



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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**Minutes
8/7/18**

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

- I. Introductions: FAB and Dan introduced again for all of the FAB members. Thank you for coffee from both Dan and Kendra
- II. Minutes: Paul moved and Tim seconded to approve. Passed unanimously.
- III. Discussion Items:

TFW Policy- Kendra explained the summaries of the results of the Hard Rock study (implications to the type N buffers). Questions for some of the caucuses had still not been fully answered, however, Policy did give the recommendation to move forward with the caveat that these be answered during the policy deliberations over the next 90 days. The findings showed that the temperatures had increased in some cases and not others in the harvested areas as well as in the unharvested study site. There is a recommendation to just average everything together. This has several caucuses wanting some more answers. Also, it has not been determined if the increase is significant enough to suggest a rule change. The FAB asked what science shows the link between temperature changes of this small amount. These studies were all done on Type N streams, which do not have anadromous fish. The study did show that the harvested areas had an increase in the amphibians (one of the reasons for the study was to see harvest effects on this threatened species). Ken noted that the flow of water has more of an impact to the water temperature. Unfortunately, at this time all type N streams with different flow rates are treated the same. FAB suggested that the CFS of the stream should be measured and buffer widths tied to the flow. Most of these areas are inner gorges that are already buffered by the rules. The FAB discussed the intermittent streams. Streams flow then go underground and resurface downstream. Should the upper portion be buffered since there are all sorts of affects to the temperature of a stream when it goes subsurface. Policy will have to have discussions on the cost benefit of increasing a buffer width. FAB throughout some rough calculations ... showing that it would cost millions in lost revenue in today's market. Again, this is above the fish present point. It was noted that about 40% of our wood products are coming from out of the country now while our wood is burning up and then rotting. Those other areas do not have regulations in place anywhere close to those of Washington let alone the US. It has become clear during discussions at Policy that the Tribes are frustrated about being part of the permitting process (they don't have the funds to go on ID teams in some areas) as well as the lack of permitting for other impacting land uses. They admitted that they are pushing much harder on forestry regulations because they can. Tom noted that an effort needs to take place to help the tribes get money, so they can be part of the ID teams and see what is happening on forest streams.

Public Education- FAB has been discussing how to continue informing the public on the rules, the benefits, the economics and the products of the forest products industry. Al has some information he'd like to share on the SLO from the conservation district perspective. All agreed that the first presentation should be of general information regarding forest lands within Skagit County. Each FAB member was asked to think of an education clip they would like to present.

Adjourn – 9:00 a.m.