

## Pre-Operations Report

**Operation Name:** Left Shoo  
**County (%):** Clackamas (100%)  
**Elevation:** 2,501 – 3,237 ft  
**Legal Description:** T8S R3E, Section(s) 3, 4

**Tax Code(s):**  
**BOF%:** 100%    **CSL%:** 0%  
**Sale Quarter:** 1

### I. VOLUME AND VALUE SUMMARY

**Table 1. Types, Acres, and Value**

Unit	Harvest Type	Anticipated Product <sup>c</sup>	Gross Acres	Net Acres	MBF/Acre <sup>a</sup>	MBF/Unit <sup>a</sup>	\$/MBF <sup>b</sup>	\$/Unit
1	CC	DF-M, RA-S	81	75	20.0	1,500	\$400	\$600,000
Total		Regeneration	81	75		1,500		
		Partial Cut	0	0				
							Gross Value	\$600,000
a. Estimated harvest volume per acre for Unit.							Project Costs	\$88,964
b. Estimated 'price' (excluding Project Costs)							Net Value	\$511,036
c. Anticipated Product (AA-B-C) – AA) SLI species code of the bid species, B) Size Class (S – small [average DBH < 15], M – medium [average DBH 15 to 23], L – large (average DBH > 23)), C) Special Product (P – Premium, H – Hardwood)								

### II. CURRENT STAND CONDITION:

**Table 2. Stand Inventory Information**

Unit	Stand ID	Measured/Imputed <sup>a</sup>	Species	Age	TPA	DBH	BA	SDI	Net Acres <sup>b</sup>
1	12263	M	RA, WH	87	136	16	190	48%	2
1	12751	M	DF, RA	81	59	19	111	27%	67
1	12850	I = 99999	DF, RA	4*					7

- a. Identify the source of stand inventory information. Use the following codes: M = Measured SLI data, I = Imputed SLI data, P = Pre-Cruise Plots, O = other (if other, describe below).
- b. Net Acres have been rounded to the nearest whole acre in this table. Stand that comprise less than one acre of a harvest unit are not reported in this table, so the total "Net Acres" per unit in this table may not equal the total "Net Acres" per unit in table 1.
- \* Stands like 12850 that burned at a high severity during the 2020 Labor Day fires had their inventory depleted in SLI. The portion of stand 12850 that is within the timber sale boundary has merchantable trees remaining and looks similar to stand 12751. SLI boundaries will be corrected after sale completion.

The sale area was thinned in 2000. The sale area was also within the perimeter of the 2020 Labor Day fires. The East half of Unit 1 has experienced increasing post-fire mortality in the years following the fires.

**Table 3. Additional Stand Information**

Unit	Stand ID	Snags/Acre <sup>a</sup>	Down Wood/Acre <sup>b</sup>	Forest Health		
				SNC	Phellinus	Other <sup>c</sup>
1	12263	11	576			Post-fire mortality
1	12751	20	2214			Post-fire mortality
1	12850	0	0			Post-fire mortality

- a. Identify the number of hard snags per acre (decay classes 1 and 2)
- b. Identify the cubic feet per acre of hard down wood (decay classes 1 and 2)
- c. Describe "Other" forest health issue.

**III. WILDLIFE AND T&E SPECIES CONSIDERATIONS:**

Foresters need to request the Biological Survey Tracking Form (BSTF) from the ODF Wildlife Biologist prior to sale layout in order to ensure all T&E related information is complete and understood.

1. A portion of the operation is within (Check all that apply):
  - TAS     NSO Circle or Home Range, or Baseline or Elevated Baseline Thiessen (BA required)
  - MMMA (BA required)     None
2. Are Surveys for NSO being conducted for any portion of this operation?
  - No     Density Surveys     Operational Surveys     Combination (Density/Operational)

Notes:

3. Are Surveys for MM being conducted for any portion of this operation?
  - Yes (in progress/completed)     No (Not habitat)     N/A (outside of MM survey zone)

Notes:

4. Are there any additional considerations (FPA Resource Sites, Species of Concern sites/Plant)?
  - No     Yes, please describe:

**IV. DESIRED FUTURE CONDITION AND PRESCRIPTION:**

**Table 4. Stand Structure Information**

Unit	Stand ID	Current	Desired Future <sup>b</sup>	Net Acres <sup>a</sup>	Inside of HCA Acres
1	12263	UDS	GEN	2	0
1	12751	UDS	GEN	67	0
1	12850	REG	GEN	7	0

- a. Net Acres have been rounded to the nearest whole acre in this table. Stand that comprise less than one acre of a harvest unit are not reported in this table, so the total “Net Acres” per unit in this table may not equal the total “Net Acres” per unit in table 1.
- b. While desired future condition complex (Layered -LYR and Older Forest Structure – OFS) is mapped, targets for Regeneration, Closed Single Canopy and Understory stands are not. These stand types are typically referred to as General (GEN) when discussing desired future condition.

**Table 5. Harvest Prescriptions**

Unit	Harvest Type	Harvest Species	Residual (Partial Cut & HCA only)			
			Species	TPA	BA	% SDI
1	CC	DF				

- **Leave Tree Considerations:** Foresters will work with Wildlife Biologist during sale layout. The following should be considered when determining final leave tree arrangements.
  - Stand Characteristics: Prioritize larger diameter trees and minor species within each unit as part of the retention strategy.
  - Others: Minimize leave tree placement between Butte Creek 500 road and Butte Creek.

**Table 6. Reforestation**

Unit	Planting Species Mix (%)*	TPA*	Considerations (ex. Elevation, SNC, Aspect, Animal Damage)
	85 DF/15% other	400	Southern aspect, steep grade, 25% Standing dead

\*These are estimates for planning purposes and will be adjusted as needed based on site conditions during implementation.

- **Reforestation Considerations:**
  - **Aspect:** South
  - **Elevation** 2600'-3000'
  - **Animals** Big Game
  - **Insect/Disease** Douglas-fir beetles in standing dead trees likely
  - **Slash** Fallen trees from fire damage
  - **Leave Trees:** Large parcel of dead timber in eastern half of unit
  - **Soil** Wilhoit series, steep well drained
  - **HCA** Directly adjacent to HCA
  - **Other** 50% of the unit was underplanted in 2022

**V. HARVESTING AND ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS:**

**Table 7. Harvest System and Access Summary**

Unit	Harvest System		Slope (%)	Unit Access	Seasonal Access
	% Cable	% Ground			
1	100	0	>65	Established	All Weather

1. Haul Route: The majority of volume will be hauled from the top of the unit out the Butte Creek Mainline road which leads out to Family Camp Road. A small portion will be ground-based logged and come out the BC500 road which eventually leads into the Butte Creek Mainline and Family Camp Road
2. Haul Route Condition: Both the BC500 road and Butte Creek Mainline are in good condition at this time and will only need light maintenance throughout the timber sale.
3. Are easements required for the haul route?  No  Yes  
311.03009 is a permanent easement currently held with Port Blakely Tree Farms to cross a small section of Family Camp Road. Requires road maintenance and insurance.

**Table 8. Transportation Management Summary (Miles)**

Activity	Mainline	Collector	Rocked Spur	Dirt Spur
Construct	0	0	.58	0
Improve, Rock, and/or Maintain	0	9.6	0	0
Vacate	0	0	0	0
Stream Crossings: install on existing road (IE)/replace on existing road (R)/install on new construction road (NC)				
Type F - SSBT <sup>a</sup>	0	0	0	0
Type F – Non-SSBT	0	0	0	0
Type N	0	0	3R	0

a. Salmon Steelhead and Bull Trout (SSBT)

- Opportunities to vacate or block new or existing roads and/or spurs will be considered during sale layout.

4. Rock Sources for this operation: The primary rock source for this timber sale will likely be the BC720 Pit and the BC720 Stockpile.
5. Are property line surveys required for this operation?  No  Yes
6. Is there planned new road construction planned within RCAs/HCAs?  No  Yes

## VI. AQUATIC RESOURCES:

1. Do any streams require additional review for the following?
  - Fish presence:  No  Yes
  - Perennial/Seasonal:  No  Yes
  - H.E.R.:  No  Yes
    - There are streams within the sale that require additional review. Buffers shown on the map indicate where it is believed streams are located. These streams will be located, verified for permanence, and/or type of seasonal stream during sale layout and Geotech review and buffered as required.
2. Is a portion of the operation within an Aquatic Anchor?  No  Yes, name:
3. Are any domestic points of diversion identified in the Oregon Water Resource Department's water rights information search GIS database located downstream within 3,000 feet of the harvest operation?
  - No  Yes, describe protection measures:
4. Are there any unregistered or unknown status domestic points of diversion that have been identified within the harvest operation?  No  Yes, please describe:
5. Is there a Stream Enhancement Project planned?  No  Yes, please describe:

## VII. SLOPE STABILITY ISSUES:

**Table 9. Summary of Slope Stability Assessment**

Unit	Harvest Review Complete	Public Safety Review Complete
1	Y	Y

- **Geotech Review:** Initial geotechnical reviews have been completed and those findings have been incorporated into No Harvest buffers. Additional consultation with Geotechnical Specialists will be done during sale layout as needed.

## VIII. RECREATION RESOURCES:

1. Recreation issues/coordination:  No  Yes, please describe:
  - Sale activity may impact public access to the High Lakes Trailhead and Rhody Lake. The Marketing Unit will work closely with the Recreation Program during sale administration to minimize impact to the access to recreational sites and mitigate public use safety concerns.

## IX. HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES:

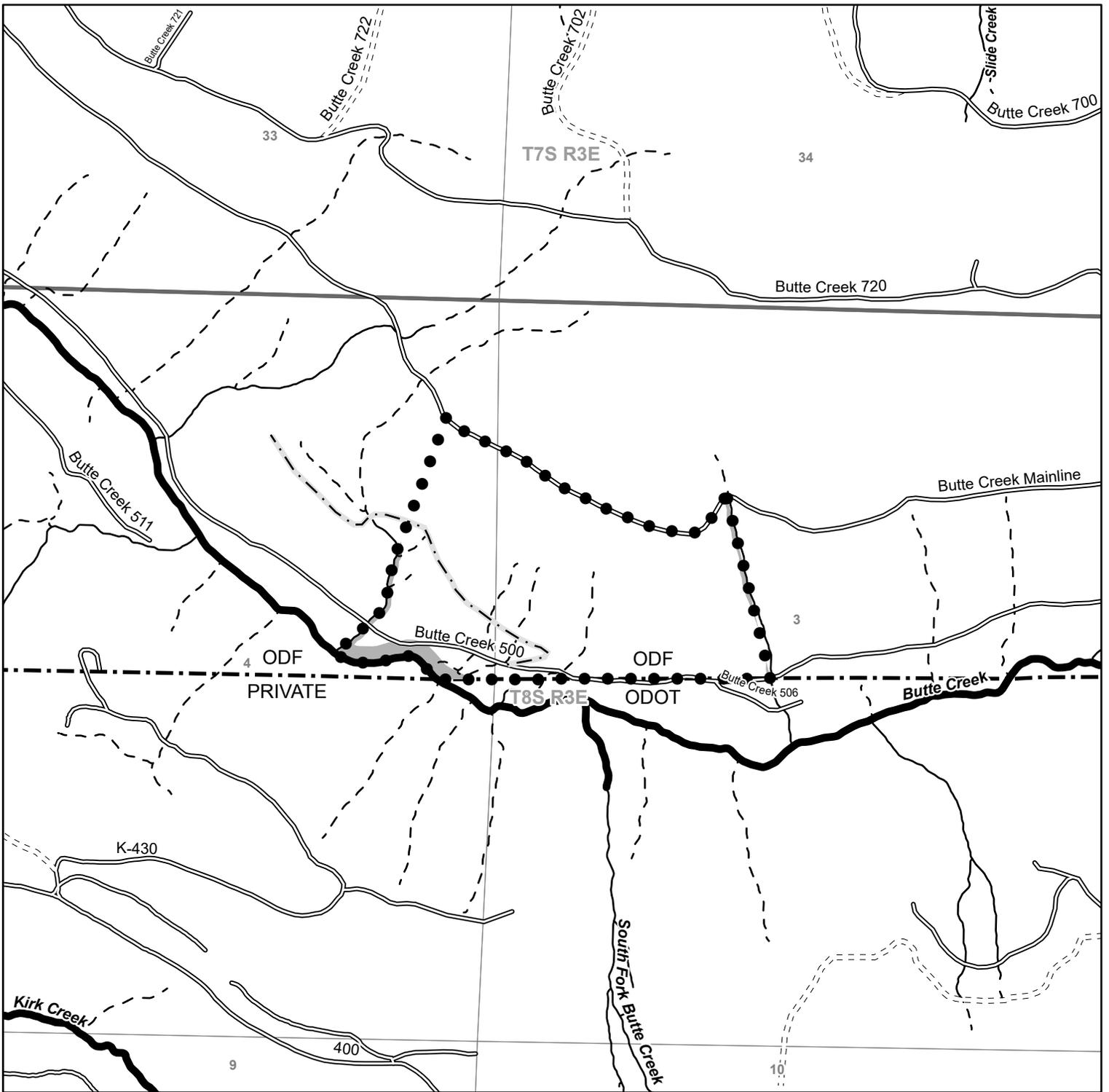
1. Has the sale been reviewed by a qualified archaeologist for potential historic or cultural resource presence?  No  Yes
  - Cultural Resource Review will be completed prior to sale layout

**X. SCENIC RESOURCES:**

1. Are there scenic resources in the vicinity of this operation that need additional consideration?  
 No    Yes, please describe:

**XI. OTHER RESOURCE CONSIDERATIONS:**

1. Has a review of the FLMCS layer determined that any resources not mentioned in the report above need additional planning?    No    Yes, please describe:
2. Are there any other resources present that need additional consideration?    No    Yes, please describe:
- **Adjacent Landowners (shared property lines):**
    - **Oregon Department of Transportation and Private Industrial Landowner**
      - District staff will work with adjacent private landowners to determine what additional outreach is needed during the sale process and if any additional restrictions are needed



**Legend**

- ● Sale Boundary
- No Harvest Area
- Surfaced
- - - Unsurfaced
- - - New Road Construction
- Perennial Fish Streams
- Perennial Non-Fish Streams
- - - Seasonal Streams
- Ownership Boundary

**FY 2027 - North Cascade District  
Left Shoo  
Portions of Section(s) 3, 4, T8S R3E, WM.  
Linn County**

State Forest Division  
02/04/2026

This product is for informational use and may not be suitable for legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. Variations may exist between and among data sets in use by the Department of Forestry. This map was developed using the Statewide Flowline Layer.

Unit 1    75 Acres (CC)

Total    75 Acres



1:12,000

1,000    500    0    1,000 Feet





# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

## Department of Forestry

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"STEWARDSHIP IN FORESTRY"

TO: Kyle Kaupp, Unit Forester, North Cascade District

FROM: Dax Strubb, Wildlife Biologist

SUBJECT: **Preliminary Biological Assessment for the Left Shoo Timber Sale**

DATE: March 11, 2026

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Left Shoo is a planned primary sale in the 2027 Annual Operations Plan of the North Cascade District. This sale would harvest 53 acres of approximately 1,839 acres of suitable habitat within the provincial home range of the Shoofly Creek northern spotted owl (NSO) owl site. The Shoofly Creek activity center (AC) was established following the 1996 survey season after multiple responses starting in 1993. The owl site's current pair status was designated in 2014, and no new detections have been documented during annual surveys at this site since 2015.

All 53 acres of planned harvest, within the provincial home range, are considered suitable habitat for northern spotted owls and occur within the outer 1.2 mile circle. Current habitat thresholds are approximately 76% and 64% suitable habitat within the 0.7- and 1.2-mile Shoofly Creek circles, respectively. Following harvest, approximately 76% and 62% of suitable habitat will remain in the 0.7- and 1.2-mile circles, respectively, exceeding ODF's minimum remaining habitat policy standards of 500 acres within the 0.7 mile circle and 40% suitable habitat throughout the home range circle (ODF 2017).

No spotted owls have been observed within the sale areas. As currently proposed, the Left Shoo timber sale is expected to have a **low** risk of negatively affecting the occupancy and productivity of the Gawley Creek northern spotted owl pair site.

## INTRODUCTION

### Purpose

The North Cascade District is proposing the Left Shoo sale as an operation in their 2027 Annual Operations Plan. The sale is located partially within the southwestern portion of the 1.2-mile provincial home range of the Shoofly Creek NSO pair site. This preliminary biological assessment (BA) presents relevant biological information needed to assess the potential effects of the Left Shoo timber sale on the Shoofly Creek pair site.

### Policy Direction

#### Northern Spotted Owls

In the North Cascade District, the current standard for protection of northern spotted owls is to apply the standards identified in the ODF Northern Spotted Owl Policy (ODF 2017), which are adapted from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's rescinded Incidental Take Guidelines (USFWS 1990). According to the Policy, the best available habitat is identified for a 70-acre core area; at least 500 acres of suitable habitat should be maintained within the 0.7 mile radius, and within the home range circle (in this case 1.2 miles), approximately 40% suitable habitat (1,158 acres) should be maintained. Additional factors to be considered and documented in this BA include proximity of the operation to an

AC, the prescription proposed, the size of the operation, the history of harvest and surveys near the AC, stand conditions, and other relevant factors.

## **BACKGROUND**

### **Survey History and Site Information**

Late in the 1993 season, a male response was heard at night, so the site was given Non-territorial Single status. In 1994, the area was surveyed three times with no responses. In 1995, there were two male responses at night, north and west of the 1993 response location. A single male response was heard in 1996. Based on the data from 1993, 1995, and 1996, the site was assigned Resident Single male status. There were no responses from 1997 through 1999. After three years of vacancy, the site was designated as abandoned in 1999. The AC location remained unchanged. Three survey visits in 2000 detected no owls. The site was not surveyed in 2001. In 2002, this area was surveyed in conjunction with a timber sale; there were no responses. In 2003, two male night responses were detected. In 2004, a male was heard two times at night, and an un-banded adult male was found during the day. Site status was changed to Resident Single, and the AC was moved to the day location. There were no responses in 2005. In 2006, a pair was heard once at night, and an un-banded male was moused during the day. The site now has Pair status, and AC location remains the same. In 2007, a female was heard at night and found without young the next day. There were no responses in 2008. In 2009, a male was heard on two separate night visits, but no owls were found on the follow-up visits. There were no spotted owl responses in 2010 or 2011. In 2012, a daytime AC search was conducted at this site. A male spotted owl was found and appeared to be non-nesting. A male was later heard at night on the fifth visit. Site status was changed to Resident Single. In 2013, a daytime AC search was conducted at this site with no spotted owl responses, and there were no responses during night surveys. In 2014, a daytime AC search was conducted at the site with no spotted owl responses. However, a pair of spotted owls was heard at night, and a female was heard on another occasion. The site received Pair status, and the AC was moved to the 2014 nighttime pair location. From 2015 through 2025, a daytime AC search was conducted at this site with no spotted owl responses, and there were no responses during night surveys. Barred owls were detected in the area from 2003 through 2005, from 2010 through 2013, from 2015 through 2017, and 2019 through 2025 (Turnstone 2025, Figure 1).

### **Stand Information**

The Left Shoo timber sale currently consists of one clear cut harvest unit totaling 75 net acres. The timber sale is an 81-year-old Douglas-fir and red alder mixed stand that had mixed burn severity from the Beachie Creek fire in 2020. The trees within the timber sale have an average diameter of 19 inches, approximately 59 trees per acre, and a basal area of 111 ft<sup>2</sup>/acre. Stands within the sale unit are classified as understory development, meaning that portions of the sale have moved past closed single canopy and have developed a moderate understory shrub layer but have not had time to develop canopy layering. Based on available cruise information, orthoimagery and field verification, I would consider this stand suitable dispersal, roosting, or foraging habitat for northern spotted owls.

## **ASSUMPTIONS**

### **Defining the Home Range**

According to “Procedures Leading to Endangered Species Act Compliance for the Northern spotted owl” (USFWS 1990), the median home range size (based on 95% minimum convex polygon) for spotted owl pairs in the Oregon Cascades Range is 2,908 acres, or the approximate equivalent of the area encompassed by a circle with a radius of 1.2 miles. Further clarification and interpretation of these procedures was provided in a 2010 ODF Decision Paper (ODF 2010). This paper stated that a GIS analysis of a 1.2-mile radius circle yields 2,895 acres, which ODF will be using for analysis of home range circles in the cascades range province. Although spotted owls generally do not have circular home ranges, in the absence of more specific information about the home range of this site, I assumed that a 1.2-mile radius circle around the activity center approximates the home range for the Shoofly Creek pair of owls. All stands for this analysis were digitized and calculated using ArcGIS Pro software, 2022 LiDAR, and 2024 orthoimagery.

### **Defining Suitable Habitat**

Although spotted owl habitat has generally been described as old growth, spotted owls are known to use a variety of forest types in this part of the Oregon Coast Range. Spotted owls are known to nest in stands as young as 60 to 80

years old on State Forest lands that have suitable nesting structures and are known to forage in even younger stands (Glenn and Anthony 2000).

To determine whether stand conditions provide habitat, I assessed the percentage overstory canopy cover, understory composition, tree density and species diversity, average DBH, and downed wood at each stand (USFWS 1990). I compared general stand conditions observed in the field to ODF Stand Layer Inventory (SLI) and 2024 digital orthoimagery, then classified them as suitable or non-suitable spotted owl habitat. I used SLI polygons as the basis for classification; however, modifications were made in GIS when it was apparent that the SLI polygons did not reflect the current stand boundaries as seen in orthoimagery and field verification.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND DISCUSSION

### Landscape Analysis

The following discussion assesses the habitat condition within the 0.7- and 1.2-mile circles of the Shoofly Creek spotted owl activity center, as recommended in the rescinded Incidental Take Guidelines and as required by ODF policy (Table 1, Figure 1).

#### *0.7-mile circle*

The Left Shoo timber sale will not cut any acres within the 0.7-mile circle for the Shoofly Creek spotted owl site. A habitat analysis of the Shoofly Creek site indicates that there are approximately 745 acres (76%) of suitable habitat within 0.7 miles of the activity center. There are currently no other approved operations within 0.7 miles of the activity center.

#### *1.2-mile circle*

The Left Shoo timber sale will clearcut 53 acres of suitable habitat within the 1.2-mile circle for the Shoofly Creek spotted owl site. A habitat analysis of the Shoofly Creek site indicates that there are approximately 1,839 acres (64%) of suitable habitat within 1.2 miles of the activity center. There are currently no other approved operations on State-owned lands within 1.2 miles of the activity center. The Gawley Panther salvage harvest (2021 AOP) occurred within 1.2 miles of the activity center (Figure 2). If Left Shoo is harvested, there will be 1,786 acres (62%) of suitable habitat remaining within 1.2 miles of the activity center.

### Discussion and Assessment of Other Relevant Factors

Residual habitat within the Shoofly Creek site is below the required thresholds outlined in ODF policy, but I believe cumulative impacts of a regional increase in barred owl occurrence and loss of habitat due to large-scale fire will likely play a larger role than this harvest to the occupancy and productivity of the Shoofly Creek NSO site. The edge of the sale is roughly one mile from the Shoofly Creek AC. The sale should not significantly fragment connectivity of suitable habitat throughout the circle.

## PROTECTION AND AVOIDANCE MEASURES

The operation has been reviewed by an ODF Wildlife Biologist to assess impacts to spotted owl and their nesting habitat. The assessment included a field evaluation of habitat suitability and desktop analysis of species occurrence at the owl site. To consider the management activities a low risk of impacting spotted owl and their habitat, the following protection measures must be implemented for operations in the Shoofly Creek owl site and should be adhered to for the duration of the operation:

### Seasonal Timing Restrictions (ODF 2017)

- 4.5 On all state forest lands, restrict the following activities that create disturbance that may disrupt normal spotted owl behavioral patterns during the critical nesting period (March 1 through July 7). Activities will be restricted only for pair sites, and within the distances from a nest tree or activity center given below until it is determined that the pair is not nesting, or has failed, or until July 7, whichever is sooner.
  - 4.5.a An impact pile driver, a jackhammer, or a rock drill within 60 yards.
  - 4.5.b A helicopter or a single engine airplane within 120 yards.
  - 4.5.c Motorized carriages and chainsaws within 65 yards (including hazard trees, pre-commercial and commercial thinning, firewood cutting).

- 4.5.d Non-motorized carriages and heavy equipment within 35 yards.
- 4.5.e For the following activities, consult the Area Biologist for site-specific evaluation:
  - 4.5.e.i Burning within 0.5 miles.
  - 4.5.e.ii The use of explosives within 1.0 mile.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

### **Biological Risk**

As currently proposed, the Left Shoo timber sale is expected to have a **low** risk of negatively affecting the occupancy and productivity of the Shoofly Creek spotted owl site. This assessment is based on the following factors:

- There will be approximately 745 acres (76%) of suitable habitat within the 0.7-mile circle following the harvest of Left Shoo.
- There will be approximately 1,786 acres (62%) of suitable habitat within the 1.2-mile circle following the harvest of Left Shoo.
- Left Shoo is positioned toward the outer edge of the 1.2-mile circle.
- Annual surveys conducted within the Shoofly Creek site have not yielded northern spotted owl detections since 2014, despite annual AC searches and area-wide density surveys.

### **Compliance with Policy**

After completion of harvest operations associated with the Left Shoo timber sale, the remaining suitable habitat within the Shoofly Creek owl circles will exceed the standards identified in ODF's northern spotted owl policy.

## **LITERATURE CITED**

Glenn, E., and R. G. Anthony. 2000. Home Range and Habitat Use of Northern Spotted Owls on State Forest Lands in the Oregon Coast Range. Unpublished Final Report, Oregon Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Corvallis, Or. 114 pp.

Oregon Department of Forestry. 2010. Northern Spotted Owl Management Decision Paper. September 24, 2010. 4 pp.

Oregon Department of Forestry. 2017. Northern Spotted Owl State Forest Program Operational Policies. November, 2017. 12 pp.

Turnstone Environmental Consultants, Inc. 2025. Spotted Owl Survey Report. Portland, Oregon. For Oregon Department of Forestry, State Lands Division, Salem. 222 pp.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. 1990. Procedures leading to endangered species compliance for the northern spotted owl. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1, July 1990. 15 pp.

Table 1. Acres of suitable habitat within the 0.7- and 1.2-mile circles of the Shoofly Creek northern spotted owl site. Suitable habitat determined using 2022 LiDAR and 2024 orthoimagery.

	Acres within Shoofly Creek	
	0.7 mi	1.2 mi
State owned suitable habitat	745	1,764
Federal owned suitable habitat	0	64
Private owned suitable habitat	0	11
Total	745	1,839
Left Shoo Timber Sale suitable habitat acres removed	0	53
Suitable habitat remaining	745	1,786
% Suitable habitat post-harvest	76%	62%