



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman
Lisa Cassidy Ken Osborn
Al Craney Chuck Parker
Gordon Iverson Tom Nelson
Paul Kriegel Aubrey Stargell
Tim Raschko Steve Tift
Fred Loffer
Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes 1-12-15

Present: Chuck, Ken, Al, Dave, Lisa, Gordy, Steve, Fred, Paul, Tom
Absent: Aubrey, Tim Guest: Doug Couvelier

I. Minutes: Al moved and Chuck seconded for approval. Unanimous.

II. Discussion items:

A. Board of Natural Resources (BNR) Update: Sustainable Harvest Calculation- The BNR has requested additional information from the DNR staff in order to get a better understanding of what will be the next 10 year potential harvests. This update is required every 10 years and the beneficiaries rely on it's its accuracy for their long term planning as well as for revenues. The marbled Murrelet studies have not been completed and they will have significant impacts on harvests. There was discussion about the need to convert some federal lands to trust to compensate for the HCP and additional habitat being removed. As noted, FAB should check with Ken to see if he has figures on how much there is in private costs to operate. Blanchard Update- the 5 plus 2 year extension for Blanchard agreement requires a renegotiation and/or harvests in the core area to begin after this leg session if funds are not obligated per the agreement. \$7.2 million is needed and it does not look hopeful due to the Governor's budget and all of the 'asks' for funding being requested. The FAB discussed in length and noted that in retrospect this was not an agreement that was beneficial for Skagit County for the long term since there was only a 1 time pay out, which did not take into consideration inflation or tree growth. They would recommend having the agreement sunset. They noted that those areas in the core would already be protected by the HCP and the forest practice rules. The mountain already has mixed use and a variety of individuals using it.

B. Forest Practice TFW: Presentations were given on wetlands as they relate to forest practices. The presenter noted that there were no studies done in forested areas to see what the impacts may be from harvesting. He only drew some hypotheses. It was apparent that studies would be necessary to be more conclusive. It appears that there are a lot of wetlands that may substantially limit harvesting. Unstable slopes – Glacial Deep Seated Board Manual 16 update- there are 7 chapters that are being reviewed. The Forest Practice Board (FPB) has requested that the content remain consistent but that the manual be cleaned up for consistency and comprehension. CMER conference will be Feb 11 and 12th with a leg reception to display why there is a \$5.5 million budget request for CMER projects. Electro-fishing on Jan 30th. FPB will be having its meeting the 3rd of Feb.

III. Elections: Tom moved and Paul seconded to re-elect Dave as chair and Aubrey as vice chair. Dave agreed if he could get some help for agenda items. All FAB said he had done a fantastic job and really liked having him serve. Unanimous.

IV. Restoring Healthy Forest: Al gave an update. There is a move to re-encourage active management on federal lands. Comments are supposed to be received by the 23rd of January. This does not give time to get information to the BoCC. Al recommended informing the BoCC about this with recommendation to respond. Paul felt that this information should be made available to the BoCC and recommended that the FAB follow up with this discussion regardless of the timing to make written comments and to contact local state and federal legislators and congress. Fred agreed and seconded. Vote will need to come at next meeting.

V. Finny Bridge: It was brought to the county's attention that the bridge (#17) up to the federal lands in the Finny was condemned to heavy log truck loads and needs repair. The FAB discussed.

VI. Adjourn: 9:00 a.m.