

4.21.09 Meeting Summary
Teleconference convened in Room 461, Natural Resources Building, Olympia

FOREST PRACTICES BOARD POLICY WORKING GROUP
WASHINGTON STATE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL

Members present

Shawn Cantrell	Seattle Audubon
Mark Doumit	WFPA
Kevin Godbout	Weyerhaeuser
Don Halabisky	Sierra Club
Chris Lipton	Longview Timber
Robert Meier	Rayonier
Vic Musselman	WFPA
Miguel Perez-Gibson	Audubon
Tom Robinson	WSAC
Paula Swedeen	Seattle Audubon
Chuck Turley	DNR

Absent

Ken Berg	USFWS
Bridget Moran	DFW

Also present

Lois Schwennesen	Facilitator
Cindy Mitchell	WFPA
Kara Whittaker	WFLC
David Whipple	DFW

This is a summary of the eighth meeting (by teleconference) of the Forest Practices Board's Policy Working Group (Group). The purpose of the call was to set the agenda for a work session April 28-29.

The work session will be a check in on activity and progress, to review the commonalities and differences in perspectives and look at the details of interests met or not met. The goal will be to identify where interests overlap and common ground exists to define the coming months of work.

Kevin Godbout supported a mid term review of what have we done so far, see where we are, what to adjust, what to let go of, and whether any initial objectives may be unachievable. Paula Swedeen suggested we not avoid topics where we can't find consensus, as there may be other venues for such topics. Miguel Perez-Gibson asked that we review the Charter deliverables, such as science and incentives, and see if members are on track and have similar perspectives. Mark Doumit expressed that the group must not waste time overreaching the intent of the Charter, stating the goal is not to resolve the northern spotted owl controversy of the last 30 years but to find common ground and move forward.

Miguel asked whether WFPA could assist in identifying strategic lands, to learn how many eligible acres there are and who might be willing to sell. Real numbers will help to develop real strategies to secure land that companies can no longer manage for timber production and to learn what kind of money would have to be raised. He also asked if the State could provide a summary of how much owl habitat is privately owned by which what major companies. David Whipple responded that John Pierce's WDFW report estimated the habitat, and David will bring this to the meeting. Chuck Turley summarized that the group believes workable incentives start with a willing landowner, and this will give a sense of the size of the pool of potential landowners.

Kevin noted there are at least three bins of incentives: a) financial, b) management - such as for thinning for prey enhancement, and c) exchanges of high value conservation land for better timber production property. Different bins will appeal to different landowners. Conservation

groups could conceivably get bonding authority. A purchase or trade offer has to be real; otherwise the theory will be trumped by the reality of the market place. Paula asked whether Mark and Vic Musselman could identify which owners are constrained from harvesting due to owl habitat and which might be interested in land trades or conservation easements, so that the program can be targeted towards strategic parcels. The details are needed to be successful with the legislature and funding sources. Paula asked for maps that show where the owl circles are in each region of the State. WFPA and WFFA represent competitors and do not have detailed private information. It may be possible for WFFA to share broad ownership categories when the time comes to create varied, workable incentive packages that may attract landowners to come forward. David cautioned that WDFW maps include sensitive data and he needs to check with wildlife folks due to the sensitive data policy.

Vic suggested the Group use broad percentages to think through the incentives, and concentrate first on circles on private lands immediately adjacent to federal owl habitat. Kevin added targeting incentives inside of Spotted Owl Special Emphasis Areas (SOSEAs), and Paula added acquiring lands outside of SOSEAs.

Shawn Cantrell noted that it is better to rely on incomplete data than no data, and incomplete data may be enough to make decisions. This work might also lead to recommendations on how to improve the data for future policy decisions.

Bob Meier offered to provide an example of property on the west side. He will put a presentation together to illustrate the practical, concrete issues that landowners must think about for the April 28-29 meeting.

Teleconference Adjourned