

August 1, 2007

Washington Farm Forestry Association Update

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WFFA has subscribed to a service that allows us to easily send e-mails to large groups of members. It is formatted to be acceptable to those of you with dial-up internet service. We promise not to inundate you with messages but to use it to bring important and timely messages to your attention.

We hope that this will reduce the number of duplicate e-mails that you receive from various sources.

Treefully,
Rick Dunning

Public Hearings on 15-Year Plans

The Forest Practices Board will hold three public hearings to receive comments on proposed forest practices rules affecting chapters 222-12, 222-16, and 222-20 WAC. The rules would authorize the Department of Natural Resources to grant approvals of small forest landowners' forest practices applications for terms of up to 15 years.

The rule proposal, preliminary economic analysis, and SEPA analysis, may be viewed at the Department of Natural Resources' website under [Long-term applications for small forest landowners](#)

Hearing Dates, Times & Locations

August 7, 6:00 p.m. in Spokane

Ramada Spokane Airport, 8909 West Airport Drive
(509) 838-5211

August 9, 6:00 p.m. in Aberdeen

Grays Harbor College, 1620 Edward P. Smith Drive
(360) 532-9020

August 14, 6:00 p.m. in Everett

Holiday Inn, 3105 Pine
(425) 993-2000

The Board will hear oral testimony at the hearings; hard copies of testimonies are appreciated. Comment deadline is August 15, 2007.

Send written comments to:

Patricia Anderson, FPB Rules Coordinator
Department of Natural Resources
Forest Practices Division
P.O. Box 47012
Olympia, WA 98504-7012

or E-mail: forest.practicesboard@dnr.wa.gov
Fax: 360.902.1428

WFFA Alert

It is important for the WFFA to have good membership turnout at these public hearings and to provide written or public testimony on this rule proposal. We need every WFFA member who is able to attend one of these meetings nearest their home to do so.

Please write or speak a short and respectful message, in your own words, on how a 15 year permit would be helpful to you. Include your name and mailing address.

Things to consider are:

- A 15 year permit could allow a simple notification at time of harvest, maximizing the flexibility of timing your harvest to changing log markets.
- A 15 year permit could include all or part of our ownership.
- A 15 year permit would save you from applying for 7 other two year permits. This would save many hours of filling out paper work for you and DNR as well as save money for both the landowner and DNR.
- A management plan filed with the 15 year permit would help show a tree farmer's long term commitment to good forest management and stewardship.
- A 15 year permit would benefit any tree farmer who voluntarily wanted to submit one, making it accessible to even the smallest tree farms of our state.
- 15 year permits would allow tree farmers to feel more secure in their ability to harvest tomorrow the crop that they are planting today.
- 15 year permits would signify DNR's willingness to try new thinking when dealing with family forest land owners.
- 15 year permits encourage tree farmers to consider generational transfer plans.

Please consider taking these actions:

1. Write down these dates on your calendar.
2. Send written testimony.
3. Attend a hearing.