The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has initiated permanent rulemaking for the above administrative rules adopted under the Forest Practices Act (FPA). The primary rule change within this rulemaking process is reflected in Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 629-028-0005 Definitions, where the rule number will be renumbered and amended to include the definition of special forest products. These proposed rule amendments also include the process someone would need to follow to add or delete products from the definition. In 2013, House Bill (HB) 2615 passed, allowing the State Forester, acting under the authority of the Oregon Board of Forestry (BOF), to define special forest products in rule, which will include the change in identifying mushrooms and truffles as “wild, edible fungi”. An emergency was declared under the HB requiring ODF to modify forms available for private landowners to use when allowing others permission to harvest special forest products on their land. The rules require revision prior to July 1, 2014 to meet requirements in the amended statute ORS 164.813.

Review of this proposed rulemaking package may be accessed on the Department's web page at: http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/lawsrules.aspx#Proposed_Rules or at the office of the State Forester, and are available upon request. Associated supporting materials presented at the November 2013 Board of Forestry meeting are available online. They may be accessed through the Board of Forestry website: www.oregonforestry.gov.
The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule’s substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

Two public information meetings regarding the bill and the rulemaking process will be held at ODF offices in Forest Grove and Salem in February 2014. Two formal hearings will be held at ODF offices in March 2014: March 4th in Springfield at 6:00 p.m. (3150 Main Street) and March 18th in Salem at 6:00 p.m. (2600 State Street). Notice of the meetings and hearings will be promoted via flyers, email, media releases, and our website prior to the meeting dates.

Written comments must be received by 5:00 p.m. on April 1st, 2014. Submissions should be addressed to: Private Forest HB 2615 Rulemaking, Oregon Department of Forestry, 2600 State Street, OR 97310; or send to ODFPFComments@odf.state.or.us, or via fax 503-945-7490.

Comments received by 5:00 p.m. on April 1st, 2014, will be compiled and incorporated into information presented to the Board of Forestry for their review. From this information and the prior work with this rulemaking process, the Board of Forestry will decide whether to approve this proposed rulemaking package. The Department is planning to present this information at the June Board of Forestry meeting. The Department will propose an effective date for these rules which will be announced in the Secretary of State's Oregon Bulletin if the Board gives approval.

The agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule's substantive goals while reducing the negative economic impact of the rule on business.

The Agency requests public comment on whether other options should be considered for achieving the rule’s substantive goals while reducing negative economic impact of the rule on business.

Last Day (m/d/yyyy) and Time for public comment

| 04-01-2014 5:00 p.m. | Sabrina Perez | sabrina.perez@state.or.us |

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