



## **THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

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### **THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY APPLAUDS WITHDRAWAL OF WESTERN OREGON PLAN REVISIONS**

*Supports Decision to Thoroughly Review Spotted Owl Recovery Plan*

**BETHESDA, MD** – Today, The Wildlife Society (TWS) applauded the Department of the Interior’s recent decision to withdraw the flawed Western Oregon Plan Revisions (WOPR), which would have intensified logging in Western Oregon and potentially threaten efforts to conserve the endangered northern spotted owl.

TWS also applauds the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) for seeking the withdrawal of the 2008 spotted owl critical habitat revision, on which the WOPR was in part based. Should this occur, 6.9 million acres of critical habitat would be designated for the spotted owl, which is a reversion to the area dedicated in 1992. FWS also announced their intention to review the 2008 Spotted Owl Recovery Plan over the next nine months.

“It has been clear to those of us in the conservation community that the WOPR and the Spotted Owl Recovery Plan were not based in sound science,” said Dr. Michael Hutchins, Executive Director/CEO of TWS. “We applaud the Department’s decision to thoroughly review the 2008 Recovery Plan for the northern spotted owl, and as always, offer our expertise as they move forward with their plans.”

TWS has taken a keen interest in both the Draft Spotted Owl Recovery Plan in 2007, as well as the 2008 Final Plan, submitting comments to the FWS as well as engaging agency and administration leaders regarding its concerns. Along with The Society for Conservation Biology (SCB) and the American Ornithologists’ Union (AOU), TWS reviewed both plans and all three groups found similar flaws.

“In the 2008 Plan FWS did respond constructively to some of the comments and suggestions we submitted in response to the 2007 Draft Plan. However, based on a thorough review, we believed that the 2008 Final Plan would not lead to recovery of spotted owls,” stated Hutchins. “We found that this plan would reverse much of the progress made over the past 20 years to protect this species and the habitat upon which it depends.”

“We are appreciative of the new administration’s commitment to wildlife management and conservation plans that are based on science, and appreciate the willingness of the FWS to review the Spotted Owl Recovery Plan,” concluded Hutchins. “We hope that review will result in a plan that addresses the concerns of TWS, and the other organizations that commented on the plan, and contribute to the conservation of northern spotted owls.”

### **About The Wildlife Society**

**TWS**, founded in 1937, is a scientific and educational organization dedicated to enhancing the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure the responsible use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society. For a full copy of the comments, please contact Laura Bies at (301) 897-9770 ext. 308. Find us on the web at [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org)

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