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Forest Practices Division

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Chairman A.Everett & Members
Wa.Forest Practice Board
Wa.Dept.Of Natural Resources
1111Washington St.
Olympia,Wa.98504

RE:Petition For Rule Making

Greetings:

I request the Forest practice Board accomplish rule making to protect the Western Gray Squirrel,a threatened species to insure that we maintain a viable population in Wa.state within the framework of Title 222.

We find that the Forest Practice Board is neglectful of their legislative mandated responsibily under WAC222.16.080.We also understand that there has been an unwritten policy change by the Commissioner and the Board to deflect all responsibility back on the Dir.WDFW for protection of this species.This is contributing to the further decline in western gray squirrels statewide.We find that the FPB at one time was in full accord with WDFW and even issued stop work orders to insure the cond-ions request by WDFW were enforced in the FP permits. Thus it is clear the FPB recognized their responsibility to to protect the WGS within the frame work of Title 222 permit authority.Review of records and meetings with previous Commissioners and Forest Supv.show that with the election of Mr.Goldmark this cooperative effort ceased.

We request you prepare FP rules that accomplish the following:

1. List the WGS on the FP Board list of threatened species along with its required habitat within the concept of landscape management on a watershed by watershed within the historic areas occupied by the WGS. WAC 222.16.080

2. Incorporate WGS Mgt appendixes to the Forest Pratice Permits in cooperation with the WDFW.

3. Assist the WDFW with WGS surveys when needed.

4. Devise landowner compensation measures for private landowners including conservation easements in conjunction with the WDFW.

Sincerely,

Rob Kavanaugh

Rob Kavanaugh
Friends of the WGS

360-456-6448