

**Special Meeting of the Board of  
County Commissioners  
Tri County Forest Group  
Thursday January 31<sup>st</sup>, 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. Josh White, USFS
4. Stan Christie, TCMRA
5. Silas Rappe, TEDD, srappe@teddonline.com
6. Scott Nielsen, Cattle Producers
7. Matthew Scott
8. Maurice Williamson
9. Andrew Engell, Rep Cathy McMorris-Rodgers
10. Mike Petersen, Lands Council
11. Gary Nielsen
12. Matt Comiski, AFRC
13. Kevin Arneson
14. Travis Fletcher, USFS
15. Nancy Harshman, Back Country Horseman
16. Bob McKellar, WA DNR
17. Mike Paulson
18. Steve Parker, Stevens County Commissioner
19. Tiana Luke

**Call to Order**

Commissioner Exner opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. The attendees introduced themselves.

**Forest Service update**

Travis Fletcher reported that February 28, 2019 – March 1, 2019 will be the meetings regarding the objections.

Josh White said that there is no travel being authorized after the 15<sup>th</sup> of February. This will impact the planned meetings that are scheduled to be held in the Ambulance shack in Colville Feb 28-March 1. The looming February 15<sup>th</sup> date is holding up the timeliness of the process.

Commissioner Steve Parker sent a message to the USFS and has set dates around the current appointed days scheduled for the objection meetings. He feels strongly that the people who have objected need to be present for the meetings and postponing this is bad form. Commissioner Parker made his dates clear in his message so there is no confusion.

Josh White said that Holly had reported the Resolution Team was supposed to meet January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 which wasn't able to happen due to the furlough and government shutdown. If there is a delay, there will be ample time to reschedule to accommodate the people who have objected.

Commissioner Parker said he didn't know the structure of the meeting and wants to be prepared.

Josh White said that Blue Mountain had their meetings and they weren't overly successful so they are rescheduling.

Mike Petersen said he went to the one in La Grande and they were done by topic. Each topic was given ample time to state their position.

Josh White understands there is apprehension around this issue.

Commissioner Johnna Exner asked if there was information that would be helpful.

Commissioner Parker said for the record, the report on the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revisions is discouraging. He doesn't like the idea that it doesn't have structure. It should be a formal structure with an ending. Too many people have spent so much time to complete this. It needs to have a principled and reasonable approach with a proper ending.

Commissioner Exner discussed the timeline as to when a decision will be made.

Maurice Williamson asked what kind of reaction we expect. He agreed with Steve Parker. Should we ask them for an objection to the objections?

Mike Petersen said that Steve Parker is on to something because the Blue Mountain meeting didn't go well.

Josh White said that normally a resolution team comes together with some issues that have potential. They were able to come to an agreement.

Travis Fletcher said that the problem is the objection is at the Washington level.

Josh White reassured the group that the local USFS will be highly engaged in the meetings.

Scott Nielsen asked Mike Petersen if he saw the local USFS people there.

Mike Petersen said he saw lots of people that were there to listen.

Mike Paulson said the feeling he got was the people that were listening had no authority there.

Commissioner Exner said that we have been through the comment period and we want answers to our objections. How will they be resolved?

Maurice Williamson agreed with Commissioner Exner.

Josh White asked for notes to better understand what our group is asking for.

Steve Parker said that this is a quasi-judicial hearing. If they are on the mark, we need to know. We have been criticized in this group for having no formal bylaws. This is a listening group for the commissioners.

Maurice Williamson wishes for acceleration of restoration.

Josh White said that if you are asking the agency to rewrite policy through this group, it won't happen. It has another process. Likely what we are going to see is keeping the Forest Plan in line with what is current policy.

Nancy Harshman said the Back Country Horsemen planning meeting is Feb 2, 2019. Where are we at with Leona Creek Trail at Gypsy meadows?

Josh White said he would pass the message along.

Nancy Harshman said the person that needs contacted is Darrell Wallace.

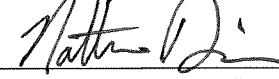
Josh White has requested information from the group that would equip him to better facilitate the meetings for the objections. Any suggestions or requests should be made through Amanda Rowton to be included in the formal notes for the meeting.

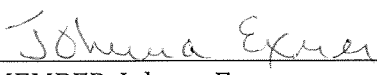
Please review these notes and make your suggestions and additions via email to Amanda Rowton and they will be included to the best of our ability.

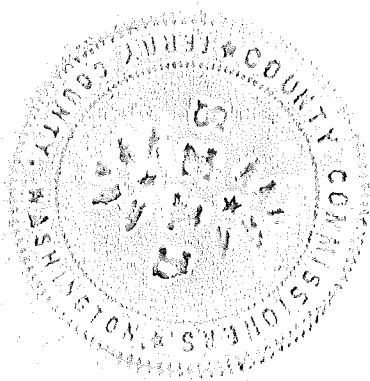
March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at 1:00 pm is the next Tri County Forest Group meeting.

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN, Mike Blankenship

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
VICE CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MEMBER, Johnna Exner



ATTEST:

  
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Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton