

**From:** Gary Hagland  
**To:** [PDS comments](#)  
**Subject:** Permitting of Non-Motorized Trails in the Industrial Forest - Natural Resource Lands (IF-NRL) Zoning  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 01, 2017 2:27:35 PM

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The Skagit County Chapter of the Citizens Alliance for Property Rights (CAPR) opposes the change to SCC 14.16.410. As we understand it, a favor to the Mayor of Darrington by one of our County Commissioners is the reason that P&DS is suggesting that Skagit County code be changed to allow non-motorized trails in industrial forest lands without permits. This seems like a process of overkill, especially, as only a few miles of extended trail from Snohomish County is involved. That the entire code needs to be changed for this small exception makes us wonder what the end game is for those who have drafted and are promoting this proposal.

Several questions:

- 1) The period for comment on this code change, which is a significant departure from normal county policy, from notification to Planning Commission public hearing, is only two weeks. That, in itself, raises suspicions. Why was there not a longer period for comment as is customary? Why the hurry?
- 2) There was no Planning Commission meeting scheduled for August 1<sup>st</sup>, but suddenly a special public hearing was called? Again, what is the reason for the rush?
- 3) What forestry professionals, especially from the private sector, were consulted during the drafting of this code change?
- 4) We understand that the next meeting of the Forest Advisory Board is Thursday morning. Are the members of that board aware of the code change and have they had sufficient time to deliberate and comment?
- 5) The closing period for written public comment on this matter is 4:30 PM PDT, August 1, 2017, which is prior to the public hearing scheduled for that evening. This is another departure from normal procedure when written comment is typically allowed several days after the hearing. Why?

In summary, the Skagit Chapter of CAPR thinks that the change to the code negating the permitting of trails on industrial forest lands is bad policy, will undoubtedly lead to undesirable consequences, raises suspicions because of its rushed nature and will eventually be the precedent cited to allow other county natural resource lands to be crossed with trails without a permitting process. We think land use decisions should require at least of modicum of deliberation and input from all factions of the public.

Sincerely,

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