

Subject NON INDUSTRIAL FOREST LAND OWNERS OF NW CALIFORNIA

Not certain how to inter-act in this Stakeholders Forum. I am unable to attend due to location and time constraints. I will be participating via webinar. However the following should be addressed now or in the very near future.

A 24 page report called "REPORT ON NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL STADEHOLDER MEETING CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE TIMBERLAND CONVEERSION PROGRAM" was published August of 2017. The thoughts, experiences and recommendations of numerous foresters, biologists, industry representatives, environmental advocate representatives, landowners, and other stakeholders was the subject of this report. On page 17 is a summary of ideas. As the current chairman of the Buckeye and as long time forester who has dealt with the spotted owl and non industrial landowners since the 1980's I would like to emphasize several of these ideas.

1. The Spotted Owl Expert (SOE) designation is needed and quite useful in the current process. These veteran biologists and foresters have a vast well of experience in the behavior and habitat of the spotted owl and the bard owl. Many have been dealing with the owls annually for over 20 years plus years.
2. There needs to be a clear process for abandonment.
3. In certain or specific circumstances Landowners need the option to use a 1-year protocol instead of the current (one size fits all) 2- year Protocol.
4. There should be a clear process to provide flexibility and deviation from the Protocol.
5. NSO habitat definitions should consider lower quality habitat and prey base. Owls have been found thriving in non-roosting habitat for up to 2 decades plus.
6. The barred owl (BDOW) is a threat to NSO and needs to be controlled.
7. A state wide Safe Harbor, similar to that in Washington and Oregon, is needed for non-industrial landowners.

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