Mill Creek
A to Z
Same problems......
a new approach
How can we do more?

- We all operate under similar constraints
  - Not enough FS budget
  - Not enough FS employee time
  - Full workload
A new way of thinking

- How can we treat more acres without more pressure on the current FS staff, without larger budgets, and without giving up on other important FS projects?
- Who else could provide money, qualified staff without putting existing projects at risk?
- Can we do this without changing current laws?
Is it possible?

- Can we get collaborative support?
- Can we get community support?

- The short answer is **YES!**
2 years in the making...

- Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rogers and Duane Vaagen discussed this as a possibility over 2 years ago.
- A discussion with then Under Secretary of Agriculture Harris Sherman confirmed that it was possible.
- Much work was done to identify and set up the appropriate contract mechanisms.
IRSC – RFP released 2013

- Colville National Forest Staff located the project area in the Mill Creek area just North & East of Colville
- After Preliminary work and some collaborative discussions an RFP was created in 2013
- Vaagen Bros. Lumber, Inc. was selected as the best value proposal
Mill Creek A to Z stats

- Located on approximately 54,000 acres
- Vaagen Bros. selects Cramer Fish Sciences as 3rd Party contractor for NEPA and Prep work
- 2 project areas
  - North Mill Creek Planning area
  - NEPA and collaboration/public comment on going
Mill Creek stats cont...

- North Mill Creek project target start date is late 2014
- Middle/South Fork Mill Creek Planning area
  - Some data collection done in concert with North Mill Creek Project
  - NEPA and collaboration/public comment to be conducted following the first task orders on North Mill Creek
There is an estimated 50 Million BF of small sawlogs and non-saw material. Volume will be offered as task orders as they are ready for treatment. Price will be negotiated based on appraised rates at the time of task order release.
Impact

- This project is designed to work next to the existing work of the Colville National Forest.
- Allow CNF staff and management the opportunity to continue their plan of work while treating more acres.
- More treatment means more economic benefit to local communities while reducing wildfire risk and improving forest health.
Current Update

- All the Field work is complete
- Finalizing footprint of harvest and stewardship activities (10/24 target)
- Specialists reports will be finalized shortly after
- All reports and draft NEPA document to CNF for 10 day review
- Target to have project out in January 2015
Conclusion

- Much to learn as this moves forward
- Opportunities are great for larger scale treatment, especially in National Forests with good sawmill infrastructure and successful collaborative groups
- This can increase the bandwidth and treatment of the current National Forest workforce without sacrificing NEPA quality or the environmental review process