

Date: August 31, 2007

Subject: Proof of Concept Public Meeting Schedule

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Representatives from Colville National Forest met with County Commissioners from Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties this week to design a collaborative process in which the public will assist with the development of a Performance Contract that outlines the Forest's operational goals for the next five years. Information gathered at the upcoming meetings, along with public input from previous collaboration efforts, will serve as a foundation for the contract. The goals and objectives identified in the contract must be consistent with the Forest Service's National Strategic Plan, the Forest Plan, and the law.

Colville National Forest is one of three forests in the nation that will implement a new business model called Proof of Concept, beginning on October 1st. Proof of Concept describes a trial period used to verify that a concept or theory is feasible. The concept behind this model suggests that through collaboration with the public and a predictable budget, the agency can increase managed outcomes while decreasing overall costs.

Dr. Jeanne McPherson, a consultant who specializes in collaborative leadership, will facilitate the public meetings. "I can see why the tri-county area was selected for collaborative input to Forest Service planning," she said. "Previous collaboration efforts are very impressive. This is a cutting-edge opportunity, and I'm pleased to be a part of the process!"

The public meeting schedule follows:

Ferry County

September 10, 2007 – from 6:00 – 9:00 pm, at a location to be announced; please check your local paper for the upcoming announcement

Stevens County

September 11, 2007, at the Agricultural Trades Center, Northeast Washington Fairgrounds, in Colville, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm

Pend Oreille County

September 18, 2007, at Lone Community Center, 210 Blackwell, in Lone, from 6:00 – 9:00 pm