

Peer Review Process for the California Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) Conservation Objectives Report, released October 2017

About the Document

Title: California Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*) Conservation Objectives Report

Subject and purpose: The report assesses and summarizes the needs of California spotted owl, describes broad conservation objectives, and makes recommendations to reduce and/or ameliorate stressors to the species. The report is meant to inform range-wide, mixed-ownership and multiple-use land conservation strategies.

Release date: The report was finalized and posted on the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office's website on October 3, 2017.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of review: Individuals letters and/or comments provided within the document

Number of reviewers: Preliminary emails were sent out to 20 potential peer reviewers, asking about their interest and availability to conduct peer review for us. Of those 20, 7 replied that they would be interested and available for when the report was ready. Once the document was ready, it was sent out to the 7 peer reviewers, 6 of whom completed reviews.

Reviewer expertise: Primary expertise needed for this review was familiarity with the life history, habitat requirements, and potential threats for the California spotted owl.

Selection of peer reviewers: The Service selected peer reviewers based on their expertise with the subject matter and lack of conflicts of interest as described in the Office of Management Peer Review Guidelines.

Management of peer review: The Service sent the draft document for peer review on July 24, 2017 and reviews were returned by August 9, 2017.

About Public Participation

Opportunities for the public: Public input was solicited early in the development of the document with a "dear interested parties" letter emailed to more than 150 interested parties on March 17, 2017.

Contact: Kim S. Turner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, Kim_S_Turner@fws.gov or 916-414-6606