

**Meeting of the Board of
Ferry County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Tuesday February 10th, 2017 1:30 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. Kinsey Larsen, TEDD, klarsen@teddonline.com
5. Tiana Luke, Conservation NW/NEWFC, tluke@conservationnw.org
6. Maurice Williams, NEWFC
7. Steve Parker, Stevens County, sparker@co.stevens.wa.us
8. Steve Kiss, Pend Oreille County Commissioner, skis@pendoreille.org
9. Gloria Flora, NEWFC – SOS, gflora@s-o-solutions.org
10. Dave Hedrick, Ferry County Conservation District, ferryco.3@gmail.com
11. Gary Nielsen, TCMRA & SC PLAC, grnielsen@ultraplix.com
12. Dick Dunton, NEWFC, LRdunton@centurytv.net
13. Matt Scott, Vaagen/NEWFC, mscott@vaagenbros.com
14. Johnna Exner, Ferry county Commissioner District 1
15. Mike Petersen, NEWFC & Lands Council, mpetersen@landscouncil.org
16. Tim Coleman, NEWFC/KRCG, tcoleman@kettlerange.org
17. John Conner, Stevens County Resident, 509-328-7654
18. Bob Whittaker, Ferry County, misterbobbywhittaker@gmail.com
19. Bill Way, NEWT's, lbway32@gmail.com
20. Ron Gray, B2E Consulting, woadhog250@gmail.com
21. Russ Larsen, CCC SCPLAC

Tri County Forest Group

- **Formalizing the group**
- **Forming small groups**
- **Previous small group reports**
- **USFS project monitoring**

Mike Blankenship opened the meeting at 1:30 pm. He discussed the possibility of formalizing the group and how to formalize. He also said that we could do a map as a visual of interest areas. It would define common ground and areas of conflict. When the smaller groups meet everyone is welcome to attend.

Russ Vaagen said that it helps to have small groups to hammer things out. What areas are we not in conflict? In a group like this everyone has their specific interest.

Mike Petersen said a good reason to keep doing this is because we can be a more powerful source to improving recreation.

Gary Nielsen asked what type of overlays on the map?

Russ Vaagen responded with wilderness, roadless areas, motorized trails and vegetation management. Ultimately it can turn into a legislative package we send to Cathy McMorris Rodgers.

Mike Blankenship prefers something visual.

Russ Vaagen said we need to get down to specifics.

Mike Blankenship said we could bring it back to the group and see if it works for everyone. Also we need to publish the when and the where of the smaller groups. Targeted areas can meet together and bring that focused groups information to the larger group.

Russ Vaagen suggested we could package our resources together to see what we have got.

Gloria Flora suggested Forest Service GIS for maps.

Russ Vaagen said that Vaagen Brothers has all the layers.

Bill Way agrees with the mapping idea. He asked how we go about working with the Forest Service to get that accomplished while he is still alive.

Russ Vaagen said as a group we can be more effective with the Forest Service.

Bob Whittaker discussed the recreation aspect as it is related to the RCC project he has been working on for 11 years. He said maybe we could focus on priorities with tourism because people need to know where these trails are located.

Dave Hedrick discussed the follow through on projects and follow ups to see what was learned or gained. He said it will take a group with some longevity.

Mike Blankenship discussed how the Forest Service has gotten away from recreation. It takes time to get approved. He discussed how the Back Country Horsemen had a campground that was damaged. In the fixing process the campground became unusable by the Back Country Horsemen. It could have been avoided with better communication.

Gloria Flora discussed USFS project monitoring where maybe we could go as a group to monitor the process to see how things are progressing. It would help us get boots on the ground.

Tim Coleman discussed the San Poil project and how we can do motorized at the same time.

Steve Parker said the purpose of going out would be to see things in project mode. As a group we can enhance the project. He thinks it is a good way to get facetime with the other groups. He wants the Forest Service to stay a part of all groups.

Russ Vaagen said that on top of project monitoring we can look at these ideas that others are suggesting. (Trailhead damage) The more the group understands what everyone's concerns are the more helpful we can be.

Mike Blankenship suggested sending Ferry County Clerk of the Board Amanda Rowton requests to be sent out via email. Everyone has a right to a small group.

Mike Petersen said it would be nice to have a small group discuss trail maintenance. It would help the Forest Service.

Russ Vaagen discussed the Deer Jasper Project. He said if we could position this group to focus on the solution, we could use that focus to attend to the trail system.

Bob Whittaker said that everyone needs a flat well drained spot to turn their truck around. It isn't specific to motorized or non-motorized.

Maurice Williamson discussed a type of monitoring meeting that we could model this meeting after. We could get a report from the Forest Service for accountability in regard to trail maintenance with information supplied by the budgeting process. It would include horse trails, foot trails and bike trails. (All trails)

Mike Blankenship acknowledged the difficulty the Motorized Trail & Recreation Committee had just performing the repairs on the trails. He doesn't think the Forest Service will stand in the way of this whole group.

Gloria Flora said the mantra if you can't afford to monitor the project you can do it. They want to know did you do it. Did you do it the way you said and did it turn out the way you intended? She said maybe we could look at the Forest Plan Revision which may have it lined out how the monitoring will be. It is easy to check boxes. Evaluating is important in meeting your objective.

Dick Dunton discussed landscape restoration wildlife monitoring that will be reported on this spring.

Matt Scott asked how much in stewardship dollars or retained receipts?

Russ Vaagen said in regard to retained receipts, how much is out there and how do we influence how these dollars are spent? We should be able to influence the retained receipts as it is in the millions.

Bob Whittaker said the problem in Ferry County is we never have the match dollars.

Russ Vaagen said that direction is important.

Matt Scott said we should use retained receipts for trail maintenance.

Maurice Williamson said there was 4 million in retained receipts and the Feds haven't released those to be used on the trails.

Mike Blankenship asked are those receipts for a specific forest?

Russ Vaagen said you can imagine what will happen to the retained receipts, it will get absorbed into the coffers. We need to get on the forefront.

Bob Whittaker asked how we can help.

Maurice Williamson said that regions can get money stolen and given to other forests. He also discussed financial means going to other places. He said Rodney can't impact financial change.

Gloria Flora said it is not an unprecedented example.

Bob Whittaker said we need to get our act together and get our proposal together.

Maurice Williamson said Title II can be used for monitoring on recreation activities or a lack there of.

Mike Blankenship said someone would have to write a proposal. This year it's going to be late. This is the first time in 4 years.

Russ Vaagen said maybe next month this group could do a joint meeting with the Forest Service. The Forest Service could present the retained receipts and how much money and for what use. What should they be prepared to answer for?

Russ Vaagen said you can for commercial thinning on trails that are not recognizable. It is important to have these conversations with the Forest Service. It would be the 3rd Thursday in March from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. It would be the 16th of March and we could get an update from the Forest Service.

Gloria Flora is going to forward the information about the joint NEWFC meeting to distribute and possibly get a full update.

Russ Vaagen said maybe as many people could come as possible.

Maurice Williamson asked do we have to have a public comment period.

Mike Blankenship said that this is an open public meeting. Tri County makes sense. Are we going to restrict ourselves to forest? We may want to just address the forest. Does anyone have any comments?

Mike Petersen said we should focus on the Colville National Forest. We could lose our focus.

Mike Blankenship said especially when you talk about the small groups.

Russ Vaagen said if we have a problem with retained receipts we need to go to Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers.

Mike Blankenship brought up the possibility of Brian Dassel as a contact.

Russ Vaagen said that the Department of Agriculture makes the Forest Service building look tiny.

Steve Kiss discussed the small group and map efforts. If we could look at the maps at a larger scope there can be trails open and stream restoration. We could use that as a tool. That would be a great outcome of our group here to help the Forest Service.

Mike Blankenship asked if anyone else would like to attend the pre meeting before this meeting. People are welcome to contact Amanda Rowton to connect.

Gloria Flora asked if people would be interested in a specific topic presentation. Maybe for a half hour we could add a [presentation by an expert in these meetings?

Mike Blankenship said that Gloria Flora can organize the presenter and notify Amanda Rowton for the agenda.

Gloria Flora used Scott Nielsen as an example in regard to cattle grazing.

Gary Nielsen said he is unfamiliar with retained receipts. He would like more information.

Mike Petersen suggested the Forest Service make their March presentation.

Gary Nielsen said a timber sale contract is different than a Stewardship contract. The KV plan is the sale area betterment method like the Retained receipts is for the Stewardship contract. There is essential KV such as reforestation and non-essential KV for other work done inside the sale area boundary. The retained receipts sound like they can be used outside of the project boundary.

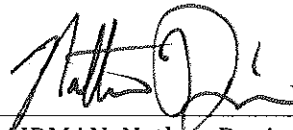
Gloria Flora said it is not appropriate to have those funds taken.

Ron Gray suggested the Forest Service explain these contracts.

Mike Blankenship is going to ask Rodney.

The next meeting is going to be March 16th, 2017 from 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



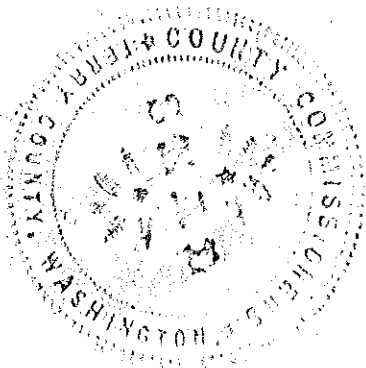
CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis




VICE CHAIRMAN, Mike Blankenship



MEMBER, Johnna Exner



ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton