

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3467

To address the protection of the California spotted owl and its habitat in the Sierran Province of Region 5 of the Forest Service through the use of an interim management direction consistent with the requirements of existing public land management and environmental laws and by setting a date certain for the completion of a final environmental impact statement for the management of the California spotted owl.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 1998

Mr. DOOLITTLE (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SMITH of Oregon, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. RIGGS, Mr. HERGER, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. POMBO, and Mr. THOMAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

A BILL

To address the protection of the California spotted owl and its habitat in the Sierran Province of Region 5 of the Forest Service through the use of an interim management direction consistent with the requirements of existing public land management and environmental laws and by setting a date certain for the completion of a final environmental impact statement for the management of the California spotted owl.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “California Spotted Owl
3 Interim Protection Act of 1998”.

4 **SEC. 2. INTERIM AND FINAL CALIFORNIA SPOTTED OWL**
5 **HABITAT PROTECTION.**

6 (a) IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW INTERIM MANAGE-
7 MENT DIRECTION.—Subject to subsection (b), not later
8 than six months after the date of the enactment of this
9 Act, the Forest Service shall begin using the preferred al-
10 ternative contained in the revised version of the draft envi-
11 ronmental impact statement prepared by the Forest Serv-
12 ice in 1996 for the California spotted owl as its interim
13 management direction for the California spotted owl in the
14 10 national forests in the Sierran Province of Region 5
15 of the Forest Service. The Forest Service shall use such
16 preferred alternative, modified as required in subsection
17 (b), as its interim management direction until such time
18 as a final environmental impact statement and record of
19 decision are released as required by subsection (c).

20 (b) REQUIRED MODIFICATION OF REVISED DRAFT
21 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.—Before imple-
22 mentation of the preferred alternative in the 1996 revised
23 draft environmental impact statement for the California
24 spotted owl as the interim management direction for the
25 California spotted owl in the 10 national forests in the
26 Sierran Province of Region 5, the Forest Service shall re-

1 evaluate and modify the assessment regarding fire and
2 fuels reduction contained in the revised draft environ-
3 mental impact statement to address the concerns raised
4 in the December 1997 final report of the panel of sci-
5 entists that was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture
6 to review the revised draft environmental impact state-
7 ment.

8 (c) TIME FOR FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
9 STATEMENT.—Not later than 18 months after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, the Forest Service shall com-
11 plete a final environmental impact statement and record
12 of decision for the management of the California spotted
13 owl in the 10 national forests in the Sierran Province of
14 Region 5. To ensure the prompt completion of the final
15 environmental impact statement, the Forest Service shall
16 issue, not later than 12 months after the date of the enact-
17 ment of this Act, a proposed final environmental impact
18 statement for public comment and review.

19 (d) LONG-TERM CONSERVATION STRATEGY.—Noth-
20 ing in this section shall preclude the Forest Service from
21 developing a long-term conservation strategy for the Si-
22 erra Nevada Mountains.

23 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—At the end of the
24 six-month period beginning on the date of the enactment
25 of this Act, and every six months thereafter, the Secretary

1 of Agriculture shall submit to Congress a report describing
2 the progress of the Forest Service toward completion of
3 the final environmental impact statement within the time
4 periods specified in subsection (c).

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