

## **Appendix 2: Forest Practice Rule definitions regarding Northern Spotted Owl or their habitat**

**Activity Center (AC)** means a known northern Spotted Owl site documented from detections, pursuant to the USFWS document "Protocol For Surveying Proposed Management Activities That May Impact Northern Spotted Owls" revised March 17, 1992.

(a) An AC is established by:

(1) Resident Single Status is established by:

(A) The presence or response of a single owl within the same general area on three or more occasions within a breeding season, with no response by an owl of the opposite sex after a complete survey;

(B) Multiple responses over several years (i.e., two responses in year one and one response in year 2, from the same general area).

(2) Pair Status Unknown is where the presence or response of two birds of the opposite sex is detected but pair status cannot be determined and where at least one member must meet the resident single requirements.

(3) Pair Status wherein a male and female are heard and/or observed (either initially or through their movement) in proximity (less than one-quarter mile apart) to each other on the same visit; or a male takes a mouse to a female; or a female is detected on the nest; or one or both adults are observed with young.

(4) Unoccupied Status where no responses have been obtained from a previously identified northern Spotted Owl activity center after 3 years of survey, barring other evidence to the contrary.

An AC with unoccupied status will not be considered an AC when it has been evaluated and a determination made by the Director. The determination shall be based upon available information on survey history, habitat conditions within the home range, and changes to habitat that may have occurred since the northern Spotted Owl site was first identified.

**Functional Foraging Habitat** is dependent upon the presence and availability of prey on the forest floor or in the canopy; presence of accessible perching limbs; and adjacency to stands with canopy closures >40%. Average stem diameter is usually >6" dbh for hardwoods and >11" dbh for conifers among dominants, and co-dominants, and the total overhead canopy closure, including intermediate trees is at least 40%. Where overall canopy closure is >80%, foraging habitat is limited to areas with ample flight space below limbs and among stems. Foraging habitat in smaller size classes and lower percentage canopy closures must be justified by local information.

**Functional Nesting Habitat** means habitat with a dominant and co-dominant tree canopy closure of at least 40% and a total canopy (including dominant, co-dominant, and intermediates) of at least 60%. Usually the stand is distinctly multi-layered with an average stem diameter in dominant, and co-dominant conifers, and hardwoods >11" dbh. The stand usually consists of several tree species (including hardwoods) of mixed sizes. All nests, snags, down logs, and decadent trees shall also be

considered as part of the habitat. Nesting substrates are provided by broken tops, cavities, or platforms such as those created by a hawk or squirrel nest, mistletoe broom, or accumulated debris. Owls are known to occasionally nest in less than optimal habitat. Nesting areas may also be associated with characteristics of topographic relief and aspect which alter microclimates.

**Functional Roosting Habitat** during the territorial breeding season, consists of stands where average stem diameter is >11" dbh among dominant and co-dominant trees. Hardwood and conifers provide an average of at least 40% canopy closure but the stand can have a high degree of variability. Stand size and configuration must be sufficient to provide multiple perch sites which are suitable for protection from various environmental conditions, including wind, heat, and precipitation.

**Owl Habitat** means Type A, B, or C owl habitat or those areas with functional foraging habitat, functional nesting habitat, and functional roosting habitat which support the owl's biological needs for breeding, sheltering, and feeding. An area of habitat could have characteristics which support all of the functional needs for nesting, roosting, and foraging or a combination of those functions. Because owls are known to occasionally inhabit less than optimal forest structure, local information can be used to justify the modification of functional habitat definitions.

**Type A Owl Habitat** means timber stands that have as a minimum the following characteristics for live-tree structure:

- 1. Canopy layers:** The stand has two distinct tiers or is multi-layered with dominant conifers greater than 120 ft. tall (trees greater than 90 ft. tall on poor sites, less than site III, and for some montane tree species). Conifers or hardwoods dominate the canopy layers less than 120 ft. tall.
- 2. Canopy Closure:** The canopy closure of conifers greater than 120 ft. tall (or greater than 90 ft. tall on poor sites, less than site III, and for some montane tree species) averages greater than 40% and not less than 20%. The total canopy closure for all trees, conifers or hardwoods, is greater than 60%.
- 3. Large Trees:** The density of conifers greater than 35 in. dbh averages more than nine stems per acre and not less than six stems per acre and includes a component of trees with sparse, broken, or dead tops.
- 4. Medium Trees:** The density of conifers or hardwoods 18 to 35 in. dbh averages more than 15 stems per acre and not less than 8 stems per acre.
- 5. Small Trees:** The density of conifers or hardwoods less than 18 in. dbh averages more than 50 stems per acre and not less than 20 stems per acre.

**Type B Owl Habitat** means timber stands that have as a minimum the following characteristics for live-tree structure:

- 1. Canopy Layers:** Moderately to strongly two-tiered or multi-layered with dominant conifers greater than 100 ft. tall (greater than 70 ft. tall on poor sites, less than site III, and for some montane tree species). Conifers or hardwoods dominate the canopy layers less than 100 ft. tall.
- 2. Canopy Closure:** The canopy closure of conifers greater than 100 ft. tall (or greater than 70 ft. tall on poor sites, less than site III, and for some montane tree species) averages greater than 40%

and not less than 20%. The total closure for all trees, conifers or hardwoods, is greater than 60%.

**3. Large Trees:** The density of conifers greater than 35 in. dbh averages more than six stems per acre and not less than two stems per acre.

**4. Medium Trees:** The density of conifers or hardwoods 18 to 35 in. dbh averages more than 25 stems per acre and not less than 20 stems per acre.

**5. Small Trees:** The density of conifers or hardwoods less than 18 in. dbh averages more than 50 stems per acre and not less than 20 stems per acre.

**Type C Owl Habitat** means timber stands that have as a minimum the following characteristics for live-tree structure:

**1. Canopy Layers:** Uniform to moderately layered with dominant conifers or hardwoods 50 to 100 ft. tall although low numbers of emergent trees greater than 100 ft. tall may be present.

**2. Canopy Closure:** The canopy closure of conifers or hardwoods 50 to 100 ft. tall averages greater than 40% and not less than 20%. The total canopy closure for all trees, conifers or hardwoods, is greater than 60%.

**3. Large Trees:** The density of conifers greater than 35 inches dbh averages less than six stems per acre and may be absent.

**4. Medium Trees:** The density of conifers or hardwoods 18 to 35 in. dbh averages more than 15 stems per acre, but may be absent.

**5. Small Trees:** The density of conifers or hardwoods less than 18 inches dbh averages more than 160 stems per acre and not less than 50 stems per acre. The average dbh for all trees in the stand, including small, medium, and large trees is greater than 10 inches.