

BEFORE THE SKAGIT COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

Applicants: Benjamin and Pamela Thomas

Address: 3412 W. 2nd Street
Anacortes, WA 98221

File No: C/UTRTMB#2-2007

Request: To include approximately 9 acres in the Current Use Timber Program.

Location: Portion of Lot 1, Short Plat #95-008 within Sec 17, T33N, R5E, W.M. East of SR 9, west of Lake Cavanaugh Road.

Assessor's No: P125976

Public Hearing: After reviewing the report of the Assessor's Office, the Hearing Examiner conducted a public hearing on June 13, 2007.

Recommendation: Approval

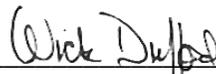
FINDINGS

1. Benjamin and Pamela Thomas have filed an application for inclusion of approximately 9 acres in the Current Use Timber Program. They are the owners of the property.
2. The property consists of 10 acres located east of SR 9 and west of Lake Cavanaugh Road. It is a portion of Lot 1 of Short Plat #95-008 in Section 17, T33N, R5E, W.M. The parcel is Assessor's Account Number P125976. Approximately one acre is excluded from the application for homesite purposes.
3. The request is to transfer the 9 acres from the Open Space Farm and Agriculture classification to Open Space Timber. The homesite will be withdrawn from Open Space Farm and Agriculture.
4. There is a single stand of timber consisting of immature native hardwood with scattered native conifers. The age of the trees ranges from 20 to 50 years. The main species is Red Alder. The owner's goal is to maintain the stand as habitat for the next few years, considering harvest in two units in 2030 and 2040. Following harvest reforestation will occur, involving the planting of Western Red Cedars and the natural reseeding of Red Alder.
5. A Forest Management Plan was prepared by David Anderson, Forestry Consultant. The plan appears to comply with RCW 84.34.020 and RCW 84.34.041.
6. The Staff Report and Exhibits submitted by the Assessor's Office are incorporated herein.
7. The hearing was held after due notice. There was no public testimony and there were no written comments.
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: July 13, 2007

Copies transmitted to Applicant: July 13, 2007