



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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October 18, 2010

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

Absent: Steve

Guest: Paul Wagner, Sam Chang, John C

Minutes: Gordy moved and Ken seconded to approve September minutes with amendments.

Approved

Discussion:

1. Blanchard Mt.- Tom and Kendra gave an update on the first Blanchard Mt Citizen's Advisory meeting. One member wanted to have the opportunity to re-evaluate the core (which was originally 1600 ac and has now been enlarged to close to 1700 with a proposed NRCA designation) area and make it larger. This was the representative from the Chuckanut Conservancy. He was disappointed to find that the task of the group was to implement the original agreement. Lots of questions were asked why the Commissioner of Public Lands wanted to pit this into a NRCA.
2. Forest Assessment: Al prepared a working paper on assessing the forest activities and health. Al had talked to several FAB members to get feedback Ken moved to accept as an on-going draft. Seconded. Gordy added a friendly amendment to keep this on the agenda as a working document and to make the front page an overview and the following pages more detailed oriented. Motion passed.
3. Seattle City Light: The FAB discussed the Sept. presentation and noted that they appeared to emphasize elk habitat as the most important consideration in their maps. The areas were primarily chosen for their negotiations for the FERC (Fed Energy Re-licensing). Didn't really talk about tax classification
4. TNC tour- Gordy and Paul went to the south of the state to some lands owned by TNC to review their management. Both were impressed by the fact that they were trying to manage their lands and actually doing a pretty good job. It was nice to see a conservation organization understand the needs of a healthy forest and one that could also be a working forest.
5. Illabot Creek- Paul Wagner presented what the USFS plans are for Illabot Ck road closure. It will cut access off to one of the most used trails in the area. It is a trail that all ages can use and goes to some of the most scenic settings. Discussion as to the costs of road closures and where the slide area is located (which is the reason for the closure) resulted in the FAB wanting to make sure the BoCC understood the situation. Paul will help draft a letter to the BoCC. There is also some- not a lot, of timber land that is in the area that at some date could be harvested. If they did some harvest then that would help keep the roads/trails open
6. Next year topics: NPDES, Pipeline grant, Class IV generals, State's General Budget re DNR 2% cut.

Adjourn: 8:58