

FACT SHEET

Background:

The Healthy Forest Restoration Act, passed by Congress in 2002, requires National Forests to collaborate whenever projects designed under those authorities are proposed. Over the past six years, the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition (Coalition) has helped implement that law by bringing interested participants together to find forest management solutions on the Colville National Forest (CNF).

- The Coalition was formed in 2002 and incorporated in Washington State in May 2003.
- The Coalition is a publicly supported non-profit corporation recognized by the Internal Revenue Service Code as a 501(c)(3) organization.
- Its mission is to assist implementation of sustainable forestry to enhance forest health, public safety, and community economic vitality.
- The Coalition emphasizes common interests, not positions; abundance, not scarcity; courtesy and respect, not confrontation.
- The current 13 Coalition members represents nearly 100 years of conservation activities and over 250 years of professional forestry experience.
- The Coalition Board is assisted by many non-voting technical advisory participants.
- Coalition board members donate over 2,300 hours annually to achieve successful collaboration involving visiting projects in the field, participating on seven committees, attending monthly Board meetings and bi-monthly Coalition/USFS meetings.
- The Coalition's executive director has many years of grant administration/contracting experience.
- The Coalition is organized with Bylaws, Policy and Procedures, Ground Rules, Financial Systems that includes internal audits, an Annual Plan of Work, and an Annual Budget.

Finances:

- Project funds are secured from Foundation and Federal Grants, including Title II funding.
- Supporting funds are secured from local businesses, conservation and forestry entities.
- Stevens County Conservation District provides grant funds administration including state auditor oversight.

Collaboration Process:

- The Coalition created a land management proposal ("Blueprint") that has Active Management Areas (AMA), Restoration Zones (RZ) and Inventoried Roadless Areas (IRA) - protected areas. The AMA areas are areas where harvesting treatments are collaboratively supported.
- The Coalition has collaborated management prescriptions for treatments specific to the AMA and RZ.
- Collaborated prescriptions include thinning guidelines, regeneration harvest guidelines, roads policy, and old-growth management policy. These prescriptions are recommended when collaborating with the USFS on proposed projects.

Collaborated Projects:

Successful collaboration on 22 projects has resulted in:

- Increased annual harvest volume on the CNF from 18 to 61 million board feet (MMBF);
- Projects valued at over \$50 million dollars;
- No appeals or litigation, and
- The following 22 USFS projects completed, or in progress, on the CNF:

Ferry County:

Bangs Stewardship
Deadman Stewardship
Hall Creek Thinning
Herron Stewardship
Kettle Face Timber Sale
Malo East Lake Stewardship
Orient Stewardship
Trout North Timber Sale
Trout West Sale
Vulcan Timber Sale

Pend Oreille County:

Blue Ruby Sale
Conger Timber Sale
Hanlon Timber Sale
Misery Lake Timber Sale

Stevens County:

Burnt Valley Stewardship
Finn Stewardship
Huck Stewardship
Lakes Stewardship
Quartzite Stewardship
Rogers Stewardship
South Deep Timber Sale
Summit Pierre Timber Sale

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Additional Coalition Projects:

- Coordinated development of Community and County Wildfire Protection Plans in Stevens and Ferry Counties.
- Completed post-harvest compliance monitoring on Burnt Valley and Bangs Mt.
- Secured a grant to enhance/increase disabled hunter routes on the CNF providing hunting opportunities for over 83,315 Washington Veterans receiving VA Disability/Compensation.

Infrastructure:

Maintaining the current infrastructure is essential for implementing management options on private, state, and federal forest lands comprising approximately 80% of Ferry County, 92% of Pend Oreille County, and 83% of Stevens County. The uniquely diversified timber infrastructure in the tri-county area includes:

- Six sawmills; (One has closed and others are threatened.)
- A plywood mill;
- A paper mill;
- A state-of-the-art green energy producing generation facility.

Economic Development:

An economic analysis completed by Headwaters Economics in June 2007, estimated that 9 to 13 jobs are created for every MMBF of timber harvested.

- Local timber industry spends over 200 million dollars in the tri-county annually.
- Over 2,000 workers are employed directly by the mills and in logging and trucking of raw materials in the tri-county area.
- CNF currently has a budget for 30 MMBF annual harvest volume.
- The Coalition goal is to increase the annual harvest volume to 80 MMBF - employing 500 more people and achieving an ecologically resilient forest health condition in the next 20 years.
- The Coalition has requested 1.5 million dollars from the USFS under Title VII PL-111-5 to hire local private contractors/consultants for three large-scale "turnkey" timber management projects on the CNF - one each in Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties, totaling 100,000 acres.
- If funded, "Turn-key" projects will be in addition to on-going USFS projects.
- "Turn-key" project selection will be based on forest health problems and risk of catastrophic wildfire as assessed by county wildfire protection plans.
- The Coalition is applying for Title II funds to conduct regeneration monitoring in Pend Oreille and Stevens Counties; establish water quality monitoring points on LeClerc Creek which is part of the Hanlon timber sale in Pend Oreille County; and to produce a guidebook of silvicultural photos and definitions for use in writing prescriptions on the CNF.

Colville National Forest Planning Process:

- The Coalition submitted a recommendation to the USFS Forest Planning Team identifying Active Management Areas (AMA), Restoration Zones (RZ), and proposing wilderness protection for the Inventoried Roadless Areas.
- The Coalition initiated an independent grazing study group that included Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens County cattle producers, USFS representatives, forestry interests and conservation interests. Wayne Madson, retired WSU/Extension Agent, facilitated the meetings. The Grazing Fact Sheet is a result of their efforts.
- The Coalition formed a Task Force to study and model the silvicultural needs of the CNF to determine the number of acres that must be treated annually, and the associated volume to be removed annually, to reach an ecologically resilient forest health condition over the next 20 years. Modeling concluded that 78 MMBF can be removed annually in just the AMA.