United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office
2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97266
(503) 231-6179 FAX: (503) 231-6195

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Elaine M. Brong, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
PO Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Michael J. Poole, State Director
Bureau of Land Management
2800 Cottage Way, Room W 1834
Sacramento, CA 95825-1886

Linda Goodman, Regional Forester
Forest Service Region 6
PO Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208

Kent Connaughton, Regional Forester
Forest Service Region 5
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

On May 6, 2003, the Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) sent your agencies a request for specific information that would assist us in conducting 5-year reviews for the spotted owl and marbled murrelet. Subsequent to that request, your agencies identified contacts for the Service to work with to facilitate the information request. Based on our discussions in conference calls on May 22 and June 6, 2003, we wish to further clarify the request for information on Federally-managed lands for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

Northern Spotted Owls

As stated in the letter dated May 6, 2003, we believe that we will be able to obtain the information needed to answer the information request for parts "A", "B", "D", and "E" (see attachment 1) from the 2001 Report and other published documents. 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 the contained in the electronic database updated through September 30, 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.

We also need information to estimate losses of spotted owl habitat to natural events such as fire, windthrow, insect/disease, etc., where individual events are 100 acres or greater in size. We need your assistance in estimating losses from these natural events. For ease of tracking and future use, we recommend that you provide this information by fire event (or event/area name for other items) and administrative unit. Please provide an estimate for the following:

- How many acres of spotted owl habitat have been lost to fire (not including any acres lost to suppression efforts and covered in a completed consultation) since 1994?
- How many acres of spotted owl habitat have been lost to insects/disease since 1994?
- How many acres of spotted owl habitat have been lost to windthrow since 1994?
- How many acres of spotted owl habitat have been lost to other natural events since 1994?

Marbled Murrelets

Based on our information request letter dated May 6, 2003 and subsequent discussions with BLM and USFS representatives, we have refined aspects of the previous information request (see attachment 1). Please provide an estimate for the following:

- How many acres of marbled murrelet habitat currently exists at the Forest or District level? Base estimates on those used for the most recent consultation purposes. Provide a separate estimate for areas of younger forest with scattered residual nest trees that may qualify as murrelet habitat.
- For each estimate of murrelet habitat, provide a description of how it was defined.
- How many acres of marbled murrelet habitat were removed by sold and awarded timber sales between October 1, 1992 and October 1, 2002?
- For land exchanges greater than or equal to 100 acres, how many acres of murrelet habitat were transferred from the BLM between October 1, 1992 and October 1, 2002?
- For land acquisitions greater than or equal to 100 acres, how many acres of murrelet habitat were acquired by the BLM between October 1, 1992 and October 1, 2002?

We also need information to estimate losses of marbled murrelet habitat to natural events such as fire, windthrow, insect/disease, etc., where individual events are 100 acres or greater in size. We need your assistance in estimating losses from these natural events. For ease of tracking and future use, we recommend that you provide this information by fire event (or event/area name for other items) and administrative unit. Please provide an estimate for the following:

- How many acres of marbled murrelet habitat have been lost to fire (not including any acres lost to suppression efforts and covered in a completed consultation) since 1992?
- How many acres of marbled murrelet habitat have been lost to insects/disease since 1992?

- How many acres of marbled murrelet habitat have been lost to windthrow since 1992?
- How many acres of marbled murrelet habitat have been lost to other natural events since 1992?

If you have any questions regarding the spotted owl request, please contact Jeff Dillon or Robin Bown at (503) 231-6179. If you have questions on the marbled murrelet, please contact Lee Folliard at (503) 231-6179.

Sincerely,

Kemper M. McMaster
State Supervisor

cc: Joe Lint, Roseburg District, BLM
Paul Roush, CA BLM
Sarah Madsen, Forest Service Region 6
Elaine Rybak, Forest Service Region 6
Kathy Anderson, Forest Service Region 5
John Robinson, Forest Service Region 5

Attachment 1
Information Request for the Northern Spotted Owl

Purpose: the Service is requesting the following information, in addition to any other new information you may have relative to the current condition of, and any threats to, the northern spotted owl (owl). All information submitted will be considered, however, data that has been reported, published, or peer reviewed is preferred; raw data that has not been substantiated, analyzed, or summarized to some degree will be of limited use in this review process. If you are providing information, please include:

- the source of the information (e.g., monitoring and research program)
- methods used to gather and analyze the data
- whether the reports or analyses have been peer-reviewed

Specific Information Requested:

Habitat condition and trend	Information from anyone who owns or manages lands that may be habitat for northern spotted owls to help define the current condition of owl habitat range-wide, the trend in habitat since listing, and potential future changes. *Submitted habitat information must include the definitions used to classify owl habitat (e.g. age, structure) and all habitat acre figures must use the same definition.* Separate responses would be appreciated if your ownership or management responsibilities cross state boundaries. A. Total acres of land that are capable of producing spotted owl habitat (e.g. exclude lakes, large grasslands, etc.) B. Acres of current spotted owl habitat C. Acres of spotted owl habitat gained or lost since January 1, 1990, and the reason for the change (e.g. land exchange, ingrowth, harvest). List gains, losses from human activities, and losses from non-human events (e.g. fire, windthrow) separately. D . Acres of spotted owl habitat degraded or reduced in quality since January 1, 1990, where spotted owls may still be using it for nesting, roosting, or foraging E. Estimates of projected removal of spotted owl habitat to harvest or other actions, and rate of gain of habitat through ingrowth, including a description of how gains were calculated
Habitat use	Information on habitat use by spotted owls, including dispersing juveniles
Population condition, trends or demographics	Information on population status and trends, including the methodology used to collect the information and calculate the trends
Overutilization	Information pertaining to any loss of known individuals to poaching, surveys or research work, or general management activities
Barred owls	Information on their food habits and habitat use, changes in detections over time, displacement of spotted owls, hybridization with spotted owls, and interactions with spotted owls which may have resulted in displacement, injury, mortality, or predation.
Predation, disease, other competition	Information on predation or disease effects to spotted owls. Any other new information on competition (excepting barred owls).

Genetic	Information on inbreeding, genetic variability, and hybridization (except with barred owls).
Regulations, management, conservation	Information on existing implemented actions to protect or enhance northern spotted owls or their habitat.
Other	Any other new information on northern spotted owls that may affect their survival

Information Request for the Marbled Murrelet

Purpose: the Service is requesting the following information, in addition to any other new information you may have relative to the current condition of, and any threats to, the marbled murrelet (murrelet). All information submitted will be considered, however, data that has been reported, published, or peer reviewed is preferred; raw data that has not been substantiated, analyzed, or summarized to some degree will be of limited use in this review process. If you are providing information, please include:

- the source of the information (e.g., monitoring and research program)
- methods used to gather and analyze the data
- whether the reports or analyses have been peer-reviewed

Specific Information Requested:

Habitat condition and trend	Information from anyone who owns or manages lands that may be habitat for marbled murrelets to help define the current condition of murrelet habitat range-wide, the trend in habitat since listing, and potential future changes. *Submitted habitat information must include the definitions used to classify murrelet habitat (e.g. age, structure) and all habitat acre figures must use the same definition.* Separate responses by State are requested if your ownership or management responsibilities cross state boundaries. A. Total acres of land that are capable of producing murrelet nesting (forest) habitat. B. Acres of current murrelet habitat (See explanation below for methods to determine habitat) C. Acres of habitat gained and lost since October 1, 1992, and the reason for the change (e.g. land exchange, ingrowth, harvest). D. Acres of habitat degraded or reduced in quality since October 1, 1992, where murrelets would still be able to nest. E. Estimates of projected removal of murrelet habitat to harvest or other actions, and rate of gain of habitat through ingrowth. F. Acres of occupied habitat. To estimate murrelet habitat, use acreages based on either 1) characteristics which best reflect murrelet habitat, including stands of residual trees that may provide habitat or 2) stands at least 100 years old, including stands that may be dominated by younger forest but include older residual trees that provide habitat. Please provide the resolution of your forest inventory system to detect small acreage events (e.g. less than 100 acres).
Habitat use	Information on habitat use, including nest locations and platform characteristics
Population condition, trends, and demographics	Information on at-sea census counts and movements, radar or audio-visual surveys, demographic information such as nest success, and population trends, including the methodology used to collect the information and calculate trends
Overutilization	Information including any loss of known individuals to poaching, surveys or research work, or general management activities
Ocean environment	Information on oceanographic effects, oil spills (catastrophic/chronic), and effects of gill netting
Predation, disease, and competition	Information on predation or disease effects, including effect on nest success.
Genetic and morphological	Information on genetic and morphological variability within/between Washington, Oregon, California, British Columbia and Alaska.

Regulations, management, conservation	Information on existing implemented actions to protect or enhance marbled murrelets or their habitat. For any non-federal lands you manage, please provide any management plans or conservation strategies that may benefit murrelets.
Other	Any other new information on marbled murrrelets that may affect their survival