

Alternative to Two-Year Northern Spotted Owl Survey Protocol

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has offered to work with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) to review proposals for an optional one-year NSO survey effort this year. The proposals should adhere to current USFWS standards for suitable habitat and take avoidance, should include specific information relative to NSO presence on the project area, and should describe the nature and extent of the proposed timber operations and their effect on NSO and its habitat. Such proposals must be submitted to CAL FIRE by late April, and USFWS and CAL FIRE will review requests **prior** to completion of this survey season.

Conditions

The proposals should: **(1)** Use USFWS-recommended definitions of suitable NSO habitat contained in Attachments A and B (see:

http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/Revised_USFWS_Attachment_A_NS_O_Take_Avoidance_Analysis--_Coast%20Redwood_3-15-11.pdf and http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/Revised%20USFWS%20Attachement%20B%20NSO%20Take%20Avoidance%20Analysis--%20Interior%202-27-08.pdf); and **(2)** Avoid take using USFWS-recommended NSO take avoidance scenarios (see: http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/USFWS_NS_O_TakeAvoidance_Scenarios_020108.pdf and http://www.fire.ca.gov/resource_mgt/downloads/NSO_NoiseDisturbance_NoTakeScenario_Aug09.pdf);

Proposal Contents

Proposals should include: **(1)** The results of current breeding season's surveys completed to date; **(2)** A comprehensive history of previous NSO survey information; and **(3)** A detailed justification that describes how a one-year, six-visit survey effort will avoid take of NSO considering the proposed timber operations. The justification should contain: **(a)** a description of the proposed timber operations (e.g., scope, type (silvicultural prescription(s) and yarding method(s)), timing, duration, etc.); **(b)** a description of the pre-harvest NSO habitat; **(c)** a description of the post-harvest NSO habitat; **(d)** a description of the known NSO locations; **(e)** a description of the barred owl occurrences; and **(f)** written discussion explaining how take will be avoided. Maps and photos showing the location of all such information, where applicable, should be provided.

Proposals Due

Proposals should be received by CAL FIRE by close of business on April 27, 2012. Proposals can be sent by regular mail or email. Addresses are: CAL FIRE, Attention: Bob Motroni, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244 and bob.motroni@fire.ca.gov.

For more information, call or email Chris Browder at (916) 653-4995 or chris.browder@fire.ca.gov or Bob Motroni at (916) 653-9420 or bob.motroni@fire.ca.gov.