

**Northern spotted owl and California spotted owl Draft
Environmental Impact Statement Notice of Intent**
Questions and Answers



1. What is an environmental impact statement?

An environmental impact statement is a decision making tool that describes the effects of proposed activities on the human environment and identifies alternatives that can reduce or minimize those effects.

2. Why is the environmental impact statement needed?

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required to conduct a NEPA analysis when developing a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) and ultimately issuing an ESA 10 (a)(1)(B) take permit. In accordance with NEPA, and through our early analysis, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that implementation of the proposed SPI HCP may have significant impacts on the human environment and, because it involves spotted owls and timber harvest, is likely to be controversial. The environmental impact statement analyzes the impacts of several alternatives related to the potential issuance of an incidental take permit in an effort to minimize or mitigate for the effects permitted activities will have on species federally listed as endangered or threatened.

3. Who is the applicant for the incidental take permit?

Sierra Pacific Industries

4. What areas of California will be impacted?

The proposed covered activities will take place in portions of the following counties: Amador; Butte; Calaveras; El Dorado; Lassen; Modoc; Nevada; Placer; Plumas; Shasta; Sierra; Siskiyou; Tehama; Trinity; Tuolumne; and Yuba.

5. How will residents be impacted?

Proposed activities will take place on private timber lands owned by Sierra Pacific Industries. There is no anticipated impact to residents of California.

6. What species will be impacted?

- a. [Northern spotted owl](#)—threatened
- b. [California spotted owl](#)—not federally listed, but recently petitioned for listing under the Endangered Species Act

7. What kind of information does the Fish and Wildlife Service want from the public?

We request data, comments, new information, and/or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, Tribes, industry, or any other interested party on this notice. We will consider these comments in developing the draft environmental impact statement. We seek specific comments on:

- a. Biological information and relevant data concerning covered species;
- b. Additional information concerning the range, distribution, population size, and population trends of covered species;
- c. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts that implementation of the proposed covered activities could have on endangered, threatened, and other covered species, and their communities or habitats;

- d. Other possible alternatives to the proposed action(s) that should be considered;
- e. Other current or planned activities in the subject area and their possible impacts on covered species;
- f. The presence of archaeological sites, buildings and structures, historic events, sacred and traditional areas, and other historic preservation concerns, which are required to be considered in project planning by the National Historic Preservation Act; and
- g. Identification of any other environmental issues that should be considered with regard to the proposed Sierra Pacific Industries habitat conservation plan, and permit action(s).

8. How can people submit their comments?

The 30-day comment period ends September 22, 2017. Written comments about the scope of the environmental impact statement analysis will be accepted at public scoping meetings, by mail, fax, or in person at the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office. Comments received or postmarked after September 22, 2017 will be considered to the extent practicable. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will host an online webinar.

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Public Scoping Meetings

Wednesday, September 13, 2017
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Hilltop Holiday Inn – Buckskin Room
1900 Hilltop Drive
Redding, CA 96002

Thursday, September 14, 2017
1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
California Department of Water Resources
Bonderson Building – Hearing Room
901 P St.
Sacramento, CA 95814

Webinar (Pre-registration required: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6193715410282440961>)

Thursday, September 14, 2017
5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.