

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
Oregon State Office  
P.O. Box 2965  
Portland, OR 97208

**In Reply Refer to:**  
6840 (OR-931) P

June 13, 2003

EMS TRANSMISSION 06/13/2003  
Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2003-079  
Expires: 9/30/2004

To: District Managers: Salem, Eugene, Coos Bay, Roseburg, Medford, Lakeview and Spokane  
From: State Director  
Subject: Data Request for Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet Five-year Status Review DD: 06/30/03

**Program Area:** Wildlife – Threatened and Endangered Species

**Purpose:** This Instruction Memorandum (IM) requests specific information from Bureau of Land Management (BLM) districts in Oregon and Washington to assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in completing five-year status reviews of the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) and northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) under section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Endangered Species Act.

**Policy/Action:** The Oregon State Office has coordinated with the FWS on specific information needed from BLM for the subject status reviews. Please provide the information requested below for northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

**Northern Spotted Owl Information Requested**

1. Review all FY 2001 and FY 2002 final Biological Opinions (BO) covering habitat modification activities on BLM-administered lands in your district and update the estimated amount of suitable spotted owl habitat removed. Enter the requested information in Table 1 (Attachment 1). Use the definition of suitable habitat used for the BO. Provide the definition of suitable habitat.
2. Provide the estimated acres of suitable spotted owl habitat lost to wildfires (stand replacement fire) on BLM-administered lands in your district between April 13, 1994, and October 1, 2002. Include only those wildfires larger than 100 acres in size where suitable spotted owl habitat was lost. Enter the requested information in Table 2 (Attachment 1).

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3. Provide the estimated acres of suitable spotted owl habitat lost in contiguous insect/disease outbreak areas larger than 100 acres on BLM-administered lands in your district between April 13, 1994, and October 1, 2002.
4. Provide the estimated acres of suitable spotted owl habitat lost to contiguous wind throw areas larger than 100 acres on BLM-administered lands in your district between April 13, 1994, and October 1, 2002.

5. Provide the estimated acres of suitable spotted owl habitat lost to other natural events, not listed above, greater than 100 acres (contiguous) in size on BLM-administered lands in your district between April 13, 1994, and October 1, 2002. Specify the type of event (i.e., landslide) and the acres of suitable habitat lost.

### Marbled Murrelet Information Requested

1. Using your most recent estimate of marbled murrelet habitat from your Biological Assessment/Biological Opinion documents, estimate the acres of marbled murrelet habitat on BLM-administered lands as of October 1, 2002. Of that total, what portion of the acres (or range of acres) attempt to account for habitat in younger forests with a residual tree component or small patches of residual trees or younger trees with platforms created by deformities or dwarf mistletoe infestations? For each marbled murrelet habitat acre estimate above, provide the definition of habitat used to derive the estimate.

2. Provide a tally of the estimated acres of sold and awarded timber sales between October 1, 1992, and October 1, 2002, that removed marbled murrelet habitat. Count those acres that were determined to be marbled murrelet habitat based on the definition of habitat at the time the sale was prepared. Were all of these acres accounted for in the habitat estimate in one (1)? If not, how many acres were not accounted for?

3. Provide the acres of marbled murrelet habitat transferred *from* BLM administration to a non-BLM entity and *to* BLM from a non-BLM entity as a result of exchanges of greater than 100 acres of marbled murrelet habitat between October 1, 1992, and October 1, 2002. Enter the requested information in Table 1 (Attachment 2). Were all of these acres accounted for in the answer to one (1)? If not, how many acres were not accounted for?

4. Provide the estimated acres of marbled murrelet habitat lost to wildfires (stand replacement fire) on BLM-administered lands between October 1, 1992, and October 1, 2002. Include only those wildfires larger than 100 acres in size where marbled murrelet habitat was lost. Enter the requested information in Table 2 (Attachment 2). Were all of these acres accounted for in the answer to one (1)? If not, how many acres were not accounted for?

5. Provide the estimated acres of marbled murrelet habitat lost in contiguous insect/disease outbreak areas larger than 100 acres on BLM-administered lands in your district between October 1, 1992, and October 1, 2002. Were all of these acres accounted for in the answer to one (1)? If not, how many acres were not accounted for?

6. Provide the estimated acres of marbled murrelet habitat lost to contiguous wind throw areas larger than 100 acres on BLM-administered lands in your district between October 1, 1992, and October 1, 2002. Were all of these acres accounted for in the answer to one (1)? If not, how many acres were not accounted for?

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7. Provide the estimated acres of marbled murrelet habitat lost to other natural events greater than 100 acres (contiguous) in size on BLM-administered lands in your district between October 1, 1992, and October 1, 2002, that were not reported above. Were all of these acres accounted for in the answer to one (1)? If not, how many acres were not accounted for?

**Timeframe:** The timeframe covered by the information request for northern spotted owls is April 13, 1994, to October 1, 2002, and for marbled murrelets it is October 1, 1992, to October 1, 2002.

**Background:** On April 21, 2003, the FWS published a Federal Register notice announcing their intent to conduct five-year reviews of the marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) and northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) under section 4(c)(2)(A) of the Endangered Species Act. The information obtained in these reviews will be used to determine if a change in the status of each species is warranted. The FWS subsequently identified specific information needed from the BLM in Oregon and Washington in a letter to the State Director.

**Manual/Handbook Sections Affected:** None

**Coordination:** This IM was coordinated with the FWS's Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet Status Review Team

Leads, designated contact persons with the Forest Service and BLM, and with selected wildlife biologists in BLM districts.

**Contact:** If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Joe Lint, Wildlife Biologist with the Branch of Biological Sciences in the Oregon State Office, at (541) 464-3288.

**Districts with Unions** are reminded to notify their unions of this IM and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your servicing Human Resources Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by  
Charles E. Wassinger

Authenticated by  
Mary O'Leary  
Management Assistant

2 Attachments

- 1 - [Information Request Tables for Northern Spotted Owls](#) (1p)
- 2 - [Information Request Tables for Marbled Murrelets](#) (1p)

Distribution

WO-230 (204 LS)  
OR-931 (Barb Hill)

## Information Request Tables for Marbled Murrelets

Table 1- Summary of exchanges involving the transfer of marbled murrelet habitat

Name of Exchange	Year of Exchange	BLM District	Acres of marbled murrelet habitat transferred <b>to BLM</b>	Acres of marbled murrelet habitat transferred <b>from BLM</b>

*COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS:* List the name of the exchange in column 1, the year of the exchange in column 2, the District where the exchange was located in column 3, the acres of murrelet habitat gained by BLM in column 4 and the acres of murrelet habitat lost by BLM in column 5.

Table 2. Summary of 1992-2002 wildfires greater than 100 acres in size on BLM-administered lands where marbled murrelet habitat was lost.

Name of Fire	Year of Fire	BLM District	Acres of marbled murrelet habitat lost

*COMPLETION INSTRUCTIONS:* For all fires, greater than 100 acres in size where marbled murrelet habitat was lost, list the name of the fire in column 1, the year of the fire in column 2, the BLM District where the fire occurred in column 3 and the acres of marbled murrelet habitat lost in column 4.