



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST  
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Minutes 6/20/18

Present: Dave, Ken, Steve, Chuck, Fred, Al and Gordy

Absent: Lisa, Paul, Tom, Tim and Aubrey

Guest: Commissioner Janicki, Matt Comisky (AFRC), Dan Berentson, Dan McCarty (PW) and Mark Lundsten (Planning Commission)

1. Minutes: Ken moved and Chuck seconded to approve. Passed unanimous.
2. Discussion: Matt Comisky joined the FAB to give updates from AFRC perspective on state land issues. AFRC represents log buyers primarily. They are also part of a coalition with our beneficiaries (ports, schools, counties, libraries), Washington Communities and Schools. There were 3 items he shared:
  - a. Forest Service/Good Neighbor Authority: These are projects between USFS and the DNR, with the DNR administering. One is in Snohomish/Mt Baker. One on every National Forest in the State. FAB questioned how the DNR was going to keep up since they are already behind in their everyday workload. Consultants may be required. USFS gets their base rate and the DNR gets 25% admin fees and the rest goes back into the revolving account fund. Good news is that projects are starting up in the USFS lands where there have been so few for so very long.
  - b. Rule Change involving the school districts appropriation of funding. Schools in the junior taxing districts of the harvests will now be able to keep their proportionate share rather than having it go back to the state pool and distributed around. This may help incentivize tax payers to pass bonds since there will be money in accounts.
  - c. Marbled Murrelet: Lots of changes since the BNR approved going forward with the FEIS. There is now an alternative H that has come from the USFWS. Alternative G is the new DNR preferred alternative that has become more defined over the last couple of months. DNR staff has not been able to explain how they have done some of the analysis as they have come up with new numbers. The acres of set aside has a changed from 27,000 to 34,000. Alt G lowers the P-stage value so that more land will be set aside as preferred habitat. In their analysis, AFRC believes the P-stage evaluation is flawed. In the OEIS there will be no lands taken off-base now. It appears that under NEPA, all lands must be protected as identified in Alt A-F until the EIS is done- therefore a push to get it done. If Alt G is accepted even more land will be kept in protection. The revised EIS is supposed to be out in September. The economic analysis is not ready and DNR staff has stated that it will be coming out after to comment period. This appears to be very wrong since the economics is a factor that needs to be considered when dealing with trust lands. Gordy asked if there is a good path for Skagit County to follow in trying to get organized and speak with one voice. Possibly EDASC and the Port should get involved.
3. Mark Lundstem introduced himself and gave his back ground.
4. Healthy Forest Coalition: Nick Smith helping communities. There is a group helping the DNR write the Forest Health Plan.
5. Adjourn: 9:02 am.