

**6.29.09 Meeting Summary
U.S. Forest Service Headquarters, Cle Elum, WA**

**FOREST PRACTICES BOARD POLICY WORKING GROUP
WASHINGTON STATE NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL**

Members Present

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

Also Present

Lois Schwennesen	Facilitator
Jeff Jones	American Forest Land <i>LLC</i>
Cindy Mitchell	WFPA
Deborah Munguia	WFPA
Stan Sovern	US Forest Service
Kara Whittaker	WFLC
Martha Wehling	Office of Attorney General
Jennifer Cook	Schwennesen & Assoc.

Updates

Kevin Godbout reported on the conference on ecosystem services, where people from around the world with disparate interests shared information about current and future prospects and projects.

Members discussed in detail a draft letter to the USFWS about addressing the impact of the barred owl on the northern spotted owl population. The group agreed to condense the historical background and make wording changes to respect the views of the WFFA. Members will provide Lois Schwennesen with proposed language to include in a revised letter for review at the next meeting.

Strawman Action Package

Lois Schwennesen distributed a document for discussion in the interest of identifying common ground and focusing the remainder of the Group's work. The strawman included potential Group goals, measures of success, and seven potential action items. Members individually read through the strawman package, reflected on whether their interests were met, and prepared to comment on each segment.

Detailed collective discussion, input to the package, and draft revisions and clarifications were undertaken on the strawman package. This work session focused on making certain that specific language met all interests, whether the degree of detail was appropriate for this stage of work, whether the areas of action were in line with potential recommendations to the Forest Practices Board (FPB), and whether each member of the Group and their constituencies could commit to moving forward with this framework and approach. The meeting adjourned with the understanding that the clarifications and revisions made to the strawman would be the basis of continued discussion and action at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned

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Paula Swedeen	Seattle Audubon
Chuck Turley	DNR
David Whipple	W DFA

Absent

Chris Lipton Longview Timber

Also Present

Lois Schwennesen	Facilitator
Joe Buchanan	WDFW
Jeff Jones	American Forest Land <i>LLC</i>
Dave Lawrence	Conservation Northwest
Karen Ripley	WDNR
Cindy Mitchell	WFPA
Deborah Munguia	WFPA
Stan Sovern	US Forest Service
Martha Wehling	Office of Attorney General
Kara Whittaker	WFLC
Jennifer Cook	Schwennesen & Assoc.

Strawman Package

Lois Schwennesen distributed a revised strawman package that reflected the discussions and understandings from the previous day. The Group reviewed the language and collectively made additional contributions. Discussion focused on the goals, each measure of success, and action items. The wording of the draft strawman action package was revised accordingly.

Consensus was reached on the topics below subject to future agreement on a full package which will include two or three additional items:

- Goals of the Proposed Package of Actions
- Measures of Success
- Creation of a Voluntary Funding Program
- Promotion of Barred Owl Research and Experiments
- Three Key Criteria for Selecting Strategic Lands
- Initiation of Pilot Projects for Thinning
- Design and Implementation of a Flagship Incentive Project

Additional topics discussed, to be finalized at a future meeting include:

- The use of scientific teams to answer collective questions
- Recommendations related to the future of the decertification option
- The process of managing change over time and the use of regulation

Members agreed to work with their caucuses (conservation, government, forest products) on their lead responsibilities related to pilot projects for thinning and report back to the Group. Draft language for the additional three topics will also be developed for consideration on August 19.

Barred Owl Letter to USFWS

A revised draft was reviewed and discussed. Additional changes were requested so that the letter could reflect the consensus of the members and their constituents. The members will discuss the letter with their organizations in order to be prepared to take action at the next meeting.

Presentations

Stan Sovern, US Forest Service, presented the logistics and methodology of demographic surveys of the northern spotted owl in the Cle Elum monitoring area, and the results of those surveys. Members' questions and discussion revolved around trends, habitat factors, and available data regarding the impact of barred owls in the area.

Karen Ripley, DNR, presented her work on the impact of the Western Spruce Budworm on the east side forests, including their life cycles, habits, and outbreak patterns. She explored the correlation between budworm outbreaks and increased fire hazard due to foliage mortality, and the options available through silviculture to mitigate the impact. Questions and discussion related to the relationship of possible solutions to the restoration of owl habitat.

Joe Buchanan, DFW, provided an overview of his work on northern spotted owl research and issues relating to nonfederal lands. He presented his work on east side demographics and range-wide owl issues. Questions and discussion related to demographics and the need for site specific thinning strategies for catastrophic wildfire/forest health, to maximize long term restoration of owl habitat and minimize short term disruption.

Site Visits

Visits to two east side sites in the Teanaway watershed to view first hand and discuss forest health issues, risk of catastrophic wildfire, and habitat. The presenting scientists accompanied the group and answered questions.

Meeting Adjourned