



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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August 9, 2010 (Started at 7 8-9-10)

Present: Tim, Aubrey, Paul, Ken, Dave, Chuck, Fred, Gordy, Al
Lisa, Steve, Tom

Guest: John Cooper, PDS

I. Minutes:

- a. Tim moved and Paul seconded to approve June 2010 minutes. Passed
- b. Tim moved and Paul seconded to approve July minutes with the following correction:
Omit reference to the Forest Service. Passed

II. Public Comments:

- a. Governor award to Planning for their Open Space plan. FAB was acknowledged
- b. Call from Jim Davis...will work this into the next months agenda

III. Discussion:

- a. Conservation Subdivisions- Paul noted that he looked more closely at this concept and realized there may be some opportunities available by using this as a tool. He suggested that this should perhaps go through an administrative review. It was noted that Puget Sound Energy will start managing for wildlife. Hope is to try and make this program pay for itself. Ken suggested that the best would be to get groups like PSE to manage. Aubrey said what is needed is a Right to manage Forestry so that any group buying can't get upset. It was noted that with development too many bad things have happened i.e. small landowner (SLO) now have to deal with the outcome. Currently if done, this would mean the lot was subdivided and therefore the CAO would be invoked.
Concerns: CAO, Ownership going to neighborhood, allowable uses in the future, maintain as much land base for forestry as possible and not lose any more, takes private property off payroll and can it become so complex that it creates later problems?
- b. Conversions- Aubrey and Al did some research from the Forest Service report (on the 5 year inventory and analysis report) and found that between 2002-2006, ½ of 1% of the land was lost to development c conversions. Al noted that activities were different in 2002-2006 (Nov 2007 game shifted) than they are today in 2010. They looked public and private trends. They noted page 12 of the report to reference. Demographics: Aging population and project that properties will be changing hands in the next 15-20 years. Page 14-15 of the report shows a high proportion of the lands uses as primary residents. Interestingly cedar was not mentioned and this is the landscape that would be primarily converted on the western side of the Cascades.
- c. Shoreline Update and Forest Practices- John Cooper noted that as it stands now conversions are excluded. The ordinary high water mark (OHWM) is 200' landward. Defer to Forest Practice Rules unless it is a Shoreline of State Significance, then 30% for a 10 year period
- d. Alps project- Converting USFS land to National Parks. Discussion occurred at the last meeting. Paul moved and Ken seconded to send a letter to the BOCC recommending not to support this action for the following reasons: no dogs, no hunting, no fishing etc

would be allowed; there would be additional costs to implement and the gov't doesn't have money to spend; FAB does not agree with the presenters analysis of jobs (they would just be taking from one agency to give to another); there would be a loss of matrix lands within the forest and those are potential opportunities to manage for harvest without impacting environmental issues; visitors will be subsidizing economy since it is not a created economy; it is a narrow demographics targeted at the white and wealthy; a d studies in trends in recreation are showing group camping verses back county.

- e. Envision update- Paul gave a quick update re Steering Committee and the new Citizen committee.

IV. Adjourn: 9:14