

**Special Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Friday August 16th, 2019 1:00 p.m.**

**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. Johnna Exner, Ferry County Commissioner
3. Mike Blankenship, Ferry County Commissioner
4. Karen Skoog, Pend Oreille County Commissioner
5. Steve Parker, Stevens County Commissioner
6. Travis Fletcher, USFS
7. Mike Petersen, Lands Council
8. Chris Bachman, Lands Council
9. Josh White, USFS
10. Dolly Watkins, Ferry County Back Country Horsemen
11. Rodney Smolden, USFS
12. Bob McKellar, DNR
13. Gayne Sears, USFS, gayne.sears@usda.gov
14. Andrew Engell, CMR

Call to Order

Commissioner Mike Blankenship opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. The attendees introduced themselves.

SRS; Commissioner Karen Skoog

September 9-12 the Commissioners are invited to visit DC with intergovernmental agency. There is an SRS & PILT fly in with NACO. What would it be like if we were funded at 25%? There is a letter that will be sent to Amanda for distribution. NACO represents by policy. There is a bill for extension of the SRS. It includes a 5% ramp down that needs to be removed. She wants to get data on revenues and what would it look like if we were funded at 25%? Karen doesn't have a document yet but will in the near future. Why is there PILT and SRS? If the land was privately owned, what would the taxes be?

Commissioner Blankenship said there is a tax base for park. Why wouldn't wilderness qualify?
Gayne Sears said that it would qualify.

Rodney Smolden said John Day will probably work on it. (the request from Karen)

Commissioner Skoog said there is an endowment bill for SRS. There is a lot of skepticism for that passing.

Rodney Smolden said there is an opt in and opt out. Rodney is going to report the numbers to the group. Commissioner Parker discussed the numbers and how it would look.

Commissioner Blankenship said the reduction in SRS, then PILT goes up, buy if you get more SRS, then PILT goes down.

Commissioner Skoog said they have not provided the formula. She also needs the numbers before the 9th of September. Rodney is aware of the time crunch.

Forest Plan Revision

Rodney Smolden said that we are 2 weeks out of briefing the chief. She will want to know how the resolution meetings went. The bulk of the work will be making things more clear. After the briefing, there will be posting to intend to sign an environmental impact statement 30 days later. In September there will be a signing. (Maybe October)

Land Management Plan

Mike Petersen is looking to get 3 counties together to get a land management plan. Josh White asked to be informed on when and where these meetings will be held.

Fires; Commissioner Steve Parker

The fire was in an active timber sale. The fire wasn't in a place that would impact the sales. The area was hard for fire crews to get to. Commissioner Parker is extremely thankful for the weather change. There is slash on the ground and we haven't found a good way to deal with it. Burning it isn't the best way to deal with it. We would like to see the slash turned into something immediately and get off the ground. Slash piles burn hot and for a long time. Bundles of wood straw would be a great solution.

Josh White disconnected the canopy to help with the fire. It is better if you can keep it out of the canopy. The Mills fire got into the slash which caused the canopy to run. They have ramped up the forest treatment post-harvest treatments. We would like to reduce 60 tons to 10 tons. We are catching up a little. It would be best if they could give it away to a company.

Mike Petersen suggested bio char. There are small mobile units that go onsite. Maybe the slash piles could be treated with that? Rodney Smolden discussed a company that creates a green pellet. Josh White said it is already being transported. It would be great if we could do more with it. Rodney Smolden said we are still trying to deal with fuels in a traditional way. Moving forward, is it going to be bio char or pellets? There is 15-20 tons per acre available to utilize. Dolly Watkins said she is using the sawdust chips for bedding. She changed from straw or hay. It takes time on how you take care of your stalls. It's not cost effective right now but with new ideas it could be better. Dave Konz came out with his processor to make firewood. Dolly used the sawdust for bedding for winter. Commissioner Blankenship thanked the USFS for the work that is being done on Sherman, "Fuels reduction treatment". Josh White said it's an acre and half per person per day to remove small trees. The meeting was adjourned at 3:00p.m. September 20th, 2019 at 1:00 pm is the next Tri County Forest Group meeting.

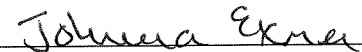
BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



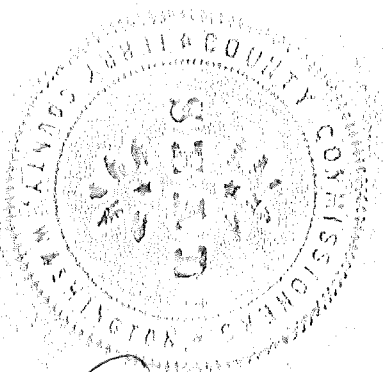
CHAIRMAN, Mike Blankenship




VICE CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



MEMBER, Johnna Exner



ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton