

**Special Meeting of the Board of
County Commissioners
Tri County Forest Group
Friday January 17th, 2020 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. Stan Christie, TCMRA
3. Merrill Ott, TCMRA
4. Gayne Sears, USFS
5. Tiana Luke, Conservation NW/NEWFC
6. Mike Petersen, Lands Council
7. Rodney Smolden, USFS
8. Ray Entz, Kalispel Tribe
9. Steve Parker, Stevens County Commissioner
10. Kevin Arneson, Boise Cascade
11. Bart Ausland, USFS
12. Jennifer Knutson, USFS
13. Nathan Davis, Ferry County Commissioner
14. Travis Fletcher, USFS
15. Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe
16. Bob McKellar, DNR
17. Maurice Williamson, NEWFC
18. Scott Neilsen, Stevens County Cattlemen
19. Steve Kiss, Pend Oreille Commissioner

Call to Order

Commissioner Steve Parker opened the meeting at 1:05 p.m. The attendees introduced themselves.

Road Proposal Travel Management

Merrill Ott discussed the economic impact on the 3 counties at the last meeting. He reviewed that information. There is 12,443 OHV's in the 6 county region. There is a lot of open land for the people to recreate on. He would like the TCFG to put together a letter to the Forest Service. Merrill Ott volunteered to draft the letter and send it to Amanda Rowton for presentation at the next meeting.

Rodney Smolden asked if this group would like an update on the South End project. Merrill Ott said he sent information to Carmen.

Mike Petersen discussed the biochar project. He has a biochar kiln that was made by Wilson Biochar. There are videos to refer to if you look up Wilson Biochar.

Leclerc Creek Grazing Allotment

Scott Neilsen had originally asked for this topic and would like the TCFG to be involved in this topic going forward. Scott Neilsen said that he feels the conflict resolution was done improperly. Commissioner Parker agreed with Mr. Neilsen as Mr. Fountain was unable to take part in any option. Commissioner Parker discussed the EIS that was emailed out and he would ask again that more be sent for review. Gayne Sears said there is mixed ownership of the land on the Leclerc

Creek allotment. That was part of the issue.

Scott Neilsen said the conflict resolution is still a problem and wants to know why Mr. Fountain was removed from that USFS land.

Commissioner Parker asked if it was the first EIS done on the Colville. Travis Fletcher said yes it was the first one done on an allotment. Gayne Sears said an EIS is utilized when you're not sure of the impact on the forest. The decision is not public and that is why you can't find it.

Maurice Williamson asked if it was an open range area. Gayne Sears said yes it is.

Commissioner Parker asked if there is room to discuss it. Scott Neilsen asked for a better effort to resolve the project from the USFS. Commissioner Parker asked if it would be a fair statement that there were problems with this.

Gayne Sears said yes there is an issue. There are many entities with that area.

Commissioner Parker asked what the conversation is on the NEPA reformatting.

Ray Entz said the Kalispel Tribe has had a significant interest in the Leclerc watershed. They worked with the 2 permittees on that watershed and the NEPA. The Kalispel Tribe was concerned that is the allotment was closed that the issue wouldn't be concluded. The Kalispel Tribe isn't anti-grazing or anti-cow. They support a multi-use system on the forest. Scott Neilsen still doesn't understand what the issue is that may be resolved. Gayne Sears said that making the permittee whole is the Forest Service interest as well.

Newport District Trail Project

Mike Lithgow showed a video presentation. Gayne Sears discussed the area and the proposed project. Ray Entz discussed the boundary lines and why they are the way they are. There is an orange boundary that encompasses the community with mixed ownership.

General discussion was held on the projected map of the trail project area. Gayne Sears said they are preparing maps for a more visual aid of the project. January 23, 2020 at the Camas Center is a meeting regarding the trail.

Kevin Arneson asked about the monitoring? And are these treatments effective?

Ray Entz said not yet.

Tonasket Ranger District update

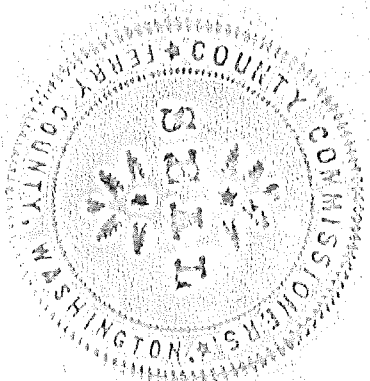
Rodney Smolden gave an update. The plan is to combine Republic and Tonasket. In the future the administrative codes will be addressed.

Closing Comments

General Discussion ensued.

The next TCFG meeting is February 21st, 2020.

BOARD OF FERRY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FERRY COUNTY, WASHINGTON



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none

MEMBER

ATTEST:

Amanda Rowton
Clerk of the Board, Amanda Rowton