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## FACTSHEET

Jan. 20, 2012

Ministry of Forests Lands and  
Natural Resource Operations

### **LOGGING PERMIT NEAR SPOTTED OWL HABITAT**

- In 1997, the provincial government approved a Spotted Owl Management Plan (SOMP1) that managed habitat for spotted owls within protected and provincial Crown forests.
- In 2006, the province announced a five-year Spotted Owl Recovery Action Plan, including a captive breeding program, a revised habitat management plan and the immediate protection of nine areas where Spotted Owls were located in 2005.
- In 2008, a revised spotted owl management plan (SOMP 2) was drafted to protect additional habitat for spotted owls in B.C.
- In some cases, this required the province to negotiate “mitigation agreements” with licence holders whose harvesting rights were affected by the change in SOMP2, including Tamihi Logging.
- In March 2011, the province established a series of Wildlife Habitat Areas that protect and manage 97,500 hectares of Crown forest, bringing the amount of protected spotted owl habitat in the Chilliwack district to more than 226,000 hectares.
- In an effort to protect prime owl habitat elsewhere in the district, the agreement with Tamihi Logging allows a limited amount of logging near Ford Mountain and Post Creek.
- This is a onetime opportunity requiring the licensee to retain certain types and amounts of trees for future spotted owl habitat. Any logging in the area must conform to strict requirements.
- While previous monitoring in the Post Creek area suggested the area was no longer occupied by spotted owls, survey work in September 2011 identified a new spotted owl about three kilometres away from the nearest planned harvest area.
- Ministry staff will monitor the owl’s movements during harvesting operations. Work will be suspended if the owl moves into the harvest area.
- This new owl, along with others recently found, demonstrates the benefits of the government’s improved Spotted Owl Recovery Plan.

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