

BEFORE THE SKAGIT COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

Applicants: Casey Kowalczyk

Address: P. O. Box 312
Burlington, WA 98233

File No: C/UTMB#4-2006

Request: To include approximately 19 acres in the Current Use Timber Program.

Location: North of Bacus Road, within a portion of Sec. 12, T35N, R5E, W.M.

Assessor's Nos: Portion of P38898

Public Hearing: After reviewing the report of the Assessor's Office, the Hearing Examiner conducted a public hearing on December 20, 2006.

Recommendation: Approval

FINDINGS

1. Casey Kowalczyk has filed an application to include approximately 19 acres in the Current Use Timber Program. He are the owners of the property.

2. The property is a 20 acre parcel located north of Bacus Road. It is the W1/2sw1/4NE1/4, Sec. 12, T35N, R5E, W.M. The Assessor's parcel number is P38898. A one-acre homesite is reserved.

3. The current zoning is Secondary Forest – Natural Resource Lands (SF-NRL). The forested area was harvested in about 1985 and reforested nauturally to Red Alder and Black Cottonwood. There are a few scattered Western Red Cedar and Bigleaf Maple that survived the 1985 harvest. The stand is about 20 years old.

4. A Forest Management Plan prepared by a professional forestry consultant was submitted. The goal of the owner is to retain and manage the stand until such time as harvest is appropriate, beginning in 2030 to 2035. Wildlife habitat and watershed management will be provided in the interim. After harvest, replanting to Douglas fir, Western Red Cedar and Red Alder is recommended.

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 attached hereto 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: January 8, 2007