

# NORTHEAST WASHINGTON COUNTIES

## Ferry County

290 E Tessie Avenue  
Republic, WA 99166  
(509) 775-5225

## Okanogan County

123 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N, Rm 150  
Okanogan, WA 98840  
(509) 422-7100

## Pend Oreille County

625 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Newport, WA 99156  
(509) 447-4119

## Stevens County

215 S. Oak Street  
Colville, WA 99114  
(509) 684-3751

June 29, 2018

US Forest Service Chief Christiansen  
201 14<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Chief Christiansen,

The Northeast Washington Counties (NEWC) and the Tri County Forest Group are County Commissioner led organizations representing Okanogan, Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille Counties. These are information gathering and disseminating forums that enable local elected officials to better represent the needs of our rural economies and the more than 100,000 residents that have elected us.

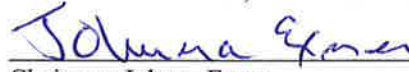
As county elected officials we have devoted a considerable effort to develop and maintain a strong and productive relationship with the leaders and staff of the two national forests that lie within our boundaries; the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville. We have invested untold hours in the Forest Plan Revision process and the Colville A-Z project to help achieve a successful outcome. As rural counties with limited budgets, we do this on our own time as Commissioners. We do not have budgets for hiring staff positions. Our motivation in doing this is to protect and enhance economic opportunities for our and future generations who desire a rural lifestyle. We advocate for streamlined, sensible local management of the nation's forests that will restore health and deliver economic benefits. We work with all interested groups; industry, recreation and conservation in order to provide Forest Service staff our reports and suggestions in a comprehensive format.

Our reason for reaching out to you is simple. We want to go to the next level in our efforts to work productively with the Forest Service by developing a stronger relationship with the next Region 6 Forester. Frankly, this has always been a weakness. We believe a change will be beneficial for both sides, for the long term. We believe this is the opportune moment. We believe you can help us succeed in this goal. Chief Christiansen, we look forward to having a Regional Forester who works well with our counties.

Sincerely,

### NORTHEAST WASHINGTON COUNTIES (NEWC)

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