



Boerke, Elizabeth

Preliminary N spotted owl nesting habitat suitability assessment

1 message

Luchessa, Scott

Wed, Apr 12, 2017 at 3:31 PM

To: "Boerke, Elizabeth", "Christophersen, Roger"

Elly and Roger,

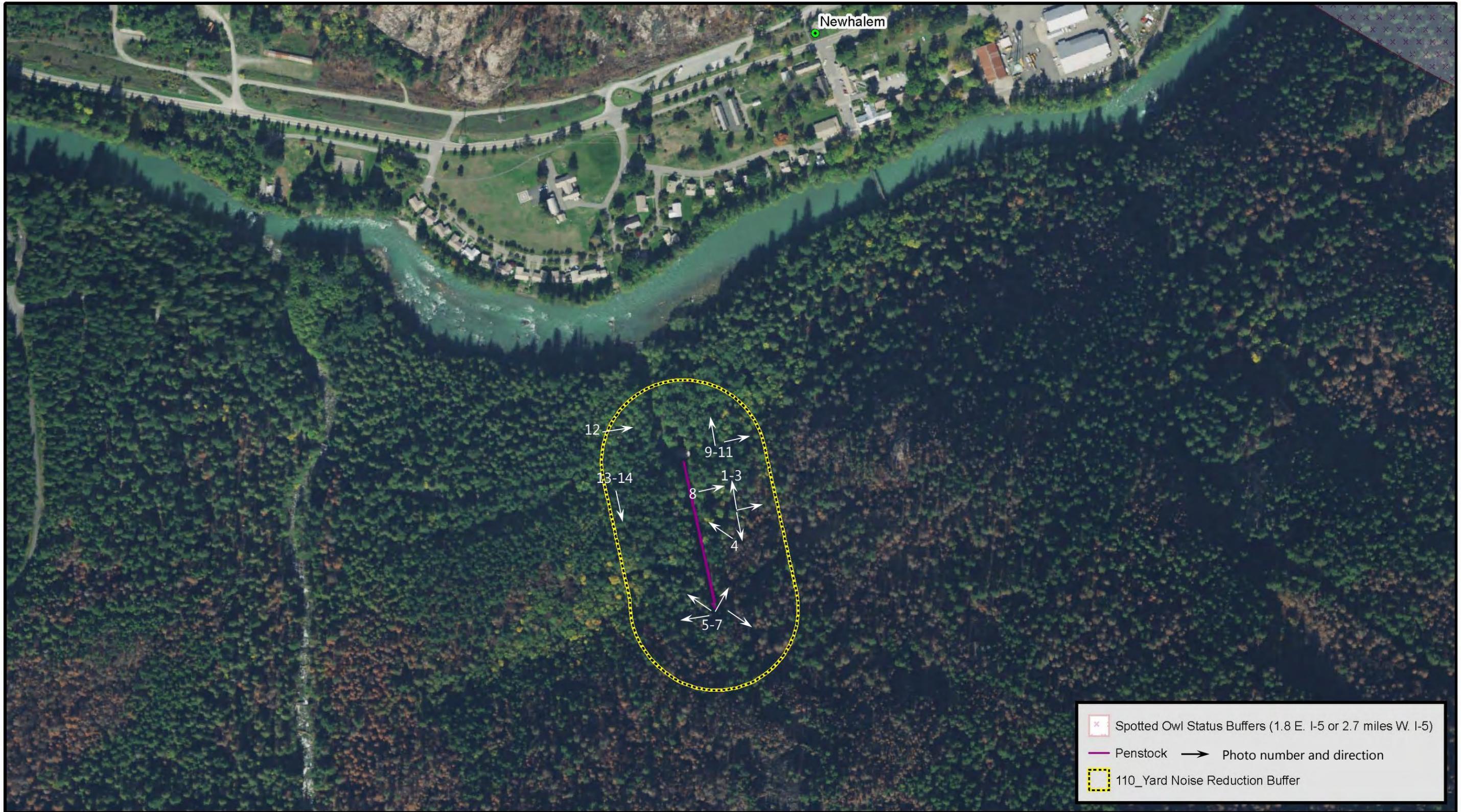
As I noted to Elly yesterday, my sense is generally that the area around the penstock (\pm 600+ ft) in either direction is not suitable nesting habitat. Stand structure over most of this area is generally younger forest with < 60% canopy cover because of the fire and no soft snags suitable for nesting. There are many new snags created by the fire, but these all appear to have been created by the fire and are hard with no potential nest cavities. The lower river terrace closest to the river contains some stand structure with suitable canopy cover though density is pretty high and there are some larger trees, especially western red cedar that may contain cavities or deformities suitable for nesting but given the proximity to human activities seems unsuited as potential nesting habitat. Attached is what I have so far showing stand structure. The gap in my analysis was the mid terrace and upper penstock areas to the west southwest and south southwest, which I covered yesterday and contains more of the relatively high burn severity that has created relatively open stand structure and no suitable nest trees similar to those burned areas shown in the attached. My apologies that all the photos shown on the index are not included but I ran out of time but wanted to get this over to Roger before his site visit tomorrow. I will continue to work on this tonight and hope to get a complete version over but that may be unlikely before his site visit tomorrow.

Scott

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NSO Nesting Hab Suitability.pdf
4736K





Photograph 1 – Severely burned forest with a couple of hard snags (arrows) from the east edge of the trail switchback, no apparent cavities; canopy cover <20% and relatively simple structure



Photograph 2 – Looking north, downslope at severely burned forest from same location as Photograph 1 on 3/22/17



Photograph 3 – Looking south, upslope at severely burned forest from same location as Photograph 1 on 3/22/17



Photograph 4 – Looking north northwest downslope within severely burned stand towards the covered penstock on 3/22/17.



Photograph 5 – Looking east southeast (upslope) from the top of the penstock access trail at severely burned stand structure.



Photograph 6 – Looking west at moderate to severely burned forest on the west side of the penstock from the top thrust block.



Photograph 7 – Looking North northwest to north northeast from the top thrust block near where the penstock enters the tunnel at typical burned forest stand structure on 3/17/17.



Photograph 8 – Looking east at moderate to severely burned forest east of the penstock.



Photograph 9 – Looking north at typical lightly burned forest stand structure on the lower river terrace east of the penstock on 3/22/17.



Photograph 12 – Looking west back towards the penstock from 300 ft west at stand structure on the lower river terrace on 3/22/17.