

**Special Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Friday October 18th, 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. Merrill Ott, TCMRA
5. Travis Fletcher, USFS
6. Josh White, USFS
7. Bob McKellar, DNR
8. Rodney Smolden, USFS
9. Maurice Williamson, NEWFC
10. Jenna Knobloch, NEWFC
11. Kevin Arneson, Boise Cascade
12. Gayne Sears, USFS
13. Jen Knutson, USFS
14. Scott Nielsen, Cattle Producers of WA
15. Mike Petersen, Lands Council

Call to Order

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

SRS discussion

Commissioner Exner recently went to DC and didn't get a good feeling about the SRS going though. PILT looks like it will be ok. Rumor has it budgets won't be passed until December 21st, 2019. Commissioner Blankenship requested the SRS title to include the 25% timber sales in the future on the agenda. He said that Ferry County is desperate right now. Costs go up and there is no new revenue. We get \$400,000 in SRS if it is approved. It doesn't compare to the million that we received in the 80's. It would be beneficial to work with the USFS to work out the most efficient route for the 25%.

Rodney Smolden asked if you would take the 25% out of the money retained or of the timber value. Commissioner Blankenship said that we need to find the authority to do it.

Rodney Smolden said that these projects aren't calculated in the same year and it is complicated. Commissioner Blankenship discussed the Sherman project and the license plates all were from Oregon. Gayne Sears reported that this work is restoration. It would be nice if the local businesses would be interested in doing these projects. Mike Petersen discussed the receipts. Discussion was held on possible solutions.

Land Management

Mike Petersen met with Commissioner Parker and discussion was held on recommended wilderness and the potential road less areas. Mike Petersen also met with Scott Neilsen and Cody Desautel. Discussion was held on fire treatment and management plan for the road less areas.

Recreation Road Proposal

Merrill Ott gave a presentation on the road request for motorized usage.

Bamber mountain map was displayed and discussed. Gate barriers were discussed as a possibility as humps are not as effective and currently are being abused. Josh White discussed the ambassadors and the forest damage response team. Barriers are more effective in deterring drive arounds. These roads are loop routes or destination points that are being requested. Input is needed on the impacts of these proposed changes. Merrill Ott discussed the roads and how there are problems with the current allowed vehicles and asked why OHV would be not allowed. Bodie Mountain connectors were discussed and a road was taken off that went to private property. Merrill Ott has been working with Travis Fletcher to eliminate roads that he has more information on.

On Little Vulcan Mountain they created a loop route that creates more access.

Lone Ranch Loop has been ridden under a permit. This would allow vehicles without a permit to ride these roads. There is 80 miles of road that is being requested in this series. In the 13 mile area they are requesting to get through to the trailhead.

Scotty Neilsen thinks the destinations are more important because people want to recreate. Gayne Sears met with the trailblazers and they asked for 2 routes in Northern Pend Oreille County. Josh White discussed the process for these proposed. Merrill Ott presented maps from GIS in Stevens County. They will be here next month on November 15 to do a presentation. Hiking trails are also on the map. It includes Ferry, Pend Oreille and Stevens County. Gayne Sears asked about the process for review. She said when you have many eyes on the map there can still be mistakes. Discussion was held on the electronics portion of the mapping process.

USFS Forest Plan Revision

Rodney Smolden reported the 11:30am Monday conference call which will announce the release of the plan. Tuesday the Forest Plan will be available online. Scotty Neilsen said we are a timber community with winter snowmobile programs. There should be better planning for the winter projects.

The Snow groomers were discussed. It would be nice to have these routes on the map. Winter logging can disrupt the routes.

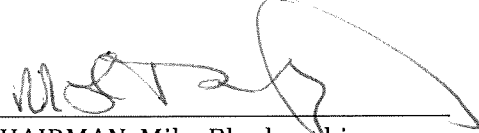
Kevin Arneson reported that the markets have softened. Maybe slightly less next year as jobs are hard to keep filled.

Retirement

Commissioner Blankenship announced his retirement effective December 31, 2019.

The next TCFG meeting is November 15th, 2019.

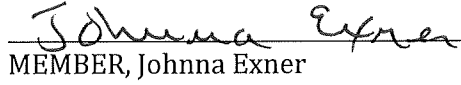
BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



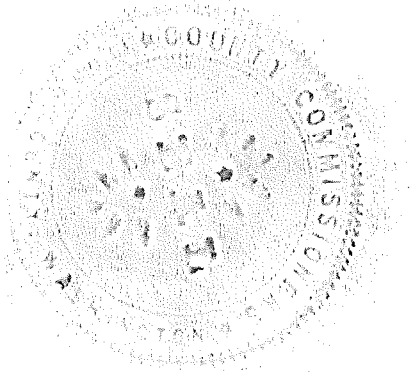
CHAIRMAN, Mike Blankenship



VICE CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis



MEMBER, Johnna Exner



ATTEST:



Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton