



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST  
ADVISORY BOARD**

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Fred Loffer  
Kendra Smith, Staff

November 8, 2010

Present: Steve, Gordy, Lisa, Fred, Al, Dave, Tom, Tim, Chuck  
Guest: Sam Chang, Paul Wagner, Ben Cleveland and John Copper

- I. Minutes: Not ready – next meeting.
- II. Comments: Noted that there is a Biomass Crop assistant program- Same amount of money coming back. Primary will be hog fuel and some matching payments. Feds think they worked out the bugs from the first time through.
- III. Discussion Items:
  - a. Blanchard Mountain- Update given by Ben Cleveland and Kendra. There are 3 proposals for the new boundary (NRCA) that may be out by November 15<sup>th</sup>. Gave highlights on the field trip
  - b. Pipeline- Whatcom County has started regulating and Skagit is now looking into it. Skagit got a grant to do the study. This may actually lead to physical buffers. John Cooper said not much has been done yet. The grant was applied for by Carly and Kirk.
  - c. Forest Fish Policy- No new updates. Money is the biggest concern for science studies.
  - d. Illabot Creek- Paul Wagner helped FAB members compose a letter explaining the affects of the Forest Service closing Illabot Creek trail. The FAB voted unanimously to recommend to the Board of County Commissioner to relay this information to the Forest Service during their comment period and ask them not to close this road. The debate is whether it costs more to decommission the road or the cost of maintaining it. It was believed that unless there was a catastrophic failure, it would be cheaper to maintain. Paul Wagner noted that the bridge was built in 1967 and in 2003 there was a 100 yr flood that required a new replacement bridge to be put in. The new bridge was steel on and is in great shape. AS part of the proposal the FS will destroy the bridge eliminating all of the users from going up. People of all ages are currently using this area. It was also noted that ironically, the washed out portion will be reopened. Al commented that based on the FAB's guiding policies, this type fits into what is expected to be reviewed and passed on the BoCC.
  - e. Seattle City Light- The map that was sent to the FAB was enlarged by Josh at GIS for the FAB to review. It was pointed out that it shows how many acres are in the mitigation process.
  - f. Clean Water Act- This probably won't affect Washington Forest Practice Rules because they are already very restrictive.
  - g. FAB priorities for 2011- Think about this and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting.
- IV. Adjourn 8:40