



SKAGIT COUNTY FOREST ADVISORY BOARD

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Minutes 6/11/25

Present: Jamie, Dave, John, Aubrey, Al, Steve, Kris, Peter Absent: Tim, David, Chuck, Gordy
Guest: Commissioner Janicki, Matt Comiski

- I. Minutes delayed to next meeting
- II. Updates: The Deming Log Show will be this coming Friday. The PLC is expected to attend later in the morning. No Comments from the public. Timber County meeting 6/12/25.
- III. State Lands: The results of the BNR timber sales for the fiscal year 2025 had 645 MBF planned and only 391 MBF have been sold and of that amount, sales were pulled due to Upthegrove pausing sales that may have maturation characteristics. The proposed sale in Skagit County, Honest Abe, was pulled from the packet, which left only 2 sales for the BNR to approve. The DNR staff commented that there are generally fewer sales at the end of the fiscal year. For the 3rd consecutive month and since the state of the “new” procedure for signing up for public comments, the percentage of comments have been 25-30% supporting sales and the beneficiaries with the remainder supporting no sales. Next month will be 7 months since the pause, which was to be for 6 months as the PLC decided what to do with sales he had pulled. There has been no mention about the topic being presented to the BNR. Commissioner Janicki asked the PLC how DNR was going to manage budgetary restraints with the limited sales and pulled sales. (It was noted that the DNR staff gave a presentation last year indicating they were coming very close to the operating limit where they would not be functional. Commissioner Janicki noted that tis was 2026.) The PLC said he was keeping a ‘close eye’ on everything. The DNR staff presented the 2nd of two presentations on the state of the State Lands. Staff noted that there have been accomplishments, however, there are many challenges approaching with the programs due to budgetary constraints. This will affect road building, silviculture, seed farm to name a few. There were a couple land transfers. Money came from the leg and it was intended to help the encumbered counties. FAB

discussed the SHC, which appears to not be progressing, and the fact that there are 1,000 constraints put into the model for the east side and 4,000 for the west side according to DNR staff. The Carbon workgroup will have more to add depending on what the BNR decides once they get the final report. The workgroup is currently finalizing it's work and the outcome of the various scenarios. Matt noted that current practices may still be the 'sweet spot' for carbon storage and the beneficiaries.

- IV. Forest Practice Board: There was discussion on the FPB meeting. The FPB held its Special Meeting on 6/6/25 to discuss and approve rule making for water typing and Type N buffers. The FPB approve CR 103, the last step, for the Water-typing rule. This will go into effect January 1st after staff has had a chance to train and update information packets. Board Manual 23, which gives guidance, was also approved with the caveat that work will continue on refining both the AFF and the PHBs. The Conservation caucus was the only nay vote. The majority of the meeting was allocated to the Type N buffer rule proposal and whether to move it forward to a CR-102. Skagit County provided both written and verbal comments. There were 2 cost benefit studies done with all 3 showing significant costs to industry and counties. One of the studies indicated the benefits (environmental) out weighted the jobs and social impacts to communities. The costs of two of the studies showed the numbers to be 5-8 billion for western Washington. Skagit County will be significantly impacted by the proposed rule. Unfortunately, the impacts to the environment were not scientifically supported and the minimal increase of water temperature for a temporary period of time does not impact salmon, which has been the indicator. DOE claims the water cannot rise at all due to climate change and warming temperatures. The vote was 5-4 to approve the rule moving forward. Counties did not have a representative, the DNR changed its previous vote to now supporting the rule, the Departments of Commerce and Ag both abstained from the vote. There will be open public hearings at regional DNR offices on the western side starting probably at the end of July. It is anticipated the final CR-103 will be before the FPB at its November meeting.
- V. Federal Lands: Discussion for next FAB meeting....what can Skagit do to be proactive? Possibly send a letter to the USFS asking for increased harvesting. Make the request specific to Skagit County needs.
- VI. Teacher's Workshop: July 14-16
- VII. Peter Burns: no update due to other time pressing issues.
- VIII. Adjourn 9:20 a.m.