



**Nisqually River Council
Citizens Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2012
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge**

CAC Members Present: *Deborah Crosetto, Paul Crosetto, Mary Foster, Otis Bush, Robert Smith, Marjorie Smith, Steve Pruitt, Jean Shaffer, Karelina Resnick, Sunny Thompson*

Staff Present: *Ashley Von Essen, Justin Hall*

Presentation

Jean Shaffer

Eco-Forestry

Jean attended college in order to make a difference in the world of environmental forestry. She wanted trees and plants to have the opportunity to grow, as opposed to being clear-cut, slashed, and burned. Jean learned that through the use of Natural Selection Eco-forestry, foresters could still log while allowing the trees to continue the processes of succession. This approach not only protects the ecosystem and its inhabitants, but also embraces the culture of the Nisqually people by respecting the natural world and living sustainably. This method embraces the needs of the forest, where as human-centered forestry aims to meet the need of humans.

Nature begins at ground zero and will continue until it reaches stages of old growth. Succession begins with ground cover, which works to retain moisture into the soil. The moisture promotes growth of the seeds that make their way to the forest floor. As they begin to germinate, they grow above the first row of succession and this process is repeated as growth enters the forest canopy. As thinning treatments are applied or trees are naturally selected, the canopy opens allowing sunlight to hit the forest floor, changing the composition of the forest.

There are five basic indicators that natural selection is occurring in Douglas fir trees. These physical characteristics can be spotted as one walks through a forest. If trees of a similar age are considerably more slender than others or if the tree is growing up and not out, creating a pyramid shape, the tree is going through the natural selection process. Also, if the tree is growing over the top of the canopy or only has 20% of its branches remaining, it is going through the process. One last sign to look for is that of the cracks that form on the tree's bark. If the bark between the crack are grey, the growth of the tree has ceased.

Natural selection also includes natural disturbances that can take out trees, for example, fire, lightening and other forms of weather such as this winters snowstorm. These occurrences have the power to open up the canopy, allowing germination to take place on the forest floor, promoting growth.

Jean would embrace this forestry system and apply it to her own 20 acres. Her management plan would begin with the removal of the trees that had been naturally selected. Figuring out how to remove the trees from the forest would become the tricky part. To make the process easier, an on-site mill was added. She also installed a series of test plots to record and monitor the condition of her parcel when she began this

technique and to measure its effects over time. Jean also underwent the process of Forestry Stewardship Council (FSC) Certification, which was difficult only having 20 acres of land. Jean and her husband would then utilize the harvested Doug fir to make furniture and other products.

Welcome, Introductions, Minutes, & Agenda Approval

Deborah Crosetto called the meeting to order at 12:30.

There was a motion to approve December's meeting minutes as presented. Meeting minutes were approved.

CAC Proposals

Meeting locations

- Ideas for the next location:
 - Wilcox Farms, following the NRC Meeting in April.
 - Steve Pruitt offered his home for the next meeting, if at night and on a different day than NRC meetings.
- Should we move the meetings back to evening hours to add to participation of other community members? This will be discussed in more detail at the April meeting.

Upcoming Events

- Gardening with Gaia Workshop, April 14, Contact Kayla Saville for more details.
- Planting on the Mashel River, March 7, Contact Don Perry with Nisqually Stream Stewards for more information.
- Eatonville Self-Reliant Group, Every 2nd Tuesday, Eatonville Library. More info: <http://selfrelianteatonville.wordpress.com/>
- Graham Self-Reliant Community, Every 1st Wednesday. More info: <http://selfreliantcommunity.wordpress.com/>

Good of the Order

Nothing at this time.

The second portion of the meeting will take place at Jean Shaffer's home.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25pm.

NEXT MEETING: April 20, 2012, TBA, 1:00-3:00pm