

Bradford Ranch
Boonville / Hopland, Mendocino County, CA

January 29, 2018

RE: NSO Stakeholder Forum 1/30/18

My name is Peter Bradford and I am a landowner in Boonville, Mendocino County, California and I have a 2,363 acre NTMP. Forests managed under NTMP's differ from other forestland in that we harvest lightly with the goal of increasing productivity over time. This not only insures continual good habitat for Northern Spotted Owls (NSO's) but more importantly guarantees increasing habitat.

NSO's are not harmed by logging or other normal forest practices and history has shown that to be true most certainly on NTMP's. The mandated logging practices for NTMP's promote the best habitat for all wildlife and fisheries while increasing forestry production. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) should be promoting the excellent stewardship by NTMP landowners and recognize that NSO's are not being harmed by forest harvests on NTMP lands.

NSO's are being harmed by the increasing range and number of Barred Owls (BDOW's) and the impact from both illegal and legal cannabis production sites on forestland.

The increased number and range of BDOW's can not in any manner be attributed to any forest practices or human impact. BDOW's increasing threat to NSO's is the main reason NSO's may be decreasing in number or are not responding to calls. I would caution the CDFW that eradicating BDOW's is not a practical solution and that if the public ever found out CDFW was promoting shooting owls it would prove to be a publicity nightmare.

According to a recent UC Davis study, Cannabis producer's, legal and illegal, use of pesticides on forest lands has been shown to be a major factor in NSO mortality. This is more of a threat to NSO's than any forest practice and one that CDFW could help prevent by working with other agencies and landowners in stopping cannabis production on forest lands.

It is very easy to point the finger at forest practices as the factor behind the decreasing response by NSO's to calling but increased harvest regulations on forest landowners will not result in more NSO's. If anything, it will promote less forest management that will in

turn lead to landowners eventually divesting themselves of forest land because it is not economically feasible to own and maintain.

I ask if anything comes out of this stakeholder forum, increased regulations on forest land not be considered.

Sincerely,

Peter Bradford
Bradford Ranch