



NORTHEAST WASHINGTON FOREST COALITION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEWFC Statement on the revised Colville Forest Plan

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The Colville National Forest recently issued a revised forest plan to guide management activities on the 1.1 million acres of national forest in northeast Washington. As a group rooted in collaboration, the Northeast Washington Forest Coalition (NEWFC) strives to reach consensus and find supportive common ground. The leadership of the Colville National Forest (CNF) has done a commendable job assembling a plan to set the management direction of the forest. NEWFC remains committed to seeking solutions for forest management that meet the interests of the community and support a resilient environment.

“Although we appreciate the amount of work that’s been put into this Forest Plan it’s too bad it doesn’t better reflect collaborative discussions” said Russ Vaagen, President of the NEWFC Board of Directors. “Land Allocation discussions are contentious, always have been, but we need to work to develop solutions that include Wilderness. The Inventoried Roadless Areas in question should either be Wilderness or they should receive more permanent protective language. I would recommend a collaborative process where all of the interests are heard in order to develop a long-term solution for these beautiful places that doesn’t leave anyone behind.”

“Many Inventoried Roadless Areas on and near the Kettle Crest and Selkirk mountains received high ratings during the Colville’s [potential wilderness evaluations](#) and should be designated as Recommended for Wilderness in the revised forest plan revision.” said NEWFC Vice President Mike Petersen.

While many of NEWFC’s recommendations are offered in Alternative B, there are key elements that are missing and many key issues such as harvest volume, recreation and roadless protection need to be clarified. NEWFC looks forward to working with the Colville National Forest and other stakeholders to find resolutions that will create a Forest Plan everyone can support.

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