



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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Minutes
April 8, 2013

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

Absent: Paul, Aubrey

Guest: Bob Weidner (SC rep in D.C.), Dale P (PDS), Doug Couvelier (Upper Skagit Tribe)

- I. Meeting opened at 7:02 a.m. Welcome to guest.
- II. Public comment: none.
- III. Discussion Items:
 - a. Forest Practice: Kendra gave an update on the April meeting that was designated to the budget and CMER work plan. Extensive research and trending setting was not eliminated but was postponed due to the existing projects and the budget. Quick review of the Mass wasting report with the request to be prepared to vote on it in the May meeting. Type F stream identification has two independent meetings scheduled in May. FAB noted that the model is not accurate and that electrofishing is still necessary.
 - b. Federal programs that affect forests: Bob Weidner reported on what he has been working on in D.C., including reauthorization of the Secure Rural School and the need to open up harvesting on federal lands to help pay for necessary programs. He offered to get other timber counties involved with a FAB. He said he would offer the Skagit County FAB as a model to follow. Bob reported that Hastings bill will be heard on Thursday in the Natural Resource subcommittee in the House (there are 3 other similar bills coming from Colorado and Az and Id) and should raise the level of conversation. There are also 5-6 forest management bills. They will be asking for recommendations on areas in matrix lands suitable for harvest. Discussions continued on NEPA role and cumulative effects and yields. Gordy asked if cuts on matrix lands will be equal or greater than what can be harvested....how does this play out on MBSNF that only has 10% in matrix? He suggested that the Oregon letter should be modified to fit Skagit County and then send it to Larson, Murray, Delbene and Cantwell. The FAB talked about other support groups to get involved, which includes Gray's County, King County, NOAC and the WFF.
 - c. PDS report: Dale reported that the RFI was on the work plan (21 other programs were proposed) Shoreline update, Bayview Ridge, comp Plan amendments, are all on the list. He thinks that it will be this fall when they will work on RFI. Not sure who the staff will be, it may even be him. Dale said he heard that a tribe may not be in support and Doug Couvelier asked which one. The concern is most likely to be with the size of the amount of allowable land that can be in a FP application.
- IV. Adjourn. 9:00 a.m.