



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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July 14, 2003

In Reply Refer To:
CA-930
6840 (P)

EMS Transmission: 07/14/03
Information Bulletin No. **CA-2003-050**

To: Field Managers, Arcata, Redding, and Ukiah

From: State Director

Subject: Five-year Review Concerning the Listing Status of the Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl
DD: 8/06/03

On April 21, 2003, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a notice (*Federal Register* 68:19569-19571; copy attached) announcing its intent to conduct a five-year review under Section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Endangered Species Act for the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) and northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). As part of this review, the Service has requested that land management agencies and other interested parties share any new data they have concerning these species – especially pertinent information that has become available since these species were originally listed. The information obtained by the Service during this review will be used to determine if a change in the listing status of either species is warranted.

Follow-up correspondence from the Service, dated June 18, 2003, provided clarification concerning the specific information it is seeking for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets on federally-managed lands. (See Attachment 2.) Pertinent excerpts from that correspondence include:

We will use the report produced in 2001, along with the electronic database of all section 7 consultation data that supports the report, as the best information available for baseline and activities on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (USFS) lands for that time period unless we receive notification from BLM or USFS to the contrary.

We do need to have the type of information used in the 2001 report and contained in the electronic database updated through September 20, 2002. We request that you update the acres of spotted owl habitat estimated to be removed in the Biological Assessments and Biological Opinions (BO) for FY 2001 and 2002 with information you have gained since the issuance of the BO on projects actually implemented under the BO. If there are no changes in original BO numbers state, “no change” and we will use the original BO numbers.

To allow us to respond to the Service's information request, please review the attached documents and provide CA-930 (Attn: Ed Lorentzen) with your updated environmental baseline data for the northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet on the following topics.

Northern Spotted Owl Information Requested

1. Review the FY 2001 and FY 2002 biological opinions for your administrative unit, if any, and provide an updated estimate of the amount of suitable spotted owl habitat to be removed pursuant to these biological opinions. If there is no change from your original estimate of habitat loss associated with these biological opinions state "no change." If there are no applicable FY 2001 and FY 2002 biological opinions for your administrative unit, state "not applicable."
2. Estimate the number of acres of suitable spotted owl habitat on BLM-lands in your administrative unit as of October 1, 2002.
3. Estimate the number of acres of suitable spotted owl habitat that were transferred **from** BLM to a non-BLM entity for exchanges involving more than 100 acres of spotted owl habitat between April 13, 1994 and October 1, 2002. List the exchange name, date of exchange, acres of suitable habitat transferred, and whether the acres were accounted for in the answer to question 2 above.
4. Estimate the number of acres of suitable spotted owl habitat that were transferred **to** BLM from a non-BLM entity for exchanges involving more than 100 acres of spotted owl habitat between April 13, 1994 and October 1, 2002. List the exchange name, date of the exchange, acres of suitable habitat transferred, and whether the acres were accounted for in the answer to question 2 above.
5. Estimate the number of acres of suitable spotted owl habitat lost to wildfires (stand replacement events) on BLM-administered lands between April 13, 1994 and October 1, 2002. Include only those wildfires where more than 100 acres of suitable spotted owl habitat were lost. For such fires, list the name of the fire, year of the fire, the acres of suitable habitat removed, and whether these acres were accounted for in the answer to question 2 above.
6. Estimate the number of acres of suitable spotted owl habitat that were lost to the insect/disease outbreaks on BLM-administered lands between April 13, 1994 and October 1, 2002. State the number of acres of suitable habitat lost to insects/disease and whether such acres were accounted for in the answer to question 2 above.
7. Estimate the number of acres of suitable spotted owl habitat that were lost to the wind-throw events larger than 100 acres on BLM-administered lands between April 13, 1994 and October 1, 2002. List the township, range, and section(s) of the wind throw-event, the acres of suitable habitat lost to wind-throw, and whether the acres were accounted for in the answer to question 2 above.

Marbled Murrelet Information Requested

1. Review the FY 2001 and FY 2002 biological opinions for your administrative unit, if any, and provide an updated estimate of the amount of suitable marbled murrelet habitat to be removed pursuant to these biological opinions. If there is no change from your original estimate of habitat loss associated with these biological opinions state “no change.” If there are no applicable FY 2001 and FY 2002 biological opinions for your administrative unit, state “not applicable.”
2. Estimate the number of acres of suitable marbled murrelet habitat on BLM-lands in your administrative unit as of October 1, 2002.
3. Estimate the number of acres of suitable marbled murrelet habitat that were transferred **from** BLM to a non-BLM entity for exchanges involving more than 100 acres of marbled murrelet habitat between April 13, 1994 and October 1, 2002. List the exchange name, date of exchange, acres of suitable habitat transferred, and whether the acres were accounted for in the answer to question 2 above.
4. Estimate the number of acres of suitable marbled murrelet habitat that were transferred **to** BLM from a non-BLM entity for exchanges involving more than 100 acres of marbled murrelet habitat between April 13, 1994 and October 1, 2002. List the exchange name, date of the exchange, acres of suitable habitat transferred, and whether the acres were accounted for in the answer to question 2 above.
5. Estimate the number of acres of suitable marbled murrelet habitat lost to wildfires (stand replacement events) on BLM-administered lands between April 13, 1994 and October 1, 2002. Include only those wildfires where more than 100 acres of suitable marbled murrelet habitat were lost. For such fires, list the name of the fire, year of the fire, the acres of suitable habitat removed, and whether these acres were accounted for in the answer to question 2 above.
6. Estimate the number of acres of suitable marbled murrelet habitat that were lost to the insect/disease outbreaks on BLM-administered lands between April 13, 1994 and October 1, 2002. State the number of acres of suitable habitat lost to insects/disease and whether such acres were accounted for in the answer to question 2 above.
7. Estimate the number of acres of suitable marbled murrelet habitat that were lost to the wind-throw events larger than 100 acres on BLM-administered lands between April 13, 1994 and October 1, 2002. List the township, range, and section(s) of the wind throw-event, the acres of suitable habitat lost to wind-throw, and whether the acres were accounted for in the answer to question 2 above.

The Service’s June 18, 2003, correspondence also requests information about habitat use, population status and trends, interactions with barred owls; predation, disease, competition, genetic considerations, and other management factors. If you have pertinent information to share regarding any of the other topics identified in Attachments 1 or 2 of the Service’s June 18, 2003, memorandum, please include that information with your responses to the above questions.

Questions regarding this information request may be directed to Paul Roush at 707-825-2313 or to Ed Lorentzen at 916-978-4646. Please submit your responses electronically via Lotus Notes to Ed Lorentzen on or before August 6, 2003.

Signed
Mike Pool
State Director

Authenticated
Louise Tichy
Records Management

Attachments

- 1 - Federal Register Notice Concerning 5-Year Review of the Listing Status for the Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl (3 pp.)
- 2 - June 18, 2003, Fish and Wildlife Service Data Request Regarding the 5-year Reviews for the Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl (8 pp.)

Distribution

OR-391 (Attn: Joe Lint)
WO-230, MS 204 LS (Attn: Peggy Olwell)