

**Meeting of the Board of
Ferry County Commissioners
Forest Plan Revision Public Input Meeting
Wednesday November 2nd, 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. Brad Miller, FC Commissioner District 1, bmillier@co.ferry.wa.us
5. Steve Parker, Stevens County, sparker@co.stevens.wa.us
6. Steve Kiss, Pend Oreille County Commissioner, skis@pendoreille.org
7. Tim Coleman, KRCG, tcoleman@kettlerange.org
8. Gloria Flora, NEWFC – SOS, oflora@s-o-solutions.org
9. Dolly Watkins, Ferry county BCHW, dollyw@rcabletv.com
10. Dick Dunton, NEWFC, LRdunton@centurytv.net
11. Johnna Exner, Ferry County Citizen, xner5@yahoo.com
12. Amy Dillon, Colville NF, adillon@fs.fed.us
13. Holly Hutchison, Colville NF, hollyahutchison@fs.fed.us
14. Merrill Ott, TCMRA, merrillott@centurytel.net
15. Dave Hedrick, Ferry County, ferryco.3@gmail.com
16. Leah Vanderstoep, Ferry County Planning, Plan@co.ferry.wa.us
17. Wes McCart, Stevens County Commissioner, 496-6518
18. Mike Petersen, The Lands Council, mpetersen@landscouncil.org
19. Terry Thiele, Ferry County, Airport Manager
20. Matt Scott, NEWF/Vaagen, mscott@vaagenbros.com
21. Gary Nielsen, TCMRA & SC PLAC, grnielsen@ultraplix.com

Forest Plan Revision Discussion: Harvest

Mike Blankenship opened the meeting at 1:05 pm with a discussion regarding legislation and where this group is going. He said we could use this platform to outreach to our legislators for our desired outcomes. Using a collective input system where all are represented. Do you think that would work?

Leah Vanderstoep said the best available science isn't being used from the perspective of planning and GMA.

Gloria Flora said how one would legislate for a position.

Mike Petersen said we need to do more and as a big group we could accomplish more. Legislating needs adaptive management.

Leah Vanderstoep said she is worried we are missing the point on the forest plan. Speaking in regard to grazing, we already have experts locally. Why would we use a secondary special group?

Gloria Flora said she doesn't see it the same way. The legislation was the long term goal. We could solve more immediate problems. We don't see the forest plan as being as responsive.

Leah Vanderstoep said the forest plan is a 15 year plan and is supposed to have broad goals with local people.

Steve Parker said short term is necessary to make corrections to the forest plan. If we make corrections using local people would help with the long term fixes.

Tim Coleman said if you make it yourself then you know what is in it.

Mike Blankenship said we have been meeting every two weeks. This can be tiring and how do we get people to keep coming back? How do we deal with the little things that drive the numbers? Give us a reason to continue these meeting maybe every two months. Where are we going? What are we doing? I hate to have to submit what will have to be amended later.

Steve Parker said that Russ and Steve had discussed previously but doesn't have a statement at this time.

Mike Blankenship asked if the 62 million board feet is a cap.

Amy Dillon said it is not a cap.

Mike Blankenship said 100 million board feet could happen but agrees with the comment of Tiana last time that the 100 million board feet isn't based on science.

Amy Dillon said long term sustained yield at 93 million board feet.

Matt Scott asked didn't we have a consensus on the members before?

Steve Parker asked what the science? If the forest service cannot use a scientific number, it can be challenged by anyone.

Mike Petersen said scientists developed the 80 million board feet. There is a solid body of science for 80 million board feet. NEWFC would like to see 80 million board feet.

Steve Parker said it must be imbedded in the document that births the plan.

Gary Nielsen asked Amy Dillon what the percentage of the forest is the numbers she mentioned based on?

Dick Dunton discussed the notes in September that the consensus was agreed at 80 million board feet.

Mike Blankenship asked if we should request a specific number because the 62 million board feet isn't a cap.

Wes McCart said he didn't see anything in there that goes back to the legislative piece Mike Blankenship talked about earlier.

Mike Blankenship discussed a little bit of clarity on the 62 million board feet. Does it include wood cutting and wood pulp?

Amy Dillon said 62 is based on the timber production sales and that biomass is not included.

Mike Blankenship said that we want production that goes to making jobs.

Johnna Exner said if we all settled on 80 million board feet, why can't it just be 80 million board feet to make the group feel comfortable?

Mike Blankenship said that Amy said they only have enough money to get 62 million board feet to market.

Johnna Exner said with the hopes of more 80 million board feet would be better.

Steve Parker said they are working on a statement to clarify. He is also comfortable that 62 is not a cap and they are going to clarify the statement in the plan.

Merrill Ott asked Amy when would that language is available so we can review.

Amy Dillon said there was a draft in her inbox that had not reviewed yet.

Merrill Ott asked if it would help the forest service if we understand the 62 million board feet is based on money.

Amy Dillon confirmed.

Merrill Ott said he was comfortable with that.

Dick Dunton said we had a statement and he thought Russ Vaagen was going to finalize it.

(Steve Parker will get a hold of Russ Vaagen)

Wes McCart said he respectfully disagrees. He asked why we would change the number if there is no cap.

Matt Scott said that what he is hearing is that we need to increase harvest?

(Amy Dillon is going to forward water quantity information to Mike Blankenship and Steve Parker.)

Wes McCart said the plan I see is based on Colville and I think we need to be concerned about the entire forest. We don't talk about canopy or density. The science of clear cutting runoff would be an issue. Not sure how we want to address this

Amy Dillon discussed clear cuts and vegetation.

Wes McCart said he is looking for more science to throw at this. He discussed coverage vegetation and 60 percent canopy density.

Mike Petersen said he is interested in this topic and didn't find any science to support it. He discussed an email Amy Dillon had sent to him.

Wes McCart said part of this is to get more water to the floor for the soil. We may not see the water for a while but if we don't work on getting the water to the soil it won't improve.

Tim Coleman said the forest covers effects humidity as well. It is based on wind speed etc. As trees get older they channel the water through a graphor. Moisture retention feeds the growth.

Mike Blankenship discussed Sherman Pass. Snow covers the ground and lasts longer. When it is on the tree it melts off. We have a spring that feeds the house. The timber removal on the property improved how much water was in the spring.

Leah Vanderstoep said there is ample science to support grazing.

Gloria Flora agrees with Leah.

Wes McCart said what I was looking for in the water quantity issue was improve overall water quality. He said he is not advocating for clear cutting. Too dense of a forest and water is lost in the atmosphere.

Gloria Flora discussed the water being gifted to us this month. Different trees use different amounts of water.

Steve Parker suggested this be a mid-term goal.

Dick Dunton said to Wes McCart do you see anything in the FPR about water?

Wes McCart said very little in regards to the water in the FPR.

Dick Dunton said is there any recommendation?

Mike Blankenship asked if there was anything in the plan for increasing water quantity.

Amy Dillon said no.

Mike Blankenship asked what the purpose was, and the need?

Amy Dillon said it's not in here and it will be tough to show improvement.

Wes McCart asked if there was a way to add something to the plan.

Amy Dillon said that this group can come up with a way to express that.

Wes McCart asked at a project level?

Mike Petersen said it seems like it would be good to have a plan.

Gloria Flora discussed soil water retention.

Wes McCart wants something that says we are considering this at a project level

Mike Blankenship said if you look at the forest rain levels from the west to east they are different. It needs to be site specific and we want something in there that will attempt to improve the water. Can we get something in there that says these things?

Amy Dillon said she would try but can't promise.

Potential Wilderness Area/Wilderness

Mike Petersen said the 1988 plan had IRA in it in several areas. There was a re inventory in 2006 to redo the boundaries. Some areas went up in acres and some went down. Are those boundaries accurate and do we need to adjust it? Some were put in where roads or timber harvest. He talked about the MTR with Merrill Ott and mapped out ATV over the Kettle Crest.

Gary Neilsen said that they talked about permanent designation. There is hardly any of us that don't support the protection of our areas.

Leah Vanderstoep asked what type of development you are referring to.

Gary Neilsen said road construction and logging.

Leah Vanderstoep asked how much of the Colville National Forest do you think should be designated.

Gary Neilsen said it's already designated in places.

Mike Blankenship said do not confuse protection with wilderness. My understanding of SIA is that would it be dedicated to recreation.

Steve Parker referred back to previous discussion.

Mike Petersen discussed how mountain bikes and chainsaws are not allowed in the wilderness where SIA could allow mountain bikes and chainsaws.

Johnna Exner requested clarification on the SIA.

Mike Petersen said multi-use would be encouraged.

Gloria Flora discussed the Montana experience. Without exclusion, keep it like it is. It took seven years. The Rocky Mountain Heritage Act to protect for future generations. It included every user involved. The area had qualifying wilderness of 67,000 acres that became designated. Any are that wasn't designated wilderness was "conservation management designation area". It allows for thinning, motorized recreation and loop trails. There would always maintain the status quo. She emphasized the importance of noxious weeds. It is a story of positive outcomes with working with the community. It takes a long time. There were ranchers and the mountain bike community. The community can be proud of keeping it the way it is.

Leah Vanderstoep discussed the mountain biking community and the Kettle Crest tourism. The economy is timber, mining and ranching.

Gloria Flora said hunting and fishing is something that shouldn't be ignored.

Leah Vanderstoep said that keeping it like it is doesn't work for Ferry County. Our forest is choked out.

Gloria Flora said she was using an allegory.

Leah Vanderstoep said again mining and grazing.

Gloria Flora said that a community based decision with good outcome to meet the community need.

Leah Vanderstoep said she doesn't see cattle grazing in Yellowstone and wants us to be cautious.

Tim Coleman discussed studies and quality of life issues. The reason we live here is we want the quality of life. It makes this place special. 40 % of incomes in the County is retirement based or Social Security. Protecting public lands keep people here.

Johnna Exner said we need to protect the sustainable livelihood of the people.

Mike Petersen said that it brings us back to board feet. There is a lot out there for everyone.

Merrill Ott asked how an IRA can be placed in a space with roads in there.

Mike Petersen discussed working with Forest Service to review maps and discussed the boundaries.

Amy Dillon suggested Friday.

Wes McCart said that he hears that the Forest Service is open to more than wilderness designation. If you designate wilderness you have changed things. Keeping it the same is not changing the designation.

Merrill Ott said it's amazing the progress we have made. Sitting down and talking has been a huge improvement. Discussing it as a community is a step forward.

Wes McCart asked what do we tell the Forest Service to designate. What will work for us?

Mike Petersen said we want this discussion to examine the boundaries.

Terry Thiele asked are you saying no PWA at this time.

Mike Petersen said to examine maps and boundaries with Forest Service together soon to ensure some protection for the IRA's. PWA the term itself is a problem? Maybe it should be called potential road less area. We can look at the boundaries.

Leah Vanderstoep If there is no bearing, let's not do it.

Tim Coleman said that he doesn't like SIA.

Steve Kiss asked for clarification. What happens to PWA's if they do not go into wilderness?

Amy Dillon said it depends on what they fall into; wilderness, back country or back country motorized.

Wes McCart said the recommended wilderness is the part we are having a problem with. That's why we need to review the boundaries.

Dolly Watkins said that she appreciates the meetings and feels that they are productive.

Brad Miller said the term potential wilderness is specific and he had a conversation with Rick Brazle regarding the sterile process.

Steve Parker said we don't support Potential Wilderness designation.

Amy Dillon said when it comes from such a diverse group she doesn't know what the forester would say. If we came out with zero wildernesses it would be a litigation point.

Mike Blankenship asked how PWA works for management.

Amy Dillon said that PWA's doesn't have any but that IRA's do. (Limited management)

Mike Blankenship discussed the Deer Jasper project and said we need to address the endangered species. They are not PWA's in my book. They were shoved down the county's throat without any input. PWA do not exist as far as I'm concerned.

Merrill Ott submitted an exhibit with proposed changes. (Ex. #1)

Merrill Ott asked Amy Dillon if it works.

Amy Dillon said to tweek it a bit. The word coordinate may be an issue to include everybody. Also maybe use the word should instead of must.

Leah Vanderstoep said maybe include the ranchers.

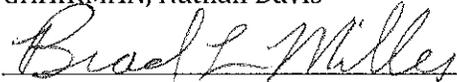
Mike Blankenship asked if there were any objections. (There were no objections)

Next Meeting scheduled for December 6th, 2016 10:00 AM- 1:00 PM

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



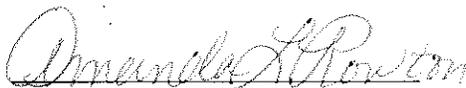
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VICE CHAIRMAN, Brad Miller



MEMBER, Mike Blankenship



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton