



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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May 13, 2008

Mr. Chris Browder  
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection  
P.O. Box 944246  
Sacramento, California 94244-2460

Subject: **Corrections Required** to the Northern Spotted Owl Survey Guidance Provided on February 27, 2008, Attachments A and B

Dear Mr. Browder:

There are important corrections required to the northern spotted owl (NSO) survey guidance provided to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) on February 27, 2008, from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The NSO survey guidance, previously provided by the Service, incorrectly stated that surveys for NSOs be conducted in nesting/roosting habitat. However, to minimize the likelihood of take, surveys for northern spotted owls should include all suitable (nesting, roosting, and foraging) habitat. The inclusion of foraging and low quality foraging habitat in the survey guidance provides confidence that areas likely to support both nesting and foraging by NSOs are covered adequately by protocol surveys.

Please make the following corrections to ensure that habitats potentially occupied by NSOs are surveyed per the March 17, 1992 survey protocol.

**On page 21 (Attachment A: Take Avoidance Analysis--Coast) of CAL FIRE's "Important Information for Timber Operations Proposed within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl" document, please replace:**

### II. Survey Effort

#### 1) Coverage

- a. Surveys of nesting/roosting habitat out to 0.7 mile from THP boundary



**with:**

- II. Survey Effort
  - 1) Coverage
    - a. Surveys of nesting/roosting and foraging habitats out to 0.7 mile from THP boundary

**On page 28 (Attachment B: Take Avoidance Analysis--Interior) of CAL FIRE's "Important Information for Timber Operations Proposed within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl" document, please replace:**

- II. Survey Effort
  - 1) Coverage
    - a. Surveys of nesting/roosting habitat out to 0.7 mile from THP boundary

**with:**

- II. Survey Effort
  - 1) Coverage
    - a. Surveys of high quality nesting/roosting, nesting/roosting, foraging, and low quality foraging habitats out to 0.7 mile from THP boundary

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Willy or Laura Finley, Fish and Wildlife Biologists, at the number above.

Sincerely,



Phil Detrich  
Field Supervisor

cc: Vicki Campbell, Region 9, Sacramento, CA