

Petition Statement

John Perry

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I John Perry, petition that I have participated in the prerequisite requirements of Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, and Statistics either professionally and/or academically within the last three years (after Fall of 2019).

From 2020 – 2022, I was involved in a two-year educational leadership Fellowship hosted by the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the University of Washington's Foster School of Business. Coursework included economics and sociology where we discussed the art of negotiation, business finances, and concluded with a capstone project of creating a biennial budget and spending plan for a division of 40 employees. Our cohort also weighed in on real time projects that impacted social values. A relevant example is a litigation of Whiteman Cove between the State, Tribes, and the YMCA. The focus was the States focusing on removing salmon barriers which ultimately returns the landscape back to the historical shallow estuary as opposed to the existing lake.

In my current role as the Program Manager for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Tribal consultation, natural science, and statistics are key components of successful projects. For instance, I am currently in consultation with the Muckleshoot Tribe discussing the importance of the "Martin Gap" planning area, which borders tribal forested lands. Key topics of discussion in the planning area include creating intermittent clumps and openings (ICO) through Silvicultural prescriptions to enhance huckleberry habitat and improve winter foraging for elk. Adding downed woody debris to the forest helps move the planning area towards Mature and Old Growth Characteristics. This also creates habitat for rodents and small animals that are a known food source for larger predators like the endangered Northern Spotted Owl. Large woody debris in the streams also helps armor stream embankments and creates more diverse habitat for aquatic organisms in the planning area which include three Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species of fish.

In 2023, I used two types of computer software, Kaleidoscope Pro and R to process passive acoustic biometrics data retrieved from 50 autonomous recording units (ARUs). Units were placed on the landscape to map the distribution of Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets in the North Fork Stillaguamish Planning Area. Statistics inform the home range of the two avian species, the probability of different travel boundaries based on the known habitat conditions, and the linear regression of the Northern Spotted Owl as it relates to the Barred Owl population. This statistical exercise followed up by field verification, is routine practice and necessary for ESA consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Respectfully Submitted,


John T. Perry