

APPENDIX 5. PUBLIC NOTICE

California Department of Fish and Wildlife News Release January 13, 2014

Media Contacts:

Neil Clipperton, CDFW Wildlife Branch, (916) 445-9753
Carie Battistone, CDFW Wildlife Branch, (916) 445-3615
Kyle Orr, CDFW Communications, (916) 322-8958

CDFW Seeks Public Comment Related to Northern Spotted Owl

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is seeking public comment on a proposal to list the Northern spotted owl as an endangered or threatened species.

The Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) inhabits forests from southwest British Columbia through the Cascade Range and coastal ranges of Washington, Oregon, and northern California. In California, the Northern spotted owl range runs south as far as Marin County in the Coast Ranges and across the Klamath Mountains of northern California east to the Cascade Range where it meets the range of the California spotted owl (*S. o. occidentalis*) near the Pit River area.

The Northern spotted owl generally inhabits mature and old-growth forests as these habitats contain the necessary structural complexity, including high canopy cover, developed understory, and presence of snags, required for various life stages. Preferred prey species include pocket gophers (*Thomomys spp.*), northern flying squirrels (*Glaucomys sabrinus*), woodrats (*Neotoma spp.*), red tree voles (*Phenacomys longicaudus*) and deer mice (*Peromyscus spp.*), with woodrats and flying squirrels the most important prey taken. Loss of habitat, degradation of habitat, and competition with other owl species have been noted to negatively impact the Northern spotted owl; however, climate change, disease, contaminants and predation may also negatively affect its populations.

In September 2012, the Environmental Protection Information Center submitted a petition to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to formally list the Northern spotted owl as a threatened or endangered species. The Commission published findings of its decision to advance the species to candidacy on Dec. 27, 2013, triggering a 12-month period during which CDFW will conduct a status review to inform the Commission's decision on whether to list the species.

As part of the status review process, CDFW is soliciting public comment regarding the species' ecology, biology, life history, distribution, abundance, threats, and habitat that may be essential for the species, and recommendations for management of the species. Comments, data, and other information can be submitted in writing to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nongame Wildlife Program
Attn: Neil Clipperton
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, CA 95811

Comments may also be submitted by email to: wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov
If submitting comments by email, please include "Northern spotted owl" in the subject heading.

All comments received by May 1, 2014 will be evaluated prior to submission of the CDFW report to the Commission. Receipt of the report will be placed on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Commission after delivery and the report will be made available to the public at that time. Following the receipt of the CDFW report, the Commission will allow a 30-day public comment period prior to taking any action on CDFW's recommendation.

CDFW's petition evaluation report for Northern spotted owl is available at:
www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/nongame/publications/.

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Please do not reply to this e-mail. CDFWNews@wildlife.ca.gov is for outgoing messages only and is not checked for incoming mail. For questions about this News Release, contact the individual(s) listed above. Thank you.

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When you file your California income tax return, you can help wildlife by making voluntary contributions to the California Sea Otter Fund on line 410 and/or the Rare and Endangered Species Preservation Fund on line 403 of form 540. Thank you!



PUBLIC NOTICE

January 27, 2014

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife has initiated a status review of the Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2074.6, and is providing this notice pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2074.4 to solicit data and comments on the petitioned action from interested and affected parties.

The Department has initiated status review following related action by the Fish and Game Commission. Having provided notice, the Northern spotted owl is now a candidate species under the California Endangered Species Act (Cal. Reg. Notice Reg. 2013, No. 52-Z, pp. 2085-2092; see also Fish & G. Code, §§ 2074.2, 2085).

The Department has 12 months to review the petition, evaluate the available information, and report back to the Commission whether or not the petitioned action is warranted (Fish & G. Code, § 2074.6). The Department's recommendation must be based on the best scientific information available to the Department.

Therefore, **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that anyone with data or comments on the taxonomic status, ecology, biology, life history, management recommendations, distribution, abundance, threats, habitat that may be essential for the species, or other factors related to the status of the above species, is hereby requested to provide such data or comments to:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nongame Wildlife Program
Attn: Neil Clipperton
1812 9th Street
Sacramento, California 95811

Please submit two hard copies and a digital/electronic copy if submitting by surface mail. Comments may also be sent via email to: wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov. If submitting by email, please include "Northern spotted owl" in the subject heading.

Responses and information received by **May 1, 2014** will be evaluated for possible incorporation in the Department's final report to the Fish and Game Commission. The Department's written report will indicate, based on the best scientific information available, whether the Department concludes that the petitioned action is warranted or not warranted. Receipt of the report will be placed on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Commission after delivery. The report will be made available to the public at that time. Following receipt of the Department's report, the Commission will allow a 30-day public comment period prior to taking any action on the Department's recommendation.

If you have any questions, please contact Neil Clipperton at (916) 445-9753 or Carie Battistone at (916) 445-3615 or the Department via email at wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov or at the address above.

As a candidate species, the Northern spotted owl receives the same legal protection afforded to an endangered or threatened species (Fish & G. Code, § 2085). Research on Northern spotted owl requires appropriate permits issued pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a). Interested researchers should contact Esther Burkett at Esther.Burkett@wildlife.ca.gov for more information. Detection information on Northern spotted owl should be sent directly to the Spotted Owl Database Manager at OwlObs@wildlife.ca.gov. General database information and additional contact information can be found at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/spotted_owl_info.asp



NOTICE TO TRIBES

January 27, 2014

TO TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES:

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The Department has 12 months to review the petition, evaluate the available information, and report back to the Commission whether or not the petitioned action is warranted (Fish & G. Code, § 2074.6). The Department's recommendation must be based on the best scientific information available to the Department.

Therefore, **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN** that anyone with data or comments on the taxonomic status, ecology, biology, life history, management recommendations, distribution, abundance, threats, habitat that may be essential for the species, or other factors related to the status of the above species, is hereby requested to provide such data or comments to:

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If you have any questions, please contact Neil Clipperton at (916) 445-9753 or Carie Battistone at (916) 445-3615 or the Department via email at wildlifemgt@wildlife.ca.gov or at the address above. If you would like to initiate consultation with the Department concerning the status review for Northern spotted owl, please contact the Department's Tribal Liaison, Steven Ingram, at steven.ingram@wildlife.ca.gov.

As a candidate species, the Northern spotted owl receives the same legal protection afforded to an endangered or threatened species (Fish & G. Code, § 2085). Research on Northern spotted owl requires appropriate permits issued pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081(a). Interested researchers should contact Esther Burkett at Esther.Burkett@wildlife.ca.gov for more information. Detection information on Northern spotted owl should be sent directly to the Spotted Owl Database Manager at OwlObs@wildlife.ca.gov. General database information and additional contact information can be found at: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/spotted_owl_info.asp