

**BEFORE THE SKAGIT COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER**

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION**

**Applicants:** John C and Roberta K Hunter

**Address:** 5043 Wildlife Acres Lane  
Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284

**File No:** C/UTMB3-2008

**Request:** To include approximately 10 acres in the Current Use Timber Program.

**Location:** South and Southeast of Prairie Road within Sec. 34, T36N, R4E, W.M.

**Assessor's No:** Portion of P50663

**Public Hearing:** After reviewing the report of the Assessor's Office, the Hearing Examiner conducted a public hearing on August 27, 2008.

**Recommendation:** Approval

## **FINDINGS**

1. John C. and Roberta K Hunter have filed an application for inclusion of approximately 10 acres in the Current Use Timber Program. They are the owners of the property.
2. The property is located south and southeast of Prairie Road, within Sec. 34, T36N, R4E., W.M. It is the north half of parcel #P50663, comprising 10 acres.
3. The parcel has been continuously managed as forest land for several decades. The applicants purchased it in 1987 and have followed a forest management plan drafted by the Soil Conservation District.
4. Presently the west half of the parcel consists primarily of Douglas fir with some Western Red Cedar, hemlock and alder. The east half is a mixture of alder, vine maple and broad leaf maple. Some conifers are also present. The parcel is divided by a seasonal stream that flows into the Samish River. The tree stands are healthy.
5. The west half is being managed so as to produce a commercial harvest in 2028. The east half is being allowed to reforest naturally with the goal of producing a stand of sustainable hardwood firewood and marketable Red Alder.
6. A Timber Management Plan was prepared by Amanda Gibbons, Professional Forester. The plan appears to comply with RCW 84.34.020 and RCW 83.34.041.
7. The Staff Report and Exhibits submitted by the Assessor's Office are attached hereto and incorporated herein.
8. The hearing was held after due notice. There was no public testimony and there were no written comments.
9. The Examiner finds that the property meets the definition of the classification sought.
10. The Staff recommends approval. The Examiner concurs with Staff.

## RECOMMENDATION

The Examiner recommends approval of the application, subject to the following condition:

At the time of harvesting, the applicants shall comply with the requirements of the Department of Natural Resource in regard to the harvesting of timber.



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Wick Dufford, Hearing Examiner

Date: September 11, 2008

Copies transmitted: September 11, 2008