



**Kalispel Tribe of  
Indians**  
Kalispel Tribal Headquarters  
Usk, WA 99180



**US Forest Service**  
Colville National Forest  
Newport – Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts  
Newport, WA 99156



**WA State Dept.  
Of Natural Resources**  
Northeast  
Colville, WA 99114

# **Sx<sup>w</sup>uytn – Kaniksu Connections ‘Trail’ Project Vegetation Management - Fire Ecology - Forest Health Public Workshop Notes**

Meeting Type: Public

Date: April 18, 2019

Location: Camas Center

Time: 5:30 – 8:00 pm

Facilitator: Andrew Spaeth

**Present:** 56 team and guests

**Welcome - Ray Entz, Kalispel Tribe** – welcomed the group and gave an introduction to the project

**Pend Oreille County Commissioner Manus** expressed his welcome and excitement to have everyone here and get this project started. He would like to see the project incorporate all aspects of recreation and other forest resource uses.

**Pend Oreille County Commissioner Skoog** mentioned the importance of county roads and access; and working together to be good neighbors.

**Kurtis Vaagen, Vaagen Brothers Lumber** – thanked the Tribe for inviting the group and NEWFC (Northeast Washington Forest Coalition) for being asked to speak for the Coalition. Currently a Vice President of Vaagen Brothers Lumber, and log-yard supervisor. Key points and opportunities:

- Trail project will help to bring the local Vaagen mill to a fuller work schedule
- CNF has done a lot of work “outside the box” and this is another opportunity to think differently about how to work on the forest
- Newport RD – is important partner in trying new ideas
- Fire was not thought about 10 years ago, but with the increase of wildfires in recent years, proactive management is really important
- Excited about the potential outcomes of this project

The team introduced the *Era of Mega Fires* film, and encouraged the audience to stay for the film and discussion to follow.

**Panelists** (post-film discussion):

Sam Steinshouer – DNR Regional Forest Planning

Cody Montgomery – CNF Fuels Management

Anjel Tomayko – DNR Fuels Management

Tim Larkowski – KTI Silviculture

Kathryn Napier – CNF Silviculture

Maps describing the planning area were shown on the projector screen. Additional copies were available on tables in the back of the room and were hung on the walls. The maps displayed things such as ownership (acres 46% CNF; private 41%, etc.).

Description of the vegetation and structure types, canopy cover (with examples of what they look like), compared to old photographs, illustrating the historical range of variability in vegetation patterns and forest density of certain stands within the project area

Fire History map and data presented and described...some dating back to 1889

## Silvicultural Treatments and Q&A

**Andrew Spaeth** asked that all could adhere to the ground rules.

*What are your interests and concerns?*

- Something missing or misrepresented seems to be those large trees. But we have them. It seems that there wasn't any discussion about that.
- If we are looking at climate change, do we really want to return the forests to the pre-European settlement conditions?

*Response:* We are looking at the work Derek Churchill is doing and how those larger trees can be a little more resilient.

- Have concerns about Bead Lake – what is a reasonable timeline for work to start on the ground?

*Response:* Believe that the EA will be finalized in 2021. Work would start after that.

- In Bead Lake – what kind of plans are within the Bead Lake area? Concerns about erosion.

*Response:* Group was reminded that we are very early in the process and this meeting is to help us start our project development.

- Wildlife interests – an issue/concern of snag retention – would like to see more snags (large) on the landscape since they are important.
- On very steep slopes do we have alternative logging systems that we can use to reduce potential erosion?

*Response:* The team is looking at a variety of logging systems and incorporating soil and slope information.

- Concerned about invasive species such as knapweed.
- Trails and Recreation ...what does 'Trail' have to do within the project?

*Response:* This is a translation of the Salish word for connections and linkage.

- Who is the primary contact person for information requests or to submit comments?

*Response:* Mike Lithgow is primary contact for the project. Never too late to send in comments.

- How do we get the information if we are not within the project area?

*Response:* Visit the website, email or call.

- Hessburg described the patchy nature of native stands. How do we mimic that?

*Response:* Variable density thinning

- Heard this is a new process. Seems like it will be a great opportunity. Gayne mentioned that the lawmakers have provided the tools through laws, programs, funding.

*Response:* The CNF is lucky to be a forerunner in utilizing new opportunities.

Commissioner Manus asked that NEWFC be described – and acknowledged. As well, kudos should be extended to agency staffs, conservation groups, and also the Tribe, and of course the neighbors and interested public within the community. Gloria Flora gave a brief overview of what NEWFC does and how it started.

Gayne described some of the forest plan goals.

Would like to see quality monitoring to handle the unforeseen issues that may come up. Hope that there is built-in flexibility to address site-specific changes that may need to be addressed.

Potential volumes and how will those might affect log prices for small private landowners was discussed/described by Kurtis.

**Meeting Adjourned at 7:45 PM;** small group discussions around maps continued.