

**KITTITAS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE ROOM  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**TUESDAY**

**3:00 P.M.**

**June 09, 2015**

Board members present: Chairman Gary Berndt; Vice-Chairman Obie O'Brien and Commissioner Paul Jewell.

Staff: Debbie Myers, Clerk.

Others: U.S. Forest Service representatives: Mary Maj, Cle Elum District Ranger; Nancy Jones, Cle Elum Public Information Receptionist; Jason Kuiken, Deputy Forest Supervisor; and Mike Williams, Forest Supervisor.

**SPECIAL MEETING            USFS FOREST PLAN REVISION            COMMISSIONERS**

At 3:05 a.m. Chairman Berndt opened a Special Meeting for an update from the Forest Service regarding their Forest Plan Revision efforts-both at the Regional level and the local Forest level.

Jason Kuiken gave an update on the forest plan revision that has been in the works for about 12 years now, and commented that the spotted owl habitat is currently the main driver for the plan. He said the dry east side of the Cascades has had some catastrophic fires which have reduced some of the spotted owl habitat, and that restoration remains the key. Mr. Kuiken said the model they are using to work on the forest plan is very complex with many components, but the revision will be their guiding document for the next 15-25 years. He also said there would be a release out shortly of the 20 year monitoring report.

Chairman Berndt asked about a new category for projects up to 3,000 acres in size that are NEPA exempt. Mary Maj said to qualify, the land had to be within an insect/disease declaration area by the Governor of the state, but the entire Cle Elum Ranger District was declared critical habitat for the northern spotted owl under the endangered species act. There was discussion on trees in the forest damaged by bug infestations and what could be done about it.

Mary Maj also said the Wish Poosh campground has 400 trees in the campground that are dead and dying from bug infestation,

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**APPROVED**

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which has caused them to close the campground until they can get the issue resolved.

Vice-Chairman O'Brien asked about Forest Service timber salvage policies. Jason Kuiken said the size limit is 250 acres for salvage logging.

Commissioner Jewell said the Forest Service did a good job with the Northwest Trail Pass system and he was glad to see them moving forward in regards to the ATV's on ORV roads. There was discussion on enforcement and the "Eyes in the Woods" program.

Mr. Kuiken said their goal is to meet with the BOCC once every six months on a regional basis, but that the local Ranger District could meet more often if needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 p.m.

**CLERK**

  
Debbie Myers

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

  
Gary Berndt, Chairman

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JUNE 09, 2015  
3:00 PM**

**Commissioners' Auditorium  
205 West 5th Room 109 - Ellensburg**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. To Discuss & Share Information About the Forest Plan Revision Efforts-Both at the Regional Level and Local Forest Level.**
- 3. Other business**
- 4. Adjourn**