

BEFORE THE SKAGIT COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

Applicants: Ardella Douglas

Address: 10103 193d Street East
Graham, WA 98338

File No: Current Use Timber App #001/2011

Request: To include approximately 5.47 acres in the Current Use Timber Program.

Location: East of State Route 9 and west of Fruitdale Road, within Sec. 6, T35N. R5E. W.M.

Assessor's No: P38534

Public Hearing: After reviewing the report of the Assessor's Office, the Hearing Examiner conducted a public hearing on April 20, 2011.

Recommendation: Approval

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On March 3, 2011 Ardella Douglas filed an application for inclusion of approximately 5.47 acres in the Current Use Timber Program. She has owned the property since 1976.

2. The property is located about a half mile east of State Route 9 and west of Fruitdale Road, within Sec 6, T35N, 5E, W.M. The parcel number is P38534.

3. The application is for a transfer of the parcel from Open Space Farm and Agricultural Land to Current Use Timber.

4. The site is completely in timber and is managed for timber production. The topography is flat to rolling with an average elevation of about 320 feet. The area is rural with developed properties to the south and east and forested areas to the west and north. Access is by easements from the west and east. There are no open roads on the property.

5. The current stand is a naturally regenerated second growth mixture of mature conifers and hardwoods. There are currently no agricultural uses of the land. The plan is to manage the property so as eventually to attain an even-aged stand, maximizing income long-term. The hardwoods on site are at an age and size where harvesting should be considered with the next five years.

6. A Timber Management Plan was prepared and submitted. The plan appears to comply with RCW 84.34.020 and RCW 84.34.041.

7. The Staff Report and Exhibits submitted by the Assessor's Office are incorporated herein.

8. The hearing was held after due notice. There were no written comments. There was no public testimony.

8. The Examiner finds that the property meets the definition of the classification sought.

9. The Staff recommends approval. The Examiner concurs with Staff.

RECOMMENDATION

The Examiner recommends approval of the application, subject to the following condition:

At the time of harvesting, the applicant shall comply with the requirements of the Department of Natural Resources in regard to the harvesting of timber.



Wick Dufford, Hearing Examiner

Date: May 2, 2011

Copies transmitted to Applicant, Assessor's Office and County Commissioners:
May 2, 2011