July 20, 2012

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Sherri Felix, Policy Analyst
Forest Practices Division

SUBJECT: WAC 222-16-080 *Critical habitats (state) of threatened and endangered species* - Request to Begin Rule Making

At your upcoming August 14, 2012 meeting, staff will request your approval to begin the rule making process to amend WAC 222-16-080.

The purpose of this rule making would be to:

- clarify which wildlife plans are required to be reviewed under the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) so that this rule and WAC 222-10-040 *Class IV-Special threatened and endangered species SEPA policies* are in sync; and
- modify the critical habitat definition for gray wolf *(Canis lupus)* based on the recommendation in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wolf Conservation and Management Plan.

The first step in the rule making process is to file a *Preproposal Statement of Inquiry* (CR-101) with the Office of the Code Reviser. This would give public notice that you are considering amending this rule and interested parties can participate in this process.

Staff looks forward to discussing this potential rule making with you. Should you have any questions in the meantime, please contact me at 360-902-1446 or sherri.felix@dnr.wa.gov, or contact Marc Engel at 360-902-1390 or marc.engel@dnr.wa.gov .