

# SCHWENNESEN & ASSOCIATES LLC

Date: December 31, 2009  
To: Forest Practices Board  
From: Lois Schwennesen, Facilitator  
Subject: Northern Spotted Owl Policy Working Group – Final Report

The Policy Working Group is pleased to submit their final report. Members listened to each other's perspectives and provided their best consensus recommendations in areas where there was sufficient overlap in viewpoints. The Group asks for your support for an incentives approach to northern spotted owl conservation and habitat restoration. The Group also asks for your support of pilot projects to test habitat conservation and restoration concepts.

On November 10 the Board extended the current decertification process for owl sites during a transition period as recommended by the Group and provided additional time to complete recommendations, including non-consensus recommendations as provided by its charter. This final report does not provide new recommendations, but supplements and confirms the Group's November recommendations as follows:

1. Endorse Voluntary Financial Incentives for Landowners to Achieve Conservation Goals
2. Support a Program of Outreach to Owners of Land Inside and Outside of SOSEAs
3. Promote Barred Owl Control Experiments and Research
4. Approve a Pilot Project in Forest Stands with High Stem Densities that Limit the Function and Longevity of Spotted Owl Habitat in the Eastern Cascades
5. Support a Demonstration Incentives Project on the Olympic Peninsula to Thin Young Forests and Extend Rotation Lengths to Allow Flight Near a Spotted Owl Site Center
6. Support Identification and Design of a Flagship Incentive Project
7. Approve Proposed Measures of Success

This final report contains two additions to the report you received in November. First, the Executive Summary at the front of this report provides an overview of the Group's work, its relationship to broader forest management issues, and the activities members of the Group intend to pursue on their own initiative after the conclusion of the Group's work. Second, a new section on page 15 contains non-consensus recommendations and responses for the Board's information. Individual caucuses have thoughtfully drafted, and discussed with the other Group members, these non consensus recommendations and responses to them.

Group members look forward to presenting the key elements of this report and responding to your questions on February 10, 2010. Representatives of the government, conservation, and forest products caucuses who will join me in presenting this report are:

David Whipple, Forest Policy Coordinator, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Shawn Cantrell, Executive Director, Seattle Audubon Society

Mark Doumit, Executive Director, Washington Forest Protection Association.

Other members will be available to answer questions. We look forward to meeting with you.