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)