

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE - SPOTLIGHT SPECIES ACTION PLAN

Common Name: Northern spotted owl

Scientific Name: *Strix occidentalis caurina*

Lead Region: Region 1

Lead Field Office: Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office

Species Information:

Status: Threatened

Recovery Priority Number or Listing Priority Number: 3C

Recovery Plan or Candidate Assessment Form: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2008. Final Recovery Plan for the Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 142 pages.

Most Recent 5-year Review: April 21, 2003.

Other: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revised Designation of Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl; Final Rule. Federal Register 73(157): 47325-47374.

Threats: After a status review, the spotted owl was listed under the Endangered Species Act as threatened on June 26, 1990, because of widespread loss of suitable habitat across the spotted owl's range and the inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms to conserve the spotted owl. Many populations of spotted owls continue to decline, especially in the northern parts of the subspecies' range, even with extensive maintenance and restoration of suitable habitat in recent years. Managing sufficient habitat for the spotted owl now and into the future is essential for its recovery. However, it is becoming more evident that securing habitat alone will not recover the spotted owl. Based on the best available scientific information, competition from the barred owl (*Strix varia*) poses a significant and complex threat to the spotted owl. Past habitat loss and current habitat loss are also threats to the spotted owl, even though loss of habitat due to timber harvest has been greatly reduced on Federal lands for the past 2 decades.

Target: Reduce the threat of extinction within 5 years by increasing our knowledge of the natural forces impacting this species.

Measure: Update spotted owl demographic information by working with partners to develop updated assessments and share/communicate the best available science for this species.

Actions (in order of priority):

1. Develop Provincial Assessments to document northern spotted owl (NSO) habitat and demographic conditions, and to provide management goals. The management goal is to maintain existing NSO habitat at a sufficient level and distribution to facilitate NSO survival and recovery.

- a. Incorporate Landscape Assessment Risk Maps (Davis et al. 2008) into a draft of the Klamath Province Provincial Assessment and its associated conservation strategy.
2. Improve and share communication of new findings on NSO (and barred owl) ecology and related science regarding NSO populations and habitat management and monitoring.
 - a. Implement NSO recovery-related workshops that deal with Dry Forest silviculture and Dry Forest Landscapes to coordinate multi-agency recovery efforts.
 3. Update the NSO survey protocol so that it is adequate to detect spotted owls in the presence of barred owls, and to provide for analysis of site occupancy longevity. Regionally, continue to support (e.g., participate in processes, secure funding, and provide staffing) monitoring of NSOs on demographic study areas and ensure, as much as possible, provincial representation of the monitoring areas.
 - a. Conduct site occupancy analyses and update the survey protocol.

Estimated costs of the actions:

Action	Implementing Party	Description	FY 2010 to FY 2014 Cost*
1.a.	Interagency Klamath Province Work Group (IKPWG)	Incorporate Landscape Assessment Risk Maps (Davis et al 2008) complete draft of Klamath Province Provincial Assessment and its associated conservation strategy.	6 bio months/\$10,000* total cost= \$50K
2.a.	IKPWG	Implement NSO related workshops, more specifically, Dry Forest silviculture and NSO workshop and Dry Forest Landscapes and NSO workshop to coordinate multi-agency recovery efforts.	2 bio months/\$5,000 total cost=\$25K
3.a.	Interagency Barred Owl Work Group	Conduct site occupancy analyses and update the survey protocol.	1 bio month/\$5,000 total cost=\$25K

* Not yet funded.