

New Special Forest Product Law In Washington State

The purpose of this note is to let you and your readers know that RCW 76.48 has finally been approved by the Governor and enacted into law. For those of you who don't have the history, the old law came to prominence when the owners of Creative Wood Sculptures, Donna and Joaquin Quezada, were stopped by a Pierce County Sherriff Deputy in January 2006 and had their load of wood confiscated. They were further taken before a judge and had legal expenses in excess of \$20,000. For their story you can click on the following link: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7074941657802446523#>

My purpose in sending this is to let you know that the old law was found to be deficient in several areas and as a result a special forest products working group (SFPWG) was formed in 2007 to review the old law and make recommendations to correct it's deficiencies. Specifically the SFPWG reviewed the statutes and made recommendations to ensure the Special Forest Product requirements:

- Provide reasonable tools for law enforcement and reasonably protect landowners from theft
- Are not unduly burdensome to harvesters, those possessing or transporting specialized forest products, or cedar or specialty wood processors or buyers
- Are clear and may be readily understood by law enforcement and the public

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- Are administered and enforced consistently throughout the state

I was a member of the SF-PWG representing the woodturning community, but during the committee deliberations I also agreed to communicate the information to other wood working organizations throughout Washington State.

The very short version of what the law means is that if you transport or harvest "specialty wood", you must have proper documentation. "Specialty wood" includes:

1. A cedar product or
2. Engelmann spruce, Sitka spruce, big leaf maple, or western red alder that:
 - Is in logs, chunks, slabs, stumps, or burls;
 - Is capable of being cut into a segment that is without knots in a portion of the surface area at least nineteen inches long and seven and a quarter inches wide when measured from the outer surface toward the center;
 - Measures:
 - Nineteen inches or longer;
 - Greater than one and three-quarter inches thick; and
 - Seven and one-quarter inches or greater in width; and
 - Is being harvested or transported from areas not associated with the concurrent logging of timber stands.

Cedar Products means the following if made from the wood of a cedar tree, including western red cedar: Shake and shingle bolts; Fence posts and fence rails; Logs

not covered by a valid approved forest practices application or notification under chapter 76.09 RCW; and Other pieces measuring fifteen inches or longer.

Under the old law, all wood regardless of size was included, but as you can see we got minimum lengths written into the law which should remove much, but not all of, the problem for hobbyists. We also got the requirement for a validated permit improved with the ability to get a verifiable permit for harvest/transportation and an Authorization, Sales Invoice, or Bill of Lading for transportation from non-harvest sites. Also note that if you're not working with any of the Specialty Woods, there is no requirement for a permit or documentation under this RCW.

That's the good news, the not so good news, is this law was passed as an "unfunded mandate", or in other words those who are responsible for education and administration were not provided any funding to put the requisite measures in place, so it will happen as they have funding and/or prioritizations of their work load. Regardless, it is now law and my purpose in making it known to you is so you can pass along to your memberships and they in turn can make sure they have addressed the intent of the RCW and thus protect themselves. For a full review of the RCW, it can be found in its entirety at: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/sup-default.aspx?cite=76.48> you can also find the specific documentation requirements for the various permits and/or Bill of Lading at this site.

I also created a short PowerPoint presentation I'm happy to share with you if interested; however, with the caveat that I'm not the expert in the RCW and am only act-

ing in the best interest of the woodworking community by providing this information to you. If you have questions you can contact me and I'll do my best to answer them, but I'd appreciate if you would not give my contact information to the thousands of woodworking enthusiasts in the Northwest but instead let me work through you to your memberships.

**Larry Miller, President
Woodturners of Olympia**

Editor's Note: I realize that only a portion of my readers are in Washington State; however, I think we should all be aware that laws like this can be passed in our state and could be quite damaging to woodturners and other craft workers if they were passed in the original form. This new version makes the law a bit less restrictive for we woodturners who are gathering wood legally.

Chinese Ball Tools

I have recently become a dealer for the Crown Chinese Ball Tools and have an inventory of sets and extra handles on hand for immediate shipment.

A set includes one handle, four cutters, a tool to make a tapered hole, and a pamphlet written by David Springett. These are priced at \$125.00 for each set.

The handles include a wooden handle and a metal piece to attach the cutters and ride on the ball. These are priced at \$36.20 each. I recommend three additional handles.

**Fred Holder
PO Box 2168
Snohomish, WA 98291
360-668-0976**