

Dear Interested Party:

**INFORMATION REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL
RECOVERY PLANNING EFFORTS**

REPLY REQUESTED BY: March 16, 2001

Please send completed information requests to:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Attn: Steve Spangle or Sarah Rinkevich. Your responses may be faxed to Steve and Sarah at (505) 248-6788. You may also email the responses to steve_spangle@fws.gov or sarah_rinkevich@fws.gov.

Five years have elapsed since the Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Plan was released. The plan was conceived under the auspices of adaptive management, whereby aspects of the plan would be implemented and results of implementation would provide information to validate and/or revise plan recommendations. During these past five years, resource agencies have had opportunity to consider and implement the plan. Thus, it is timely to understand the extent to which the plan has been implemented and how well it has or has not worked. From our perspective, the most useful information comes from actual situations where aspects of the plan have been applied. Information on recommendations that have not been implemented and opinions as to why may also be useful to a certain extent. The information provided will be critically important for evaluating and revising the recovery plan.

Attached is an information request to aid in developing your response. This form is intended to provide a basis for understanding the extent to which the plan has been implemented, understanding the efficacy of plan recommendations, and determining aspects of the plan in need of revision.

Questions 1 through 8 should be answered by the appropriate administrative unit. Examples of appropriate units are Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management districts, Sovereign Tribal Nations, and National Parks.

Questions 9 through 13 should be answered by anybody with interest in the Mexican spotted owls and the conservation of natural resources.

The Fish and Wildlife Service and Mexican Spotted Owl Recovery Team greatly appreciate your willingness to assist them in this effort. If you have any questions please contact Steve Spangle (505/248-6655) or Sarah Rinkevich (505/248-6663).

Sincerely,

Regional Director

Administrative Unit _____ Total Acres _____

Name of Respondent: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

email: _____

Questions 1-8 apply to the entire administrative unit. If a unit-wide analysis has not been completed, then how many total acres have been allocated to the various zones (protected, restricted, target/threshold) described in the Recovery Plan guidelines (i.e., what is the cumulative total acres analyzed for all applicable projects in the administrative unit) _____? Note: if a unit-wide analysis has been completed, enter the total acres for the administrative unit.

1. How many owl sites require PACs? _____

How many PACs have been designated? _____

2. How many acres outside of PACs meet the criteria for steep-slope protected areas?

3. How many acres of restricted habitat do you have in mixed-conifer _____, pine-oak _____, and riparian _____?

4. How many acres and what percent of the total amount of restricted acres meet threshold conditions (see Recovery Plan Table III.B.1, p.92) by forest type?

Acres	%
Mixed-conifer	
Pine-oak	

5. How many acres and what percent of the total amount of restricted acres have been identified as target (see Recovery Plan Table III.B.1, p.92) by forest type?

Acres	%
Mixed-conifer	
Pine-oak	

6. How many protected, restricted, and unrestricted acres have been treated to reduce fuels since the recovery plan went into effect?

	<u>Number of acres</u>		
	Rx fire	Thinning	Commercial harvest
Protected			
PACs			
Steep Slopes			
Reserved lands			
Restricted			
Mixed-conifer			
Pine-oak			
Riparian			
Unrestricted			
Ponderosa pine			
Pinyon-juniper			
Other			

7. How many protected, restricted, and unrestricted acres were treated in the 10 years preceding the recovery plan (prior to December 1995) in areas that have been designated as the following:

	<u>Number of acres</u>		
	Rx fire	Thinning	Commercial harvest
Protected			
PACs			
Steep Slopes			
Reserved lands			
Restricted			
Mixed-conifer			
Pine-oak			
Riparian			
Unrestricted			
Ponderosa pine			
Pinyon-juniper			
Other			

8. Have any livestock grazing Allotment Management Plans (AMPs) or Annual Operating Plans (AOPs) been modified to include goals and guidelines (e.g., utilization guidelines) for enhancing owl prey habitat in key grazing areas (e.g., meadows) within owl PACs or Restricted habitat?

Number of AMPs modified _____

Number of AOPs modified _____

9. What aspects of the plan have been difficult to implement, and why? Please be specific.

10. What parts of the plan are confusing or contradictory, and why. Please be specific.

11. What parts of the plan should be strengthened, and why? Please be specific.

12. What parts of the plan should be removed or de-emphasized, and why? Please be specific.

13. What should be in the plan that is presently missing, and why? Please be specific.