



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Tom Nelson Steve Tift
 Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes December 8, 2021

Present: Dave, Al, Tom, Tim, Aubrey. Absent: Steve, Ken, Lisa, Fred, Chuck and Gordy.

Guest: Nick Kunz

- I. Minutes: No quorum
- II. Discussions:

- a. TFW- The Anadromous Fish Floor (AFF) subgroup of the Forest Practice Board (FPB). Tom is a member of this committee and gave an update. The AFF is set to be in the permanent forest practices water typing rule and would establish the location where protocol fish surveys, to determine water type, may begin. The work from this group will tentatively go before the whole FPB for its final decision in February. The AFF was initiated by the Tribes, in an attempt to reduce electro-fishing and find the point to start the Fish Habitat Assessment Methodology (FHAM) -(being developed concurrently), recommended by Policy and accepted by the FPB in 2018. It is to set a gradient percentage to establish where a high percentage of anadromous fish don't go above. Fish and Wildlife maps (Statewide Integrated Fish Distribution (SWIFD)), analysis work by Terrainworks (consultants), Skagit-LFA, US Forest Service data, Squaxin Island Tribal data and Water Type Modification Forms (WTMF)) were all analyzed to be included in the final report that will be delivered on December 3rd to Tom's committee. Results thus far show that higher stream gradients (10%) within some of the AFF alternatives (alternatives A) pushed the AFF higher into the watershed as compared to Alternative D (Landowner alternative), which extend the shortest distance upstream. 10%, 7% and 5% were evaluated and compared to WTMF on file. under the Fish Habitat Assessment Methodology (being developed concurrently), thereby reducing electrofishing in waters that are presumed to have anadromous fish use.
The FAB had a discussion about what the committee has been presented and how this would affect forest practice applications in our region, Skagit. If a gradient of 5% is used, the ending point of anadromy would be closer to what current protocol surveys indicate as 'end of fish' used today. If higher gradients are used, this point is considerably higher up. If the starting point for typing F/N streams is pushed upstream (and no protocol surveys can be done below with the AFF in place), more streams will be classified further up with fish; thus, affecting buffering and some practices. 5-7% in Skagit County is about right.
- b. Clean Water Assurances- Laura Watson, DOE Director, just announced that she would extend the CWA for 1 more year. It was unfortunate that a unrealistic timeline was placed for 1 year.
- c. State Lands- SEPA scoping for the 20-25-2034 Sustainable Harvest Calculation (SHC) is open until December 9th. The FAB recommends the BoCC submit comments for the record. Note obligation to the to the Trusts, the need for a field based certainty of the State land inventory, impacts to county and Jr, taxing Districts and the numerous secondary markets as well as social and community.

- d. Tribal TFW meeting Update: Kendra gave a presentation on the potential impacts from conversions and the loss of parcels that are generally considered small landowners. The tribes were concerned that there is a loophole in the regulations under the 3F2P. If a landowner moves the new landowner is not responsible for putting in a culvert. The original landowner applies for the program is able to do a FPA and harvest while waiting to receive funding from this source. There was talk about the impacts of COVID on population shifts to rural areas with the ability to work from home.
- e. Shoreline Master Program update: Planning just received comments back from the DOE. They have been working on this since 2016.
- f. Education: FAB still struggling with next steps.
- g. Adjourn: 9:10 a.m.