Northern Spotted Owl Implementation Team (NSOIT)
Meeting Minutes
June 4, 2012
2:00pm – 3:00pm
NRB 411

Attending:

Call Meeting to Order
Meeting called to order at 2:03 pm.

Review Draft Agenda
No adjustments to the draft agenda.

Pilot Update
DNR Staff provided the NSOIT with an update on the developments of the Entiat Pilot Project.
Lauren: A preliminary interdisciplinary team (project team) has been convened and will hold their first meeting on June 25th. Pilot project team members represent DNR, WDFW, USFWS, The Nature Conservancy and Longview Timber. We will follow the pilot rule approved by the Forest Practices Board in February 2010, and should there be any need to deviate from the rule in the future, we will return to the Board to submit a new CR-101 at that time. The project team will meet in late June to go over stand data provided by Longview Timber and discuss logistics. We are in the process of scheduling a field tour to the pilot location this summer. Project team members have agreed to volunteer their time to help with some initial organizing of the pilot, which will help us develop a reliable cost estimate to use in grant requests. We will need to secure staff funding for the conservation representative to maintain his membership on the team, we appreciate TNC donating staff time and expertise to some preliminary meetings for the pilot. We also greatly appreciate all of the project team members for volunteering their time to some initial planning meetings.
Bridget: The largest hurdle for trying to get this pilot up and running was the need to secure planning dollars, which are less abundant than implementation dollars. We’ve decided to convene the project team for some initial organizational meetings to begin the planning phase of the pilot and will continue to search for funding. Phase I of the pilot is to develop a plan; Phase II is to implement. If there are no funds to implement the pilot, it is possible that a template could be developed instead.
David: If we can implement the pilot great, otherwise, we can have the template discussion later on.

Approve Meeting Minutes
Minutes approved.

Technical Team Update
Lauren: The Technical Team met earlier this morning to discuss federal baseline scenarios and have chosen three scenarios to test: (1) NWFP as intended; (2) NWFP as implemented; and (3) 2012 Draft Critical Habitat with proposed exclusions.
Andy: The Technical Team will present their draft scenarios and federal baselines during the joint NSOIT meeting on June 20th, but we thought we’d give you all a preview for what’s ahead in the meantime.
David: The NWFP envisioned more harvest than what actually occurred.
Bridget: It sounds like there’s some concern generated that the development of the SOSEAs relied on the NWFP?
Kevin: I could see it going both ways, if there was less harvest envisioned on federal lands, would the SOSEAs have been smaller?

Paula: There are some analyses that there are more NSOs in some matrix lands than there are in LSRs.

Kevin: Could we have the Technical Team run the actual barred owl encounter rates?

David: We might want to ask the USFWS if increasing the barred owl encounter rate [rather than dialing it down] would provide useful information if every run over 0.4 resulted in extinction (see Dunk et al. 2012).

Kevin: What’s the effect of time delay for barred owl control?

Andy: The team could do barred owl sensitivity analyses to determine what the incremental benefit is. The technical team is proposing to approach analyzing the barred owl issue up-front.

Bridget: Everything with the feds includes the assumption that the barred owl would be controlled. We need to get a relative sense of the choices. If we know we need to control the barred owl first, then preserve habitat – at what point does one priority become secondary?

Paula: I’m not sure what control is possible; we don’t have a lot of control over barred owl control.

David: We want to be ready to capitalize on it when the EIS is finished.

Shawn: The NSOIT’s primary goal is to develop “voluntary measures to protect habitat” on nonfederal lands to make a significant contribution. There are plenty of opportunities to protect habitat. This process has been going on for years and we have little to show for it.

David: We need to do what we can for habitat incentives program. If you’re trying to get a response, it may not be the best to focus on where encounter rates are lower.

Andy: If there are analytical questions we want the Technical Team to answer, the NSOIT has the opportunity to develop these.

Kevin: Does the draft critical habitat include exclusions and lands considered for exclusions? Would you be able to see any change of private lands proposed for critical habitat? Is it important to focus on those areas?

Bridget: We’ll have DNR staff check back with the Technical Team to clarify.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 3:00pm.