**Public Lands Advisory Committee**
**September 22, 2015**
**Meeting Notes**

**Public Lands committee minutes :**

Gary Berndt, Jill Scheffer, Richard Low, Bill Essman, Lonnie Landrie, Keith McGowan, Dave Duncan

**WDFW speaker .. Rod Pfeifle WDFW Forest Management Presentation**

Historical timber management strategy

- Mostly Eastern WA
- Historically Generally "put out the brush fire" strategy drove management

Current strategy

- 15 wildlife areas with timber – 11 in Eastern WA

Management needs

- Statewide forested acres: 200,000
- Suitable for management: 100,000
- 2,000 – Western WA 98,000 – Eastern Washington

Long term goals

- Regional based management approach – e.g. Tapash – multi-agency management across watersheds rather than property lines
- Management account – something committee can advocate for, WDFW to send bullet points

Defining suitable management areas

- Improve habitat and reduce risks
- Where are projects allowed?
- Where are management activities allowed? (topography, access, etc.)
- Economically viable projects?

Inventory

- No inventory of wildlife area timber lands
- Ecological integrity ratings – determine deviation from historic stand conditions

    - County responsible for back mitigating exempt wells back to 1905 for total of 800 acre feet (will verify)
- Funding of Teanaway limited to: forest health, enforcement, RMAP
- **A main thrust will be to work at a funding solution during this biennium**

**JLARC report – Economic impact of public natural resource lands**

- Not how much public land you have but how the land is used
- How do we get economic value?
- Taxes to county – County gets a higher percentage of private property than public
- Cannot get an accurate read on what public land brings to county
- Cost to County is greater to have houses than to have public land

**MISC.**

Admissions tax soon to be proposed for events in unincorporated county.. excludes school events – 5% to be collected locally

**Recreation Plan /Comprehensive Plan**

Currently the County comp. plan has a sub standard recreation element. It is the committee's wish to assist and ensure that a better recreation component is completed .

Kittitas County Parks District – no funds, owes county $15,000

- Recreation Plan beyond parks district to create access for grant funding
- Beckwith study

**WORK PRODUCTS:**

1. **Lonnie and Dave will work with Rod of WDFW to develop a letter for Board review to support development of a timber management account to protect revenues generated by WDFW harvest.**
2. **Dave provided Gary with issues to be put into an advisory letter for Board signature on WDFW issues needing resolve. For all... please send Gary your issues !!**
   (Dave has 5 issues)