

**Special Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Friday May 24th, 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. Nathan Davis, Ferry County Commissioner
4. Mike Blankenship, Ferry County Commissioner
5. Merrill Ott, CNF Ambassadors TCMRA
6. Stan Christie, TCMRA
7. Matthew Scott
8. Jen Knutson, USFS Jennifer.knutson@usda.gov
9. Bobby Whittaker, NEWFC & Recreation
10. Silas Rappe, TEDD
11. Kevin Arneson, Boise Cascade
12. Mike Petersen, Lands Council
13. Josh White, USFS
14. Maurice Williamson
15. Rodney Smolden, USFS CNF
16. Holly Hutchinson, USFS
17. Wes McCart, Stevens County
18. Jeff Dawson, Washington Cattlemen, 509-684-0888
19. Scott Nielsen, CPOW
20. Travis Fletcher, USFS
21. Gloria Flora, SOS NEWFC
22. Bart Ausland, Colville NF
23. Tiana Luke, NEWFC
24. Will Rowton, FC Public Works
25. Ivonne Jay, Lands Council
26. Chris Bachman, Lands Council
27. Mark Brown, TECK Washington, mark.brown@teck.com
28. Dick Dunton, NEWFC
29. Andrew Engell, CMR rep
30. Mike Paulson
31. Steve Kiss, Pend Oreille

Call to Order

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

Forest Plan Revision and Land Management

Commissioner Blankenship discussed the Forest Plan Revision and is not in agreement with the direction it is going.

Commissioner Davis expressed his frustration with the Forest Plan Revision.

Commissioner Exner said she hopes there would be a resolution on the objection period. There are many issues of grave concern.

Merrill Ott discussed the plan and asked why it is 3000 pages long. The plan needs to be understandable to the general public. How do we create a plan that is simplistic in design? He hopes that this work will be beneficial in the future.

Stan Christie said that the travel management plan is not included but is happy with the progress.

Commissioner Steve Kiss felt that the concerns about the potential wilderness were heard. He feels that there is a difference of opinion in the groups.

Matt Scott said that this group was put together for the Forest Plan Revision. He wishes we could have been collaboration.

Bob Whittaker thought that the last day was difficult but that it left him hopeful that on the last day there was discussion for solutions.

Tiana Luke was hopeful by the end of the meetings for potential resolutions.

Kevin Arneson commended the commissioners for putting this group together.

Mike Petersen appreciates this meeting. He had been working with Scotty Nielsen and discussed additional funding potential. It changes the budget discussion and boundary adjustments. He met with Dave and Steve Kiss for boundary adjustments on mining claim. He also said that we need a wildfire plan.

Maurice Williamson feels there is a lot of benefit in collaboration and discussed the allowable sale quantity.

Wes McCart said that he only went to the third day. He thought it went well. He discussed a document that was worked on the 22nd of May.

Jeff Dawson said that the Washington Cattlemen cannot support wilderness. They are not opposed to sitting down to rewrite the words to accept where we are going into the future. He doesn't want to see the producers go out of business due to the language. He requested support from the USFS.

Scott Nielsen has been engaged for a long time. The Commissioner led meeting gave input and he isn't sure where that information went. He appreciates the Tri County Forest Group that was created by the Commissioners. It has given a platform to give input. He feels that this process has mitigated a smaller and smaller box. There are places that are not flexible and restrict where you can and cannot go. The wildlife and riparian is what he is concerned with, along with the inflexibility of the language. He would like to see it be a flexible guidance document.

Mike Petersen was at the first of the objection meetings and left disappointed. He is happy to hear the discussion today.

Andrew Engell attended two days and enjoyed the process that creates hope for resolution.

Dick Dunton said the wildfire plan is applicable.

Mark Brown said he has a problem with the minerals being by the wilderness areas.

Tiana Luke met with Commissioner Exner and worked on a solution to the language issue.

Gloria Flora appreciated the dialogue and wanted to know if we could make the box bigger for Scott Nielsen. The power lies in a group like this. Fighting just doesn't work anymore. It is best to open a thoughtful dialogue.

Commissioner Blankenship said that USDA just announced that they are going to close Job Corps in Ferry County.

Rodney Smolden said the Curlew Job Corps will not close. The Forest Service is not leading. It will be Labor and Industry leading it.

Commissioner Blankenship There is big issues in the plan itself. How do you give us certainty when the plan has footnotes that could add up to 40,000 pages? There could be more hidden in there. Who can read 40,000 pages? How do you simplify the document so we can understand? There is a lawsuit community and he wants his people to be able to access the forest. The PWA's did not have a process and still hasn't seen where the public had a chance to give input. He had attended a meeting where the USFS was conducting an IRA review. Ferry County recommended areas that were less than 5,000 acres and didn't qualify. Suddenly there was enough acreage and those 5,000 acres were born. PWA's were then added.

Josh White said PWA's are not a thing. It was merely a planning term.

Holly Hutchinson apologized for the PWA records that weren't given. IRA came out of the 2001 road less rule. It is a regulation to abide by. PWA's are USFS planning piece of the handbook. The 1982 required them to use those terms. They overlap sometimes. Once the record is signed, the PWA's will be gone.

Josh White said a lot of PWA's became back country and back country motorized.

Commissioner Blankenship said polygons were created, was it a public process?

Holly Hutchinson said not necessarily. There are steps in a handbook that they have to follow.

Maurice Williamson asked when that changed.

Mike Petersen said that he recalls 50,000 acres got added in to PWA. Some made sense and some didn't make sense.

Scott Nielsen said IRA boxes got bigger. The boundary never should have moved if there was activity there. You can't move it over on to a previous logged area. The process has been flawed and we want it fixed.

Commissioner Blankenship asked what a road less area is. Is it a place without a road?

Josh White said no it is not.

Commissioner Blankenship asked how it can be a road less area with roads in it. They start recognizing the road as a trail and is no longer recognized as an area with a road. Cougar Mountain and Bang Mountain were recommended to be removed. Now they have PWA attached to them. How many other things in the handbook are going to haunt us?

Josh White said that creating the PWA created management areas.

Commissioner Blankenship said there was no consideration of the impact to the county and the economy. We didn't have access to definitions and if it has a stump in it, it was logged. I don't know fully what is in the FPR document and I think that no one in this room can tell me what is in the completely.

Commissioner Exner said that page 11 says that the USFS will collaborate with counties. It sounds like we should have been discussing this to begin with.

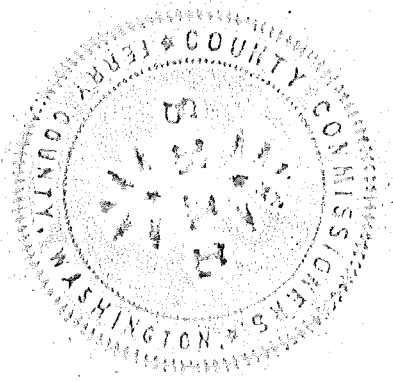
Wes McCart said that Allan Rowley asked us to look at the three things.

Discussion was held on the potential changes. The wording is important for the future. Staff changes and interpretation can change.

A consensus was made on one issue out of three. No consensus was made on the second issue. No consensus was made on the third wilderness boundary issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

June 21st, 2019 at 1:00 pm is the next Tri County Forest Group meeting.



BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Mike Blankenship
CHAIRMAN, Mike Blankenship

Nathan Davis
VICE CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis

Johnna Exner
MEMBER, Johnna Exner

ATTEST:

Amanda Rowton
Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton