

APPENDIX 6. EXTERNAL PEER REVIEW SOLICITATION LETTERS



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Wildlife Branch
1812 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
www.wildlife.ca.gov

EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 8, 2015

Lowell V Diller, Ph.D.
1639 Vine Avenue
McKinleyville, CA 95519
ldillerconsulting@gmail.com

RE: NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL (*STRIX OCCIDENTALIS CAURINA*);
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, PEER REVIEW STATUS REPORT

DEAR ^{Pk} Mr. Diller:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a scientific peer reviewer for the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) Draft Status Report of the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). A copy of this report, dated September 8, 2015, is enclosed for your use in that review. The Department seeks your expert analysis regarding the scientific validity of the report and its assessment of the status of northern spotted owl in California. The Department would appreciate receiving your peer review input on or before October 6, 2015.

The Department seeks your review as part of formal proceedings pending before the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). As you may know, the Commission, as a constitutionally established entity distinct from the Department, exercises exclusive statutory authority under CESA to add species to the state lists of endangered and threatened species (Fish & G. Code, § 2070). The Department serves in an advisory capacity during listing proceedings, charged by the Fish and Game Code to use the best scientific information available to make related recommendations to the Commission (Fish & G. Code, § 2074.6).

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The peer review draft Status Report forwarded to you today reflects the Department's effort to identify and analyze the scientific information available regarding the status of northern spotted owl in California. At this time, the Department believes the available science indicates that listing the species as threatened or endangered under CESA is warranted. We underscore, however, that scientific peer review plays a critical role in the Department's effort to develop and finalize its recommendation to the Commission as required by the Fish and Game Code.

Page 2

Because of the importance of your effort, we ask you to focus your review on the scientific information available regarding the status of northern spotted owl in California. As with our own effort to date, your peer review of the science and analysis regarding each of the listing factors prescribed in CESA (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 670.1(i)(1)(A)) (*i.e.*, present or threatened habitat modification, overexploitation, predation, competition, disease, and other natural occurrences or human-related activities that could affect the species) is particularly important.

Please note that the Department releases this peer review report to you solely as part of the peer review process, and it is not yet public.

For ease of review, I invite you to use "track changes" in WORD, or provide comments in list form by page and line number of the report. Please submit your comments electronically to Neil Clipperton at neil.clipperton@wildlife.ca.gov, or by telephone at (916) 445-9753.

If there is anything the Department can do to facilitate your review, please let me know. Thank you again for your contribution to the status review effort and the important input it provides during the Commission's related proceedings.

Sincerely,



Eric Loft
Chief, Wildlife Branch

cc:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Karen Miner, Nongame Program Manager
Carie Battistone, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
Neil Clipperton, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)



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September 8, 2015

Katie M. Dugger
Oregon Cooperative Fish & Wildlife Research Unit
Department of Fisheries & Wildlife
104 Nash Hall
Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-3803
katie.dugger@oregonstate.edu

RE: NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL (*STRIX OCCIDENTALIS CAURINA*);
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, PEER REVIEW STATUS REPORT

DEAR ^{De} Ms. Dugger:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a scientific peer reviewer for the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) Draft Status Report of the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). A copy of this report, dated September 8, 2015, is enclosed for your use in that review. The Department seeks your expert analysis regarding the scientific validity of the report and its assessment of the status of northern spotted owl in California. The Department would appreciate receiving your peer review input on or before October 6, 2015.

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Sincerely,



Eric Loft
Chief, Wildlife Branch

cc:

Department of Fish and Wildlife
Karen Miner, Nongame Program Manager
Carie Battistone, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)
Neil Clipperton, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)



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September 8, 2015

Eric Forsman
Oregon State University
Associate Professor, Fisheries and Wildlife
3200 SW Jefferson Way
Corvallis, OR 97331
eforsman@fs.fed.us

RE: NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL (*STRIX OCCIDENTALIS CAURINA*);
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, PEER REVIEW STATUS REPORT

DEAR *Dr.* Mr. Forsman:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a scientific peer reviewer for the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) Draft Status Report of the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). A copy of this report, dated September 8, 2015, is enclosed for your use in that review. The Department seeks your expert analysis regarding the scientific validity of the report and its assessment of the status of northern spotted owl in California. The Department would appreciate receiving your peer review input on or before October 6, 2015.

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Chief, Wildlife Branch

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Department of Fish and Wildlife
Karen Miner, Nongame Program Manager
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Neil Clipperton, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist)



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CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 8, 2015

Alan B. Franklin, Ph.D.
USDA/APHIS/WS National Wildlife Research Center
4101 Laporte Avenue
Fort Collins, Colorado 80521-2154
alan.b.franklin@aphis.usda.gov

RE: NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL (*STRIX OCCIDENTALIS CAURINA*);
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, PEER REVIEW STATUS REPORT

DEAR  Mr. Franklin:

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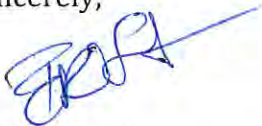
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EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 29, 2015

Betsy Glenn
Wildlife Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2600 SE 98th Ave., Suite 100
Portland, OR 97266
VIA EMAIL: Betsy_Glenn@fws.gov

RE: NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL (*STRIX OCCIDENTALIS CAURINA*);
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, PEER REVIEW STATUS REPORT

Dear Dr. Glenn:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a scientific peer reviewer for the Department of Fish and Wildlife's (Department) Draft Status Report of the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). A copy of this report, dated September 8, 2015, is enclosed for your use in that review. The Department seeks your expert analysis regarding the scientific validity of the report and its assessment of the status of northern spotted owl in California. The Department would appreciate receiving your peer review input on or before October 14, 2015.

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Sincerely,



Eric Loft
Chief, Wildlife Branch

Enclosure

cc:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Karen Miner, Nongame Program Manager
Carie Battistone, Statewide Raptor Coordinator
Neil Clipperton, Nongame Bird Conservation Coordinator



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EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 8, 2015

R. J. Gutiérrez, Professor and
Department of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology
University of Minnesota
St. Paul, MN 55108
gutie012@umn.edu

RE: NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL (*STRIX OCCIDENTALIS CAURINA*);
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, PEER REVIEW STATUS REPORT

DEAR  Mr. Gutiérrez:

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Sincerely,



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September 8, 2015

John E. Hunter
Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521
707-822-7201 (phone)
707-822-8411 (fax)
John.E.Hunter@fws.gov

RE: NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL (*STRIX OCCIDENTALIS CAURINA*);
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE, PEER REVIEW STATUS REPORT

DEAR Mr. Hunter:

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