

Email to Pat, 10/11/09

Pat,

Thank you for serving as proxy for the Tuesday, Oct 13th GHAAC meeting.

The neighborhood has been generally quiet with the exception of logging processes.

OPG logged the area around the tree nursery, North of Ponderosa this summer, and it appeared to be a reasonable approach for cutting and taking timber. Buffers and substantial numbers of trees were left to shelter that section.

However, it appears consideration for the environment was abandoned with the huge clear-cut committed north of Little Boston Road. It is obvious wildlife habitat in that expansive Douglas fir plantation has been destroyed. That is OPG/Pope & Talbot property, but this is our area. We live and work together, with respect for each other's rights and opportunities to improve the community. But, the deer, bear, bob cats, raccoons, foxes, river otters, eagles, osprey, heron, are below us in the food chain. Those animals depend upon mice, chipmunks, squirrels, voles, and moles to survive. The small birds, like thrushes, chickadees, robins, and others require insects. These animals all need microorganisms. With the heavy equipment compacting the soil, and the exposure to sunshine and dry conditions, the web of life is destroyed.

If we don't respect these "neighbors" that are without a voice in our community, then we are reduced to being like the rapacious civilizations that no longer exist because their environments would not support them.

The By-Laws, Article IV, includes Community Values:

Section 1. Clean Environment. We value clean water, clean air, and absence of visual pollution. We value protecting our natural environment.

Section 2. Growth Management. We value growth that is planned, controlled, environmentally friendly and that incorporates our other values.

Section 3. Outdoor Recreation. We value our parks and trails and a natural environment that encourages outdoor recreation.

Section 4. Peace and Quiet. We value a serene, quiet environment and personal privacy.

Section 5. Rural Setting. We value open space and the feel of low density.

Section 6. Safety. We value safe neighborhoods, good emergency services, and personal security.

Section 7. Scenic Beauty. We value man made and natural beauty, including the mountains, water, gardens, farms and forests without clear cutting.

Section 8. Sense of Community. We value volunteerism, community spirit, a sense of

camaraderie and support for community assets.

Section 9. Traffic Safety. We value adequate road design and capacity, roads that are safe for cars, pedestrians and bicycles, and respect for and enforcement of traffic laws.

Section 10. Urban Access. We value affordable and convenient access to urban amenities.

Section 11. Water Access. We value water access for walking, boating, fishing and swimming.

Section 12. Welcoming Spirit. We value inclusiveness of all individual differences and caring for our neighbors which contributes to the vibrancy of the community.

Section 13. Wildlife. We value living with and protecting wildlife.

The process that is easily observed with the new clear cut shows OPG/Pope & Talbot has no regard for the values included in the GHAAC mission. While commendations for their "neighborliness" is appropriate for the Greenway Trail support, and for participating with GHAAC to provide information, their new clear cut undermines any feelings of goodwill I had.

I believe this clear cut was not necessary, and is disgusting.

Tom Ritley