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Incoming

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E-howe spotted owl .doc

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**From:** Frank Howe  
**To:** Susan White  
**Date:** 8/9/01 3:24PM  
**Subject:** Mexican Spotted Owl Habitat at Proposed Lila Canyon Mine Site

Hi Susan,

As I mentioned during our site visit (8/6/01) to the Lila Canyon Mine site, I don't see any need for spotted owl surveys at the site. There is no suitable breeding/roosting owl habitat within the proposed mine's footprint. And while I did not go up Lila Canyon, it did not appear that there was any breeding/roosting habitat for at least 1 mile and probably farther up the canyon (as stated by Mr. Coonrod). As such, I would say that there is no need for season restrictions of construction to avoid disturbance of spotted owls.

The site contained "marginal" foraging habitat and there were signs of woodrat activity. However, since there is no indication of nearby breeding/roosting habitat it's not likely that owls would use this area to forage during the breeding season. It may provide winter foraging habitat, but it is similar to many adjacent canyons which would offer the same characteristics (snow-free and relatively warm in winter).

Of course, you will need to get the official word from the USFWS since it is their call to make.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
fh

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