

## **An open letter to Ferry County and the Commissioners,**

We greatly appreciate the Commissioners holding these public meetings regarding the rail corridor and whole-heartedly support rail banking this line and the associated public use trail. While such meetings can be tense for all involved, they are indeed helping things along and an indispensable part of this process. Our organization supports a non-motorized trail, just as our mission statement says. Beyond that we do encourage ANY and all proposals be made public during this public comment period. We were pleased to hear a few pro-motorized supporters state their general intent at the meeting and look forward to a complete and detailed proposal from them.

Our organization has done much research, including interviews with inland NW trail managers, rail trail guidebook authors, adjacent landowners and other rail trail users. We have spent much time using inland rail trails as well as rail trails in BC. Our findings are posted on our website: <http://www.ferrycountyrailtrail.com>. We hope you find it informative and we encourage further public dialogue about this exciting prospect.

As we have said before, we are eager to help with what is being referred to as a defacto trail: via fundraising, volunteerism, public education etc...

Our organization remains enthusiastic about the prospect of a non-motorized rail trail and we are eager to help *to that end*. We are doing our best to educate ourselves and others regarding the complexities, challenges, and benefits of existing rail trail models so that the choice we make for this proposed local trail will result in the best possible rail trail for Ferry County.

Bob Whittaker  
President  
Ferry County Rail Trail Partners