

Pend Oreille County

Board of Commissioners

Karen Skoog
District #1

Mike Manus
District #2

Stephen Kiss
District #3

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March 14, 2017

Gayne Sears, District Ranger
Michelle Paduani, Project Leader
U.S. Forest Service
Newport-Sullivan Lake Ranger District
315 North Warren
Newport, WA 99156

RE: Limestone/Silver Vegetation Management Project

Dear Ms. Sears and Ms. Paduani:

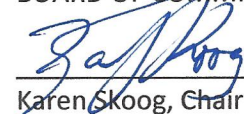
The Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners support the use of the categorical exclusion authority to move forward the Limestone/Silver Vegetation Management Project. It is our hope that this project will be a stepping stone to future treatments in the 30,000 remaining acres in the project area that are not designated Roadless.

Historical fires and lack of management in this area have led to a severe overstocking of many of the acres and have created a severe wildfire danger. The proximity to private land, county roads, and the proposed route of the Pacific Northwest Trail all point to a need for vegetation management to reduce the risk of wildfire.

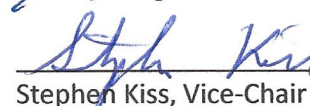
Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

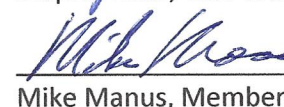
PEND OREILLE COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Karen Skoog, Chair



Stephen Kiss, Vice-Chair



Mike Manus, Member