    (509) 684-7222

## Wildland/Urban Fuel Reduction Project

**Colville, Wash.--** Citizens of Curlew, Newport, Lone and Cusick will have an opportunity to attend open houses in their communities to hear about the condition of their surrounding forests and voice their opinions about the Colville National Forest's Wildland/Urban Fuel Reduction Project. Attendees will receive information on how to reduce wildfire hazards near their homes and communities. Open houses have been scheduled in communities throughout northeast Washington for February 4, in Curlew, at the Curlew School Cafeteria from 5:30 PM to 8 PM; Tuesday, February 11, at 6 PM at the Cusick Community Center, Cusick; February 12, at 6 PM at the Newport Community College, Newport; and, on February 13, at 6 PM at the Lone Community Center, Lone. Other open houses are being scheduled in the communities of Orient, Northport, Colville, and Chewelah over the next few weeks. The dates, locations and times of the meetings will be announced.

The open houses will be hosted by the Colville National Forest, Washington State Department of Natural Resources, local rural fire departments and other state, federal and private agencies. The meetings will feature displays about tree stocking and fuel conditions, fire history and ecosystem health of forests in the surrounding communities.

Technical experts will be available to answer questions about management activities such as thinning and prescribed burning, that will be analyzed in the national forest's draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Project which is expected to be released in September, 2003.

Contact Steve Rawlings, Forest Fuels Specialist at (509) 684-7222 for information regarding upcoming open houses.

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