

Minutes of
Community Development Services
Study Session

January 27, 2003

Those Present: Bruce Coe, Perry Huston and Max Golladay

Also Present: Howard Briggs, Louis Musso, Don May, Chuck White, David Taylor and Catherine Dunn

Wilderness Areas

Howard Briggs, representing the WA ST Snowmobile Association, explained that the US Forest Service is expanding the Alpine Lake Wilderness Area and have asked for comments on the proposed expansion.

Perry Huston asked when the public hearing on this was. **Don May** said that they were not holding a public hearing but only an open house.

Briggs went on to explain that this new proposal would cause problems for snowmobile enthusiasts. There were only two choices given, that of no action or to approve the entire expansion. **Huston** said that the no action alternative was fine with him.

Briggs went on to explain that the Forest Service had a 3 year study of 10 parcels in the County from Snoqualmie Pass to Salmon La Sac. He said that his group was not against adding parcels to the Wilderness Area but that some of the parcels listed were not suitable and were used by snowmobiles. Those he cited as not suitable were Parcels 8, Scatter Creek, Parcel 9, Lake Ann and Parcel 10, Van Epps Pass. The reasons he stated were the number of roads and motorized uses in this area. He said that Sonny O'Niell, USFS said that there would be a buffer on each side of the road particularly Van Epps Mine RD.

With no alternative actions from the Forest Service, **Briggs** said, our group would have to support the no action alternative.

Max Golladay said that the Board would have to agree with their position. The elimination of some snowmobile areas would have a severe economic impact on the Cle Elum area.

Don May said that while grooming roads for snowmobile use, they had kept a count of the amount of snowmobiles that were in the area for the weekends of January. On January 18, 393 snowmobiles of which $\frac{3}{4}$ went into Fish Lake RD, on January 20, 74 sleds and on January 24, 425 sleds. He estimates that the effect for his business would be one third, which would affect the 24 people that

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he hires. He hoped for support from the Board of County Commissioners in the form of a letter opposing the expansion.

Golladay said that he didn't know how he would draft a letter which would quantify the amount of wilderness needed. He said that the Board could remind the USFS of the criteria for the wilderness areas.

Perry Huston said that the Board could write something up and put it on the agenda for February 4.

Briggs said that Doc Hastings needs to receive the letter. This decision would be made in Washington DC and Congress.

Golladay asked for a list of who the group thought should receive copies of the letter.

Bruce Coe said that the Board would draft a good, strong letter to as many people as necessary.

Briggs said that this expansion was added only to the I-90 land swap bill by Patty Murray's office.

Briggs gave the BOCC a list of 40 businesses in the Cle Elum/Roslyn area who have signed a letter against the expansion. He noted that Patty Murray has also tried to get a wilderness area around Index, but the folks in Cle Elum are not duped by the addition of the expansion onto other legislation. He added that if the lowering of the speed limit on the Salmon La Sac RD put so many letters in the paper, what would this lowering of the number of snowmobile areas do.

Coe asked how many miles of roads would be affected. **May** answered that he grooms 160 miles of map roads all with offshoots which might add up to about 400 miles. The report says that 5,000 acres would be closed by this action.

Briggs added that the snowmobile group would be sending information to Doc Hastings' office. **Golladay** suggested having the membership of the State snowmobile association write to Patty Murray about this and **Coe** suggested getting Rep. Hinkle to write a letter opposing the expansion.

Louis Musso said that if it would be helpful, he could write a report from the recreation information he has. This would be using the Forest Service's own data. **Briggs** added that 44% of the Wenatchee Forest is already wilderness.

Perry Huston said that this needs to be more than a 4th District issue. **Golladay** said again that the Board would draft a letter.

Chuck White said that his business wouldn't be as affected as others but they needed to be pro-active.

Briggs thanked the Board for listening. He said that if this effort wasn't stopped, the Forest Service would just keep adding parcels. He added that the deadline is February 18.

CDS Fees

CDS Fee Amendment was tabled to next week.

Building Handout

David Taylor reported to the Board that Rob Omans and Dan Davis, plans examiners have worked hard to give people enough information to turn in a complete application. He handed out the draft handout.

Taylor said that he had received comments that the building inspectors were not inspecting to the most recent plumbing codes. The plumbers were using the most recent codes and being corrected to the 1997 codes. He said that the Board should expect some code updates to bring the department up to date.

When asked if surrounding counties were using the 2000 codes, **Taylor** said that most are going to the ICBO (International Conference of Building Officials) codes.

Ridgeway short plats

Taylor reported that things were progressing along with Paul Bennett and the short plats. He said that he was looking into Group B wells. The signed short plats indicate the approval was for individual wells. He added that no one inspects the wells, but the county would have to look at each of these short plats.

Miscellaneous

There was some discussion of new bills including SB 5333, concerning water trust. **Max Golladay** expressed concern over Senator Honeyford and Governor Locke's water bills.

Taylor reported that the Shorelines Rewrite was on the Department of Ecology website. They discussed the need for a visit with the Farm Bureau to arrive at a strategy.