



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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**Minutes
7. January 2008**

Present: Dick Whitmore, Chuck Parker, Gordy Iverson, Dave Chamberlain, Ken Osborn, Tim Raschko, Paul Kriegel, Aubrey Stargell, Al Craney, Tom Nelson, Lisa Cassidy, Fred Loffer

Absent: Kendra Smith

Guest: USFS Ranger John VanderHeyden. Sedro-Woolley Office

- I. **Minutes: ?? Approved??? From December 5, 2007**
- II. John discussed details regarding titles I, II and III of the Rural Schools Act. This deals with the various methods the USFS provides local funding to the counties.
Title I works on a basis of sending counties a percentage of all USFS receipts.
Title II uses another formulation from which the funds are to be used 50% for watershed restoration and roads and the other 50% for USNF projects. These funds do not take money from Title I.
Title III has 5 categories the most important of which is schools. It also includes funding for burn plans and search & rescue. Unlike Title II, these funds can be deducted from Title I funding. Skagit County is 100% in Title III to the tune of \$200K.
There are currently no timber receipts in the Baker Lake Unit. The harvest unit that has been set up there is in litigation.
- III. Dick Whitmore summarized the DNR aquatics situation, specifically as it pertains to Dunlap's yard in LaConner. Dunlap's Jim Sanford, Dick and a DNR rep toured the yard for purpose of educating DNR of reality on ground. They also met w/ Mary Margaret Haugen who shares concern of impact on roads if water transport restricted. A letter was sent to DOE(?) expressing importance of water transport.
- IV. A letter on Low Impact Harvesting to John Mankowski, Asst to the Gov, was approved for release. It is cc'd to Rick Dunning, WFFA.
- V. Al Craney brought to FAB's attention House Bill 2457 which would require greater notification to neighboring property owners when conducting forest practices. It was decided to postpone further discussion on matter until next meeting at which time, with luck, the bill will have been deep-sixed or FAB will be better prepared to formulate a response.
- VI. DNR Comm. Doug Sutherland wrote letter dated 30.Nov 2007 re TFW process. FAB members expressed concern that politics is usurping science in decision making process. Paul Kriegel has written letter which will be dispersed to FAB members for their perusal & comment.

VII. Ken Osborn summarized Blanchard Mtn. situation, which is, the DNR led compromise is in litigation and DNR A'sG are trying to figure out what can be done at this stage, if anything.

VIII. Adjourned ???