



# United States Department of the Interior

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In reply refer to:

AESO/SE  
22410-2003-F-0485

September 1, 2010

## Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Grand Canyon National Park, Grand Canyon, Arizona

From: Field Supervisor

Subject: Amendment to the Biological Opinion for the Grand Canyon National Park Fire Management Plan

During our annual fire coordination meeting on May 25, 2010, Grand Canyon National Park (GRCA) requested an amendment of the subject November 10, 2009, biological opinion. GRCA requested modification of the due dates for annual fire reports to March 31, and for annual fire meetings to April 30, of each year. We agreed with the request, and the modifications are documented below.

Mexican spotted owl reasonable and prudent measure 4 of the November 10, 2009, biological opinion is amended to:

4. GRCA shall document all actions, report incidental take and owl occurrences, and monitor the effects of the proposed action on MSO habitat. Those findings shall be reported to us by March 31 of each year and shall, with our involvement, be incorporated into the adaptive management program.

Mexican spotted owl term and condition 4.2 of the November 10, 2009, biological opinion is amended to:

4.2. By March 31 of each year, GRCA shall submit a report to us detailing that calendar year's actions. The report shall document the areas and acreage burned, the type of fire (prescribed fire, wildland fire-use, wildfire), the name(s) of any PAC(s) subjected to fire activity, the amount of MSO habitat subjected to fire activity, the extent of fire actions, the prescriptions applied to the action, the extent of effects to MSO key habitat components and PCEs of critical habitat, photographs depicting effects, the implementation and effectiveness of the terms and conditions of this biological opinion, information about MSO monitored or encountered, any rehabilitation completed, quantification of any incidental take as defined in this biological opinion, and any recommendations for actions in the upcoming year(s). A map shall be provided which will include each fire event that occurred. GRCA shall keep and maintain a map depicting cumulative fire information for the project area.

Mexican spotted owl term and condition 4.3 of the November 10, 2009, biological opinion is amended to:

4.3. By April 30 of each year, prior to any implementation of prescribed or wildland fire use that year, GRCA will meet with our Flagstaff Suboffice to review the annual report and discuss the upcoming year's plans relative to the previous year's actions and cumulative actions. If the observed proportion of the fire events in high to moderate-to-high severity categories are greater than that expected in the Effects of the Action section of this biological opinion, then prescriptions shall be adjusted to ensure that fire severity of future events is reduced.

If we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Austin (x102) or Brenda Smith (x101) at (928) 226-0614.

*Brenda H. Smith*

*for* Steven L. Spangle

cc (electronic):

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