

BEFORE THE SKAGIT COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

Applicants: Ben Dodge

Address: 531 Mountain View Drive
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

File No: C/UTMB#7-2006

Request: To include approximately 9.08 acres in the Current Use Timber Program.

Location: North of Colony Road within a portion of SW ¼, Sec 25, T36N, R3E, W.M.

Assessor's Nos: P116606 and P118909

Public Hearing: After reviewing the report of the Assessor's Office, the Hearing Examiner conducted a public hearing on February 28, 2007.

Recommendation: Approval

FINDINGS

1. Ben Dodge has filed an application for the inclusion of approximately 9.08 acres to the Current Use Timber Program. He is the owner of the property.

2. The property is located north of Colony Road, within a portion of the SW1/4, Sec. 25, T36N, R3E, W.M. The property consists of Assessor's Parcels #P116606 and P118909. The 9.08 acres remain after one-acre plus is subtracted for a homesite on the south along the road.

3. The property has been used for the growth and harvesting of timber since its original logging around the turn of the 20th Century. The second growth on the property has been selectively logged approximately every 10 to 15 years over the past 60 years. The last selective logging took place in 1995.

4. The forest consists mainly of a mixture of conifers and hardwoods, including Red Alder, Western Red Cedar, and Fir. A Timber Management Plan was prepared. Under the Plan the intention is to maintain the wooded rural atmosphere, and to preserve the wildlife habitat the parcel provides. Selective logging will continue to be practiced approximately every 10 to 15 years. Natural reseeding, replanting, thinning and brush control will be practiced as needed for the promotion of growth and for insect and disease control.

5. The Timber Management Plan appears to comply with RCW 84.34.020 and 84.34.041.

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

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

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

9. The Staff recommends approval, with a condition. 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: March 8, 2007