Agency: Forest Practices Board

Subject of possible rule making:
The Forest Practices Board is considering rule making to amend WAC 222-16-010 to include forest biomass removal in the "forest practice" definition.

Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject: RCW 76.09.040

Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:
There is an emerging industry in Washington State to convert biomass to energy and energy products. Forest residue is an important source of biomass feedstock for this industry and is being removed from forest lands and transported for that purpose. The Board is considering adding forest biomass removal to the definition of "forest practice" to ensure the public’s understanding that this activity is a forest practice and subject to the resource protection measures required in Title 222 WAC and chapter 76.09 RCW.

Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:

Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):
☐ Negotiated rule making
☐ Pilot rule making
☐ Agency study
☒ Other (describe) The Board will request input from interested stakeholders to develop rule language. Also, the Board will seek agreement from the Department of Ecology, and solicit input from counties, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and tribes pursuant to RCW 76.09.040(2).

How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:
(List names, addresses, telephone, fax numbers, and e-mail of persons to contact; describe meetings, other exchanges of information, etc.)

Mail, fax, or email comments to:
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DATE
August 23, 2010

NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)
Peter Goldmark

TITLE
Chair