

NEWS RELEASE

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HAWAII AND THE PACIFIC ISLANDS

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SPOTTED OWL RECOVERY PLAN THE FOCUS OF UPCOMING
PUBLIC MEETINGS IN NORTHWEST COMMUNITIES

The Department of the Interior's draft recovery plan for the northern spotted owl, which proposes a scientifically-based framework for the recovery of this federally listed threatened species, will be the focus of the public meetings in the Pacific Northwest in June.

Public meetings to present the plan, which was released in May, will be held in the following locations:

- June 19, 1992 -- Arcata/McKinleyville, California; McKinleyville High School Auditorium;
- June 22, 1992 -- Roseburg, Oregon; Umpqua Community College, Jacoby Auditorium;
- June 26, 1992 -- Seattle, Washington; University of Washington, Kane Hall, Room 130.

The public meetings will be held in Arcata/McKinleyville and Roseburg from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. In Seattle, the meetings will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. and 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

At the sessions, members of the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Team -- a group of Federal, state, and academic representatives convened by Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan in 1991 to develop a recovery plan for the species-- will present highlights of the draft plan and answer questions.

The draft recovery plan encompasses a network of 196 conservation areas located on Federal land and widely distributed across the range of the owl. These areas total 7.5 million acres, of which 2.1 million are national parks and wilderness areas. The conservation areas are projected to support a population of about 2,300 breeding pairs of owls -- less than the current estimated population but distributed in such a way as to promote the survival of the species.

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In advance of the public meetings, a 36-page summary of the draft recovery plan for the northern spotted owl is available from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which presents a description of the spotted owl's status and threats to its survival, the elements of the proposed recovery plan, and the scientific and economic concepts that went into the plan's preparation. Copies of the summary are available from: Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Team, c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 911 N.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97232-4181, telephone: 503/231-6238, fax: 503/231-6242.

For groups and organizations interested in the recovery plan, a 20-minute video summary of the plan in VHS format also is available from the same address.

Written public comments on the draft recovery plan are also being accepted at this address through July 13, 1992.

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