



July 20, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Forest Practices Board

FROM: Dan Pomerenk, Acting Small Forest Landowner Office Manager

SUBJECT: Rule Making: Creating the Habitat Open Space Program

On August 12th, I will be asking the Board's approval to begin the rule making process regarding creating the Habitat Open Space Program. If the Board approves, staff will file a CR-101, Pre-proposal Statement of Inquiry, to inform the public that the Board is considering rule making.

In April 2009, the Legislature passed Substitute Senate Bill 5401 amending RCW 76.09.040 – Riparian Open Space Program.

This amendment changes the Riparian Open Space Program which acquired only habitat within unconfined avulsing channel migration zones to the Habitat Open Space Program. The difference between the programs is the Habitat Open Space Program broadens the habitat eligible for acquisition to unconfined channel migration zones or forest lands containing critical habitat for threatened or endangered species as designated by the board.

I'll be available at the August 12th meeting to answer any questions.

DP/

