

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

Timber

- 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