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FERRY COUNTY RAIL TRAIL

Ferry County Rail Trail Partners
Bob Whittaker, President
POB 57, Malo WA 99150-0057

Ferry County Commissioners
Chairman Brad Miller
290 East Tessie Ave
Republic WA 99166

12 April 2007

Dear Chairman Miller,

Assuming the county's efforts to railbank the corridor from the old mill site to the border are successful, there are issues that will be of immediate concern when the rails come up. In order to implement certain solutions if the rails are salvaged before rail banking is complete, the county will need to obtain permission from the railroad. Due to this time issue we respectfully suggest the following for your consideration:

1) **Prepare a news release in advance and ready to submit** to the News-miner, the Omak Chronicle, and perhaps the Colville Statesman-Examiner the moment the county acquires the rail line. Points to include might be:

- The County has all rights to the corridor that the railroad had, and the corridor is being retained for future development.
- No motorized use shall be allowed anywhere on the corridor. (We realize that the county has not made any formal statement on this subject, but we hope the board agrees to such a condition until this and other issues are worked out in the planning phase of any public use of the corridor.) No firearms shall be allowed on the corridor. You would include other limitations you need.
- There shall be no tampering with the corridor, in accordance with the limitations and requirements of the Surface Transportation Boards ruling that the ballast shall be left in place and undisturbed.
- State actual remedies/fines/action, (including applicable RCW's) that will be taken regarding tampering with or blocking the corridor. Without such remedies plainly stated, there will be little incentive to respect them.

1A) **Prepare a letter to have ready to send to all adjoining landowners when needed.** Such a letter will be needed quickly when a violation occurs, such as the ballast being tampered with or blockages appearing upon the route for example. In addition to the public press release contents in such a letter, you might make it clear that adjoining landowners cannot drive down the corridor, block it in any way, or remove any material from it. Actual legal remedies for such action should be stated. Our

group is compiling a mailing database if the board would like to make use of it.

- 2) **The county sheriff should be directed to keep motorized use off the entire grade.** Again, actual remedies should exist, prior to such announcement (if they do not already in the form of a county ordinance for example) to allow for proper enforcement.
- 3) **Ecology blocks will need to be placed at each corridor crossing of a public road.** There are at minimum 27 road crossings. (Block configuration to be determined by the county.) “No motorized use, “ signs would need to be placed five feet behind the ecology blocks, a minimum of 54 signs will be needed. There will be special signs needed for the trestle and the tunnel.
- 4) **Prepare in advance an internal memo to all county department heads regarding the status of the corridor to be sent out as you issue the above mentioned press release.** This might include a script to supply their receptionists as to what to say if/when the public calls.
- 5) **Provide a printed map of all public crossings of the corridor, and detail where the corridor crosses private roads for emergency fire and law enforcement use.**
- 6) **Request** salvage contractors to grade behind salvage efforts .

These measures would lower the risk of unauthorized use of the derailed corridor. They would also allow the corridors inevitable interim use to occur in a more respectful manner while a final plan is crafted by all interested parties.

The Ferry County Rail Trail Partners are ready to assist the county in any of the above efforts and/or others needed to reduce the number of hours of county time expended wherever possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration of our suggestions.

[signed]
Bob Whittaker
President, Ferry County Rail Trail Partners

[signed]
Melissa Rose
Vice-President, Ferry County Rail Trail Partners