

NEWFC Road Principles

Colville National Forest

January 19th, 2017

The Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition (NEWFC) understands that road management is complex for many reasons; this document's objective is to help clarify collaboratively developed principles and help guide project design.

- NEWFC supports a functional transportation network for access because roads are required to accomplish forest treatments, provide recreational opportunities, provide forest commodities and are used in a variety of ways for fire suppression and prescribed fire on the Colville National Forest (CNF).
- NEWFC recognizes that roads have ecological impacts to aquatic systems, soil, natural vegetation and terrestrial wildlife. Subsequently, NEWFC supports Best Management Practices (BMPs) for road construction, decommissioning and obliteration. We intend to collaboratively review and assess BMPs on a project basis to assure desired outcomes.
- NEWFC supports adequate monitoring within [a certain time period? – consult with CNF on their required time period] and after severe natural events and subsequent maintenance and/or correction for aquatic resources within [a certain time period?] and after severe natural events.
- NEWFC supports forestwide reduction of roads per square mile.
- NEWFC supports a “no net gain” of system roads on each project.
- NEWFC recognizes that there may be site specific circumstances where road construction and/or reconstruction may be appropriate to accomplish forestwide restoration.
- NEWFC generally supports appropriate temporary roads less than ½ mile in length. Longer temporary roads may be considered with appropriate analysis and collaboration.
- NEWFC supports decommissioning all temporary roads to allow the affected landscape to recover from any adverse ecological impacts.
- NEWFC suggests that roads needed for reuse within 20 years in the future be considered for designation as level 1 system roads through collaboration and technical expertise.
- NEWFC supports no new level 2 and 3 system roads until the minimum road analysis and travel management program are complete forestwide.
- NEWFC supports adequate road closures for level 1 system roads such as significant site distance road obstructions. We request photo monitoring with subsequent maintenance and/or correction.
- NEWFC continues to support the collaborative development of a system to quantify the levels of road construction and reconstruction impacts
- NEWFC encourages the CNF to engage NEWFC for input and support especially when proposed actions do not align with the above principles.