

Nordland Post Office Action Plan

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Purpose

The United States Postal Service has selected the Nordland Post Office - 98358 for restructuring under the POSTPlan. They have sent a survey to our community asking for input regarding the restructuring of our postal service. Elizabeth Jenkins (Regional Director, US Postal Service) will conduct a meeting with our community on March 5th at 4:00 PM (Nordland Post Office) to discuss the changes in service our community can expect.

The POSTPlan is an attempt by the Postal Service to reduce their 15.9 billion dollar deficit by 25%. We currently have four options presented by Elizabeth Jenkins and the United States Postal Service:

1. Keep the office open . . . reduce hours of operation from 8 hours a day to 6.

2. Conduct a discontinuance study for our post office - provide roadside mailbox delivery.
3. Conduct a discontinuance study for our post office - private contract - village PO.
4. Conduct a discontinuance study for our post office - pick up your mail in Port Hadlock.

“After receiving the results of this survey, the Postal Service will examine the responses and, unless the community has a strong preference (more than 60 percent) for conducting a discontinuance study for the Nordland Post Office and establishing one of the additional sources of services described below, the Postal Service intends to maintain the Nordland Post Office with 6 hours of window service each weekday” (Melissa Ross, Review Coordinator, US Postal Service)

This survey does not allow our community the ability to voice its opposition to a service change. In fact, the survey clearly directs us towards option one. I have yet to find a single resident who did not select option one to reduce hours and keep the Nordland Post Office open. Of course, we want to keep our post office open. The Postal Service designed a survey to reflect a prescribed result. This survey corrupts our ability to respond. We were not given the chance to clearly select, “Do not change our current service model to the Nordland Post Office.”

Currently, the Nordland Post Office is generating a profit. With the implementation of our new postmaster, our profits have risen 150% during his first year of service. Reducing his hours of production will only result in reduced revenue. The only savings the postal service will receive through the reduction of service will be the salary of one employee for two hours a day. This is not a substantial savings. In fact, it is a losing proposition. It will also cause the Nordland Post Office’s local employees to seek opportunities elsewhere, provide reduced service which presents an opportunity for the postal service to redirect our service to Port Hadlock or Chimacum. This will impact every resident on the island along with the viability of the Nordland General Store.

Our goal as a community is to let Elizabeth Jenkins know that we do not support a change in our current service model for the Nordland General Store. We do not believe that the POSTPlan will provide any increase in the profits of the US Postal Service. In fact, it will lose revenue for the US Postal Service. We also want to clearly state our concerns for our citizens who will undergo a hardship with the reduction in service and possible closure of the Nordland Post Office.

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Mission of the Postal Service

The United States Postal Service is an independent establishment of the Executive Branch of the Government of the United States and operates in a business-like way. Its mission statement can be found in Section 101(a) of Title 39 of the U.S. Code, also known as the Postal Reorganization Act:

The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the

Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities.

Plan

Our plan is to inform the residents of Marrowstone Island about the changes in service that the Nordland Post Office will receive under the POSTPlan. Our committees will try to facilitate learning and open dialogue about the changes proposed by the United States Post Office to the residents of Marrowstone Island. They will solicit support from the residents for the meeting on March 5th at 4PM at the Nordland Post Office. They will also solicit support in signing the petition to keep the current level of service the same at the Nordland Post Office.

Our committees will engage in open dialogue with Elizabeth Jenkins and the United States Postal Service to collect information about the impact studies conducted when selecting the Nordland Post Office for the POSTPlan. We will engage in conversations about cost benefit studies and try to analyze accurate data regarding the revenue generated by enacting the POSTPlan for the Nordland Post Office.

Our committees will call upon the residents of Marrowstone Island to inform local representative in congress and the senate about the impacts the POSTPlan is placing on the community and them locally.

Our committees will openly report the impacts the POSTPlan places on the residents of Marrowstone Island to newspapers, radio, and television broadcasts.

Our committees will also engage in open dialogue with residents in LaPush, Joyce, Clallam Bay, and Port Gamble about their loss of service with the POSTPlan enacted in their communities. We will support them in their efforts to keep their current levels of service the same. Collectively, we will let the United States Postal Service know that they are not meeting the needs of our communities under the Mission Statement of the Postal Service.

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Doorbell / Telephone Committee - Jill Hoines (385-5459)

1. Establish a network of volunteers to help contact the residents of Marrowstone Island.
2. Establish a plan to effectively reach the residents of Marrowstone Island.
3. Establish communications with the residents of Marrowstone Island and provide information about the POSTPlan and its impacts to our local economy and community. "Communications about the Nordland Post Office can be viewed via the Island Net mailing list. Click <http://www.marrowstone.info/island-net> to subscribe, if you not already a member."
4. Generate support to attend our meeting with Elizabeth Jenkins on March 5th at 4:00PM at the Nordland Post Office.
5. Inform the residents on Marrowstone Island about the petition to keep our level of

service unchanged. The petition is located at the Nordland General Store - front counter.
We would like to have 60% of our residents sign the petition.

6. Advise residents to e-mail their representatives for support:

- **Derek Kilmer – Congressman 6th District**

e-mail info: www.kilmer.house.gov

- **Patty Murray – Washington State Senator**

e-mail info: www.murray.senate.gov

- **Maria Cantwell – Washington State Senator**

e-mail info: www.cantwell.senate.gov

- **Jim Hargrove – State Senator (24th legislative district)**

411 Legislative Building

PO Box 40424

Olympia, WA 98504-0424

360-786-7646

e-mail: Jim.Hargrove@leg.wa.gov

- **Rep. Kevin Van De Wege (24th legislative district)**

434A Legislative Building

PO Box 40600

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

e-mail:

<http://www.leg.wa.gov/house/representatives/Pages/vandewege.aspx>

- **Rep. Steve Tharinger (24th legislative district)**

64 Village LN

Sequim, WA 98382

e-mail: steve.tharinger@leg.wa.gov

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Legal Committee - Paul Richmond, Attorney at Law (379-5575)

1. Request Information from Elizabeth Jenkins about the feasibility study used regarding the impacts of the POSTPlan and the community of Nordland: Freedom of Information Act Request, and Public Documents Request for Records relating to Nordland/Marrowstone Washington Post Office, 98358 and March 5, 2013 Meeting
2. Assemble testimonials from residents regarding expected hardships if the POSTPlan is enacted and or the Nordland Post Office closes its service to the residents of Marrowstone Island.

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Petition Committee - Pete Hubbard (385-0105)

1. Assemble a petition that states: "We do not want a Service Change to the Nordland Post Office."
2. Certify the Petition.
3. Goal: we receive 60% of the residents stating that they do not want a change in service.
4. Provide a petition for residents of Marrowstone Island who live off island or are on vacation.

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Communication / Media Committee - Rita Kepner, Heather Tillman (379-1434)

1. Provide press releases that inform the public of Nordland, Jefferson County, and Washington State about the POSTPlan and its impacts to our local community on Marrowstone Island.
2. Explore personal interest stories on Marrowstone Island and how the post office has impacted their lives.
3. Obtain media coverage of the meeting on March 5 at the Nordland Post Office.

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Sign Committee - Frost Freeman (379-1434)

1. Establish signs that state that we do not want to reduce the service of the Nordland Post

Office.

2. Have signs ready for the Meeting on March 5th at the Nordland Post Office.

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H.R. 6407

<http://www.dailykos.com/story/2012/04/26/1086631/-Postal-Accountability-and-Enhancement-Act-of-2006>

On the eighth day of December in 2006, at 10:33 at night, the 2009th Congress passed H.R. 6407, The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, by a voice vote.

The bill was introduced by Republican Congressman Tom Davis of the 11th CD of Virginia. Co-sponsors were one other Republican, John McHugh, 23rd CD of New York, and Democrats Danny Davis, 7th CD of Illinois and Henry Waxman, 30th CD of California.

H.R. 6407 requires that the Postal Service rapidly pre-fund its retirement health benefits. The extent of prefunding required by this measure vastly exceeds the level of prefunding for retiree benefits in any private company in the entire country. This ensures that Postal Service spending must annually exceed revenue intake, thus causing a perpetual and rapidly increasing Postal Service deficit.

The implicit and stealth intent of this legislation is to jointly destroy the U.S. Postal Service, creating new revenues and profits for its commercial competitors, and to destroy one of the largest remaining public employee labor unions.

Current plans to save the U.S. Post Office include eliminating 220,000 postal jobs through cuts and attrition by 2015, after already eliminating 212,000 jobs in the last ten years. Also proposed is a plan to withdraw postal employees and retirees from the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program and the creation of a new program that would almost certainly have weaker benefits

Resources:

- <http://www.savethepostoffice.com>
- <http://www.rop.org>

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Dan, I think we need to add the following section somewhere above and begin identifying key action items with the help of each committee chair.

Key action items leading up to the March 5th meeting

1. 2/23 - Sat.
 - a. I requested an ambulance to be posted at the store on March 5th. They need a 2nd person. They are checking. What time should we ask them to be there, if they can make it?
2. 2/25 - Tues
 - a. Dan, can you post what happened at Joyce?
 - b. Pete posts a note that petition signing will stop and the petitions will be removed from the store at 6pm on March 4th. (Adds note to clipboard)
3. 2/28 - Thu - Pete posts 2nd reminder of petition removal.
4. 3/3 - 8am - Pete posts final reminder of petition removal.
5. 3/4 - 6pm - Remove petition from Nordland store and begin examination to generate report and cover letter ([draft](#)) by 9pm for review by committee chairs and Dan.
6. 3/4 - 9pm - Petition Comm. has cover letter ready ([draft](#)) for signature(s) and all petitions.
7. 3/5 - ?pm - ?
8. 3/5 - 3pm - Begin pre-meeting to (describe what we do for the hour)
 - a. Take group photo of everyone; consider putting principals up front.