



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

Jamie Hillery, Chairman
Peter Janicki David Nielsen
Al Craney Chuck Parker
Gordon Iverson Tim Raschko
Kris McCall Aubrey Stargell
John Gold Steve Tift
Dave Chamberlain
Kendra Smith, Staff

Minutes
9/12/24

Present: Al, Jamie, Peter, Aubrey, John, Dave C., Gordy and Kris Absent: Steve, Tim, Chuck, David N.
Guest: Commissioner Janicki, Andy Geissler (AFRC- Federal Timber Program Director), Heath Curtiss
(Hampton Lumber-legal counsel public affairs), Matt Comiski (AFRC)

1. Minutes: July notice of meeting was acceptable by the FAB. Peter moved and Kris seconded to approved August minutes.
2. Discussion:
 - a. Comments- None
 - b. Nation Old Growth Amendment (NOGA): The FAB had two guests , Andy and Heath, helping explain the NOGA and some of the implications of the DEIS. Concerns regarding the NOGA included the lack of time for public and governing bodies to engage in the process, the timing of the Threat Assessment release and the development of the alternatives, the potential conflicts between the NOGA and the NWFP Amendment, the NEPA appeals due to conflicting policies and the scale of the NOGA (national) with respect to the vast diversity of regions and ecosystems. What will be a Plan and what will be done on the ground can b e conflicting. The NWFP already speaks to Old Growth and goes further into mature growth for protections. There was discussion a bout the economic impacts and the origin promises of both that have not been met. There was discussion on forest health and fire and the inconsistencies with on-ground decisions by the USFS. The Al moved, Gordy seconded, and approved unanimously to recommend to the BoCC to send a comment letter voicing the above mentioned concerns noting that the Preferred Alternative (Two) only be selected if the NWFP, with the proposed amendments, be a “cut-out” for our region for implementation purposes. Otherwise, the request should be to do nothing, Alternative One.
 - c. Water-Typing: After starting with inaccurate maps in 2005 for water-typing and concerns about too many ID teams and electro-fishing as well as the AFF add on, the FPB approved the following 2 motions: #1. Forest Practices Board direct staff to remove specific AFF criteria and directly associated language from the draft proposed water typing rule and proceed with developing a CR-102 rule making package based on the remaining rule elements as recommended by TFW Policy. And that the FPB direct staff to

describe the AFF concept implementation procedures in the draft Board manual 23. #2 the Forest Practices Board direct staff to remove specific PHB criteria and directly associated language from the draft proposed water typing rule and proceed with developing a CR-102 rule making package based on the rule elements as recommended by TFW Policy previously approved by the Board. And that the Board direct staff to describe all potential habitat breaks in the draft Board Manual Section 23. The first motion was a 7-6 vote and the second a 12-1 vote. The conservation caucus was very disappointed.

- d. State Lands: Matt explained the concerns about the criteria being used for the Trust Land Transfer Program. Commissioner Janicki added to the discussion about her concerns. All sales were approved for September.
 - e. TFW Policy Small Landowner Alternative Plan After years of trying to get a template or an alternative plan to help the SLO, Policy voted on a thinning plan agreed upon by all but the conservation caucus. It is not in dispute.
 - f. FAB noted how few sales there are in our area creating concern.
3. Adjourn 9:12