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National Forest Foundation Hosts Inter-Mountain Collaborative Summit

Missoula Mt. The Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition (NEWFC) participated in a three day regional conference, October 28-30, organized by the National Forest Foundation and focused on national forest collaboration across Montana, Idaho and eastern Washington. The conference delved into issues ranging from new and innovative ideas in forest restoration project design, implementation and post-project monitoring

“I am pleased with the progress that NEWFC has made working with the Colville National Forest to improve forest restoration projects efficiency,” said Gloria Flora, NEWFC Acting Executive Director and conference presenter. “Project collaboration is an iterative process, requiring dedication and leadership that NEWFC has provided.”

Since 2010, the Colville National Forest has planned and implemented an aggressive forest landscape restoration strategy to improve water quality, wildlife habitat and restore forest resiliency & structure, supported by the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act. CFLRA has provided up to a million dollars a year to implement projects that have been collaboratively designed to restore healthy watersheds in the Colville National Forest in the Kettle and San Poil Rivers of Ferry County.

“Reaching agreement among various collaborative stakeholders is the key to a successful collaborative group regardless whether they be bent on utilization or preservation – in true collaboration the two are not mutually exclusive,” said Mike Petersen, Executive Director of the Lands Council and conference presenter. “Without the interests of everybody being heard and supported by a collaborative group, balanced outcomes be they timber or wilderness are not achievable,” he said.

For more information visit www.NewForestryCoalition.org