

Peer Review Plan

Date: 3/14/2012

Source Center: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center
777 NW 9th St., Suite 400
Corvallis, OR 97330

Title: Competitive Interactions and Resource Partitioning Between Northern Spotted Owls and Barred Owls in Western Oregon.

Subject and Purpose: This report describes the results of research on competitive interactions and resource partitioning between northern spotted owls and barred owls in Western Oregon. After being listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, the northern spotted owl became the focus of intensive research and conservation efforts on forested public land in the Pacific Northwest. Despite these efforts, northern spotted owl populations have continued to decline throughout much of their range. The barred owl is native to the central and eastern United States and has expanded its range into Pacific Northwest forests. Competition with barred owls is implicated in the continued decline of spotted owl populations but prior to this research understanding of the behavioral and ecological factors involved was mostly speculative. The research was led by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and conducted in collaboration with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State University, and Boise State University. This report will be released as a PhD thesis authored by a USGS employee and will be available to the public on-line through the Scholars Archive at the Oregon State University library.

Impact of Dissemination: This product is considered by USGS to be Influential Science Information.

Timing of Review (Including Deferrals): February - March 2012. Deferrals are not anticipated.

Manner of Review, Selection of Reviewers, and Nomination Process: Review will consist of a graduate committee review and a separate USGS peer review. USGS will select the peer reviewers pursuant to requirements in Survey Manual chapter 502.3—Fundamental Science Practices: Peer Review (<http://www.usgs.gov/usgs-manual/500/502-3.html>).

Expected Number of Reviewers: We anticipate the 3-5 reviewers.

Requisite Expertise: Raptor ecology, conservation biology.

Opportunity for Public Comment: No opportunity for public comment is formally incorporated for this product.

Agency Contact: peer_review_agenda@usgs.gov.