



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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**Minutes
June 15, 2022**

Present: Steve, Gordy, Jamie, Aubrey, Dave, Ken, Lisa Absent: Kris, Chuck, Tim and Tom, Al

Guest: Matt Comisky and Will Honea

- I. Minutes: Moved by Gordy and seconded by Ken to approve April and May minutes with a clarification in the May minutes for carbon and stumpage values with carbon credits only being roughly 25% of stumpage. Passed unanimous.
- II. Updates: Women in Timber tour- about 30 people attended the tour. It was changed some to talk about carbon and not visit an actual logging site. Old Growth preserves were shown as well as how quickly trees grow in this area. 100 year old's could also be 16" diameters so message was that size does not indicate age. FAB discussed 2 studies that need to be distributed for the public to gain information- 1. CINTRAFOR
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgzGpGTJSgqVZQrqWhcwhzWNDhkDq?project=1&messagePartId=0.1> 2. NCASI
<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/1/#inbox/FMfcgzGpGTJSgqVZQrqWhcwhzWNDhkDq?project=1&messagePartId=0.1> Elaine O'Neil, Small Landowner Principle, has information. 12% of the carbon is sequestered on private lands and National Forests are net emitters of carbon in comparison to the DNR managed lands
- III. Education: FIT- Ken noted that he had a tour as well and that Nick Kunz joined them and they were able to talk about FIT and other topics like the Public Benefit Rating System for approval into an open space program. Ken would like to give an update on this every month. The tours help those that don't understand all the benefits of a forest learn about them and how they affect so many different professions. The Commissioner's need to decide what approach they'd like to take with the open space program and the FAB is willing to help in whatever capacity they can. It requires coordinating several County departments outside Commissioner's office.
- IV. TFW- Disputes are moving along with a couple of proposals. The counties, Court Stanley, provided one that may be workable by most of the caucus. Budget looks like it's on track for Policy adoption with some questions on progress of certain projects. FPB will be having a big meeting in August to finalize the Anadromous Fish Floor.

- V. Update on Settlement with DNR and County lawsuit on the Sustainable Harvest Calculation: Will Honea attended and explained to the FAB that AFRC has a settlement with the DNR and if the County agrees with it then they would be dropping their lawsuit. FAB was happy to see that it entailed getting better data on the DNR inventory. The lawsuit filled by Peter Goldman regarding the “trust status” (public verses fiduciary for beneficiaries) is still pending a decision from the Supreme Court.
- VI. Trust Land Transfer (TLT): Currently 80% of transfers go to the common school account and this is an attempt to re-tool and have more money to pay for purchasing new lands. It is to also include the State Forest Lands, which have the issue of junior taxing districts. DNR has 11 projects they will bring before the committee to see how the new ranking system will work. The hard issues still have not been addressed but the DNR feels they must meet the mandate set by the legislators for a report this fall. Ken mentioned the smaller communities dependent on revenues and then noted the Rural Communities Partnership Program
- VII. Adjourn: 9:00 a.m.