



Special Areas

Eligible Objectors & Interested Persons for this issue:

- Teck Washington, Inc., Pend Oreille Operations
- Sierra Club/Alliance for the Wild Rockies
- Northeast Washington Forest Coalition

Objections:

- Management of Research Natural Areas (RNAs) as de facto wilderness prevents the development of existing Teck mining claims in the Halliday Fen Research Natural Area.
- It is not appropriate to designate areas of active mining claims as Research Natural Areas because these areas are already altered by human activities.
- The Kettle Crest Recreation Area designation basically cements into the revised Land Management Plan (LMP) existing motorized uses that are incompatible with wilderness character.
- The revised LMP fail to provide the recreation opportunity spectrum (ROS) settings necessary to provide quality recreation opportunities on the Forest.
- The proposed Kettle Crest Recreation Area would significantly degrade wildlife habitat, prevent the area's ability to support sensitive wildlife, and degrade wilderness characteristics. We strongly disagree with locating a Recreation Area (KCRA) overlying Profanity, Twin Sisters and Hoodoo proposed wilderness areas (PWA). Forest Summit participants did not endorse a SIA designation for the Kettle Crest area.

Resolution Options Proposed by Objectors:

- Given our comments about the suitability of much of the area for Wilderness, remove the Kettle Crest Recreation Area from the Record of Decision. [Northeast Washington Forest Coalition]
- We ask the Forest Service to take a fresh look at the potential economic benefits of locating special interest areas (SIAs) where they abut or are near to rural communities that will benefit most from SIA infrastructure development and tourism. In particular, areas that would benefit include Calispell, Baldy, and Swan-Cougar. [Northeast Washington Forest Coalition]