

An Adaptive Management Strategy for the Sierra Nevada: Wildlife

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Objectives

- Determine response of selected wildlife to SPLAT management
- Integration with existing research and monitoring
- Review of relevant existing literature
- Identify methods for assessment of wildlife response to habitat changes at the stand and landscape scales
- Consideration of appropriate experimental design and sampling methods

Justification

- Criteria for species prioritization are:
 - History of impeding forest management because of insufficient knowledge
 - Species likely to respond negatively to SPLATs
 - Species present in detectable numbers in at least one study area
 - Preference for high “signal-to-noise-ratio”

Tasks

- Species prioritization: (each studied in similar manner)
 - first -- fisher
 - second – goshawk (not done until fisher funded, etc.)
 - third -- spotted owl
 - fourth -- marten
- Predict response to SPLAT program
- Design research program to test predictions (complete census)
 - population dynamics of existing fisher populations
 - recruitment, survival, dispersal rates > population trend
 - causes of mortality to determine limiting factors
 - re-introduction trials in historic fisher habitat

Response to Comments

- Prioritization, Integration, Coordination, Tetrapods, Sample unit, Power, Decade will all be dealt with in wildlife work plan