

Interagency Northern Spotted Owl Team (INSOSC)

Terms of Reference

January 2008

1. BACKGROUND

The BC Government's April 2006 Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Action Plan is currently being implemented. Several issues have been identified and others will undoubtedly surface as the province strives to recover this endangered species. A July 17, 2007 letter from the Assistant Deputy Ministers of Environment; Forests and Range; and the Integrated Land Management Bureau provides the mandate to establish the Interagency Northern Spotted Owl Steering Committee (INSOSC) to address these issues.

2. PURPOSE OF THE INSOSC

Composed of senior cross-agency representatives, this corporate committee is responsible for providing clarity and direction to government agency staff on policy and implementation issues related to Northern Spotted Owl Recovery.

The committee will be the conduit into each agency for information related to Spotted Owl recovery efforts, and will accomplish this through periodic meetings, monthly conference calls and recorded action items.

The INSOSC will identify short- and long-term actions required to bring certainty to government's Spotted Owl recovery plan. This includes providing a Spotted Owl habitat plan and implementation measures to government by October 31, 2008. The habitat plan will be integrated with plans for inventory, captive breeding and reintroduction, and competitor control as necessary.

3. OPERATING PRINCIPLES

3.1 Membership:

- Membership will be restricted to a maximum of five representatives per provincial agency and will be chaired by the senior representative from ILMB (see Appendix 1).
- Environment Canada is invited to participate on the INSOSC as an ex-officio member.
- Members will endeavour to participate in all INSOSC meetings, whether in person or by conference call, and will identify an alternate when attendance is not possible.
- Members may specify attendance of other experts on an ad hoc basis at INSOSC meetings if helpful to the goals of the INSOSC.
- Members will prepare for meetings by reviewing and/or providing materials, as requested by the Chair, prior to meeting dates.

3.2 Decision-making:

- Decisions will be informed by science; will be based on an acceptable level of environmental, social and economic risk; will be consistent with the April 2006 Spotted Owl Recovery Action Plan; and will work towards creating certainty for the forest sector regarding the management of owl habitat, and certainty for Spotted Owl recovery.

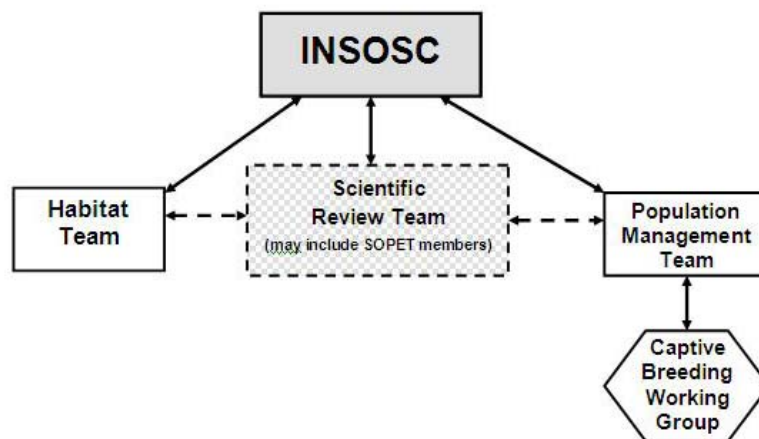
- Decisions will be made by consensus if possible. Where the INSOSC cannot reach agreement on issues, or where decisions are the responsibility of elected official, the INSOSC will prepare options to be brought forward to ADMs for decision.

4. INSOSC RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Governance:

The INSOSC will:

- Design an efficient and effective cross-agency governance structure to continue implementing the April 2006 Cabinet decision on Spotted Owl recovery;
- Identify any incremental resources required to recover the Spotted Owl population;
- Clarify its relationships to other Spotted Owl Teams.
- Under the policy of the National Recovery Working Group, responsible jurisdictions are able to establish recovery implementation groups. The proposed governance structure (below) transitions the Canadian Spotted Owl Recovery Team (CSORT) from its role in developing science advice for government to a role in the implementation of government's April 2006 Spotted Owl Recovery Action Plan.



4.2 Issue Resolution:

The INSOSC will provide direction to government agency staff by:

- Defining the business process for revising the BC Northern Spotted Owl Management Plan (SOMP);
- Defining 'no net loss' as it relates to Spotted Owl habitat and timber harvesting opportunities;
- Clarifying policy for known active owl sites outside of currently protected areas;
- Establishing a population recovery target for Spotted Owls, as the basis / foundation for recovery and reintroduction of Spotted Owls;
- Defining the scope of a habitat assessment and modelling project based on review of, but not limited to, the current SOMP;
- Identifying the habitat necessary for reintroduction and recovery of owls;
- Addressing other issues as they arise.

5. DELIVERABLES

By March 31, 2008, the INSOSC will:

- Prepare a public communications plan.
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By October 31, 2008, the INSOSC will:

- Provide a government-endorsed Spotted Owl population target and habitat plan;
- Provide an updated Spotted Owl Recovery Action Plan to the federal government.

The Habitat Plan will:

- Define the habitat needed for survival, recovery, and reintroduction of owls;
- Identify (map) the bounds and confirm the management regimes of habitat needed in the short- and mid-terms to meet the recovery population target;
- Identify implementation measures required to establish appropriate habitat management regimes on the forest landbase;
- Develop a policy on how to address mitigation requirements of impacted operators.

Note: short-term means up to 20 years; mid-term means up to 50 years. It is expected that government will evaluate the progress of the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Action Plan after five years and at appropriate intervals thereafter.

Approved by:



Kaaren Lewis, Director, Ecosystems Branch
Ministry of Environment

Date: February 18, 2008



Ministry of Forests and Range

FEBRUARY 18, 2008
Date:

Diane Medves, Director, Forest Practices Branch
Ministry of Forests and Range



Mark Zacharias, Director, Species at Risk Coordination Office
Integrated Land Management Bureau

Date: February 18, 2008

Appendix 1: Membership, Interagency Northern Spotted Owl Steering Committee

Ministry of Environment:

Kaaren Lewis, Director, Ecosystems Branch (senior representative)

Alec Dale, Manager of Wildlife Science, Ecosystems Branch (alternate for Kaaren Lewis)

Jennifer McGuire, Environmental Stewardship Manager, representing MoE Regions 2 & 3

Brian Clark, Director, Regional Operations Branch (alternate for Jennifer McGuire)

Ian Blackburn, Provincial Spotted Owl Coordinator, (key support)

Ministry of Forests:

Diane Medves (senior representative)

Kerry Grozier, District Manager, Chilliwack District

Dave Hails, District Manager, Squamish District

Chuck van Hemmen, District Manager, Cascades District

Ted Nash, Regional Staff Manager, Coast Region

Integrated Land Management Bureau:

Mark Zacharias, Director, Species at Risk Coordination Office (INSOSC Chair and senior representative)

Liz Williams, Manager, Species at Risk Coordination Office

Environment Canada (ex-officio member):

Paul Kluckner, Director, Canadian Wildlife Service, Pacific and Yukon Region
