

## Protocol for determining level of NEWFC support for a project

Background/Context: C-9 of our MOU with the Colville National Forest (CNF) states the following:

*“Provide the Forest Service with a written statement articulating the level of support the Coalition has for a project prior to signing decision document.”*

The objective of the provision of a written statement is prevent later misunderstandings between the CNF and NEWFC regarding actions that may be taken, both publicly and privately in response to the approval or disapproval of a project.

The objective of this draft NEWFC protocol is to provide a clear definition of the implications of various levels of support NEWFC may ultimately determine for a given project.

What this protocol does NOT attempt to do is address how the coalition will conduct internal processes leading to a final determination regarding support for a project. It is assumed that the NEWFC will make every effort to achieve full consensus, and that a project may be voted on, tabled, and revisited any number of times before the attempt to reach consensus is superceded by a popular vote.

Board Vote	Support Level	Member commitment
<p><b>Consensus w/o Reservation</b></p> <p>(All members vote for approval without recorded reservations)</p>	High	<p>No members (or organizations represented by members) will appeal/litigate or support outside challenges. All members will express support for the project* and work to resolve any issues raised later by non-coalition entities if the opportunity arises.</p>
<p><b>Consensus w/ Reservation</b></p> <p>(All members vote for approval but some have their reservations recorded in meeting minutes)</p>	Medium	<p>No members (or organizations represented by members) will appeal/litigate or support outside challenges. Members who had reservations recorded may express those reservations* if the opportunity arises; however, all members agree that any statements expressing reservations about the decision will <u>not</u> be directed at the collaborative process itself.</p>

<p><b>No Consensus, but majority-vote approval</b></p> <p>(Some members have such strong reservations that they vote against approval; reasons are recorded in minutes)</p>	<p>Low</p>	<p>Members (or organizations represented by members) reserve right to appeal/litigate or support outside challenges. Members who voted against approval reserve the right to express their reasons for voting against approval* and may actively pursue opportunities to do so; however, all members agree that any statements expressing reservations about the decision will <u>not</u> be directed at the collaborative process itself.</p>
<p><b>Majority vote disapproval</b></p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Coalition will inform CNF that the coalition does not support the project and recommend the CNF drop the proposal. All members reserve the right to express their reasons for voting recommendation to drop the proposal* and may actively pursue opportunities to do so; however, all members agree that any statements expressing reservations about the decision will <u>not</u> be directed at the collaborative process itself.</p>

\* in media or elsewhere