

SNAMP Science Team: Wildlife – Spotted Owl



Owl Team Members

Principal Investigators:

- **Rocky Gutiérrez**, Univ. of Minnesota-Twin Cities
- **Zach Peery**, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison

Project Leader:

- Douglas Tempel

Assistant Project Leaders:

- Sheila Whitmore (SNAMP)
- Vince Berigan (Eldorado)

Graduate Student:

Ricka Stoelting

Owl Team Project Goals

- Monitor California Spotted Owl response to fuel treatments on the SNAMP northern site and the Eldorado study area
- *Question 1: Do forest fuel treatments affect owl territory occupancy, survival and reproductive success?*
- *Question 2: Do changes in vegetation affect owl territory occupancy, survival, and reproductive success?*

Owl Team Activities

- Annual owl surveys (capture, mark, resight, and assess reproduction)
- Creation of cover type map, including annual changes in cover types

Project Status

- Completed annual owl surveys (territory occupancy surveys, capture, mark, resight, and assess reproduction)
- Extensive effort this summer to develop habitat map for retrospective study (more later)
- Begin first stages of planning for a meta-analysis of spotted owl data
 - Meta-analysis will have several components
 - Will be independent of SNAMP effort, but will be highly relevant to each other

Last Chance Owl Surveys: 2012

- Completed surveys in 2012
- 8 territories occupied
- Successful reproduction at 2 territories



Eldorado Owl Surveys 2012

- Completed surveys for all Density and Regional historic territories
- Completed survey coverage of entire Density Study Area
- Reproduction slightly less than average



Eldorado Annual Report 2011: Relevant to SNAMP

- Conducted 1,429 surveys
- Detected owls at 46 and 54% of historic territories on Density and RSA, respectively
- Poor nesting year (3 pairs successful)
 - Reproduction is variable over time
 - Appears to be declining, but how or why is uncertain based on modeling

Eldorado Annual Report 2011: Relevant to SNAMP

- Survival = ~ 83% over the study period
- Finite Rate of Population Change (λ) was <1 for both modified and unmodified datasets (details later)
- Realized Change estimates suggest population declined over study period
- More on this later

Funding

- SNAMP owl funding reduced so budget is extremely tight
- Owl team has received support from USFWS through a Cal F&G grant
- Eldorado was funded completely, but budget is extremely tight

Funding continued

- SNAMP continues to work with our partners to secure funding and USFS has committed to completion of the project
- JFSP proposal not funded, but close
- Eldorado funding continues to be key and we are working with USFS to facilitate funding

New Staff

- Dr. Matthew Reetz (University of Wisconsin) is now working with us on the map development for the retrospective study

