

Northern Spotted Owl Take Avoidance Scenarios

2/1/08

The following describes how the Fish and Wildlife Service determines whether take is likely to occur for spotted owls. While we believe this is the most effective manner in avoiding take, it is likely not the only manner in which take can be avoided. The below scenarios are recommended tools to avoid take, but are not required approaches imposed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

- I. Scenario 1: No Take**
 - A. No suitable habitat in harvest units, and
 - B. No suitable habitat within 0.25 mile of timber operations (hauling, roads, units).

- II. Scenario 2: No Take**
 - A. No suitable habitat in harvest units, and
 - B. Suitable habitat within 0.25 mile of timber operations, then:
 - 1. Seasonal restriction from February 1 to July 9,
 - OR–
 - 2. Protocol surveys completed with no reproductive behavior and no timber operations until the conclusion of protocol surveys.

- III. Scenario 3: No Take**
 - A. Suitable habitat within harvest units, and
 - B. Protocol surveys are complete, and
 - 1. No owls are detected within 1.3 miles of timber operations
 - AND–
 - 2. No historic NSO activity centers within 1.3 miles of timber operations.

- IV. Scenario 4: Avoidance of Disturbance and Direct Take Through Habitat Retention**
 - A. Suitable habitat within some or all harvest units, and
 - B. Protocol surveys detect NSO and/or historic activity centers within 1.3 miles of timber operations, and
 - C. All habitat and operational conditions (see 1 and 2 below) shall be followed for each activity center.
 - 1. Habitat conditions that avoid take
 - a. For Coast, see Attachment A
 - OR–
 - b. For Interior, see Attachment B
 - 2. Operational conditions that avoid take
 - a. For harvest units that do not contain suitable NSO habitat, but are within 0.25 mile of suitable NSO habitat

- i. Seasonally restrict timber operations from February 1 to July 9

–OR–

- ii. Protocol surveys completed with no reproductive behavior and no timber operations until the conclusion of protocol surveys

–OR–

- b. For harvest units that contain suitable NSO habitat

- i. Protocol surveys completed with no reproductive behavior and no timber operations until the conclusion of protocol surveys

–OR–

- ii. Protocol surveys completed with reproductive behavior, no operations from February 1 to August 31 within 0.25 mile of activity center.