



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 30, 2024

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: ^{KZ} Karen Zirkle, Forest Regulation Policy and Services Assistant Division Manager

SUBJECT: Northern Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group Update

The Forest Practices Board is required to annually determine whether the Northern Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group continues to be needed for spotted owl conservation (WAC 222-16-010). This group is convened when the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife approves a northern spotted owl protocol survey demonstrating the absence of owl detections within the habitat supporting an owl site center. When convened, the group evaluates if the owl habitat needs to be maintained in support of northern spotted owl recovery.

There were no northern spotted owl surveys submitted to WDFW for review and approval during the past year; as such, the group was not convened.

The three-person advisory group contains designees with working knowledge of northern spotted owl habitat relationships and factors affecting owl conservation – a representative from Washington's forest products industry (Marty Vaughn), Washington conservation organization (vacant) and the Forest Practices Program (vacant). Staff recommends that Lenny Young be approved to serve on this advisory group to represent the Program.

At your November 13 meeting, I will request your support of the Northern Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group and approval of Lenny Young to serve on this group when necessary.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at karen.zirkle@dnr.wa.gov.

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