

Ministry of Forests and Range
Ministry of Environment
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What's happening?

Reasons for revising SOMP

- Environmental pressures (Dec. 2005 judicial review)
- The Spotted Owl Management Plan (SOMP) is ten years old and requires review

Government Actions

- Nov. 2006: SaRCO established SPOW Population Enhancement Team (SOPET)
- Sept. 2007: Cabinet adopted SOPET recommendations.
- SOPET caveat: identify Spotted Owl habitat for reintroduction

Interagency Northern Spotted Owl Steering Committee (INSOSC)

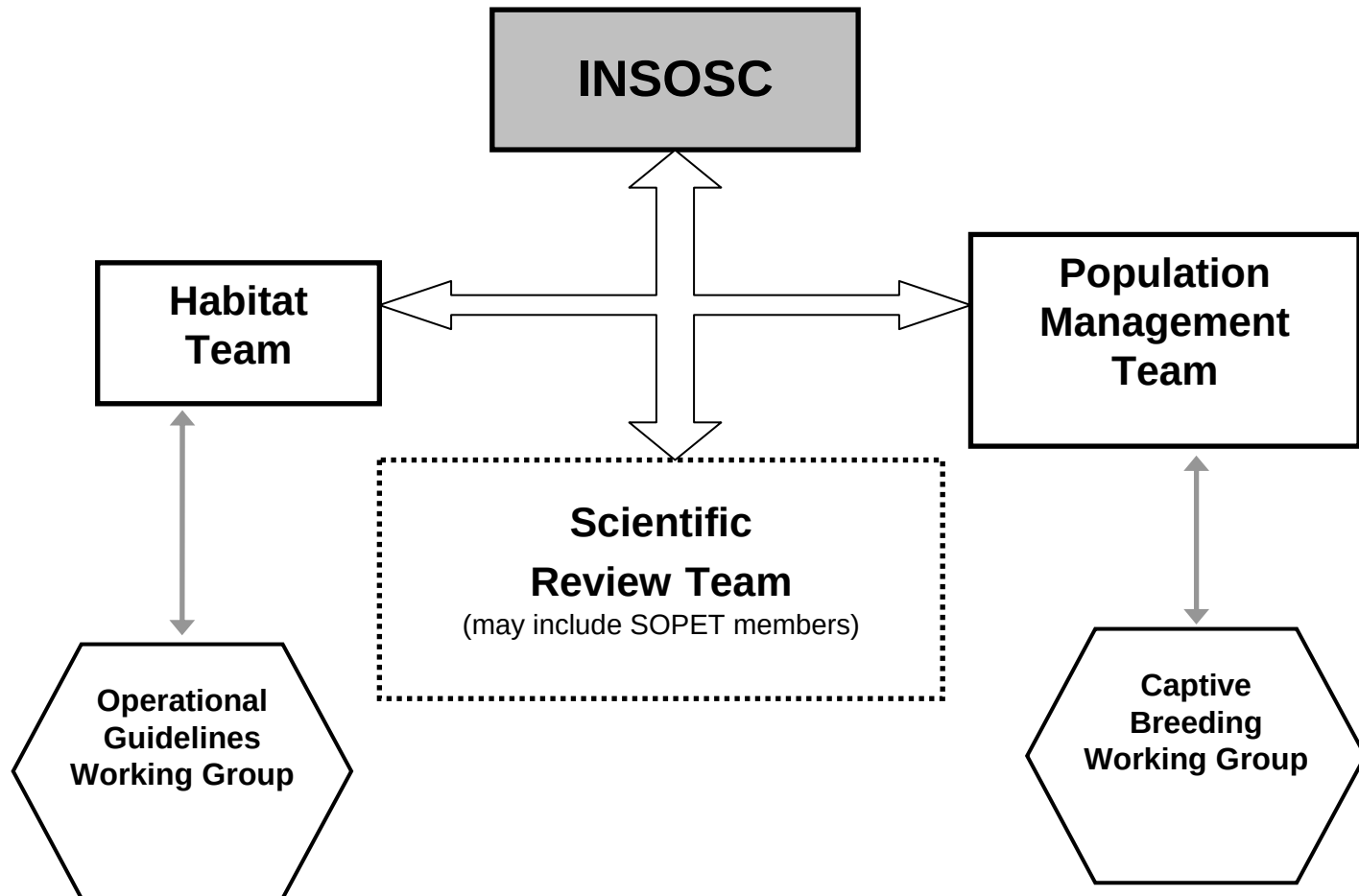
- Provide a government-endorsed Spotted Owl population target and habitat plan and an updated Spotted Owl Recovery Action Plan to the federal government.





Interagency Northern Spotted Owl Steering Committee

- July 2007: ADMs of MoFR, MoE, and ILMB provided mandate to create Interagency Northern Spotted Owl Steering Committee (INSOSC)
- Purpose: to provide clarity to agency staff on key issues related to Spotted Owls
- Issues to include:
 - Definition of no net loss
 - Establishment of SPOW population target
 - Addressing active sites
 - Efficient cross-agency governance structure
 - Business process for habitat revisions
 - Resources needed
- Confirm short and long term certainty for industry
- Confirm certainty regarding owl habitat
- Provide clarity on foreseeable issues arising over next 5 years



The Habitat Team will:

- Define the habitat needed for survival, recovery, and reintroduction of owls
- Revise SOMP line work to meet no net loss policy
- Revise operational guidelines
- Develop mitigation strategies of impacted operators.



No Net Loss Principles

In revising the SOMP line work, no net loss to timber supply and spotted owl habitat applies.

No net loss of timber supply

- No reduction in volume and value of commercial timber.

No net loss of Spotted Owl habitat

- No reduction to the amount, quality and viability of habitat



Principles:

- Under the no net loss policy, eliminate the 67% retention objective and apply a 100% habitat protection to key SRMZs and high value habitats.
- Exchange LTOH for FMA and vis versa
- Eliminate RPA and MAC to pay for short-term impacts
- Revise SRMZ boundaries
- Review forest management/silviculture prescriptions for LTOH and FMA

Where are we in the Process:

- Draft Habitat Management Plan
- Operations Guidelines
- Timber Supply No Net Loss and Mitigation
- Scientific Review Team
- First Nations Consultation and Information Sharing
- Decision Rationale for INSOSC for Chilliwack and Cascade Forest Districts
- Brief Agency ADMs
- Amend SOMP Section 7 Notice
- Establish Wildlife Habitat Areas