

**Meeting of the Board of
Ferry County Commissioners
Forest Plan Revision Public Input Meeting
Thursday June 30th, 2016 1:00 PM**

**Location: Tri county Economic Development District 986 S Main St. Colville, WA 99114
Meeting Room**

Introduction of Attendees:

Ferry County Commissioner Chairman Nathan Davis, Ferry County Commissioner Mike Blankenship, Ferry County Commissioner Brad Miller, Ferry County Clerk of the Board Amanda Rowton, TEDD Employee Courtney Pal, SCPLAC Russ Larsen, Citizen John Conner, Citizen Ruthanne Conner, Stevens County Cattlemen Association Scott Nielsen, TCMRA Gary Nielsen, Steven's County Commissioner Don Dashiell, Pend Orielle Commissioner Karen Skoog, Republic TEDD Economic Specialist Leah Vanderstoep, NEWFC & Avista Utilities Ron Gray, Ferry County Back Country Horsemen Alison Benitz, Ferry County Back Country Horsemen Lu Young, Ferry County Back Country Horsemen George Young, Conservation NW Tiana Luke, NEWFC & American Lands Council Mike Petersen, Ferry County Back Country Horsemen Dolly Watkins, Colville National Forest Amy Dillon, Colville National Forest Rodney Smolden, Back Country Horsemen Nancy Harshman, NE WA Board Member Maurice Williams, Stevens County Commissioner Steve Parker, Vaagen Bros. Lumber & NEWFC Matthew Scott, NEWFC & KRCG Tim Coleman, NEWFC & SOS Gloria Flora, Colville National Forest Franklin Pemberton, Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers Staff Malcolm Friedman, TEDD Employee Mallory Conner, TEDD Employee Cassindra Maravilla, TEDD Employee Shelly Stevens and TEDD Director Jeff Koffel were present. The sign in sheet is in the file.

Forest Plan Revision Discussion

Commissioner Blankenship opened the meeting at 1:09 PM. Discussion was held on access to the Colville National Forest, more recreation in the Colville National Forest, more timber harvest from the Colville National Forest and the economic concerns regarding the potential Forest Plan Revision. Lu Young expressed concerns about the recreation and the economic impact surrounding the Forest Plan Revision. Stevens County Commissioner Steve Parker discussed the Forest Plan and the possibility of recreation within the abundance of natural resources. He said he would like to see it become a drawing feature to the area. He discussed access to the forest and the forest health being a critical concern. Gloria Flora expressed ideas to use bio char and she would like to promote wilderness and road less areas. Ms. Flora also said that special interest areas could be helpful in drawing funding. Tim Coleman discussed the common interest of timber as he now has a mill. He discussed access and how a special interest area is a good concept, especially by the Swan Lake area to attract recreation. Mr. Coleman supports wilderness in the Kettle Crest Area.

Alison Benitz discussed the health of the forest being the biggest concern. Ms. Benitz said she doesn't want to lose thousands of acres due to the inability to access the forest. Discussion was held on the forest being overgrown and how the forest needs balance. Scott Nielsen discussed the topic of stubble height not being based on sound science. He expressed concern for grazing allotments and how potential "wilderness" would impact the grazing areas. Gary Nielsen expressed concern for a potential 45 mph speed limit which would preclude the new licensed WATV from utilizing the roads. Mr. Gary Nielsen also said that he is not a proponent for the proposed "wilderness". Discussion was held on the established uses of the forest and land use designations.

Don Dashiell discussed concerns regarding access to the forest and forest health. Discussion was held on less access based on the new Forest Plan Revision. The right to use a chainsaw was preferred by the people. Discussion was held on the limited access to people have disabilities and how everyone deserves the right to access the forest.

Karen Skoog discussed how the potential "wilderness" will not help Pend Oreilles already struggling economy. Discussion was held on aging population and limited mobility to access the forest. Discussion was held on the concerns regarding fires in the unmanaged forest and how it puts the surrounding towns at risk. Commissioner Miller would like to see more of a partnership with the Forest Service. Commissioner Miller expressed the importance of timber and agriculture land to the economic vitality of Ferry County. Commissioner Davis discussed public land should be accessible to the public as a whole. Discussion was held on the bug infestation in the forest. Commissioner Davis has been documenting the tree damage with a drone. Commissioner Davis would like to see more tree harvest. Discussion was held on the WATV's lack of access. Commissioner Davis discussed maximum DBH and how one set of standards does not fit all. Commissioner Blankenship discussed Inventory Roadless Areas. Discussion was held on removing the dead wood and how it is essential in the recovering areas. Discussion was held on water quantity having an impact on water quality. Leah Vanderstoep arrived at 2:35 PM. Ms. Vanderstoep discussed cattle grazing allotments being an effective management tool for fire fuels.

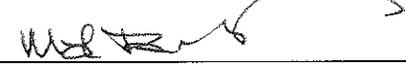
Discussion was held on the possibility of an extension for the comment period for the Forest Plan Revision. NEWFC representative reported that they too were requesting an extension of 45 days for the comment period. Mr. Smolden reported that after the comment period is over it goes to an objection period. Steve Parker suggested having another meeting like this one to share more information in the collaborative process. With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON




CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis

Absent
VICE CHAIRMAN, Brad Miller


MEMBER, Mike Blankenship

ATTEST:


for Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton