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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
OF PUBLIC LANDS

24Jan.2014

Commissioner Goldmark
Commissioner of Public Lands
Dept.of Natural Resources
Olympia Wa.98504
(Attn.Chair Forest Practice Board,Mr.Everett)

RE:Petition for Rule Making to Protect and Manage the Threatened Western Gray Squirrel

Greetings:
By this letter I am petitioning the Forest Practice Board to adopt rules to protect the threatened western gray squirrel and the habitat necessary to maintain a viable population in Wa.

We find that the DNR/FPB is in substantial violation of existing state law,RCWs,and WACs.The proposed rule making will correct these long standing violations.

We also find that the Commissioner of Public Lands has recently created a DNR policy to not protect the habitat of the WGS.The proposed rules will provide important policy change to bring the DNR into compliance with the Forest Practices Act,Chapter 72.09 RCW.

WE provide suggested protocols for landscape protection of the habitat of the threatened WGS as required under Title 222.16.080

WE provide for better cooperations and colaboration with the WDFW to integrate the functions of Title 77.15 by the signature between the Dir.WDFW and the Comm.of Public Lands for a Memorandum of Agreement as to what each agency responsibilities and standard operating procedures will be to protect the habitat of the WGS and enforcement rules to be followed.

The present DNR practice of prohibiting the attachment of forest practice permit conditions will be recinded and by mandatory non voluntary permit conditions.

Rules will be developed providing for compensation for private forest owners who experience unue economic loss from the conditions imposed by the DNR to protect threatened,sensitive, and ESA species.

The WGS nest tree voluntary mgt.concept will be recinded and replaced by landscape mgt.giving more flexibility to private landowners.

Sincerely,
Rob Kavanaugh
Rob Kavanaugh
cc.Friends of the Western Gray Squirrel