



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

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### INTERIOR SECRETARY LUJAN NAMES TEAM LEADER, COORDINATOR TO NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL RECOVERY TEAM

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced the appointments of a Team Leader and a Team Coordinator to the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Team. Marvin Plenert, Regional Fish & Wildlife Service Director, and Don Knowles, Interior Deputy Under Secretary, will lead a team that will write the recovery plan for the spotted owl.

As Team Leader, Plenert will have the primary responsibility for managing the team, preparing a work plan, coordinating staffing and administration, drafting the recovery plan and ensuring public participation. Knowles, as Team Coordinator, will serve as Lujan's representative, providing initial and ongoing policy guidance.

"Together, these two individuals offer an impressive range of skills and experience necessary to accomplish this very complicated and difficult task," Lujan stated. "I am confident in their ability to lead this effort."

Lujan's direction to the Team Leader and Team Coordinator calls for the development of a plan that will promote the conservation and survival of the owl. The directive adheres to the Endangered Species Act, as mandated by law, ensuring that all matters of concern are addressed, including examining scientific evidence as well as economics.

Earlier today, letters were sent by Lujan to the Governors of California, Oregon and Washington requesting they appoint a representative to be included on the recovery team. In addition, similar letters were sent to the Secretary of Agriculture, Interior Assistant Secretaries of Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Land and Minerals Management, and Policy Management and Budget, Interior Solicitor's Office, and the Directors of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service.

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