



Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program

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Opportunity to View Rare Owl Chick! Webcam focuses on pair of endangered owls

BRITISH COLUMBIA There are estimated to be fewer than 20 Northern Spotted Owls left in the wild in Canada, but now everyone with an internet connection has the opportunity to view a pair of breeding Northern Spotted Owls, and their recently hatched chick.

The Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP), in partnership with the Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Program, is hosting the owl webcam. Start watching now at fwcp.ca

“This web camera will showcase Canada’s most endangered owl as a breeding pair nest and raise this chick in May and June,” says Karen McKeogh at the Northern Spotted Owl Breeding Centre near Langley, B.C. “The camera is situated right over the nest - a hollowed out stump – giving us some great images. And this is the first time we have broadcast images of a nest, so we are excited to share what we see with others.”

The goal of the breeding program, which started in 2007, is to restore the wild population to over 200 adult Northern Spotted Owls by releasing up to 20 juvenile owls per year over the next 10 to 15 years. If all goes well with breeding this year, owls will be released into 300,000 hectares of old-growth forest, which has been protected for this very purpose.

The live streaming is being hosted by the FWCP, which is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations, and public stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife impacted by BC Hydro dams.

“The Northern Spotted Owl is listed in our Species of Interest Action Plan,” says FWCP Manager Trevor Oussoren. “It is anticipated that the first of the Spotted Owls will be released into the Bridge-Seton Watershed near Lillooet, which is one of 14 Coastal watersheds we operate in.”

The Breeding Program is now poised to begin producing significant numbers of juveniles in captivity, and plan to begin releasing owls into the wild in 2018.

“The peak times for seeing activity on the nest is between 8.00 and 11.00 in the morning, and 6.00 and 10.00 in the evening,” added McKeogh. “This is because we provide food to the adults during this time, although it hard to predict when they will actually deliver the food to the chick.

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