

**Meeting of the Board of
Ferry County Commissioners
Forest Plan Revision Public Input Meeting
Wednesday October 5th, 2016 1:00 PM**

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

Introduction of Attendees:

1. Amanda Rowton, Clerk of the Board, commissioners@co.ferry.wa.us
2. Mike Blankenship, FC Commissioner District 3, 6jment@gmail.com
3. Nathan Davis, FC Commissioner District 2, ndavis@co.ferry.wa.us
4. Steve Parker, Stevens County Commissioner, sparker@co.stevens.wa.us
5. Jeff Koffel, TEDD Director, jkoffel@teddonline.com
6. Dick Dunton, NEWFC, LRdunton@centurytv.net
7. Tiana Luke, NEWFC/Conservation Northwest, tluke@conservationnw.org
8. Mike Peterson, NEWFC/The Lands Council, mpeterson@landscouncil.org
9. Maurice Williamson, NEWFC
10. Johnna Exner, Ferry County Citizen, xner5@yahoo.com
11. Darrell Shute, Self, 509-738-2476
12. Kinsey Larsen, TEDD, klarsen@teddonline.com
13. Amy Dillon, Colville NF, adillon@fs.fed.us
14. Rodney Smoldon, Colville NF, rsmoldon@fs.fed.us
15. Matthew Scott, NEWFC/Vaagen Bros, mscott@vaagensbros.com
16. Josh Anderson, Vaagen Bros, janderson@vaagenbros.com
17. Don Dashiell, Stevens County Commissioner, ddashiell@co.stevens.wa.us
18. Wes McCart Stevens county Commissioner, wmccart@co.stevens.wa.us
19. Merrill Ott, TCMRA, merrillott@centurytel.net
20. Steve Kiss, Pend Oreille County Commissioner, skis@pendoreille.org
21. Ron Gray, NEWFC
22. Mike Paulson, CMR, walf@bossig.com
23. Russ Vaagen, NEWFC/Vaagen Bros

Forest Plan Revision Discussion: Harvest

Commissioner Blankenship opened the meeting at 1:05PM. Discussion was held on the meeting that took place regarding harvest levels with Russ Vaagen and Steve Parker.

Steve Parker presented his statement in regard to timber production.

Rodney Smoldon said that developed camp grounds do not count toward the Forest Plan Revision. It counts toward the 18% noted in Steve Parkers statement.

Maurice Williams said that when changing the structure you are impacting the sustainability.

Mike Peterson said to stick with 80 million board feet and perhaps in 20 years it will improve the forest.

Maurice Williams is ok with the number but said that it was not based on what is biologically possible.

Steve Parker asked about the history of the 1988 plan. He said that 170 mbf was the estimated growth in that plan.

Maurice Williams disagrees and said the desired future condition hasn't been able to have an input.

Russ Vaagen said he would like to see what is delivered verses what is sold in regard to board feet. He also asked how you get board feet out of a slash pile. Mr. Vaagen said he would email his statement that was read out loud at this time to everyone at the meeting. (Ex. #1)

Merrill Ott said that he liked the statement and felt that it cleared up a lot.

Steve Parker said that if you set the target out there to see if you can reach it.

Tiana Luke said that the number isn't important. It is how the numbers came about and supportive research to get to the number.

Russ Vaagen said that it is fair when people come up with different conclusions.

Maurice Williams said what we are really looking at for 80 million board feet would be overharvesting. A cutting budget of 80 million board feet on 400 available acres was discussed.

Tiana Luke said that it is the why and the how that the number of board feet it is a product of.

Russ Vaagen is going to email the statement to the group with Steve Parkers and Russ Vaagen's statement both on one document.

Inventory Roadless Area

Mike Blankenship discussed potential wilderness areas and inventory road less area numbers that have flaws in them.

Russ Vaagen said that you get further in smaller groups. He suggested that maybe a smaller group could be formed and makes recommendations to the larger group. He said they could also identify where there are disagreements in the community.

Steve Parker agreed with Russ Vaagen.

Mike Paulson said that a Commissioner should be involved in the process.

Gary Nielsen said one more person would be good.

(Mike Blankenship was suggested)

Mike Blankenship said that he can be available.

Russ Vaagen said that in a smaller group they can really look at the issues and tackle them.

Gary Nielsen said in the potential wilderness areas there is timber management that need to be addressed. Do we need more people in there?

Mike Blankenship said that he would step up to do the group discussion and come back with some preliminary thoughts.

Russ Vaagen said we could look at maps and talk about grazing. The grazing allotments will get some consideration.

Scott Nielsen said he sees numerous errors when he looks at the 1988 plan. He questions the process by which we come up with something. He said it is supposed to be a sterile process but it comes out with errors. He said he has a problem with the new inventory. The process was flawed. He said let's look at the theory and readdress it. He said to start with the 1988 plan and where it went wrong.

Steve Parker said there are some specific considerations in regard to recreation, access, current grazing allotments and the process itself. We'd want the smaller group to discuss all the brackets.

Scott Nielsen asked how you can come up with two different boundaries if it's a sterile process. Does it fit the truly road less areas to be wilderness.

Russ Vaagen said that it was apples and oranges. The guidelines change would like to identify the sore thumbs out there. Most of the people agreed there shouldn't be potential wilderness areas.

Rodney Smoldon said that the difference is that there are two sterile processes with different rules.

Mike Peterson said that in 1988 they drew lines on topography lines and Lost Creek is a road less area.

Mike Blankenship said that Twin Sisters Trail has a road that runs right through an IRA.

Rodney Smoldon asked do you manage it as a road or a trail. Is it open to all vehicles?

Gary Nielsen asked what the difference is.

Rodney Smoldon said that it is managed as a trail.

Maurice Williams said what is important that needs to be addressed right now?

Steve Parker said lets clarify our goals. We have competing ideas about the road less areas. Clarify ideas other than I don't want wilderness or I like wilderness. He said what he would like is a deeper understanding of specific reasons why you are for or against it.

Russ Vaagen said that this was the conversation he was afraid of. It's a circular conversation that is not getting anywhere but everyone is right. Discover what the problem really is and clarifying the disagreements is important. Are our interests competing? The broader level of conversation that people get emotional over and making sure the comments do not go against something unintentionally.

Maurice Williams said can we say there are flaws but we can comment to the imperfections based on our interests.

Dick Dunton said PWA means it has no roads. There are roads in the PWA.

Merrill Ott said there are issues of clarity in the recreation community. We need to identify where they want to be. In the South East project they identified places the motorized community would like to go on the landscapes. It would accommodate the FS on what they can do to make it work.

Gary Nielsen discussed Ferry County and TCMRA and a map of the 3 counties with roads available to drive.

Mike Peterson said wasn't the work done on phase 2 motorized ATV.

Rodney Smoldon said he did not know what he was referring to.

Maurice said he thinks that Gary and Merrill are on the right track.

Russ Vaagen said people who are anti wilderness will not get to the other side. He is hoping for understanding of why we need some of the wilderness. Mr. Vaagen moved to create a small group to tackle this.

Dick Dunton asked if it could be done in two weeks.

Russ Vaagen hesitated to commit but it could work to meet in a small group.

(The group includes Gary Nielsen, Mike Peterson, Russ Vaagen and Mike Blankenship)

Steve Parker asked can we meet.

Gary Nielsen said it has to be next week.

Steve Parker discussed the possibility of another person.

Mike Blankenship suggested the 12th or the 13th of October. It was decided that Wednesday the 12th at 11:00 am (confirmed) by the group at the TEDD office in the small meeting room would be the meeting day.

Dick Dunton said that OHV's cannot use roads that vehicles ride on.

Mike Blankenship brought up water quantity and quality. Nothing in the Forest Plan Revision talks about it. Different trees pull a certain amount of water out of the ground. It has an impact on the streams other issues with vegetation. Airflow is what you need to cool water.

Merrill Ott discussed watershed science based on water going into the basin. Maybe Wes McCart could dig out the watershed plan and it could help the group.

Maurice Williams said that there is conflicting information like water temp. Shade is the largest issue that impacts the temp. As the temperature gets higher the oxygen dissolves.

Mike Peterson is concerned about conflicting information.

Russ Vaagen said there is nothing in the plan that addresses water quantity. He said we can lose sight of water quality not just quantity.

Mike Blankenship asked if we could get this on the plan.

Maurice Williams said the WEPP program is being used instead of biological opinion.

Rodney Smoldon said they used it on the Orient project manipulating vegetation may or may not impact between draft and final. Water quantity will be addressed. The hydrologist is still working on it.

Scott Nielsen is interested in the vegetation management. What's the plan on the green areas? He doesn't feel that it is based on sound science. He also said his interest is the grazing side of it.

Rodney Smoldon said the region has drafted an aquatic conservation strategy. It takes the 2008 strategy guidelines dealing with grazing. From the comments received this is a good topic to talk about. ACS is to be used in the forest Plan Revision. It meets the intent and is supported by science.

Scott Nielsen said that if you make a plan that's a one size fits all, it doesn't work. There is a lot of grazing on the forest.

Rodney Smoldon said the current guideline lays out stubble height after the grazing season stubble height get lower in a functional management. Clean water and a natal habitat.

Scott Nielsen said the forest service uses science, and the modified version to make the guidelines. He feels that the science should be used. When we talk about these things people say that conservation people need to be involved. There is an alliance there with the logging industry and conservation community. The MTR and the cattlemen have an alliance.

Russ Vaagen called BS.

Steve Parker discussed how far we are willing to go to properly represent ourselves. The way that does the least amount of harm to all of our interest and address everything we can.

Mike Peterson said that the south end project went well. We have the discussion and let's go for it.

Maurice Williams said we didn't start down that path and it didn't work because there was a lack of commitment by the ranching community.

Merrill Ott said you have identified a fact. Reach out to the grazing interests in the group. We don't need to worry about alliances. We need to address the interests.

Maurice Williams said the trust is an issue.

Russ Vaagen apologized for his outburst. He said he cares about all the interests and he puts a lot of time and energy for the betterment of the community.

Scott Nielsen said maybe Russ and I should have a talk and initiate a discussion. Mr. Scott Nielsen then asked, what do you mean commitment by the ranchers.

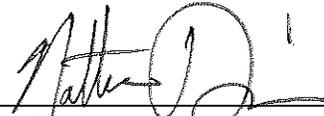
Maurice Williams said no one came back to the meeting.

Dick Dunton said I feel I have interests in all including grazing. My interest is fire. We must have collaboration.

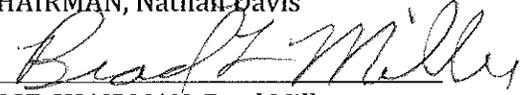
Mike Blankenship agreed that we cannot use the same as the Coastal Riparian Plan. Different climates won't work here. What is good for my community? That is how I view these things.

The next meeting is on October 19th, 2016 at 1:00 PM -- 5:00PM.

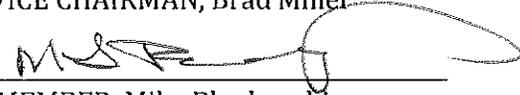
BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



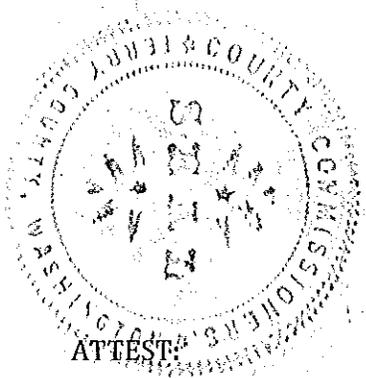
CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



VICE CHAIRMAN, Brad Miller



MEMBER, Mike Blankenship



ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton

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Draft Language for the Colville National Forest, Forest Plan as discussed by the Tri-County Forest Working Group:

The Colville Forest will **immediately** strive for 80 million board feet annually. These figures represent the shared common ground of the majority of the stakeholders, in particular the groups represented in the Tri-County Forest Working Group hosted by the commissioners of Pend Oreille, Stevens, and Ferry Counties with participation from NEWFC. The group understands the current constraints the Colville National Forest faces with budget and staffing that may result in missing the 80 million board feet target, but the group feels that it's important to be accountable to that target. Volume accountability will be compiled in the form of arrearage. This figure will be tabulated and tracked at the end of each year so that efforts can be made to get that volume added on to future years' program of work. This plan recognizes that if budgets and workforce are put in place that 97 million board feet could be realized in a single year, according to the Colville National Forest leadership. This is important because we all recognize that we have fallen behind in our treatment plan and need the ability to catch up. This group also recognizes that we don't adequately know what is sustainable because the stocking level is so high. It will take at least 20 years of treatments to understand what is a sustainable harvest level target.

Timber Production

Scheduled timber production would be suitable on 60 percent of the forest. Timber harvest for other resource objectives would be allowable on 18 percent of the forest. The long term sustainable yield on that area is currently estimated to be at least 100 MMBF. To accomplish stated objectives target production is 80 MMBF. Current budget restrictions will allow for a maximum production of 62 MMBF. Collaborative discussions in the community will determine any single year volume targets in excess of 80 MMBF.

(Ex. #1)