



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman
Lisa Cassidy Ken Osborn
Al Craney Chuck Parker
Gordon Iverson Tom Nelson
Paul Kriegel Aubrey Stargell
Tim Raschko Fred Loffer

Kendra Smith, Staff

November 16, 2009

Present: Fred, Ken, Lisa, Gordy, Dave, Al, Paul, Aubrey, Tim, Chuck
Guests: Commissioner Ron Wesen, Brett Davis (Fire Division USFS), Samantha (USFS), Gary Christensen (PDS), John Cooper (PDS), Paul Wagner (forestry consultant) and Jenny Hinderman (SCD)

- I. Minutes: Al offered two amendments regarding names and location. Upon accepting the amendments Gordy moved and Paul seconded to accept the October minutes.
- II. By-laws: Dave reviewed the by-laws and asked if the FAB would like to amend the number required for a quorum. After some discussion the FAB decided they wanted to keep it as it is.
- III. PDS updates:
 - a. Amending the requirements in Secondary Forestry: Dave asked John to reconfirm that PDS was not going to make the proposal to allow development in Secondary forest if the land is outside a fire district after 2005. John said the BOCC did not get this before them and so did not act upon it and there was no intention to bring this up again in the future. Gary C. reconfirmed this and said it would happen only if the FAB brought it up.
 - b. PDS asked the FAB to look at a policy regarding transferring development rights from a resource designation to a non-resource designation. The specific property belongs to Keith Johnson. Ken wanted to know if there was also a comp plan amendment request in for the neighboring property. Gary C. said yes there was and that the BoCC would be hearing it next week. The recommendation from PDS was to deny the request. Gordy noted that without really being able to study it, he would have to be opposed to placing development in the resource lands. Tim agreed with Gordy. Historically there have been problems with development next to resource lands...but note that it may not necessarily be from neighboring properties. Ken noted that they just received a Mineral Overlay designation. Need to keep this in mind. Dave asked Gary if there was something wrong with a designation could an applicant still request an amendment in needed. Gary said yes. Dave said he would put this on the agenda for the next meeting and commented that it would be good to start up the talks with PDS on a TDR (transfer of development rights) policy. He wanted Gary to come back next meeting to have more of a discussion.
- IV. Platted Lands: WSAC timber counties will discuss it at their meeting next week. Aubrey said the FAB should write a letter of general support and so moved. Tim seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

- V. USFS fire behavior: Britt and Samantha presented information on the USFS strategy for fire protection on the west side. They indicated that unlike the east side, fires 'roll through here' and only every 200-300 years do we get a really big one. We are given a type I condition. They said that we haven't messed up the forests too bad here yet...must have a 30 day or longer period without rain for a concern. Number of starts, slope and east winds play a major roll. No real fuels treatment here- 2-3 engines for the west side.
 - a. Al noted the Jordon Ck fire and that was 40 years ago with west winds.
 - b. Paul asked closing the USFS roads, which would hamper equipment getting to the fires...response, was a declining budget makes it impractical to keep open. The USFS said they are practicing battlefield triage.

- VI. Next meeting December 14th same place.

- VII. Adjourn 9:04 a.m.