

SEPA ADDENDUM

A SEPA threshold Determination of Nonsignificance, dated August 31, 2009, analyzed the effects of a rule proposal concerning Northern Spotted Owl conservation. This rule was published in Washington State Register 09-17-113. The purpose of this addendum is to:

- Notify interested persons that the Forest Practices Board has amended the rule proposal (published in Washington State Register 10-06-027); and
- The responsible official for this proposal has determined that the amended rule proposal does not increase the potential for adverse environmental impact compared to the original rule proposal, and does not cause a change in the SEPA threshold Determination of Nonsignificance dated August 31, 2009.

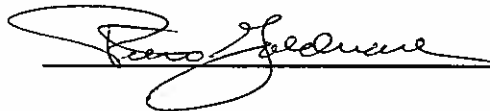
Proponent Forest Practices Board

Lead agency Forest Practices Board

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Responsible Official Peter Goldmark
Position/Title Commissioner of Public Lands

Signature



Date

4/2/10

Existing environmental document

The environmental analysis (SEPA checklist) and Determination of Nonsignificance dated August 31, 2009 can be viewed at

http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/ForestPracticesRules/Pages/fp_rules_activity.aspx, under the heading, "Northern Spotted Owl 2009-10 – Permanent Rule", and click on "SEPA Determination of Nonsignificance."

Description of the original proposal (WSR 09-17-113)

The proposal is an amendment to forest practices rules. The original rule proposal:

- Deleted language in WAC 222-16-010 in the definition of "Northern Spotted Owl site center" concerning a moratorium on Northern Spotted Owl decertification. This moratorium sunsetted on December 31, 2008.
- Added a definition in WAC 222-16-010 of "Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group."
- Added language to WAC 222-16-080 to describe the advisory group's function. The advisory group is to play a role, along with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, in the evaluation of landowner surveys that indicate the absence of spotted owls. The rule

specified that the advisory group's existence is limited to one year from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

Description of the amended rule proposal (WSR 10-06-027)

On February 10, 2010, the Forest Practices Board amended the rule proposal. The Board is now proposing that the duration of the Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group's existence be open ended with an annual review until the Board resolves outstanding questions regarding Northern Spotted Owl conservation. The amended rule proposal includes the changes proposed in the original proposal for WAC 222-16-010 as stated above and modifies WAC 222-16-080 as follows:

Adds language to describe the advisory group's function. The advisory group is to play a role, along with the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, in the evaluation of landowner surveys that indicate the absence of spotted owls. The rule proposal now states, "On an annual basis, beginning November 2010, the board will determine whether this group's function continues to be needed for spotted owl conservation."

Both the original and the amended rule proposals in their entirety can be viewed at http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/ForestPracticesRules/Pages/fp_rules_activity.aspx, under the heading, "Northern Spotted Owl 2009-10 – Permanent Rule" (click on "CR-102 Proposed Rule Making – Supplemental WSR 09-17-113" for the original proposal, and "CR-102 Proposed Rule Making – Supplemental WSR 10-06-027" for the amended proposal).

Comments for this rule making will be accepted through April 8, 2010.