



**SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST
ADVISORY BOARD**

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Minutes
1/8/2025

Present: Aubrey, Dave C, Kris, John, Steve, Peter, Gordy, Al, Jamie Absent: David, Tim,
Chuck Guest: Commissioner Janicki, Matt Comiski, Robby Eckroth (PDS)

1. Minutes: There were no minutes for December. FAB attended the Board of Natural Resources meeting in lieu of scheduled meeting.
2. No public comments
3. Updates: Aubrey shared the sale of Great Western and the new ownership of a Canadian firm. They will be taking 5” cedar and nothing under 12” for all other.
4. State Lands: BNR- all sales were approved with great protest from some who claimed everything should be put on hold until the new lands commissioner takes office. There was a lengthy discussion on net pens and land exchanges. One exchange involved the DNR taking on more commercial real estate, the Hagen market complex in Bellingham, to ‘broaden’ its portfolio. It was approved with some concerns. This exchange will be completed with a July 1st target. There was a discussion summarizing the last carbon workgroup meeting where preliminary results on the modeling were discussed. It appears from a preliminary and general perspective, the sweet spot for rotation is 60 years and that the current DNR operations are really the best balance between carbon sequestered and economics. Surprisingly, longer rotations with ramped up thinning was not as beneficial as presumed by some. There were unanswered questions the consultants will be examining and bring back answers to at the next meeting. There is concern over how long it will take the new lands commissioner to get up to speed and working on the SHC.
5. Federal Lands: It was announced that the NOGA has been dismissed. The comments on the DEIS for the NWFP Amendment are due March 17th. There is not a preferred alternative, but one that is very similar to what the Advisory Committee proposed, Alt B. Alt C is less harvesting and less treatment for fire resilience and Alt has more harvesting for economics and an aggressive fire resilient scheme.

6. Comprehensive Plan-Climate Element: Robby joined the FAB meeting and noted that if the FAB can get comments to PDS by the end of February then PDS would be able to put them in the packet to the PC for its review; and then for public comment. He did note that there would be time in the future to make more comments to this 'new' element. FAB delivered some examples to PDS illustrating its intent on being involved and the types of policies that should be added. FAB explained that forest management is a key essential part of reducing greenhouses gases, and necessary to wildfire resilience.
7. TFW: Public comments for the CR-102 Water-typing Rule will be held in Skagit on the 21st of January. Very important to support what the FPB put forth in August. The Board Manual and Rule language will need attention as this moves forward. Several FAB noted they will be commenting on different aspects of the Rule and how the FHAM is a balanced approach to stream classification.
8. Adjourn 9:30

The Carbon Workshop committee met but was unable to have discussions on the modeled scenarios due to a 'glitch' in the data. It will now roll out at the December meeting. The contract will need to be amended, and final outcomes/recommendations will probably be July 2025. The FAB noted that it will be important for the BNR to see the bigger picture of carbon and the landscape, including what the carbon footprint may become if wood is no longer sourced locally.

9. Forest Practice Board – The FPB voted on the proposed rule language for the water-typing rule. The Tribes and conservation Caucuses had hoped to change the proposed language by adding the AFF back in. The Board manual is being developed and it was noted that this is where there needs to be close supervision to ensure there are no additions that could be impactful. Type N rule making is delayed with the cost benefit analysis being developed. Grey squirrel listing only in Washington State. Compliance monitoring showed that there is 98%+ compliance (and this has been the norm). FAB questioned why it has taken so long to get the effectiveness monitoring up and running. Policy still getting push back on this, however it is in the Mater Project Schedule approved by the FPB. Dispute Resolution is in play on the SLO alternative plan for thinning. It appears it will not get resolved and Stage 2 will be implemented. There is now some hesitation by a couple of the caucuses as to whether they now support the Plan as it was presented and voted on at Policy. The vote at Policy was all in favor except Conservation. The issue of Outside science was again discussed and there appears to be a stand off from the Conservation Caucus and ES Tribes. This will probably be going to dispute in December.
10. NW Region issues – This will be discussed at the next FAB meeting. Bridges wer discussed again regarding permits for overweight trucks vs being able to close the bridge to a single lane for transport across. Public Works will be invited to the Feb meeting to discuss and update.
11. Adjourn - 9:02