



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST  
ADVISORY BOARD**

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Kendra Smith, Staff

**Minutes  
January 11, 2010**

Present: Steve Tift, Aubrey, Al, Chuck, Ken, Paul, Dave, Gordy, Tim, Fred  
Guest: Commissioner Wesen, Carolyn Kelly, Gary Christensen and John Cooper

- I.        **Introductions:** Welcome to Commissioner Wesen. Welcome to the FAB's new member Steve Tift. Steve is from Longview and will bring a large landowner perspective to the FAB.
- II.       **Minutes:** Delayed until next meeting
- III.      **Discussion New Business:**
  - a. TDRs, PDRs for Forestry: Gary C. from Planning gave a presentation of the history of what the County has done to date regarding TDRs. He said that "innovative technology " was needed. This would protect the resource lands and develop GMA programs. There just wasn't enough staff and money to be working on some of these issues in our economic challenge. But two programs to look at in the future would be a TRD and/or a PDR program similar to what Ag has. A study was done (which the FAB had modestly participated in) several years ago by Ag Prospects outlining how such programs would work in Skagit County. It emphasizes supply and demand. Gary suggested may be combining a forest program with the Farmland Legacy Program (FLP). There seems to be lots of interest but it just may not be practical here. Ken asked if the cities had to participate in order to make this successful, also noted that he felt the study done was somewhat flawed. Because there needed to be a policy to provided flexibility for the best resource protection.
  - b. DNR Transfer lands. Paul noted the DNR public hearing on several properties in Skagit Co up for transfer. He attended the DNR presentation/hearing and said there are several concerns that need to be monitored. Areas of concern are:
    - i. Properties off the tax roll
    - ii. Reduced land base
    - iii. Are these properties really 'unique' or can they be managed by private individuals better than the DNR
    - iv. Are there adjacent lands owners who would like to buy or trade. Should there be some type of mitigation for lands so that they are not taken out of production, i.e. a management plan. Need to show exactly what is happening from these transfers and how much and is going out of production.Also, need to start from the GMA mandate to protect the Resource Lands. County should be concerned about the lands being taken off the tax rolls as well.
  - c. PDS report: Nothing new at this time

- d. Climate Change: Ryan Walters was unable to attend. Dave commented that forestry needs to be able to ride this new wave and be prepared. Need to look at benefits. Gordy noted that there is a RIGHT way to manage forests and getting grant money is not the way. They should be managed because it is the right thing to do. Fix to make things correct and then MANAGE them that way. We all have a responsibility.

**IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **TNC tour:** Sub committee was formed to put together the tour. Paul, Gordy, Tim and Tom. Ken offered his land for the tour if no harvest operations were occurring on Sierra's.
- b. **FFP:** Kendra reported on the January meeting in Olympia. Policy voted to approve minor changes to Section 21, there were some Small Land Owner (SLO) concerns. Talked about needing better reporting so people not in attendance will know what is happening, Miguel P wants to ask Peter G to make FFP membership a board appointment so not everyone will come and be able to vote. Legislative actions being watched. # HB 2505, 2420, 3286, 2501 (2541?)/SB 6256, 3297, 2505. The platted lands bill should be dropped any day.

**V. Adjourned 9:04 a.m.**