



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST  
ADVISORY BOARD**

Dave Chamberlain, Chairman  
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Al Craney                Chuck Parker  
Gordon Iverson        Tim Raschko  
Fred Loffer              Aubrey Stargell  
Tom Nelson              Steve Tift  
                                 Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes  
9/8/21

Present: Dave, Ken, Al, Nick, Steve, Lisa    Absent: Tim, Tom, Fred, Chuck, Aubrey

Guest: Commissioner Browning, Doug Hooks WFPA

- I. Introductions Doug Hooks and Commissioner Browning
- II. Minutes: Due to time minutes and slow signing on of FAB members delayed until end of meeting. Note- July minutes were not voted on due to lack of quorum at August meeting. Since there was not a quorum for the last meeting the FAB decided to review the meeting notes and not accept official minutes.
- III. Discussions:
  - a. BNR Update: Comments made varied including 1. building accuracy in the inventory of trees before modeling another sustainable harvest calculation (DNR is starting the process for the next decade); 2. don't put sales up on lands that are now on base after adopting the MM strategy; 3. change the existing policies for managing and create longer rotations and consider younger trees older growth and off-base for harvesting. There was a fire season update, and updates on the Trust Land Performance Assessment and Trust Land Transfer program. DNR also gave an update on reports due as required by HB 1168.
  - b. Education Update: Nick, Commissioner Browning and Kendra shared the two meetings they had discussing educational possibilities. They noted reaching out to other organizations doing or teaching forest related topics. It was agreed that the biggest bang would be to promote a series in the schools. Getting information to the school districts maybe beneficial. There was also discussion on how to educate as many small landowners as possible in Skagit County on the benefits of forest management and future incomes. Due to time constraints, more time will be spent on this at the next FAB meeting.
  - c. Forest Practices Update: Most of the discussion at Policy was about Type N including the hard rock and soft rock studies, the WFPA proposal that is in dispute resolution, the Type N discussions on future buffers (along with the proposals put out by the counties and Eastside Tribes), and the Clean Water Act Assurances (CWA) including the desire by several caucuses to start CR 101 Rule -making on changing the rules for more buffering Type N waters.
  - d. Doug Hooks from Washington Forest Protection Association (WFPA) presented greater detail on CMER (science body) studies, the concerns WFPA has on the studies and water typing, their proposal and DOE's position on the CWA and rulemaking. There was an extended discussion and the FAB fully supported and urged Commissioner Browning to talk to the DOE Director, Dr. Watson, in order to: 1. to better understand DOE's position for pushing rulemaking before the Adaptive Management Program process had been concluded, 2. why Ecology wasn't acknowledging the progress being made at Policy with the commitment to start discussions prior to finale acceptance of the science (studies)

- e. and the proposals being presented 3. to take more of a leadership role accepting the AMP process, that there are 9 caucus that are all passionate and have valid concerns, and that a balanced outcome would be a successful outcome, and 4. not demand timelines that are not realistic creating more disruptive tension rather than problem solving atmosphere. The FAB would also like DOE to explain why there is such a rush when the science is not showing that there is harm to the aquatic species (specifically salmon), and that the .3 degrees C increase does NOT put the temperatures above the range for the salmonids. The FAB continued to discuss the CWA and what Washington State adopted for standards. There is discretion in the rule.
  - f. County forest taxation class: Ken gave a brief update and will discuss more at the next meeting on developing a public rating system for eligibility in the tax programs
  - g. Zoom will continue until further notice
- IV. Minutes: Next meeting due to time and FAB members leaving.
- V. Adjourn 9:15 a.m.