WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

PETER GOLDMARK
Commissioner of Public Lands

October 29, 2012

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Marc Engel, Assistant Division Manager, Policy and Services
Forest Practices

SUBJECT: Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group Update and Membership

Annual November updates regarding evaluations by the Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group are required to be presented to the Board under WAC 222-16-010*"Spotted owl conservation advisory group"*.

This group evaluates the need, based on available habitat, to maintain northern spotted owl site centers while the Board completes its evaluation of rules affecting the owl. The Advisory Group is convened to conduct evaluations when the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) approves surveys demonstrating the absence of northern spotted owls within the suitable habitat supporting a northern spotted owl site center.

Within the last year there were no northern spotted owl surveys submitted for review and approval to the WDFW. As such, the Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group did not meet.

The recent departure of Bridget Moran from the Department of Natural Resources has created a vacancy in the Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group. The rule that describes this group, WAC 222-16-010, states:

> **"Spotted owl conservation advisory group"** means a three-person advisory group designated by the board as follows: One person shall be a representative of Washington's forest products industry, one person shall be a representative of a Washington-based conservation organization actively involved with spotted owl conservation, and one person shall be a representative of the department's forest practices program. Members of the group shall have a detailed working knowledge of spotted owl habitat relationships and factors affecting northern spotted owl conservation. On an annual basis, beginning November 2010, the board will determine whether this group's function continues to be needed for spotted owl conservation."

At the November meeting I will request you confirm the Board's support of the Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group, and your approval of Aaron Everett, Deputy Supervisor for Forest Practices and Federal Relations, to serve as the Department of Natural Resources representative on this group.

Should you have any questions before your November meeting, please feel free to contact me at 360-902-1309 or marc.engel@dnr.wa.gov.