



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

Present: Kris, Dave, Aubrey, Jamie, Chuck, Ken, Peter, John, Gordy and Al. Absent: Steve Guest: Nick Kunz (Conservation Dist), Susan David (Hampton) and Andy Caneday (Geo Engineers)

- I. Discussion: Forest Practice Applications NW Region, specifically regarding geology, rule indicators for unstable slopes and ID teams. For a period of time, since the new geologist, Josh ?, was hired at the NW office, DNR has backed off previous interpretations and appears to be taking direction from other entities and not following the WAC. New technology appears to be ultrasensitive creating the need to do Class IV specials. Class IV Specials are both time consuming and costly and have resulted in the same calls as if not used. There was discussion about the experience of the new DNR staff person and other factors creating this problem. It was noted that everyone had been affected recently by this change causing disruptions to harvest plans/timing. The big concern was the lack of consistency and predictability in calls being made by the DNR. There is no longer any dialog out in the field on the ID teams and often a second ID team has been called. The seasons are short to get applications approved. Ken noted that there is not a mechanism to appeal to a higher authority. Solutions mentioned were to try and get this as a topic for the TFW meetings, try to get a meeting with management and work with WFPA as a liaison. It was noted that there has been a large turn over of staff in the DNR geology department and a lot of history is missing. When Kendra talked to Doug Hooks from WFPA he said they were trying to get a meeting with all of the caucus geologists as a meeting of the minds but not sure when this would happen.
- II. Education Update; Nick has been working on a 1-day meeting for training due to the logistics of a longer seminar for the first time working with PEI. Lisa Perry and Gene Phillips have been helpful. He noted that the WSU extension office has lost a staffing person. Working on getting a list of small landowners <40 ac to work with.
- III. DOE Cascade Water typing: FAB concerned. They approved recommending to the BoCC to write a letter to DOE sharing concerns and asking that the Cascade River not be placed in a Tier III designation. FAB will put together recommended comments for the BoCC to consider during January. The hope is to get a letter to DOE early in the year. To consider: 1. What does this designation add that is not already in place? 2. Question what DOE (others) really want from this action 3. There is a lack of data showing why this is needed 4. Questions were not answered at the presentation.
- IV. General: Ken noted that this would be his last meeting serving on the FAB. He was told that he would be welcomed back any time and updates on the Small Forest Landowners would always be desired. Al asked if a mic could be placed in the meeting room to help for those on zoom and phone.