



**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  
March 13, 2015**

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

Absent: Steve and Fred

Guest: Samantha Chang USFS and Doug Couvelier Upper Skagit Tribe

I. Minutes: Ken moved and Tim seconded. Passed unanimous.

II. Updates:

1. Al presented a request from Kevin Zoberist who has a grant application in for continuing research on using the Big Leaf Maple for syrup. The application has made it through the first round and Kevin would like a letter indicating that the industry would support looking into this type of application for syrup. Paul moved and Gordy seconded stating that the FAB would support this and to have Dave Chamberlain would send a letter of support. Passed unanimous.
2. Al brought the notion of “transform USFS ownership”, which has been gaining popularity up, as a FYI. Many local governments want to take control of USFS lands. Samantha noted that other states have talked about this and it found to be unconstitutional. The cost of fighting it was cost prohibitive. She said studies showed that it would be cheaper for the Feds to continue managing the lands. Some folks were concerned about the hunting and fishing rights with a transfer. Paul noted that really only want lands that can be managed, not wilderness.

III. Discussion items:

A. TFW meeting: a) There have been two workshops since the FAB’s last meeting. The first was on electro-fishing and the other was on off-channel habitat (OCH). Kendra presented the idea of using bank full depth to determine OCH, which is really already in the Board Manual but in several sections. She shared a diagram that the FAB agreed made sense and was what was already happening in the field. Kendra said some caucuses were afraid that it wasn’t being done correctly and that the current language leads to uncertainties. They are therefore asking for a change in the Board Manual and Rule. (Note the current rule is interim). b) Other topics of discussion were the Small landowner template proposal. c) The UCUT tribe presented a study to investigate impacts from herbicide spray and wanted TFW to support it in the CMER work plan. d) The budget has a proviso for counties for the first time. Kendra has asked WSAC to pursue this funding. e) The governor has signed drought emergency proclamation. The 3 State departments (DOE, DRN and WDFW) have issued a memo regarding fish typing. Due to low flows a request for a change will probably not be accepted this year. f) Section 16, landslides, is in the final section on delivery.

B. Finny Bridge: It appears that it will be a replacement not a repair. FAB had some discussion on possible responsible entities to help share costs. Samantha said they may reissue some sales in the Finny area that will be bigger in hopes of getting some bidders.

IV. Adjourn 9:13 a.m.