



**NORTHEAST WASHINGTON FORESTRY COALITION**  
www.NewForestryCoalition.org

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Michelle Paduani

Supervisory Environmental Coordinator/Interdisciplinary Team Leader East Zone  
Colville National Forest, Newport-Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts

Dear Michelle,

I want to thank you for the opportunities that the Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition (NEWFC) has been given to participate in the Limestone Silver project collaboration. We appreciate the previous response to our questions we sent back in January.

NEWFC is supportive of this project and believes it is appropriate to use the Categorical Exclusion (CE) authority under the Farm Bill. We appreciate the response to our questions about whether there were any extraordinary circumstances. NEWFC has a strong commitment to only using the CE authority when there are no extraordinary circumstances.

All of the units are in the WUI as defined by the Pend Oreille County Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The project will be limited to 3,000 acres or less, and will while maximize the retention of old growth and large trees.

We support the subsoiling on 25 acres to fix past damage in 2 units. We note that the purpose and need does not mentions benefits to local economies and infrastructure, since the CE designation is based on forest health, but note that this important to NEWFC. We also note that NEWFC finds it would be desirable to use prescribed fire in the inventoried roadless area and hope that a project to do this will occur in the future, as that would also help protect the downwind communities.

Thank you very much,

Mike Petersen for  
The Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition