To: Rodney Seigel, Executive Director, The Institute for Bird Populations
RE: Review of "Draft Conservation Strategy for the California Spotted Owl, Version 1.0"

Generally, I found the proposed strategy document to be quite good. I was pleased with the description of the dynamics of the ecosystem (with the significant focus on fire) and the current and potential problems created by past management practices and the changing climate. I also found the proposed strategies and management to be reasonable and well thought out. I do offer some minor suggestions for some areas to tweak for more clarity or accuracy. I have included these as comments in the document itself.

I was confused by the geographic area that the strategy is intended to cover. I think it should be made clearer as to the geographic area intended to be referenced. Different folks have described various areas as the Sierra Nevada Bioregion. Sometimes this includes only the Sierra Nevada as defined geologically and sometimes it is a much broader area as described by SNEP or Long et al. 2014 PSW-GTR-247. At times it appears the southern Cascade Range is intended to be included, yet most literature cited is Sierra Nevada centric and much Cascade literature is not cited.

Here are some references I did not see cited that I believe are relevant to the discussion.

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Krofcheck, D.J., M.D. Hurteau, R.M. Scheller, and E.L. Loudermilk. 2018. Prioritizing forest fuels treatments based on the probability of high-severity fire restores adaptive capacity in Sierran forests. *Global Change Biology* 24: 729-737.

Lauvaux, C.A., C.N. Skinner, and A.H. Taylor. 2016. High severity fire and mixed conifer forest-chaparral dynamics in the southern Cascade Range, USA. *Forest Ecology and Management* 363: 74-85.

Loudermilk, E.L., A. Stanton, R.M. Scheller, T.E. Dilts, P.J. Weisberg, C. Skinner, and J. Yang. 2014. Effectiveness of fuel treatments for mitigating wildfire risk and sequestering forest carbon: a case study in the Lake Tahoe Basin. *Forest Ecology and Management* 323: 114-125.

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*trends, and management, 2004 October 18-21; Klamath Falls, OR.* Ritchie, M.W., D.A. Maguire, and A. Youngblood, Tech. Coords. USDA Forest Service, PSW-GTR-198.

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Scheller, R.M., A.M. Kretchun, E.L. Loudermilk, M.D. Hurteau, P.J. Weisberg, and C.N. Skinner. 2018. Interactions among fuel management, species composition, bark beetles, and climate change and the potential effects on forests of the Lake Tahoe Basin. *Ecosystems* 21: 643-656.

Sudworth, G.B. 1900. Stanislaus and Lake Tahoe Forest Reserves, California, and adjacent territories. Annual reports of the Department of Interior, 21st annual report of the U.S. Geological Survey, Part 5. Pp. 505-561 (Especially pages 557-559).

Ritchie, M.W., B.M. Wing, and T.A. Hamilton. 2008. Stability of the large tree component in treated and untreated late-seral interior ponderosa pine stands. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research 38*: 919-923.

Taylor, A.H., V. Trouet, C.N. Skinner, and S.L. Stephens. 2016. Socioecological transitions trigger fire regime shifts and modulate fire-climate interactions in the Sierra Nevada, USA, 1600-2015 CE. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, USA* 113(48): 13684-13689.

Tepley, A.J., J.R. Thompson, H.E. Epstein, K.J. Anderson-Teixeira. 2017. Vulnerability to forest loss through altered postfire recovery dynamics in a warming climate in the Klamath Mountains. *Global Change Biology* 23: 4117-4132.

Uzoh, F.C.C., and C.N. Skinner. 2009. Effects of creating two forest structures and using prescribed fire on coarse woody debris in northeastern California, USA. *Fire Ecology* 5(2): 1-13.

van Wagtendonk, J.W., J.A. Fites-Kaufman, H.D. Safford, M.P. North, and B.M. Collins. 2018. Sierra Nevada Bioregion. Pages 249-278 in van Wagtendonk, J. W., N. G. Sugihara, S. L. Stephens, A. E. Thode, K. E. Shaffer, and J. Fites-Kauffmann, editors. *Fire in California's Ecosystems, Second Edition, Revised.* University of California Press, Berkeley.