



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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**Minutes
July 12, 2010**

Present: Chuck, Ken, Al, Fred, Dave, Aubrey, Paul and Gordy

Absent: Tim, Tom, Lisa, Steve

Guest: Jim DiPeso from American Alps, Betsy Stevenson and John Cooper from PDS

I. Minutes: - No quorum

II. Planning Department Update: John Cooper said there were no updates at this time. Conservation Subdivision concept has been put on hold at this time and there is no known time factor.

III. Blanchard Mountain: FAB members discussed the outcome of the Court of Appeals decision for Blanchard Mountain and acknowledged that there have not been any harvests on that forest for many years as the DNR waited for the Strategy Committee to make formal recommendations and now for the lawsuit to be over. They are recommending signing a letter addressed to the BoCC suggesting that harvesting and operations should now be free to start up again and that some pressure should be put on the DNR to do so. Kendra reported that the DNR is thinking about starting up the proposed citizen's committee to review and ensure the work from the strategy plan is implemented. DNR is re-considering who they may put on this committee. The committee will now only meet 1-2/year verse monthly due to budget. It was questioned whether this was really worth the effort...DNR knows how to put sales up.

IV. RMAP (Road maintenance and Abandonment Plan) Discussion: Road/culvert replacements on forest lands. This is actually required to be done by not only all landowners, but DNR and the counties. There has been discussion in Olympia at FFP what to do in meeting the timeline of replacements due to the economy. A study was completed showing that the large landowners are actually ahead of schedule. The conservation community does not want to back off due to the importance, however many can't meet the deadlines with the lack of funds. One suggestion is to go to D.C. and ask for money as stimulus to help off-set the costs and get "green" results. The dollars spent to date is very impressive and shows what the forest industry has contributed toward salmon recovery and clean water. The small landowners are the ones struggling to come up with the money to make these costly replacements.

V. American Alps presentation- Jim DiPeso made a presentation detailing what his organization wanted to accomplish by including more portions of Ross Lake and the surrounding area into US National Park status. They feel that this will help add to the up-river economy and bring more visitors to the area. He did note that an aside would be to keep dams off any of the waters in the area. FAB members had many questions that Jim was unable to answer and he told them he would find out and have Jim Davis

report back. The current employment would go up from 3- 8 people. He did admit that these would be jobs done by the forest service so really the numbers did not change that much. The FAB said that they would consider what was presented and vote at their next meeting on whether to support the concept or not. They would then forward this information to the BoCC.

VI. Topics next meeting: Spend some more time on what the committees have produced and determine best way utilize the information.

VII. Adjourn: 9:06