

# Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) Conservation Advisory Group

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# NSO Conservation Advisory Group

## History

2006: Board adopted rules included moratorium on decertifying NSO site centers to allow time to develop a long-term conservation strategy

2007-2010: Board emergency rules extended moratorium & added “Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group (SOCAG)

6/2010: Board amended the rules to include “Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group” (WAC 222-16-010 and WAC 222-16-080 (6)).



# NSO Conservation Advisory Group

## Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group:

- 3-member group designated by Board
- Each have “detailed working knowledge of NSO habitat relationships and factors affecting NSO conservation”
- Representation:
  - WA’s forest product industry (2011 Marty Vaughn)
  - WA-based conservation organization (2011 Kara Whitaker)
  - DNR forest practices program (Board Chair Bernath)



# NSO Conservation Advisory Group

## Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group:

### Purpose:

- Evaluate whether a NSO site center that is subject to possible decertification should be maintained while the Board completes its evaluation of rules affecting NSO conservation

### Process:

- Surveys approved by WDFW showing absence of NSO at a site center are evaluated by SOCAG
- SOCAG has 60-days to respond to WDFW
- SOCAG consensus that site does not need to be maintained are Class IV-special exempt



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Spotted Owl Conservation Advisory Group (WAC 222-16-080 (6)):

- Open-ended rule with an annual review is expected to add assurance that no potential important habitat is lost through timber harvest while the Board develops a long-term NSO conservation strategy.

Staff Recommendation:

- Board approve continuation of SOCAG while the Board is pursuing voluntary NSO recovery measures.

