

**Proof of Concept  
Funding Levels for Program Areas  
October 10, 2007**

Introduction: As part of implementing the Proof of Concept business model, the Colville National Forest sought collaboration on the flexible funding portion of the annual budget, which represents approximately 50% of its funding. At a public meeting on August 28, 2007 county commissioners from Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens Counties helped develop the collaborative method of collecting public opinion on the Forest's flexible funds.

September 11, 18, and 22 County Meetings

A meeting dealing with the Colville National Forest budget for 2012 was held in each of the three counties. The meetings were opportunities for the public to supply their thoughts to their respective county commissioners. The input was compiled and presented at the September 24 meeting.

Below is a summary of **recommendations to the county commissioners:**

Priority		% Budget Allocation
#1	Commercial	19.15%
#2	Recreation Services & Heritage Management	12.40%
#3	Wildfire Prevention & Control	27.00%
#4	Grazing Management	3.81%
#5	Timber Stand Improvements	3.67%
#6	Lands, Minerals & Infrastructure Management	8.86%
#7	Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reductions	17.76%
#8	Noxious Weed Reduction & Control	2.57%
#9	Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Improvements	4.62%

September 24 Meeting

A public meeting with all nine county commissioners, a representative from the Colville Tribes, and the District Rangers and Forest Supervisor from the Colville National Forest was held in Colville. The summary of recommendations generated by the public and presented to the county commissioners was presented to the group. Leads from the county meetings presented their information.

After much discussion, a final recommendation to the Forest Supervisor was made.

The priority order remained the same as recommended at the three county meetings, except Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reduction was moved from the #7 priority to the #2 priority. To make it reflect the national importance of the program was the rationale.

Below is a summary of **recommendations to the Forest Supervisor:**

Priority		% Budget Allocation
#1	Commercial Forest Products Management	19.24%
#2	Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reductions	17.76%
#3	Recreation Services & Heritage Management	12.48%
#4	Wildfire Prevention & Control	27.00%
#5	Grazing Management	3.81%
#6	Timber Stand Improvements	3.67%
#7	Lands, Minerals & Infrastructure Management	8.86%
#8	Noxious Weed Reduction & Control	2.57%
#9	Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Improvements	4.62%

#### September 26 Forest Leadership Team Meeting

The Forest Leadership Team met to discuss the recommendations to the Forest Supervisor. Most of the FLT had attended at least one of the county and the September 24 meeting. After reviewing comments heard at all meetings, the Forest Supervisor made decisions on what budget proposals to send to the Regional Forester in Portland.

The priority order was unchanged.

Due to overwhelming public comments, the Wildfire Prevention & Control allocation was reduced three percent, with two percent going to Recreation Services & Heritage Management and one percent to Commercial Forest Products Management.

Timber Stand Improvements was reduced to two percent. Although the budget allocation was reduced, the amount of work will likely remain the same as the work is incorporated into stewardship contracts and timber sale receipts work. The savings was given to Grazing Management, which was increased to five percent to allow for administering the entire program to standards, and to Recreation Services & Heritage Management.

Since the allocation difference between 2007 and 2012 is relatively small, the budget will be implemented in 2008 instead of phasing in the budget changes.

Below is a summary of **decisions by the Forest Supervisor:**

Priority		% Budget Allocation
#1	Commercial Forest Products Management	20.24%
#2	Wildland Urban Interface Fuels Reductions	17.76%
#3	Recreation Services & Heritage Management	14.96%
#4	Wildfire Prevention & Control	24.00%
#5	Grazing Management	5.00%
#6	Timber Stand Improvements	2.00%
#7	Lands, Minerals & Infrastructure Management	8.86%
#8	Noxious Weed Reduction & Control	2.57%
#9	Wildlife & Fisheries Habitat Improvements	4.62%

The decisions by the Forest Supervisor were handed to the Regional Forester in Portland, OR. on October 1.