

**Special Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Friday October 26th, 2018 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. Nathan Davis, Ferry County Commissioner
4. Mike Blankenship, Ferry County Commissioner
5. Josh White, USFS
6. Mike Petersen, Lands Council
7. Steve Parker, Stevens County Commissioner
8. Scott Nielsen, Cattle Producers
9. Andrew Engell, Rep Cathy McMorris-Rodgers
10. Mike Petersen, Lands Council
11. Maurice Williamson
12. Kinsey Coots, TEDD
13. Will Rowton, Ferry County Public Works
14. Jan Fisher, my back yard, jbranch4282@hotmail.com
15. Josh Anderson, Vaagen Brothers, janderson@vaagenbros.com
16. Dave Hedrick, Ferry County Conservation District, ferryco.3@gmail.com
17. Mike Poulson, CMR office
18. Gary Neilsen, TCMRA
19. Nancy Harshman, BCH Ferry County
20. Rodney Smolden, USFS Colville
21. Holly Hutchinson, USFS Colville NF
22. Kevin Arneson, Boise Cascade
23. Arne Johnson, WDNR, arne.johnson@dnr.wa.gov
24. Kurtis Vaagen, Vaagen Brothers, kvaagen@vaagenbros.com
25. Travis Fletcher, Colville NF
26. Bobby Whittaker
27. Matthew Scott
28. Steve Kiss, Pend Oreille County
29. Stuart Nieman, BCH of Washington

Call to Order

Commissioner Blankenship opened the meeting at 1050 p.m. The attendees introduced themselves.

Forest Plan Revision discussion

Commissioner Mike Blankenship asked Commissioner Steve Parker to lead the meeting.

Commissioner Parker asked the group to review the minutes from the previous meeting. Hearing no comment, the minutes were accepted by the group.

Commissioner Parker let the group know that there would be a 3-5 minute limit to express what you are in support of or what you object to.

Gary Neilsen discussed the PWA boundaries and was happy to see a change. He was disappointed on the management area and doesn't understand the forest restoration part.

Holly Hutchinson read from page 73 on final designated routes for off road at least one per year.

Nancy Harshman discussed chainsaw use in the wilderness and the "minimal tool analysis". She said she didn't see any revision to the part. There is a process in order to get a minimum tool analysis to get permission to use a tool like a chainsaw.

Stuart Niemen said that he was opposed to wilderness.

Commissioner Steve Kiss discussed harvest level and was concerned about 41,000mbf.

Matt Scott said that the preferred alternative didn't reflect the NEWFC collaborative agreement.

Bobby Whittaker will email his statement to Clerk of the Board Amanda Rowton. He was concerned that the wilderness part of the plan got really small.

Kevin Arneson would like to see an increase in harvest or treatment area. He also had a concern about the diameter requirement.

Dave Hedrick said he would like to see using restoration money to help offset the SRS money.

Maurice Williamson said changing to acreage is what he would like to see. ASQ means allowable sale quantity.

Mike Petersen was disappointed that the blueprint developed by NEWFC wasn't followed. He feels the balance is off. He would like to see wilderness acreage increase. He is concerned if the forest is unsuitable for grazing and no solution is offered. Supports old trees and would like to keep them. Recreation needs to be focused on more. Instead of one loop trail why not five?

Kurtis Vaagen said that Vaagen Bros. would like to see more wilderness. Diameter limits are an issue. Supports and increase in the ASQ. There is concern for the revenue to go back to the counties.

Commissioner Steve Parker said there were comments made on wilderness, grazing, economics and others. Annual production targets are just a plan. 40 mbf was planned and we currently have 100 mbf. Stevens County feels comfortable with that number being able to grow. Wilderness is a concern still. Road density in a plan rather than a project is faulty. He said he struggles with the stubble height. Water quality analysis and not mention of water quantity.

Scott Neilsen said that the wilderness overlay on grazing allotments he is opposed to. Grazing issues are better served by local management. He is opposed by the micro management of the grazing. Land Management designation is all more restrictive that they were and he is opposed to that as well.

Commissioner Nathan Davis said that due to bug kill he supports the increase in harvest level. Diameter issues should be decided by local controls as they are the ones on the ground. Stewardship vs sales need to find value in both. Opposed to wilderness for the most part and wants more access to the forest.

Commissioner Johnna Exner would like to know what the definition of restoration is. Is it logging and turn into marketable.

Josh White referred to appendix E suitable activities in management areas on page 207.

Commissioner Johnna Exner said plans for multi-use will be affected by the wilderness designation.

Travis Fletcher said that restoration is on page 878 and is the process of recovering the eco system.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship said the 1988 forest plan is what is being revised here. Ferry County has not benefitted. He is opposed to wilderness. MA 11 factor has had a negative impact. The definition of MA11 is semi primitive non-motorized. The balance is not favorable. The health of the forest with best practice is favored. More access, more harvest and more recreation is supported. You don't have to tie up the property. Stewardship dollars used to go to the county and the schools. The plan is flawed and not making up for the losses incurred. He is opposed to expansion of MA11 or wilderness or recreation areas. Locking out the users is not acceptable.

Discussion was held on the Forest Plan Revision.

Commissioner Steve Parker suggested the two sides of the wilderness get together to discuss. Stewardship doesn't work for the county. We have the ability to influence congressional action.

Mike Petersen said that legislation would be necessary and has been worked on by Cathy McMorris-Rodgers.

Commissioner Steve Parker asked the BCH to write up a proposal for help.

Commissioner Mike Blankenship asked if you have a statement; please email it to Clerk of the Board Amanda Rowton.

Commissioner Steve Parker suggested each individual and each group needs to represent themselves.

Josh White suggested interest in timber and suggested a fact sheet which is a document that explains the timber. Josh will send it to Amanda Rowton and can address the diameter issue as well.

Arne Johnson discussed the diameter limits with neighboring properties.

Gary Neilsen said the minimum of 1 connector route per year is acceptable to him.

Holly Hutchinson said a review team will review the objections and then another legal notice will be posted. There is a 90 day timeframe for resolutions to the objections. The resolution time is expendable. Resolution meetings will be held locally by Chris French.

November 6th is when the comments are due.

November 9th at 2 pm is the next Tri County Forest Group meeting.

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Johnna Exner
CHAIRMAN, Johnna Exner

Nathan Davis
VICE CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis

Absent
MEMBER, Mike Blankenship



ATTEST:

Amanda Rowton
Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton