

PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release
June 18, 2012

For more information contact:

- Dick Dunton, Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition Monitoring Coordinator - 509-936-1995
- Eric Trimble, U.S. Forest Service Program Manager Contact, Newport/Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts, Colville National Forest 509-447-7352

Forestry group monitors effectiveness of Colville forestry prescriptions

- Monitoring protocols assess the implementation and effectiveness of selected forest practices

A recently completed project in the Misery Lake area of the Colville National Forest has received a passing grade after being scrutinized to see if outcomes fulfilled requirements set by the U.S. Forest Service. The work was carried out by the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition (Forestry Coalition) and paid for by a grant provided by Title II of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-determination Act of 2000, also known as "County Payments" legislation. The Forestry Coalition worked collaboratively with the Forest Service to design and implement monitoring protocols to assess project effectiveness of selected forest practices applied to the Misery Timber Sale, in Pend Oreille County.

The Forestry Coalition specifically looked at: 1) Road construction and maintenance. 2) streamside buffers, 3) regeneration harvest patch size, basal area, number of trees per acre, and stand density index, and 4) the efficacy of forestry prescriptions. Fuels reduction was also evaluated in reducing the likelihood of catastrophic fire spreading to the adjacent Wildland Urban Interface (WUI). A picture guide of prescriptions, treatments, and suitable leave trees was also developed. The Forest Service and Forestry Coalition held a field trip in May to review monitoring report findings and discuss how better to adapt findings to future forestry projects.

"The purpose of effectiveness monitoring was essentially to test if forestry practices applied to Misery Project were followed and did outcomes meet intended objectives. The USFS and NEWFC mutually developed monitoring protocols that focused on the application and effectiveness of forestry Best Management Practices (BMP's) including pre- and post-harvest streamside (no-cut) buffers, leave-tree quality/quantity and road construction and maintenance." Said Eric Trimble, U.S Forest Service Program Manager.

"The challenge the Forestry Coalition took on was to use its extensive background in forest management, in collaboration with the Colville National Forest, to develop a set of management protocols to assess post-project effectiveness," said Dick Dunton, retired Washington DNR firefighter and Monitoring Coordinator for the Misery Project. "Effectiveness monitoring is essential to adaptively adjust management prescriptions to meet the needs of restoring healthy forest ecosystems in our Colville National Forest," said Dunton.

Interested parties are invited to review the "Misery Lake Monitoring Final Report" and "Prescription and Treatment picture Guide" on the Forestry Coalition web page <http://www.newforestrycoalition.org/> for more information.