



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**



Washington
Department of
**FISH and
WILDLIFE**

August 29, 2020

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Mary McDonald Forest Practices Assistant Division Manager Policy and Services,
Washington State Department of Natural Resources

Gary Bell, Forest Habitats Wildlife Biologist,
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

SUBJECT: North Blewett Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Area (SOSEA) assessment proposal

At the May 13, 2020 Washington Forest Practices Board (Board) meeting a motion was passed that included, in part, the following:

The Board requested DNR and WDFW meet to develop a path forward for reviewing the success in achieving the goals of the North Blewett SOSEA over the last 25 years and report back to the Board on process, timing and resources required.

The attached proposed outline is intended to respond to the Board's request. The proposed assessment outline is a collaborative effort by DNR and WDFW staff.

At your August 2020 meeting, we will be available should you have questions or comments on the proposal. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us: mary.mcdonald@dnr.wa.gov or 360-584-4697; gary.bell@dfw.wa.gov or 360-902-2412.

Attachment

c: Joseph Shramek, Forest Practices Division Manager, DNR
Marc Engel, Senior Policy Planner, Forest Practices Division, DNR
Phil Ferester, Senior Counsel, Forest Practices, ATG
Wendy Connally, Wildlife Program, WDFW
Margen Carlson, Habitat Program Director, WDFW

Proposed Content for the North Blewett SOSEA assessment for meeting Forest Practices goals.

1. Brief overview of the Forest Practices rules pertaining to Northern Spotted Owl (NSO)
(e.g. WAC 222-10-041, WAC 222-16-010, 222-16-080, WAC 222-16-085, WAC 222-16-086, WAC 222-16-100, and WAC 222-16-105)
 - a. The purpose of the NSO Forest Practices rules is to minimize impacts to Spotted Owls by establishing a process for evaluating forest practices applications that contain critical habitat (state) – harvest, road construction, aerial application of chemicals.
 - b. Forest Practice rules address:
 - i. Description of the parameters for evaluating Forest Practice Application (FPA)
 1. Geographic locations of SOSEA with goals: demographic, dispersal and combination
 - a. North Blewett SOSEA = Circle Management
 - b. North Blewett SOSEA: portions designated for dispersal support, portions for demographic (Conservation objectives involve when a landowner has pursued other planning options - Federal HCP, SHA; State LOP, CHEA, in the state)
 - c.)
 2. Geographically specific definitions of habitat characteristics (Eastside & Westside are different)
 3. SEPA thresholds
2. Scope of the Forest Practice Applications (FPA) assessment:
 - a. North Blewett SOSEA
 - i. FPA's relative to NSO site centers
 - b. FPA's within the last 10 years (the Secretary of State record retention rules for an FPA is 10 years)
 - c. The list of factors not included in the assessment but impacting NSO (e.g., fire, Barred Owls, insects/disease, management on federal lands)
 - d. Description of the FPA review process
 - i. Factors assessed
 1. Amount of habitat in circles
 2. Field site inspections
 - e. Quantity of FPAs filed in the North Blewett SOSEA and the outcomes
3. Definition of success in achieving the North Blewett SOSEA goal is DNR Forest Practices program compliance with Forest Practice rules.

4. Based on the above proposed content, estimated amount of time required to complete an assessment could be by the February 2021 Forest Practice Board meeting with existing staff resources.

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