



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
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**Minutes
September 7, 2022**

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

Guest: Doug Hooks and Commissioner Janicki

- I. Minutes: Jamie moved Tim seconded to approve. Approved Unanimous.
- II. Updates: DOE Rule -making for Tier III water quality Outstanding Waters of the State for parts of the Cascade River in Skagit County. John Gold brought this to the FAB's attention. Previously the FAB had recommend to the Commissioner's to send a letter to DOE asking that this designation not be awarded to the Cascade River in Skagit. The Commissioners agreed and submitted those comments to DOE. There has not been any notifications or correspondence from DOE since that time. The press release is putting the public on notice that DOE will start Rule-making for this in the near future. A Tier II classification is the most restrictive and there are no waters with this in the State of Washington at this time. This area is not pristine there is a history of resource management, including logging and recreational uses. The FAB asked the question what is the problem that is trying to be fixed? There are DNR lands in the area as well as lands owned by a private property owner. The FAB will recommend to the BoCC that they once again request DOE not to invoke this classification. It is unclear what potential impacts could come from this designation to a resource county.
- III. TFW update: Doug Hooks gave an update on both the Type F and Anadromous Fish Floor (AFF) and the Type N proposals. The big problem is that there has been a shift away from the Adaptive Management (AM) process creating inconsistencies, lack of certainty and confusion on how to utilize outside scientific studies/data. This has stressed relationships and making it impossible to find consensus on any issue. The AM process was agreed upon by all and needs to be followed. Important Clean Water Assurance deadline are approaching needing a FPB decision this year (Nov their last scheduled meeting) and what proposal to adopt for deciding on an AFF (end of the year deadline had been given). It is believed that the Type N proposal is a split vote between the Industrial proposal and the DOE Proposal (DRN, Eastside Tribes neutral). There was discussion on the science for the Type N studies and Doug noted that the study was good just not the inference with only about a 1% occurrence in a basin. With only 3 sites it is unfair to inflict this on all landscapes/basins. Unusual weather (storm) created more issues as well. Missing and absolutely necessary is the intensive extensive

monitoring that had been promised with the inception of the AM Program. TFW should have been doing this since the beginning, which has not happened. There have been no discussions about economic impacts and what is the actual impacts. This minute temperature change is not an indicator of a problem.

- IV. NW Region Concerns: Since the DNR has brought on a replacement forester, a new geologist hired, there have been numerous calls inconsistent with similar calls from similar situations in the past. This is specifically with Category E under landforms. It is a catchall category in the FP rules for unstable slopes. The DNR staff is requiring the same work to be done as if they were a Class IV special rather than a Class III. This is increasing workload and costs up to \$5,000-\$6,000 that won't change implementation. FAB wants to continue this discussion and try to determine some sort of action to take.
- V. State Lands Update: Settlement Agreement was pulled from the BNR agenda. A 2-page PowerPoint was given on the Carbon Credit Program suggesting a 14-day comment period (therefore a Determination of Non-significance_ on the project. The power point was unclear as to when this would occur. All agreed that this was absolutely not long enough for comments on an issue with potentially significant impacts besides many unanswered questions still need answers.
- VI. Adjourn 9:15