

**BEFORE THE SKAGIT COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER**

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION**

**Applicants:** Mark Malone and Joan DeClaire

**Address:** 3823 NE 95<sup>th</sup> St.  
Seattle, WA 98115

**File No:** C/UTRTMB#6-2007

**Request:** To include approximately 19.00 acres in the Current Use Timber Program.

**Location:** North of Marblemount off Highway 20, with a portion of NW1/4NE1/4 Sec. 6, T35N, R11E, W.M.

**Assessor's No:** P101146 (portion)

**Public Hearing:** After reviewing the report of the Assessor's Office, the Hearing Examiner conducted a public hearing on July 11, 2007.

**Recommendation:** Approval

## **FINDINGS**

1. Mark Malone and Joan DeClaire have filed an application for inclusion of approximately 19.00 acres in the Current Use Timber Program. They are the owners of the property.
2. The property consists of 20.33 acres located two miles north of Marblemount, near milepost 108 on State Route 20. It is a portion of the NW1/4NE1/4 Sec. 6, T35N, R11E, W.M. The property is a portion of Assessor's Account Number P101146. Approximately one and one-third acre is excluded from the application for homesite purposes.
3. The request is to transfer the 19.0 acres from classified forest land to the Open Space Timber classification.
4. The topography is relatively flat. The elevation ranges from about 320 feet to 360 feet above sea level. The Skagit River touches the extreme southeast corner of the property. There have been two harvests on this property over the past 15 years. Roughly the eastern half was clearcut around 1992. Roughly the western half was clearcut in 2000.
5. A Forest Stewardship Management Plan was completed by the applicants under the guidance of John Keller, Stewardship Forester, Department of Natural Resources. The objectives are to improve the timber production potential on the property through sound silvicultural practices, and while doing this to maintain the wildlife habitat. 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 attached hereto and 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.



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Wick Dufford, Hearing Examiner

Date: July 31, 2007

Copies transmitted to Applicant: July 31, 2007