

Volunteer Opportunity: Western Screech Owl Surveys in Whistler and Pemberton

Seeking 3 to 5 keen and dedicated volunteers to help conduct call-playback surveys for Western Screech Owl in the Whistler and Pemberton areas during March, April, May, and possibly later in 2017. Surveys will contribute to a better understanding of the abundance and distribution of owl species in the Sea to Sky area. Community education and stewardship activities will be undertaken where opportunities arise.

Surveys will start 30 minutes after sunset and go until midnight or later. Survey teams will play owl calls at pre-determined stations and record response data. Volunteers will also assist with data entry.

Benefits of this volunteer opportunity include learning about owl survey and data collection methods, owl ecology (e.g., habitat use and calls); and equipment operation (e.g., GPS, compass). Volunteers will also build teamwork and field skills.

Volunteers require good hearing, the ability to accurately record field data, and a willingness to stay out late, likely in the cold and possibly during moderate rain and/or wind. Due to the availability of survey equipment and/or need to limit surveyors to respect species' sensitivities, the number of volunteer opportunities may be limited.

If you're interested in helping with this project, please contact Greg Ferguson at westernscreechowl1@gmail.com and include the reason(s) you'd like to participate in this project and any background experience you have surveying wildlife.

