Members Present:
Vicki Christiansen, Chair Designee of the Board
Ann Wick, Designee for Director, Department of Agriculture
Brent Bahrenburg, Designee for Director, Community, Trade and Economic Development
Bridget Moran, Designee for Director, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bill Little, Timber Products Union Representative
Carolyn Dobbs, General Public Member
David Hagiwara, General Public Member
David Hererra, General Public Member
Dave Somers, Snohomish County Commissioner
Doug Stinson, General Public Member/Small Forest Landowner
Norm Schaaf, General Public Member
Sherry Fox, General Public Member/Independent Logging Contractor
Tom Laurie, Designee for Director, Department of Ecology

Staff:
Chuck Turley, Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager
Lenny Young, Forest Practices Division Manager
Patricia Anderson, Rules Coordinator
Phil Ferester, Assistant Attorney General

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Vicki Christiansen called the Forest Practices Board (FPB or Board) meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Introductions were made by Board, staff and attendees. Patricia Anderson, Department of Natural Resources (DNR or Department), provided an emergency safety briefing.

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL RULE MAKING
Lenny Young, DNR, presented a rule proposal to address the expiration of the current moratorium on decertification of Northern Spotted Owl site centers. He said the proposal was a consensus product developed by the forest products industry, the conservation community and the state agencies. The rule proposal:
- Amended the definition of the Northern Spotted Owl site center in WAC 222-16-010 by removing language about the temporary moratorium on decertification;
- Added a definition for a spotted owl conservation advisory group; and
- Revised WAC 222-16-080 by adding language which specified the group’s function, and indicated that the group’s existence would be limited to one year.

Young recommended to the Board that they approve the language as an emergency rule, and also directed staff to file a CR-101 to start the permanent rule making to implement this rule proposal.

He stated that this would be an interim approach that would sunset after one year. By that time the Northern Spotted Owl Policy Working Group would have recommendations that would address the issue for the longer term and would replace the rule he proposed.
Sherry Fox asked about the purpose of the spotted owl conservation advisory group. Young responded that the only role for the new three person group would be to evaluate any decertification surveys approved by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. He stressed it would be a very specific, temporary role.

Carolyn Dobbs asked if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was consulted on the rule proposal. Young replied that neither of the services were consulted because the rules proposed would not have a direct application to federal laws.

David Hagiwara asked when the Board would designate the advisory committee. Young replied that a recommendation of individuals would be presented to the Board for approval prior to the February 2009 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Josh Weiss - WFPA, Nina Carter - Audubon Washington, and Shawn Cantrell - Seattle Audubon, jointly expressed support of the rule proposal and encouraged the Board to approve it.

NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL RULE MAKING - ACTION

MOTION: Bridget Moran moved that the Forest Practices Board adopt the proposed changes to the definition (WAC 222-16-010) of Northern Spotted Owl site center and WAC 222-16-080 (6) and direct staff to file a CR-103 with the Office of the Code Reviser to implement these changes as an emergency rule. She also moved that the Board direct staff to file a CR-101 with the Office of the Code Reviser stating the Board’s intent to implement these changes as a permanent rule. Further, she moved that the Board direct staff to recommend representatives from the forest products industry, the conservation community, and the department’s forest practices program to comprise the spotted owl conservation advisory group, and transmit its recommendations to the Board in writing no later than January 25, 2009, so that the Board can designate members of the advisory group at its February 11, 2009 meeting.

SECONDED: Sherry Fox

Board Discussion:
Fox commended the stakeholder group for their work on the rule proposal. She was appreciative of their collaborations.

Schaaf said he had discussed this with some foresters, and thought there was likely to be a very small number of owl circles that would be requested for decertification through this new process.

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.