



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office

1829 South Oregon Street

Yreka, California 96097

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In Reply Refer To:

08EYRE00-2015-F-0023

February 19, 2016

Patricia A. Grantham
Forest Supervisor
Klamath National Forest
1711 South Main Street
Yreka, California 96097

Subject: Final Biological Opinion for the Proposed Westside Fire Recovery Project
Happy Camp/Oak Knoll and Salmon/Scott Ranger Districts, Siskiyou County,
California

Dear Ms. Grantham:

This letter is in response to your July 27, 2015, request for formal consultation on the Westside Fire Recovery Project under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.). Your request included a Biological Assessment (BA) containing the Forest Service determination of *likely to adversely affect* the northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) (NSO) and its designated critical habitat.

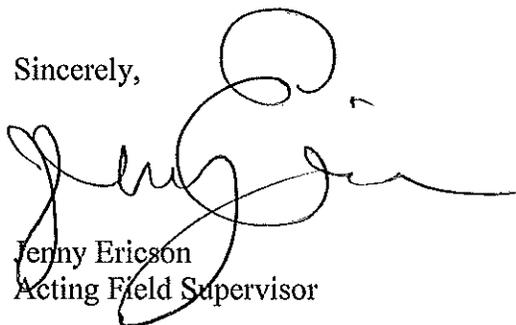
Based on the analyses presented in the BA, supplemental information provided on August 18, 2015, *The Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Westside Fire Recovery Project*, modified Alternative 3, and supporting documents and data provided through September 2015, as well as our own review and independent analysis, we have concluded that implementation of the proposed action would adversely affect NSOs, but not to such an extent that it would jeopardize the species or adversely modify its designated critical habitat. Enclosed for your review is the US Fish and Wildlife Service's final Biological Opinion (BO) (Service File Number 08EYRE00-2015-F-0023) for the proposed project.

The BO is valid for the term of the proposed action as discussed and analyzed herein. In accordance with the implementing regulations for section 7 at 50 CFR 402.16, re-initiation of consultation is required where discretionary Federal agency involvement or control over the action has been maintained (or is authorized by law) and if: 1) the amount or extent of exempted incidental take is exceeded; 2) new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner, or to an extent, not considered in the BO; 3) the action is

subsequently modified in a manner causing effects to listed species or critical habitat not considered in the BO; or 4) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

If you have any questions regarding this letter or the attached Biological Opinion for the Westside Fire Recovery Project, please contact Laura Finley of my staff at 530-842-5763 or email laura_finley@fws.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Ericson', with a large, stylized flourish above it.

Jenny Ericson
Acting Field Supervisor

Enclosure: Biological Opinion

cc: Jim Simondet, NOAA, Arcata, CA