



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Southwestern Region  
Regional Office

333 Broadway SE  
Albuquerque, NM 87102  
FAX (505) 842-3800  
V/TTY (505) 842-3292

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Benjamin Tuggle, PhD.  
Regional Director, Southwest Region  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Gold Ave.nue, SW  
P.O. Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1306

Dear Dr. Tuggle:

The Southwestern Region of the Forest Service requests re-initiation of formal consultation (Consultation #2-22-03-F-366) on the Biological Opinion (BO) for *The Continued Implementation of the Land and Resource Management Plans for the Eleven National Forests and National Grasslands of the Southwestern Region*.

Since the implementation of the June 10, 2000, BO our staffs have worked to ensure compliance and issue resolution both independently and through an interagency Oversight Committee. It has now become apparent that the Forest Service will likely soon exceed the amount of take issued for at least one species, the Mexican spotted owl (MSO). As you know, the Forest Service has moved into a new era of restoring systems to a condition that provides resilience to natural disturbances, as well as predicted climate changes, and involves active management across the landscape. We feel these actions are necessary to protect the systems upon which the MSO depends and will contribute to the long-term viability of this species, as well as others. However, these efforts have, and likely will in the future, result in short-term adverse effects to the MSO, thus resulting in our present need to request re-initiation of consultation.

In addition, it has become apparent that the Forest Service is unable to fully implement and comply with the monitoring requirements associated with the Reasonable and Prudent Measures for several species (including the MSO) in the BO. Therefore, a reasonable solution to monitoring the implementation of the action and its resulting effects to the species needs to be addressed. Also, additional clarification of language within the BO will facilitate a consistent interpretation of the requirements for overall compliance with the BO.



Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the Director of Wildlife, Fish, and Rare Plants, Don DeLorenzo, (505) 842-3260 or [ddelorenzo@fs.fed.us](mailto:ddelorenzo@fs.fed.us) or the Threatened and Endangered Species Program Leader, Bobbi Barrera, (505) 842-3194 or [blbarrera@fs.fed.us](mailto:blbarrera@fs.fed.us) to proceed with discussions between our respective staffs to determine resource needs associated with accomplishing this task.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Daniel J. Jiron (for)*  
CORBIN L. NEWMAN, JR.  
Regional Forester

cc: Don G DeLorenzo  
Susan Jacobsen