

BEFORE THE SKAGIT COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

Applicants: Brenda M. Lavender

Address: 2306 17th Street
Anacortes, WA 98221

File No: C/UTMB#6-2006

Request: To include approximately 9.15 acres in the Current Use Timber Program.

Location: 12984 Summit Trail, portion of Lot 2 Short Plat #PL04-0070 in Sec. 9, T34N, R2E, W.M.

Assessor's Nos: Portions of P106855 and P122093

Public Hearing: After reviewing the report of the Assessor's Office, the Hearing Examiner conducted a public hearing on January 24, 2007.

Recommendation: Approval

FINDINGS

1. Brenda M. Lavender has filed an application for the inclusion of approximately 9.15 acres to the Current Use Timber Program. She is the owner of the property.
2. The property is located at 12984 Summit Trail, in a portion of Lot 2 of Short Plat #PL04-0070 in Sec. 9, T34N, R2E, W.M. The property is a portion of Assessor's parcel numbers P106855 and P122093. The 9.15 acres remain after a one-acre homesite is subtracted.
3. Lot 2 has extreme elevation change with steep slopes and vertical cliffs. The forest cover consists of a single stand of young Douglas fir trees and older trees including Big Leaf Maple, Western Red Cedar and Hemlock. There is a flourishing understory of shrubs at the lower elevations. The higher elevations are rocky and dry, not suitable for growing conifers.
4. A Forest Management Plan was prepared and submitted. The goal of the owner is to restore and maintain a diverse forest, enhance wildlife habitat, establish walking trails and share knowledge acquired from the Forest Stewardship Coached Workshop. The plan includes removal of invasive species, some plantings, improvement of an existing pond for habitat, and the securing a forested buffer from neighboring property to the west.
5. The Timber Management Plan appears to comply with RCW 84.34.020 and 84.34.041.
6. The Staff Report and Exhibits submitted by the Assessor's Office are attached hereto and incorporated herein.
7. The hearing was held after due notice. There was no public testimony. There were no written comments.
8. The Examiner finds that the property meets the definition of the classification sought.
9. The Staff recommends approval, with a condition. The Examiner concurs with Staff.

RECOMMENDATION

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

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



Wick Dufford, Hearing Examiner

Date: February 13, 2007

Copies transmitted: February 13, 2007