



A NEST OF A FLAMMULATED OWL

Definition

A nest and its supporting structure that either (1) is currently occupied by a flammulated owl to hold its eggs or offspring, or (2) is habitually occupied and still capable of holding eggs or offspring of a flammulated owl.

Location

- Usually in mature, open stands of ponderosa pine or Douglas fir with a multilayered canopy
- In soft snags >30 cm dbh, wildlife tree class 4-6, sometimes 7
- Usually 1.5-14 m above the ground
- Often located within or near small forest openings (<1 ha) that are adjacent to thickets of regenerating conifers and shrubs or large trees with heavy branching

Features

- Use natural cavities and abandoned woodpecker (primarily pileated woodpecker and northern flicker) cavities for nesting and roosting
- Size:
 - Entrance diameter: usually about 7 cm, close to their body size
 - Depth: 25-60 cm

Notes

- Migrate south during the winter (October-April)
- Designated as a Species at Risk under the *Forest and Range Practices Act* ; Blue-listed in British Columbia.
- Designated as a species of Special Concern by COSEWIC.



Photos left to right: Michael Woodruff, Michael Woodruff, Jared Hobbs

Sensitive Timing

Courtship	Eggs Present	Young Present
Apr 1 – Apr 30	Apr 30 – Jul 31	May 31 – Aug 31

Similar features to a Flammulated Owl Nest

Woodpecker nest - how to distinguish:

- The presence of pellets and prey remains at the base of the tree will indicate an owl species
- Woodpeckers leave white fecal sacs that are much smaller than pellets and do not have prey remnants. They may have insect exoskeletons.

Western screech owl nest - how to distinguish:

- Western screech owls almost always nest near riparian areas unlike flammulated owls, but visual or auditory detection of the owl is required to identify the nest

Habitat	BEC	Variant
Ponderosa Pine	PP	dh1, dh2
Interior Douglas-fir	IDF	dk5, dm1, dm2, xk
Interior Cedar – Hemlock	ICH	dm, dw1, mk5, mw2, mw4, xw
Montane Spruce	MS	dk1, dk2

Information to Consider

- **Sensitive Timing: April 1 – August 31**
- Establish a windfirm forested retention area centered around the nest tree.
- Maintain forest connectivity between the retention patch and adjacent forested habitat.
- Ensure this corridor is as wide as possible to minimize edge effects and to provide additional security cover, perching, and hunting opportunities.
- Retain large-diameter, decayed ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir (especially with existing woodpecker cavities) that are near thick cover
- During breeding season, consider adding a “quiet” buffer of an extra 100 m to the no disturbance buffer in which no unusual or sudden loud activities will occur (e.g., blasting, tree felling, chain saws, trucking, etc.).

Recommended disturbance buffers around a Flammulated Owl's nest, depending on existing disturbance and disturbance level of the proposed activity.

		Existing Exposure to Disturbance			
		NIL Isolated site, little or no prior access	LOW Undeveloped area with occasional human use	MODERATE Near secondary logging road or minor recreation site	HIGH Near primary road, major recreation site or human development
Disturbance Level of Proposed Activity	LOW Activities on foot. Small group, visual screening present. Livestock attractants. Examples: layout, cruising reconnaissance.	100-200m	1.5 x tree length	1.5 x tree length	1.5 x tree length
	MODERATE Light mechanized activities. Larger group/duration, no visual screening. Examples: spacing, planting, fence construction.	200-500m	100-200m	100-200m	1.5 x tree length
	HIGH Mechanized activities Examples: road construction, falling and yarding, landing sites.	200-500m	200-500m	200-500m	100-200m
	VERY HIGH Blasting, helicopter logging.	1000m +	1000m +	1000m +	1000m +