



#### SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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

#### Minutes

October 8, 2025

Present: Gordy, Joel, Aubrey, Steve, Jamie, Kris, Dave, Tim, John, Peter and Al

Absent: David

Guest: Erin Uloth USFS Supervisor, Ted Ness Mt Baker Ranger, Matt Comiski, Nick, Rob Walters Conservation District, and Commissioner Janicki

- I. Minutes: Aubrey moved and Jamie seconded to approve questioning the word 'lament'
- II. Discussion:
  - a. USFS Good Neighbor Authority and relationship with Skagit County. Erin and Ted joined the FAB to talk about the forest health, potential harvesting and developing a direct relationship with Skagit County for future projects on the Mt Baker Snoqualmie National Forest. A great discussion on all accounts with the consideration for more exploration and follow ups. The Forest Action Plan (sub-sets and/or stand-alones) with dollars from the feds, NW Forest Plan, direct relationship with Skagit County, types of projects, and DNR involvement were touched upon with acknowledgement that these would be evaluated for potential avenues for partnerships. Erin said she'd get back to the FAB on what she can find on the relationship with the Good Neighbor Authority and how to move forward. There was discussion about the number of sales on the MBSNF and how few there are compared to years ago (1.7 million). Active management focus with some multipurpose outcomes. Neff said he expected the same amount for FY 26. The group talked about leveraging partners for workforce. Roads/bridges can be a limiting factor due to costs. FAB noted they want the USFS to be successful and that will help with many issues. All agreed logistics is the issue and would like to continue the discussions and work through some of the dilemmas. Last thought....PILT as seed money to start USFS sales. Focus will be on sales in the Finny block

and near Baker River basin. It was also noted that there really is very little 'matrix' lands within the MBSNF in Skagit, mainly LSR and Wilderness. Staffing for the USFS is an issue. FAB discussed the 'hard dates' within the sale contracts noting that it's a desired outcome verses perception. Nick noted conservation district needs to be 'annexed' in the Skagit Hazard Mitigation Plan to be a partner. (The CWPP needs to be referenced to get grant funding.) The Plan will also include post fire work.

- b. State Lands: Timber sales were approved with Reykdal opposing several. Reykdal said that he would listen to elected officials and their desires on local sales. There has been no work on the SHC and the DNR staff has not reported on the budgetary projections for the agency. Lisa said she'd call Randy Johnson, BNR, to ask for budget projections, which she had asked for while on the board. There were still no sales in Skagit.
- c. Other – Blanchard Agreement: The Blanchard Advisory Committee agreed to write a letter to the PLC Upthegrove raising concerns about taking acres for harvest within the agreement out in order to implement his vision of the removal of 77,000 ac of older trees from the State Lands landscape. Two letters were written. The first had stronger language acknowledging that no acres should be removed and a consensus agreement had been reached, which included the DNR. The second letter was softer. The FAB did not have time to discuss (a last-minute item to the agenda) but initial reaction was for the stronger letter.

III. Next meeting will be announced due to FPB and several other commitments by FAB

IV. Adjourn 9:00 a.m.