

**Special Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Friday June 21st, 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, CNF Ambassadors TCMRA
5. Mike Petersen, Lands Council
6. Chris Bachman, Lands Council
7. Scott Nielsen, CPOW
8. Bobby Whittaker, NEWFC & Recreation
9. Travis Fletcher, USFS
10. Wes McCart, Stevens County Commissioner
11. Nancy Churchill, Ferry County

Call to Order

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

Forest Plan Revision and Land Management

Travis Fletcher is expecting the final instructions from the Washington office. He asked if the language previously discussed make it to Rodney.

Wes McCart said it did make it to Rodney.

Travis Fletcher reported that Holly Hutchinson accepted a position elsewhere but will be still working on the forest plan until the end of July. Lisa Larson will probably be the person picking up the work load for Holly. Jen Knutson replaced Franklin Pemberton and the USFS is looking for a 120 day opportunity for someone.

Scott Neilsen asked how the project was going.

Wes McCart said there is an objections update call next Friday.

Travis Fletcher didn't know about the meeting on Friday. He discussed the \$50,000.00 cost associated with reprinting the addendums.

Chris Bachman asked about annotation being marked.

Travis Fletcher said the changes will not be marked they will just be in there.

Priority for the coming year Forest Land Management

Mike Petersen said it would be interesting if we came together and created a locally derived management plan. He gave credit to Wes McCart for the idea. It would be something with our varied needs we could go down the same path.

Wes McCart said recommended wilderness is what they want. We want to see no wilderness. We could commit to try to work out a plan. Could we jointly agree that this is what we want to do to avoid litigation? It could be a path forward to get the security for both sides.

Scott Neilsen asked what he was thinking for size. How big are you proposing? What areas?

Wes McCart said that we could take one area at a time. Abercrombie Hooknose is wanted by the environmental community. The cattlemen still need to go up there and we want to fight fire also. We can pick one area of designation and go through it together.

Mike Petersen said to start with a big one first like Profanity. Maybe we could approach them by size?

Wes McCart said this group would be the place to come together. When we did A-Z, there were things we didn't like about it. We got sued from the outside. Hopefully we can avoid going to court.

Merrill Ott asked about a community based group in Idaho to get ahead of the Forest Plan Revision. They were able to come to an agreement. Maybe there is an example we can follow.

Wes McCart wants to make sure it's still managed.

Mike Petersen discussed a fire management plan that was created elsewhere.

Wes McCart asked Travis Fletcher if it was doable.

Travis Fletcher said it is valuable but maybe not related to the plan.

Scott Neilsen likes having it in the record of decision.

Merrill Ott said it sounds like you are emphasizing the public process.

Mike Blankenship said he knows Mike Petersen has worked on this a lot. How can we work together so that we can all live with the changes? Management for fire and cattle access has been the major issues. He can see a local agreement that could include those things. He wants to make sure there is protection for the different groups.

Wes McCart asked how we take this concept and sell it in a quick way and get it in the record.

Travis Fletcher said maybe it's not Forest Plan Revision. It sounds like you are asking for something for congress to consider.

Wes McCart discussed IRA and how it maybe isn't pure.

Mike Blankenship asked Travis Fletcher to use Rodney what we need to do.

Scott Neilsen asked how do we live with what we are handed?

Merrill Ott said that the motorized committee has seen great productivity with this group.

Johnna Exner discussed the ingress and egress for the fire issues.

Mike Blankenship said he has had to evacuate twice, once with the Stick Pin and once with the Renner fire.

Travis Fletcher said if we move along with vegetation project which would manage the vegetation by the roadside it would be very helpful.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15p.m.

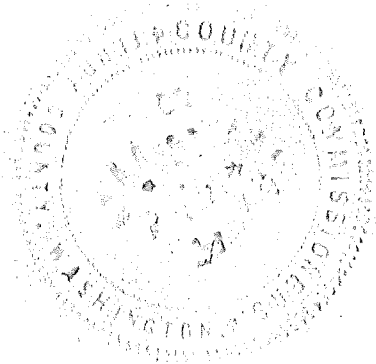
July 19th, 2019 at 1:00 pm is the next Tri County Forest Group meeting.

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Absent
CHAIRMAN, Mike Blankenship

Nathan Davis
VICE CHAIRMAN, Nathan Davis

Johnna Exner
MEMBER, Johnna Exner



ATTEST:

Amanda Rowton
for Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton