



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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Minutes
January 9, 2012

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

Absent: Lisa, Steve, Tom,

Guest: Paul Wagner, Doug Couvelier, Bob Rose

- I. Call to Order: 7:00 a.m. Minutes for December will be ready for the next meeting. Kendra had an episode
- II. Discussion Items:
 - a. Cougar Peak Land Exchange- At the last meeting Tom gave a brief update of a land exchange. Bob Rose, consultant for Cougar Peak LLC., gave a formal briefing to the FAB on the details of the exchange. This will allow the DNR to consolidate some of their holdings as well as Sierra Pacific and allow the landowner to have a larger parcel. Cougar Peak LLC will have a forest management plan that they will follow for the management of their lands. The DNR will move forward with a State timber sale on the property just prior to the final exchange so that the Trust (Skagit County) will not be affected. It was pointed out that this appeared to be good management practices but over the course of time it really does take lands out of production. These are important to watch and ensure that there is not an erosion of the forest land base. FAB also hopes that the proposed management will actually occur. Bob will call Kendra to let her know when this will be going before the Board of Natural Resources.
This lead into a discussion on the open space taxation rule and 'how are those properties monitored?' that have this tax designation to ensure they are following a forest management plan. FAB wants to have more in depth discussions on this in the near future.
 - b. Legislative session bill discussions: Of noted concerns are House Bills 2008, 2286, 2388, 1157 and SB 6406 and 6093. As FAB members have updates they will pass them along.
 - c. Type N : More discussion on the need for good science. Kendra said she will going to the next FFP where there will be a discussion on the results of the CMER work.
 - d. CaRD amendment: Ken has been working with John Cooper to try and amend the CaRD so that if one is practicing on-going forestry they should not be subject to the CAO regulations, but the forest practice rules. The open space portion of the CaRD is the area that by code already must remain in a perpetual easement. This means there will not be a conversion and therefore on-going forest practices applied. John suggested some revisions such as Secondary Forest, Industrial Forest, Rural Resource and Agriculture designations should be exempt for a minimum building lot size of 20 acres. The FAB appreciated the work on this and said that they will review and offer some feedback.

- e. TDRs: Kirk Johnson from PDS gave an update on a grant that the County received regarding work on TDRs (transfer of development rights). He gave an overview of what he hopes the grant will allow the county to work on and wanted to know if the Foresters wanted a seat at the table. The FAB said they were very interested and wanted to be kept updated on the meetings and would be sending a representative. They noted that they wanted to be part of the Envision, however there was a requirement to not just do business and own land in Skagit County but that they had to live there as well- making it difficult since so few did and that of those many of them served on too many boards or are required to be out of town far too often.
- f. Illabot Creek- Paul Wagner updated the FAB on the USFS decision to ignore the comments from the County, the community and to go ahead and still close the road without providing justification that would counter what had been presented to them (USFS). There is still an appeal period.

III. Meeting Adjourned: 9:04