

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Pacific Regional Office
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181
Phone: 503-231-6121
Fax: 503-231-2122
<http://pacific.fws.gov>

News Bulletin



January 4, 2008

08-01

Contact: Joan Jewett, 503-807-4886

Science Panel to Review Northern Spotted Owl Draft Recovery Plan

Meeting January 8 and 9 will be open to the public

A panel of scientists will meet January 8 and 9 in Portland, Oregon, to evaluate what constitutes the best available science concerning the ecology of the northern spotted owl. The panel will consider issues raised in peer reviews of the northern spotted owl draft recovery plan, including competition from barred owls, fire impacts and habitat relationships, and will evaluate all science relevant to these issues.

The two-day meeting, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., will be at the offices of Sustainable Ecosystems Institute, 2828 SW Corbett. Driving directions are at <http://www.psba.pdx.edu/drivingdirections>. The scientific discussion will be open to the public for observation.

SEI was selected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to review the scientific basis of the northern spotted owl draft recovery plan released in April 2007, as well as all science relevant to the ecology of the owl. To assist in the evaluation, Dr. Steven Courtney, Vice-President of SEI, has chosen the following scientists to serve on a review panel:

Andrew Carey, Ph.D., Forest Management Consultant, Emeritus Scientist with the U.S. Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, and Courtesy Professor of Ecosystem Science at the University of Washington. His research incorporates many aspects of forest ecology including succession and management, ecological function, and old growth ecology and conservation.

Martin Cody, Ph.D., is a Professor Emeritus at the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at UCLA. His research interests include community structure, determinants of diversity, density and distribution, inter-specific interactions and adaptive morphology. Dr. Cody served on the Northern Spotted Owl status review panel in 2004.

Jerry Franklin, Ph.D., is a Professor of Ecosystem Analysis at the College of Forest Resources at the University of Washington. His research focuses on forest ecology, specifically stand development, ecosystem structure and function, disturbances and biological legacies, and ecological forestry. Dr. Franklin served on the Northern Spotted Owl status review panel in 2004 and was the 2005 recipient of the Heinz Foundation Award for the Environment.

Mark Fuller, Ph.D., is a Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Boise Idaho. His research interests are focused on avian ecology and raptor biology, specifically habitat associations, annual movements, population dynamics, food habits and natural resource conservation.

Rocky Gutierrez, Ph.D., is a Professor and the Gordon Gullion Chair in Forest Wildlife, Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Conservation Biology, at the University of Minnesota. He specializes in game bird ecology, endangered species conservation, habitat ecology and sustainable wildlife management strategies. Dr. Gutierrez served on the Northern Spotted Owl status review panel in 2004 and has published extensively on owl biology.

Additional panelists will be involved in later meetings.

Following its review, SEI will submit a report to the Service for use in finalizing a northern spotted owl recovery plan by April. In addition to SEI's report, the Service will rely on members of the Interagency Support Team (IST) to help develop a final plan. The IST consists of scientists from the Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 547 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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