

BEFORE THE SKAGIT COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

Applicants: Robert Jarvis

Address: 792 Shaw Road
Bellingham, WA 98229

File No: Current Use Timber Application #04-2011

Request: To include approximately 10.96 acres in the Current Use Timber Program.

Location: 18593 Colony Road, Bow, SE1/4NW1/4 (West of Colony Road and East of Highway 5) Sec. 18, T36N, R4E, W.M.

Assessor's No: P49424

Public Hearing: After reviewing the report of the Assessor's Office, the Hearing Examiner conducted a public hearing on February 8, 2012.

Recommendation: Approval


FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On December 30, 2011, Robert and Pamela Jarvis filed an application for inclusion of approximately 10.96 acres in the Current Use Timber Program. They are the owners of the property.
2. The property is located at 18593 Colony Road, Bow, within SE1/4NW/4 Sec. 18, T36N, R4E, W.M. The parcel lies west of Colony Road and east of Interstate 5. The parcel number is P49424.
3. The property is roughly triangular in shape, and relatively flat. A stormwater ditch originates along I-5 to the west and flows across the property to the east towards Friday Creek. The parcel is undeveloped, providing good habitat for native fauna. The applicants have owned it since 1989.
4. The site is timbered with Douglas fir, red alder, red cedar and western hemlock. There are occasional big leaf maple, spruce and black cottonwood. The trees vary from seedlings to mature. Understory plants include Oregon grape, western swordfern, western brackenfern, salmon berry and vine maple.
5. There is a pipeline easement running north/south across the easterly portion of the site which will be kept free of permanent growth. The area may be used for staging seedlings for transplanting.
6. The plan is to manage the property for timber growth. Harvesting and replanting will be in small areas as trees mature or become windfalls. Removal will be by hand tools and small rubber-tired equipment. Replanting will be conducted as soon feasible after harvest. Seedlings will consist primarily of Douglas fir and red cedar. Weeds and brush will be controlled by mechanical means.
7. A Timber Management Plan was prepared and submitted. The plan appears to comply with RCW 84.34.020 and RCW 84.34.041. The applicant has experience in managing timber land.
8. The Staff Report and Exhibits submitted by the Assessor's Office are incorporated herein.
9. The hearing was held after due notice. There were no written comments. There was no public testimony.
10. The Examiner finds that the property meets the definition of the classification sought.
11. 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 Resources in regard to the harvesting of timber.


Wick Dufford, Hearing Examiner

Date: February 17, 2012

Copies transmitted to Applicants, Assessor's Office, County Commissioners: February 17, 2012