

**Meeting of the Board of
Ferry County Commissioners
Forest Plan Revision Public Input Meeting
Wednesday October 19th, 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. Cody Desautel, Colville Tribe, cody.desautel@colvilletribes.com
5. Steve Kiss, Pend Oreille County Commissioner, skis@pendoreille.org
6. Bill Way, NEWT, LBway321@gmail.com
7. John Boyd, NEWT, lifeinthegorge@yahoo.com
8. Tim Coleman, KRCG, tcoleman@kettlerange.org
9. Gloria Flora, NEWFC – SOS, oflora@s-o-solutions.org
10. Bruce Foreman, NEBCW, bkforeman@comcast.net
11. Darrell Wallace, BCHW, exec@bcbw.org
12. Nancy Harshman, Ferry County/Okanogan/BCH, nancyhars47@gmail.com
13. Dolly Watkins, Ferry county BCHW, dollyw@rcabletv.com
14. Dick Dunton, NEWFC, LRdunton@centurytv.net
15. Tiana Luke, NEWFC/Conservation Northwest, tluke@conservationnw.org
16. Maurice Williamson, NEWFC
17. Johnna Exner, Ferry County Citizen, xner5@yahoo.com
18. Amy Dillon, Colville NF, adillon@fs.fed.us
19. Merrill Ott, TCMRA, merrillott@centurytel.net
20. Russ Vaagen, Vaagen Bros, rvaagen@vaagenbros.com
21. Scott Nielsen, Cattle Producers of WA, rsnielsen@plixtel.com
22. Dave Hedrick, Ferry County, ferryc.3@gmail.com
23. Russ Larsen, CCC, 684-6497
24. Lorna Johnson, Ferry Planning & KRAB, 779-4445
25. Leah Vanderstoep, Ferry County Planning
26. Wes McCart, Stevens County Commissioner, 496-6518
27. Mike Petersen, The Lands Council, mpetersen@landscouncil.org
28. Terry Thiele, Airport Manager
29. Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers
30. Mike Paulson, Cathy McMorris Rodgers Staff

Forest Plan Revision Discussion: Harvest

Commissioner Blankenship opened the meeting at 1:05PM.

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers applauded the effort and the importance of this group meeting. She said she was pleased with the A to Z Project and the recent ruling. She said with better results the better outcome equals a healthy forest.

Russ Vaagen asked how big of a deal is what we are doing on a national scale?

Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers said that it is a big deal nationally. The Energy Conference Committee is impacted by the work that is done in this group.

Mike Blankenship discussed the minutes and asked Russ Vaagen if the last page was accurate.

Russ Vaagen said he would double check.

Mike Blankenship asked about production goals.

Russ Vaagen said he had a short conversation with Rodney Smoldon and there's not recognition of 60 million board feet. He is interested in leaning toward 80 million board feet. The "low water mark" language in the plan doesn't cap the number of board feet.

Gloria Flora said Rodney requested a statement by November 1st, 2016.

Cody Desautel discussed the amount of board feet.

Mike Blankenship discussed Rodney wanting a statement no later than November 15th. He also mentioned the possibility of an amendment. Discussion was held on IRA's & PWA's and started a dialog that would open up the conversation. Ferry County would like to keep what it has. If wilderness would accept bicycles etc. it would be more acceptable.

Russ Vaagen discussed the possible next meeting regarding PWA's and IRA's. He discussed the cumbersome nature of discussing IRA's in a big group. The Forest Plan has different designations.

Maurice Williamson asked how you treat things like roads.

Cody Desautel discussed forest health treatments. There would be allowances for roads but the Tribe would like it to be a natural landscape.

Mike Petersen said there are areas where we can adjust boundaries and beetle kill is an issue.

Mike Blankenship asked how we protect areas without all the other garbage.

Russ Vaagen suggested Gloria Flora talk about the legislature from Montana.

Mike Blankenship said we could do that as a new topic as we follow the agenda.

Merrill Ott said he was confused about the timelines; before November 1st? Does the statement need to be in writing? Which needs to come first?

Mike Petersen said November 15th is more agreeable.

Mike Blankenship said the production goal was beneficial to all present. 62 million board feet seemed like too low a number. 100 would be better for growth.

Tiana Luke discussed the statement that was presented as an Exhibit in the notes from October 5th and suggested taking out the number.

Russ Vaagen discussed the sustainable yield and asked for clarity regarding paragraph 2 on the statement.

Tiana Luke asked to have part of it removed.

Russ Vaagen discussed the language and comments and agreed with Tiana Luke. Russ Vaagen doesn't have a problem with removing it. The last sentence conveys what needs to for everyone to but in. He asked Maurice when it was developed.

Maurice Williamson said it was about 10 years ago.

Russ Vaagen said the forest is stagnated with many variables.

Mike Blankenship asked what would happen if we took out "at least"?

Russ Vaagen said it is stated in the plan. What do we gain by having it in there? He suggested highlighting the sentence to discuss with Steve Parker later.

Gloria Flora said if we can't point to where it came from it shouldn't be in there.

Russ Vaagen discussed the back and forth of 80 then 100 with a commonality.

Wes McCart said it was Steve Parker intent to note the amounts.

Russ Vaagen said a good percentage of the group wanted 100.

Maurice Williamson explained 80mbf where it came from the active management area.

Gloria Flora said we should stick to things we can draw a straight line to.

Cody Desautel said be careful with the word sustainable. It depends on what you want your forest to look like. Based on the number of restrictions, it brought the numbers down. Fire will impact it the management wont.

Mike Blankenship brought up the topic of water quantity.

Wes McCart said that water quality and quantity go hand and hand. If your stream isn't flowing your fish aren't growing.

Dick Dunton discussed an interest in water quantity.

Scot Neilsen gave his concerns regarding grazing. He said there is a timeline that he is not sure he understands.

Mike Blankenship asked Scott Neilsen if he could bring back something in two weeks.

Scott Neilsen wants to put Mike and Tiana in touch with Charlie and Chance.

Mike Blankenship said we need something to bring back to the next meeting to forward to Rodney especially in regard to the production goal.

Scott Neilsen said we could have something before the next meeting and could someone explain the timeline.

Amy Dillon said the final document in December was always the scheduled due date.

Scott Neilsen discussed what we have so far.

Tiana Luke asked if we could get the statements emailed to everyone before the next meeting.

Wes McCart discussed timing and asked how we could integrate a balanced approach.

Russ Vaagen said we are helping develop a business plan.

Terry Thiele asked how the Forest Service treats it. When we have this, can we work as the years go on?

Amy Dillon said the Forest Plan Revision can be amended.

Terry Thiele said in the past has the Forest Plan Revision been amenable to amendments?

Russ Vaagen discussed the issues on roads and that the forest plan is strategic and we need to have a tactical plan on how to make it happen. He suggested this group staying together so that over time it will be good for the long term.

Maurice Williamson said this generation of Forest Plan Revision is more of a guideline plan.

Amy Dillon said for most areas we tried to make it more strategic. There is enough law and policy to regulate.

Bill Way discussed how his non-motorized group doesn't have a position on timber harvest and what he would like to see is the recreational aspect addressed early in the project. He said he was pretty happy with how the A to Z Project turned out. It could have saved a lot of time if we started the process with recreation earlier as it is important here.

Tim Coleman said that at the project level we have been shut down.

Mike Petersen agreed on the A to Z Project. He said it was the first time he saw the rancher invited out. The Deer Jasper Project ignored recreation. Agreeing with Russ Vaagen regarding the continuing of the group; he said that new things come up all the time and a group like this is a good thing. Trails and Access is what Merrill and Mike Petersen have been working on with the citizens' help. The Forest Service doesn't fund recreation.

Maurice Williamson said that Mike Petersen's statement wasn't actually correct. It is a funding thing.

Darrell Wallace said the wilderness designation is great if you can use it. Restrictions on power tools make it harder to clear trails. He asked why you want more when you can't maintain what you have. He said that he is not real sure that going to wilderness is such a good idea.

Mike Blankenship said that is where Ferry County is at. We have maintained that wilderness negatively impacts our recreation. Where do we fit in that? The Forest Service can make some exceptions but it's hard to get.

Amy Dillon said she is not a wilderness manager so she doesn't know how long it would take to get consideration.

Darrell Wallace said do I understand the Forest Service will not manage that wilderness as wilderness until congress acts.

Amy Dillon said yes, until Congress acts.

Russ Vaagen said we need to continue to discuss these items and come together as a group. When we give them comments separately they don't meet as many people's needs.

Darrell Wallace said it would be nice to have something that is less restrictive than wilderness.

Russ Vaagen said we have an opportunity to introduce a legislative package. It is worth continuing to pursue. People are still interested in doing it.

Bruce Foreman asked if there was any consensus on plan P. We are in support of plan P. We need to use chainsaws to clear trails.

Mike Blankenship said this is the third meeting of this group. If we have enough support for Special Interest Area instead of wilderness it could happen. He is optimistic that we could go that way.

Maurice Williamson said rather than trying to isolate each other we can find common ground. Part of the success of NEWFC is due to being unified. If we can come to common ground with the ranching community to pursue an ultimate goal that will work for all of us; this group can be very effective. He commended Mike Blankenship for starting this group.

Scott Neilsen said I am willing to work through the process to make it work. We have encouraged the commissioners to do this. If we can develop something with Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Senator Maria Cantwell's help we can accomplish a lot. How so we move forward on stuff you have already agreed on?

Maurice Williamson said we have to collaborate with the Forest Service. Russ's smaller groups are more effective to help ideas move forward. Developing relationships with the rest of the group is important. What is your real goal?

Russ Vaagen said the difficulty with collecting everyone in the room we don't have lots of opportunity to discuss it. This group can activate a list of interests to meet about.

John Boyd said he likes the ideas in the room. The board feet goal is probably not amendable. The board feet should be the goal with immediate priority. He agreed with 100mbf.

Russ Vaagen said the numbers are a bit off. How we put money back is what we need to answer to. He said he was happy to see everyone new talking about this. If we have a plan, that doesn't have a down side.

Cody Desautel said the Forest Service needs to be segregated. The Forest Service can do a lot. The DC Forest Service is more removed. How do we tap the local Forest Service within the scope of their capabilities?

Gloria Flora asked how we can be effective as a group. We are artificially limited. What are our vantage points? What is our leverage? Where can we make definitive change?

Cody Desautel said he is not sure if anything needs to change. If we do logging, you support loggers and keep money local.

Russ Vaagen said as a larger group we can get leverage on where to move these dollars. There may be a reason for us to do legislative means.

Merrill Ott said what can they do better regarding access to the forest?

Mike Blankenship said in the 80's Ferry County nearly a million dollars that has been replaced by SRS. We have seen negative and how much that costs. SRS money has been fought for the last couple of years. SRS is viewed upon as federal welfare. If we don't get the forest harvested with money made. As to the PILT it has been here all along. It has little to do with the timber harvest. Stewardship and spending money at home is a positive thing. Mike also said that he would like to see an ATV shop or sales in Ferry County for sales tax revenue. That would be wonderful for the County.

Maurice Williamson discussed the county needing a logging work force in the county to make it work.

Mike Blankenship said Forest Service policy isn't meeting local need it is hard to compete.

Dick Dunton said economic reports most logging employees are in Stevens County. There needs to be local employment. When a non-local bid is so much lower they have to go with that.

Maurice Williamson asked what are the barriers and the solutions.

Mike Petersen asked should our small group from before, plan a meeting next week.

Mike Blankenship suggested Tuesday afternoon. Russ & Mike Petersen agreed.

Nathan Davis referenced a conversation with the Tribe and the science studies over a period of time to make better decisions. It is needed to have real science.

Cody Desautel asked what mitigation technique can be used. Total salvage harvest, more natural planting and monitoring of plots for fuel burning. Monitoring plots are used all the time. Post fire effects to evaluate treatments and untreated areas.

Dolly Watkins discussed the White Mountain fire of 88 and seemed to think there was a study started at that time.

Amy Dillon said she would have to look into the history of that.

Gloria Flora said she is interested in post fire research based on habitats or management that was used. What's the appropriate thing to do base on science?

Mike Blankenship said Tillamook had some studies like that.

Dick Dunton just finished the pilot program of prescribed burns. There were four projects but they got shut down after two. We would have to have a report at the end of the year. There were plots put in ahead of time and now they are measuring.

Mike Blankenship said if you have ideas you are welcome to get together on your own to bring up new topics.

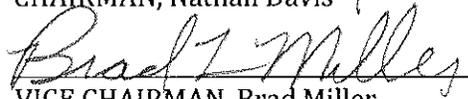
Darrell Wallace requested contact information. Amanda Rowton will scan and send out via email the sign in sheets.

The next meeting is on November 2nd, 2016 at 1:00 PM – 5:00PM.

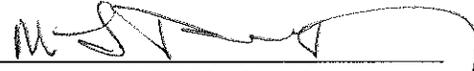
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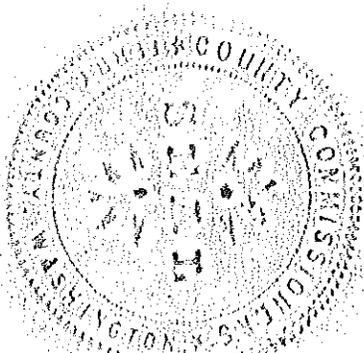
CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



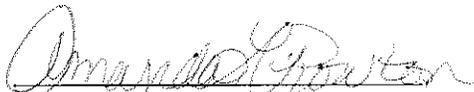
VICE CHAIRMAN, Brad Miller



MEMBER, Mike Blankenship



ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton