



May 20, 2019

Mr. Rodney Smoldon, Forest Supervisor
Colville National Forest
765 South Main
Colville, WA 99114

RE: Recap of May 2 Colville/Timber Purchasers Meeting

Rodney:

This letter is to provide a recap of the Colville N.F./Timber Industry meeting that was held on May 2 at the TEDD offices in Colville. Following introductions and reading of the anti-trust reminder, Rodney gave the group an update from the Forest's perspective.

He first discussed the Forest Plan Resolution meeting. There were several key events that came out of it including:

- There were no fatal flaws that were found during the discussions or review of the information.
- Alan Rowley has sent the Regional Forester a letter to let him know things are moving forward and that he has all of the info he needs to work towards a final decision.
- The Forest is willing to let the final boundaries of the wilderness playout with members from the county and grazers continuing to meet.

The group discussed an article in the local paper that painted the resolution process and Forest Service process in a very unfavorable light and as a flawed process. AFRC and our membership thought the Resolution meetings were set up well and the panels considered everyone's points of views. Rodney then gave an update on staffing. They are building up the Sale Administration team, four employees have passed the Timber Sale Administration test. The Republic District has a new silviculturist, Eric Pfeiffer and the Forest has an additional silvicultural trainee, Monica McMackin. Jerry Bernardzic has been assigned to work on the national modernization team and Cody Montgomery is filling in for Jerry temporarily.

Rodney said one issue that he is having difficulty with is the use of his retained receipts and salvage sale funds. He currently has \$8.8 million, but has to get approval from the Regional office to use them. These funds came from projects on the Forest and Rodney believes the funds should be available for use at his discretion. Rodney also reported that the CFLRP project on the Forest had been extended for two years. Rodney also mentioned that the Forest is working on a land exchange with Stimson Lumber to exchange intermingled parcels.

Tom gave an update on AFRC's advocacy role in Washington DC and handed out AFRC's Washington DC Update. He also updated the group on some of the key legal issues the AFRC legal team have been working on.

Jon Day reported on the current FY19 timber sale program and handed out a 6-year timber sale program that runs through 2024. Jon said with A-Z task orders of Keg, Hands, and Beast awarded the Forest should hit a target of 146 mmbf. Jon also reported that the Forest is not taking credit in their timber sale program for any firewood volume. The Forest has stopped selling firewood permits and issues free permits for cutting of firewood in designated areas. The Forest noted that with the heavy logging snowmobile routes are being affected in the winter months, especially on the groomed routes

Jon then discussed the out year plans. The last of the A-Z task orders will be issued next year. The Trout Lake project will be handled using the Farm Bill 3,000 acre CE. The Chewelah-Addy project will be handled differently than the A-Z project in that it will be an IRTC using a blanket Purchase Agreement between the Forest and the purchaser and not going through the acquisition side of the contracting arm. A big project coming up on the Three Rivers and Republic Districts is the Roadside Fuels project. Hundreds of miles of Forest roads will have 500 ft. shaded fuel breaks cleared on both sides of the roads. This multi-year project may be implemented using GNA. Gayne Sears reported on the developing Kaniksu Connection project, and while the project covers multiple land ownerships, the focus on management will be on Forest Service lands. The Kalispel tribe is doing part of the NEPA work and have hired Gloria Flora to put together the ID team. The Forest is looking at producing between 100-150 mmbf for the next 6 years (timber sale chart attached).

Other topics discussed included tractor logging on slopes over 35%. There is language in the contract that allows equipment on slopes over 35% for short pitches 100-200 feet if agreed to by the Forest. The group discussed management along the BPA powerlines in the aftermath of the large California wildfires. There could be some opportunity for more clearing in these areas. The Forest and purchasers are working on putting together a Contractors meeting tentatively set up for May 16.

The next meeting with the Colville will be on July 17 to look at the Pass project and the concept of Shaded Fuel breaks. AFRC and our members would like to thank the Colville National Forest for continuing to lead the way in Region 6 in finding ways to increase the pace and scale of restoration.

Sincerely,



Tom Partin
AFRC Consultant
P.O. Box 1934
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97035