



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**



Washington Department of  
**FISH and WILDLIFE**

February 3, 2009

Dear Washington State Legislators:

We represent several of the parties currently engaged in the Forest Practices Board's Spotted Owl Working Group. The Working Group was established to settle ongoing litigation over the spotted owl, and is an effort to collaboratively develop measures that will result in strategic contributions from non-federal lands in Washington to the broader goal of northern spotted owl conservation. All of the parties agree that our effort will be grounded in science and focused on developing incentives for landowners to support owl conservation. As our Work Group proceeds, we know that our recommendations will include increased Federal and State support or funding – either through legislation or agency programs – to implement our negotiated solutions. For the present, we are pleased to report that our Work Group has already agreed on policy and funding concepts described below.

We are investing an immense amount of resources and energy toward making this effort successful. We are jointly committed to this goal. In order to enable the Working Group the greatest opportunity for success, we are seeking your support for the following items:

1. \$170,000 (GF-S) to maintain the basic, maintenance funding for the Work Group. These resources are critical to the work group and include resources for a third-party facilitator and participation grant for Seattle Audubon and Audubon Washington and the Washington Farm Forestry Association. This is included in the Governor's proposed budget, and;
2. HB 1484 and SB 5401 which creates a habitat open space program to facilitate strategic acquisitions of northern spotted owl and other endangered species habitat located on private lands. The tools created in this legislation will help meet habitat conservation and restoration goals of the Working Group.

Please join the Forest Practices Policy Working Group Members in working to make this effort a success.

Sincerely,

Nina Carter, Executive Director  
Audubon Washington

Shawn Cantrell, Executive Director  
Seattle Audubon

Mark Doumit, Executive Director  
Washington Forest Protection Association

Robert Meier, Manager, Forest and Land Policy, Rayonier  
President, Washington Forest Protection Association

Charles W. Turley, Acting State Forester  
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Bridget Moran, Environmental Policy Lead  
Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

Kevin Godbout, Director External & Regulatory Affairs  
Weyerhaeuser Company

Chris Lipton, General Manager - Washington Timberlands  
Longview Timberlands LLC

Paula Sweden  
Conservation Caucus Member

Vic Musselman  
Washington Farm Forestry Association