October 21, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO: **Forest Practice Board**

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

SUBJECT: **Update on Northern Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group**

On November 8, 2011, I will provide the Board an update on the Northern Spotted Owl Advisory group actions since last reported in November 2010.

Annual updates to the Board are required 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. The intent of the annual updates is to assist you in determining whether this group continues to be needed for northern spotted owl conservation.

Briefly, in the last year there were no 3-year northern spotted owl surveys submitted for review and approval to the WDFW. As such, there was no need for the Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group to meet.

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

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