



**Rich Gordon  
President/CEO**

**Memo**

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TO: CORE Member  
FROM: Rich Gordon  
DATE: July 7, 2021  
RE: Lawsuit Update #3

There has been some activity in the case of Sierra Forest Legacy (and others) v. US Fish and Wildlife Service, a challenge to the USFWS's decision not to list the California Spotted Owl.

First, and most importantly, the Coalition for Owls, Resources, and the Environment (CORE) has been granted official status as an intervenor in the case. Our coalition will now be able to formally participate in the case and support USFWS.

Secondly, the Court has ruled against the government's request for a change of venue. The government had requested a transfer of the case to the Eastern District of California. The case will remain with the Northern District in San Jose, California. We do not believe that this will have any significant impact on the case.

The government has filed with the Court its administrative record on the decision not to list the California Spotted Owl. That record is approximately 70,000 pages long.

Both sides in the case will file motions for summary judgement. The Court has established a schedule for briefings these cross motions, and has set March 17, 2022, as the hearing date.

The Court also ordered the government and CORE to "share" the briefing for the defense side. Consistent with Department of Justice policy, it and CORE will file separate briefs while divvying up the total pages.

Finally, on a personal note I wanted to make sure that all CORE members are aware that I will be retiring at the end of August. My successor will be Matt Dias who most recently has been serving as the Executive Officer for the California Board of Forestry. Please look for future updates from Matt. As I leave this role, I want to thank you for your trust in the California Forestry Association to serve as the administrator of CORE. I am proud of the coalition that we built, and I wish you all the best.