

**BEFORE THE SKAGIT COUNTY HEARING EXAMINER**

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION**

**Applicants:** Robert Guffie and Jeffrey Benham

**Address:** 1100A E. College Way  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

**File No:** C/UTRTMB#8-2007

**Request:** To include approximately 15.85 acres in the Current Use Timber Program.

**Location:** South of Wood Road in the Bow area, being Lot 1 of SP#PL06-0909 within a portion of NW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 26, T36N, R3E, W.M.

**Assessor's No:** P48301

**Public Hearing:** After reviewing the report of the Assessor's Office, the Hearing Examiner conducted a public hearing on December 5, 2007.

**Recommendation:** Approval

## **FINDINGS**

1. Robert Guffie and Jeffrey Benham have filed an application for inclusion of approximately 15.85 acres in the Current Use Timber Program. They are the owners of the property.

2. The property is in the Bow area within a portion of the NW1/4NE1/4 Sec. 26 (lying south of Wood Road), T36N, R3 E., W.M. The property is Lot 1 of Short Plat #PL-06-0909, P48302. Access is via Wood Road. This 15.85 acres is a portion of a larger tract classified as Designated Forest per RCW 84.33.130 in 1975.

3. The request is to transfer the acreage to Open Space Current Use Timber per RCW 84.34.020(3).

4. The forested area consists of a mixed stand of native hardwoods (Red Alder, Birch, Bigleaf Maple) and scattered conifers (Western hemlock, Western Redcedar, Douglas Fir). The smaller trees are 10 years old. The larger trees are 60+ years of age. The owner's intent is to maintain and manage the trees for wildlife habitat, watershed management and recreation, and ultimately to provide a return on the investment through harvest. .

5. A Forest Management Plan was prepared by David Anderson, Forestry Consultant. The plan appears to comply with RCW 84.34.020 and RCW 84.34.041.

6. The Staff Report and Exhibits submitted by the Assessor's Office are incorporated herein.

7. The hearing was held after due notice. There was no public testimony and there were no written comments.

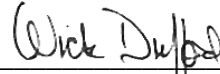
8. The Examiner finds that the property meets the definition of the classification sought.

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



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Wick Dufford, Hearing Examiner

Date: December 31, 2007

Copies transmitted to Applicant: December 31, 2007