

**Northern Spotted Owl Implementation Team (NSOIT)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 15, 2012**  
**10:00am – 12:00pm**

**Attending:**

**NSOIT:** Bridget Moran, David Whipple, Shawn Cantrell, Kevin Godbout and Bettina von Hagen (by phone). **Technical Team:** James Pittman (by phone). **Others Present:** Cindy Mitchell and Paula Swedeen. **Staff:** Andy Hayes and Lauren Burnes.

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 10:05am

**Review Draft Agenda**

No changes were made to the draft agenda.

**Approve January 9<sup>th</sup> Minutes**

Shawn suggested that the January 9<sup>th</sup> minutes should mention the new release date for the draft Critical Habitat, which was moved from January 17<sup>th</sup> to the end of February. The NSOIT agreed with the suggestion. [Minutes Approved].

**Technical Team Discussion**

***Overview:***

Andy and Lauren provided an overview of their recent meetings with the Technical Team biologists and economists. The Technical Team developed a draft Guiding Principles document and draft Work Plan. They are now moving towards developing draft analytical scenarios for the NSOIT to consider. The economists identified opportunities to work concurrently with the biological process. Staff provided copies of updated drafts of Technical Team Guiding Principles and Work Plan for feedback from the NSOIT.

***Technical Team Guiding Principles Discussion:***

**Cindy:** I'd like to make sure that the idea of strategic contributions doesn't get lost in the process, it's important to broaden it to all activities landowners can do – that it's not just about habitat.

**Shawn, Bridget:** This is addressed within the Technical Team Guiding Principles.

**Andy:** The Technical Team is currently working on analytical questions; this process could be an additional opportunity to include this.

**David:** At our last NSOIT meeting, the NSOIT chose to define short-term conservation efforts as actions to be taken within 10 years and anything over 10 years would be considered longer-term conservation efforts. The Technical Team has reflected this in their Guiding Principles. I would like the Technical Team to not feel limited to defining short-term conservation efforts as 10 years and should have the flexibility to adjust this definition should they find a more appropriate time scale during their technical process. Choosing 10 years as our short-term definition was more of a generalization/example than a concrete mandate, so the Technical Team should feel free to adjust this if they find that it's necessary.

**Bettina:** I like the draft Guiding Principles document; I have a few edits that I'll send to staff. It looks like an ambitious agenda.

**Paula:** It might be helpful to include intermediate biological goals. Should we have intermediate check steps such as “add acres of habitat conserved with incentives over time?”

***Clarifications for the Technical Team:***

**Andy:** The economists would like to know if there is existing landowner demographic data that they could take a look at.

➤ **Kevin:** I will talk to people and see if we could find this information.

**Bettina:** A spatial landowner analysis overlay might be available through Atterbury.

**Paula:** You should take a look at FIA data, PNW-GTR-800, and check with the Forest Service.

**Andy:** The economists would like to know what the NSOIT sees on the table for incentives. Everything? In other words, does the NSOIT have a predisposed idea about what incentive opportunities they could endorse?

**Shawn:** We will consider everything that’s out there regarding incentives. We’d like the economists to tell us what they think would be feasible.

**Kevin:** We’d like to know what would be quickly and easily accomplished. Speculation on what could work for our circumstances (specifically the NSO in WA) in case the economists would like to design a new mechanism would be helpful as well.

**Bridget:** I think the NSOIT should consider designating a representative with experience in ecological economics to sit in on meetings with the Technical Team economists. [NSOIT Agreed].

➤ Paula Swedeen and Bettina von Hagen were chosen by the NSOIT to attend future discussions with the economists (they will share the responsibility). They will not provide policy direction but instead lend their technical expertise to the process.

**NSOIT Work Plan Components**

Bridget provided the NSOIT with an update to the Eastside Pilot Project. She said that potential project team members have been identified and that they will likely hold their first meeting in April to go over stand data provided by Longview Timber. In May, the project team will take a field trip to the pilot location.

Paula provided the NSOIT with a brief initial overview (with only 5 minutes left to devote to it) of her experience at the Ecosystem Services Conference in Madison, WI last June. She mentioned that there were several large forest landowners in attendance, and representatives from industries that made direct inputs into natural systems (e.g., water systems) – this was a new developments from previous such meetings and an encouraging sign. She indicated one thing she learned about was organizations who were developing state-level conservation stamp programs (similar to the federal Duck Stamp Program) to raise dedicated funds for conservation. She suggested that this could be a way to raise funds for NSO conservation.

**NSOIT Next Steps**

The NSOIT will revisit Paula’s Ecosystem Services Conference summary at their next meeting. Next joint NSOIT and Technical Team meeting will be March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.