



News Release

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Colville National Forest receives award from Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Colville, WA—Colville National Forest’s Newport and Sullivan Lake ranger districts received an Elk Country Habitat Enhancement Award from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) earlier this month during their annual convention in Reno, Nev.

“These awards honor some of the finest people and efforts in wildlife conservation today,” said Blake Henning, vice president of lands and conservation for RMEF. “We’re proud to call these BLM and U.S. Forest Service professionals our partners because they’re helping us make a real difference in elk country.”

The two aforementioned districts have strongly pursued partnership opportunities with RMEF and other groups over the last 20 years to fund projects that improve habitat and forage for elk and other wildlife in the Pend Oreille River Watershed.

Their efforts have paid off, successfully funding 44 cooperative projects designed to maintain and improve conditions that support a local elk herd of about 1,500 whose existence provides recreation, beauty, cultural heritage, and financial benefits to Washington citizens and Native American people of the area.

During the district staffs’ long-term commitment to support the elk herds on the Colville National Forest, they have completed 28 prescribed burns totaling 7,724 acres and six aspen restoration projects totaling 285 acres and maintained a noxious weed program. Through their efforts, the district staffs have successfully reduced open road densities and increased elk security while using creative methods supported by the public.

District Ranger John Buehler and Colville National Forest’s lead wildlife biologist Jim McGowan would like to thank the district staffs for their combined efforts to support elk habitat enhancement work, and recognize the districts’ wildlife biologist Mike Borysewicz for his dedicated efforts, long hours, and leadership abilities.

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“Many projects have involved creative ideas and hard physical work that would have been difficult to provide without Borysewicz’s heartfelt dedication and many weekends spent working with and coordinating volunteer groups,” McGowan said.

Borysewicz was chosen to travel to Reno, Nev. to attend the RMEF annual convention. He was surprised with the Habitat Enhancement award and had the honor of bringing the traveling trophy home to his co-workers on the Newport and Sullivan Lake ranger districts.

On receiving the award Borysewicz noted, “This is the result of many years' efforts of many people, some who are now retired, in the wildlife and fire staffs of the ranger districts.”

In addition to the funding provided by RMEF, the projects included have utilized numerous volunteers from local RMEF chapters, the Mule Deer Foundation, Conservation Northwest, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Boy Scouts of America, and other local sportsman and environmental groups. One aspen fencing project was used as an Eagle Scout project by a Colville Boy Scout.

The Newport and Sullivan Lake districts are located on the easternmost side of the Colville National Forest near the boundaries of Idaho and Canada. To reach the Sullivan Lake Ranger Station in Metaline Falls, WA call (509) 446-7500 and to reach the Newport Ranger Station in Newport, WA call (509) 447-7300. To visit Colville National Forest’s website, visit www.fs.fed.us/r6/colville



Photo: (Left) Rod Triepke, RMEF Chief Operations Officer (Right) Mike Borysewicz, District Wildlife Biologist

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