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Summary of Spotted Owl activity in Crystal Creek, 1987-1998

Crystal Creek has been annually inventoried for Spotted Owl occupancy and reproduction since 1987. This work was part of a Spotted Owl demography project being conducted by Humboldt State University and funded by various state, federal, and private organizations. The following is a summary of the Spotted Owl activity during that period.

Year	Social Status	Nesting Status	Young Fledged
1987	Pair	Nesting	1
1988	Pair	Nesting	0
1989	Pair	Nesting	0
1990	Pair	No Nest	0
1991	Pair	Nesting	0
1992	Pair	No Nest	0
1993	Pair	Nesting	0
1994	Pair	Nesting	3
1995	Pair	Nesting	0
1996	Female	No Nest	0
1997	Pair	No Nest	0
1998	Pair	No Nest	0

In context of the entire project, which encompasses 148 territories in the San Bernardino Mountains, Crystal Creek is occupied more often than the average territory, the owls attempt to nest about average, and they fledge young slightly below average. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me at the above address or telephone number.

Sincerely,


William S. LaHaye

APPENDIX 4D

**SPOTTED OWL MANAGEMENT PLAN
COVER AND APPROVAL ONLY**

SPOTTED OWL TERRITORY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Delamar and Crystal Creek Territories

San Bernardino National Forest

PREPARED BY:

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John Stephenson
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REVIEWED AND RECOMMENDED BY:

Steve A. Loe, Forest Biologist

Steve A. Loe

APPROVED BY:

Richard Stauber, Forest Supervisor

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APPENDIX 4E

SPOTTED OWL SURVEY UPDATE (2009)

Summary of California Spotted Owls Near OMYA Operations

There is one California spotted owl territory near OMYA's mining operations: SB030 (Crystal Creek-Desert). Between 1987 and 2000, the territory was occupied by a pair of owls in all but one year. Part of the habitat burned in the Willow Fire in 1999 but the territory continued to be occupied by a pair in 2000. It is suspected that the territory was vacant in 2001 but full protocol surveys were not conducted. A single female was located in 2002. The territory was not monitored in 2003-2004. Since 2005, the territory has been vacant. Despite being vacant, the habitat in Crystal Creek is considered suitable for California spotted owls and it is expected that the territory may be re-occupied at some point.

The SBNF uses a restriction of activities (Limited Operating Period) within $\frac{1}{4}$ of known nests between February 1st and August 15th to limit disturbance to breeding birds. The LOP does not overlap any existing mining operations at OMYA. The haul road falls within the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile but is not considered to be an impact to nesting owls at the bottom of Crystal Canyon.

OMYA is preparing a proposal to expand the Butterfield-3 quarry. The existing quarry is about 0.4 miles to the south of the LOP circle. If the quarry expansion is outside of the LOP, no noise impacts would be expected to the Crystal Creek-Desert territory. Unless the proposed expansion includes land more than 0.2 miles to the north of the existing quarry, the expansion of the quarry would not result in impacts to mapped spotted owl habitat. A site-specific habitat survey of the proposed expansion area would need to be done to verify the assumption that the site does not support suitable habitat for California spotted owls.

Prepared by Robin Eliason, 7/23/09, by reviewing existing mapped habitat and GIS layers. At the request of Howard Brown – OMYA.

Spotted Owl Habitat - DMVA
Map prepared by R. Eliason 7/23/09

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