



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office

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Memorandum

To: Spotted owl surveyors

From: Betsy Glenn, Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office, Portland, Oregon

Subject: Recommended Safety Guidelines for Conducting Spotted Owl Surveys

Some amount of risk of injury is inherent in all wildlife work. In general, conducting calling surveys for owls is fairly low-risk. However, given that owls (spotted, barred, and great horned) have been known to strike surveyors on occasion, the Service recommends the following safety precautions be used when conducting surveys for Northern Spotted Owls:

- a. We recommend surveyors wear safety goggles or some other type of eye protection when calling in an area known or suspected to have barred owls or great horned owls.
- b. Take precautions (e.g. shield eyes with arm) while looking up, particularly at night.
- c. Wear a hard hat or other hat to protect your head while conducting surveys.
- d. When using a remote controlled calling device, set the calling device at least 50 feet or more away from any people while calling to dissociate the call from humans.

If you encounter situations while surveying for spotted owls that bring up additional safety concerns, please contact Betsy Glenn (betsy_glenn@fws.gov, 503-231-6979) at the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office.