

**Adjourned Special Meeting of the Board
Ferry County Commissioners
Friday August 19, 2016**

The meeting was opened at 1:00 p.m. by Commissioner Davis with Commissioner Miller and Commissioner Blankenship present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Wolf Discussion

Present:

Lorna Johnson	Community Member and Natural Resource Board
Len McIrvin	Diamond M Ranch
Larry Beardslee	Community Member
Stan Christie	Ferry County Natural Resource Board/
Gordon Strandberg	Community Member/Rancher
Kevin DalBalcon	DalBalcon Ranch
Ronda DalBalcon	DalBalcon Ranch
Bowe Brown	Community Member/ Ferry County Cattlemen
Doug Grumbach	Community Member/Lone Ranch Angus
Joel Kretz	7 th District
Wes McCart	Stevens County Commissioner
Shelly Short	State Representative 7 th District
Tim Coleman	Kettle Range Conservation Group

Commissioner Blankenship addressed the issue of wolf removal. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has decided to pull out of the removal action. Two wolves have been removed by WDFW. In order for more wolves to be removed WDFW requires proof of one more depredation. Commissioner Blankenship discussed the possible options for addressing the continued issue with the depredations. Commissioner Blankenship discussed the unity of the group in regard to the removal of the wolves that are eating the calves.

Len McIrvin said that there are 7 killed to every confirmed depredation found, which would make the McIrvin loss at approximately 100 calves. Previously there were 16 confirmed kills before there was a partial removal of the Wedge pack. Discussion was held on the lack of deer due to the wolves.

Discussion was held on the grazing allotments and the necessity of keeping the herds a viable size. Mr. Strandberg discussed the removal of the two wolves and how the WDFW is passing the buck when it comes to removal. Mr. Strandberg requested the Commissioners take action on removal of the wolf pack. Mr. Len McIrvin discussed the stalling tactics that the WDFW are using to have the depredation numbers start over every January 1st.

Mr. McIrvin discussed the rules that allow his employees to shoot one wolf while out on the range. Idaho has open season on wolves, even with open season the wolf numbers are increasing in Idaho. The switch of the tail and the bottom jaw is all that is left when a wolf is responsible for the death of a calf. There are several probable wolf kills that the WDFW will not confirm. The NEPA process was discussed. Mr. McIrvin stated that they are still losing a calf a day. Mr. McIrvin stated that he believes that they have lost approximately 100 cows. Two were killed yesterday, all that was left was the tail switch and the bottom jaw bone.

Between July 1 and August 20 there have been 4 probable wolf depredations of livestock and 5 confirmed depredations in just a 6 week period of time. Mr. Christie said that Fairbanks allows the hunting of wolves and you are allowed 10 wolves apiece without tags. Mr. Christie told the Board to ask Washington to change the law to allow hunting of wolves. The caribou herds are reduced in Alaska because of the wolves. Obama signed an executive order last week banning wolf hunting from helicopters. Discussion was held on the lack of food for the wolves. Commissioner Miller said that according to legend there were no wolves here originally due to lack of food. There were cougars, but no wolves.

Commissioner Blankenship stated that he was told by WDFW Donny Martorello that we would have an answer to our letters by today. Discussion was held on the irregularity of the pings from the collared wolves. One day showed a wolf traveled approximately 50 miles one way and another 50 miles back to the den in only 2 hours. Gordon Strandberg and Len McIrvin reported that their cows are skinny, they are losing weight and they wouldn't be surprised that some of them have aborted calves.

Ms. Short discussed the consistence lack of follow through with the WDFW. Ms. Short said that she is having a hard time watching her constituents suffer. She also believes the ungulate count is not accurate. Ms. Short stated that she supports the ranchers and she hasn't fully gotten an answer to why WDFW have pulled out. Mr. Kretz stated that they had a hard time because the wolves went to ground and they couldn't find them. The wolves scattered after the helicopters scared them off and they went in too deep to be found

Mr. Coleman stated that he wants to see the wolves recover and he wants it to works between wolves and cattle. Discussion was held on the Ferry County Declaration of Emergency. Discussion was held on the plan. Mr. Kretz wants WDFW to admit that when a calf is found and only the jaw and tip of the tail remain, that it was a wolf kill. Discussion was held on the WDFW wolf telemetry on the Profanity Peak pack in the last 14 days. The telemetry shows where the den is. Mr. McIrvin wants to know why the WDFW didn't go in and take out the wolves since they know where they are. Discussion was held on the strange inconstancies of the pings from the collared wolves.

Commissioner Blankenship made a motion to approve Ferry County Resolution 2016-25 Declaring Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Failure to Act; Reasserting an Emergency; Declaring the Profanity Wolf Pack a Public Nuisance; Removing the Profanity Wolf Pack. Commissioner Miller seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Clerk of the Board Amanda Rowton was asked to forward the Resolution in electronic copy to Stevens County, Pend Oreille County, Shelly Short, Joel Kretz, Brian Dansel, Cassindra Marvilla at Tri County Economic Development District (to forward it on to the Eastern Washington Council of Governments), Prosecutor Kathryn Burke and Sheriff Maycumber. Ms. DalBalcon asked how long they have to wait until something is done now that the Resolution is signed. Commissioner Blankenship stated that they Board needs to check to see if hiring a tracker needs to be put out to bid or if anyone can be hired.

Ferry County Resolution 2016-25 Declaring Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Failure to Act; Reasserting an Emergency; Declaring the Profanity Wolf Pack a Public Nuisance; Removing the Profanity Wolf Pack was signed by the Board. (Ex. #1)

The Sign-In Sheet is in the file. (Ex. #2)

Forest Plan Revision Discussion

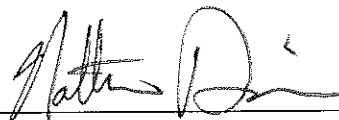
The Board will meet at the TEDD office on September 16th to talk about the Forest Plan Revision. The Board Members will be going to Washington D.C. when the date is finalized.

Discussion was held on the Laurier Bridge. Mr. McIrvine reported that the bridge is in need of attention. The bridge is between Ferry and Stevens County. The Board stated that Stevens County put in that bridge. Commissioner Miller stated that he will look into it.

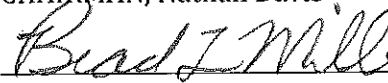
Unfinished Business

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



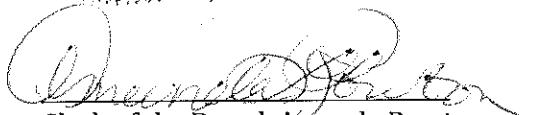
CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



VICE CHAIRMAN, Brad Miller



MEMBER, Mike Blankenship



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton