



Draft Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*) Recovery Plan, First Revision

About the Document

Title: Revised Recovery Plan for the Mexican Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis lucida*)

Dissemination Date: June 24, 2011

Purpose: The purpose of the revised plan is to provide an updated roadmap for recovery and ultimately removal of the Mexican spotted owl from the list of threatened and endangered species, in accordance with section 4(f)(1) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*). The revised plan contains descriptions of the life history, threats, and

current conservation of the bird, as well as recovery strategies and actions, and time and cost estimates necessary for recovery.

About the Peer Review Process

Type of Review: Influential

Date of Peer Review: The peer review will be conducted during the public review period for the draft recovery plan during July and August of 2011.

Estimated Dissemination of the Final Recovery Plan: December 2011

Type of Peer Review and Reviewer Selection Method/Expertise of Reviewers: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has solicited reviews from 13 independent scientific reviewers with expertise in biology, conservation, and ecology of owls and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Reviewers were selected based upon the following criteria:

- **Expertise:** Reviewers should have knowledge in one or more of the following areas: conservation biology; ecology of forest owls, predator-prey relationships, species competition; land management activities and their effects on forest owl populations; and fire ecology.
- **Independence:** Reviewers are not employed by the Service. Academic and consulting scientists have sufficient independence from the Service or the Department of the Interior if the government supports their work.

- **Objectivity:** Reviewers are recognized by their peers as being objective, open-minded, and thoughtful. The reviewers should be comfortable sharing their knowledge and identifying their knowledge gaps.
- **Advocacy:** Reviewers are not known or recognized for an affiliation with an advocacy position regarding the protection of this species under the Endangered Species Act.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Reviewers should not have any financial or other interest that conflicts with or that could impair their objectivity.

About Public Participation: A 60 day public comment period for the draft revised recovery plan began June 24, 2011, during which time the public will have the opportunity to review and provide input to the draft plan. The availability of the plan has been made public through news releases, newspaper articles, and mailings, and was posted on Service websites with solicitations for public comment. An outreach plan was developed to provide ample opportunity for public involvement in the review process.

Both the draft and final plans will be available at
<http://ecos.fws.gov/speciesProfile/profile/speciesProfile.action?sPCODE=B074>

This peer review plan is made available on this website to allow the public to monitor our compliance with the Office of Management and Budget's Final Information Quality Bulletin for Peer Review.

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