

Reminder for 2012 Northern Spotted Owl Survey Season:

The **USFWS 2011 NSO Survey Protocol – 2012 Revision** (Protocol) contains a requirement for Follow-Up Outings after nocturnal detections of NSO, or unidentified *Strix* species, as part of a Complete Visit. Page 15 of the Protocol states: “The follow-up should be completed as soon as possible after presence was detected as owls are more apt to be located near the previous night’s location. A daytime follow-up is the second part of a complete visit if a spotted owl is detected.” [Ref. Protocol 5.5 Complete Visit; 6.0 Follow-up Outings]

In order for surveys to be consistent with the Protocol, CAL FIRE expects NSO surveyors to conduct Follow-Up Outings as soon as possible following nocturnal detections as outlined in the Protocol. Typically this will be done on the next day or within two days at most. There may be rare circumstances where postponement or deletion of the follow-up visit is reasonable. In those cases, documentation of the surveys should include an explanation and justification. (Note: The timeline for Follow-Up Outings for Spot Checks is slightly different. Ref. Protocol 10.1.6. )

Any questions should be directed to your regional CAL FIRE Review Team Office.