

California Natural Diversity Database/Spotted Owl Viewer

Selected Codes Defined and Described

US Fish and Wildlife Service
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During the US Fish and Wildlife Service-Cal Fire Timber Harvest Plan Technical Assistance Workshop on 2/13/2008, a number of questions were raised regarding codes in the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) reports. The following information defines the three codes that generated the most questions and describes their use in the technical assistance process.

ActCenter

“ActCenter” is defined in the metadata as:

“A ‘P’ indicates that a particular observation is the basis for the current activity center used as the point represented in the site summary data; the observation record used as the point feature for site is based on the site’s observation history and the species’ biology”

For the technical assistance process, the activity center is the location upon which the habitat analysis is centered. Activity center data are only as good as the data entered into the database; reporting surveys to CDFG for inclusion in the database is not mandatory. Therefore, the current version of the data in Reports 1, 2, and 3, may not reflect all known activity centers or their most current location.

RepStatus

“RepStatus” is defined in the metadata as the “best ever known occupancy status for this territory”. The codes and their descriptions are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: “RepStatus” values and definitions from CNDDDB/Spotted Owl Viewer metadata.

Value	Definition
S	Single owl
T	Territorial single owl
P	Pair of owls
A	Territory has been determined to be abandoned

Single Owl: Describes the detection of a single NSO on one occasion. For both the interior and coastal regions it is not necessary to do a habitat analysis for Single Owl status sites. It is important to note that the detection of a Single Owl often indicates the presence of an activity center nearby. Data with regards to survey effort (survey forms and follow up forms) is needed to determine if this detection truly represents the detection of a Single Owl.

Territorial Single Owl: Describes the detection of a single NSO on more than one occasion in the same general area. For interior and coastal regions, a habitat analysis is necessary to evaluate the likelihood of incidental take. For the interior region, the most recent activity center should be used as the basis of the habitat analysis circle and include as much suitable habitat in areas of previous detections as possible. For the coastal region, the three most recent activity centers should be buffered by 1000' and used as the basis for the habitat analysis circle. It is important to note that a Territorial Single Owl is often indicates the presence of a pair, but the other owl is simply not heard or seen. Data with regards to survey effort (survey forms and follow up forms) is needed to determine if this detection truly represents the detection of a Territorial Single Owl.

Pair of Owls: Describes the detection of a pair of NSOs. Pair status is higher than either Single Owl or Territorial Single Owl. For interior and coastal regions, a habitat analysis is necessary to evaluate the likelihood of incidental take. For the interior region, the most recent activity center should be used as the basis of the habitat analysis circle and include as much suitable habitat in areas of previous detections as possible. For the coastal region, the three most recent activity centers should be buffered by 1000' and used as the basis for the habitat analysis circle.

Abandoned: Describes a territory that has been determined to no longer contain NSOs based on survey effort or severely diminished habitat conditions. Abandoned status is determined by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For interior and coastal regions, a habitat analysis is not necessary for Abandoned activity centers

ADSUBAD

“ADSUBAD” is defined in the metadata as the “age and sex of adult and subadult owls observed. Code paired by individual, with age given first (e.g., AM represents and adult male). May contain other information; see code table below”. Table 2 contains the values and definitions associated with “ADSUBAD.”

When a pair of owls is recorded, there will be a four character code:

AMAF = Adult male, adult female
SMSF = Subadult male, subadult female
UMUF = unknown age male, unknown age female

The metadata state “when more than two owls are observed and the occupancy status of the third and fourth bird are unknown, only the sex of the bird will be given.”

MMF = 2 males and a female
FFM = 2 females and a male
MFU = male, female, unknown sex
MFUU = male, female, and two unknown sex

Table 2: “ADSUBAD” values and definitions from CNDDDB/Spotted Owl Viewer metadata.

Value	Definition
A	Adult
S	Subadult
U	Unknown (can be used for describing age and/or sex)
M	Male
F	Female
NS	Not surveyed
NVAC	Site determined to be unoccupied or abandoned by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a result of protocol surveys meeting specific criteria.
UNOC	Determined to not be a valid activity center by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as a result of protocol surveys meeting specific criteria.

Complete CNDDDB/Spotted Owl Viewer Data Dictionary

For a complete data dictionary of the codes used in Reports 1, 2, and 3 please see the metadata associated with the CNDDDB/Spotted Owl Viewer (<http://bios.dfg.ca.gov>). To view the metadata, open the CNDDDB/Spotted Owl Viewer and click on the metadata button (see Figure 1 below), and then select the “Attributes” tab.

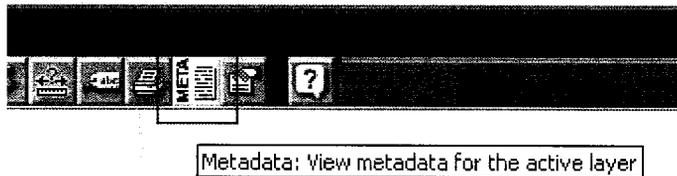


Figure 1: The metadata button located on the main toolbar within the CNDDDB/Spotted Owl Viewer.