

Northern Spotted Owl Recovery

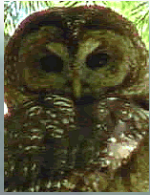
**Proposed Revised Critical Habitat
Northern Spotted Owl
&
Draft Environmental Impact Statement on
Experimental Removal of Barred Owls**

May 2012



Northern Spotted Owl Recovery

- Main threats: habitat loss and competition from encroaching barred owl.
- Announced both policy proposals on March 8, 2012; both 90-day review; additional review time with CH economic analysis (late May).
- Finalize CH by November 15, 2012.
- Finalize barred owl EIS by early 2013; experiment may start in late 2013; earliest assessment in 2016.



Northern Spotted Owl Recovery

Joint roll-out reinforces main tenets of recovery strategy:



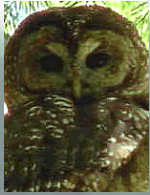
- 1) Protect the best remaining habitat.
- 2) Actively manage forests to restore their health and resilience.
- 3) Reduce harmful impacts of barred owl.



Northern Spotted Owl Recovery

Challenges:

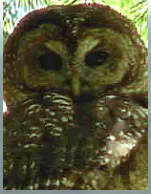
- Both proposals highly polarizing and controversial
- Reactions to more acres of CH, ecological forestry guidance and lethal removal of barred owls



Critical Habitat

- We are letting the current science lead the way.
- Using improved tools to identify the best habitat.
- Strongly support active forest management to restore forest health in CH areas where appropriate.
- Will refine proposal after reviewing public comment, scientific peer review, and economic analysis.





Critical Habitat

Objectives in Identifying Areas

- Ensure sufficient habitat to support healthy populations across range and within 11 CH units.
- Ensure distribution of populations across range of habitat conditions.
- Incorporate uncertainty—effects of barred owl, climate change, wildfire and disturbance risk.
- Recognize CH protections meant to work in concert with other recovery actions (e.g. barred owl management).

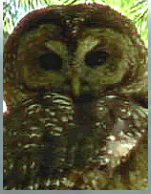


Critical Habitat

A Look at the Numbers

- 13.9 million acres proposed
- WA: <4.8 m; OR: 5.1 m; CA: 4 m
- USFS: >9.5 m; BLM: <1.5 m; NPS: <1 m;
- State lands: 670,000
- Private lands: 1.3 m

Proposed to exclude HCPs and Safe Harbor Agreements



Critical Habitat

Acreage changes

- Congressionally Reserved lands (2.6 m acres)
- State and private lands (~2 m acres); consistent with RP
 - All private lands identified in WA in SOSEAs
 - Approximately 180,000 acres
 - A quarter of these have HCPs or SHAs
- Federal Matrix (3.8 m acres); consistent with RP; many of these areas subject to ongoing litigation
- <2 m acres LSR not functioning as habitat have *not* been included



Critical Habitat

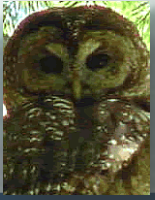
Our Goal is to Have a CH Designation that

- Is scientifically defensible.
- Is legally defensible.
- Supports overall land management goals of FS, BLM, and the States as much as possible.
- Enables variety of timber management.
- Provide guidelines for timber harvest compatible with recovery goals using ecological forestry.

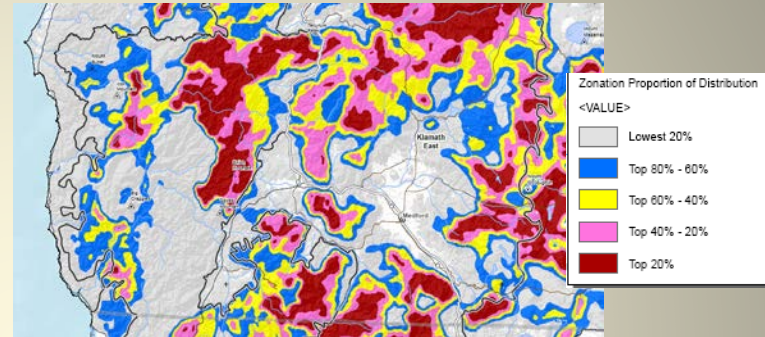


Critical Habitat

- Rangewide habitat modeling effort:
 - **Step 1.** Model/map habitat quality.
 - **Step 2.** Design potential habitat conservation network scenarios.
 - **Step 3.** Evaluate habitat network scenarios to assess relative impact on future persistence.

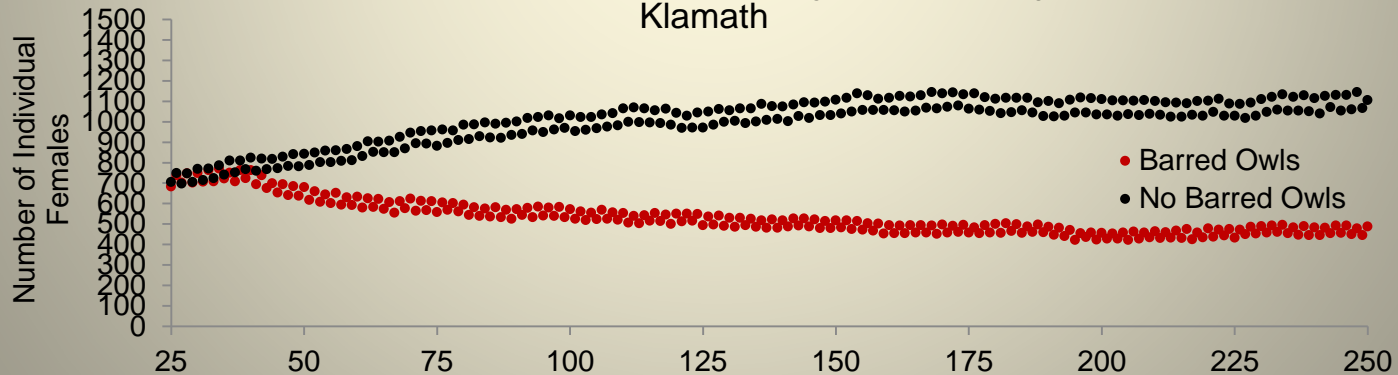


Critical Habitat

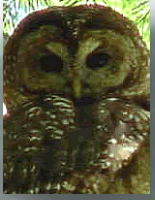


Step 1 – Model and map relative habitat quality (MAXENT)

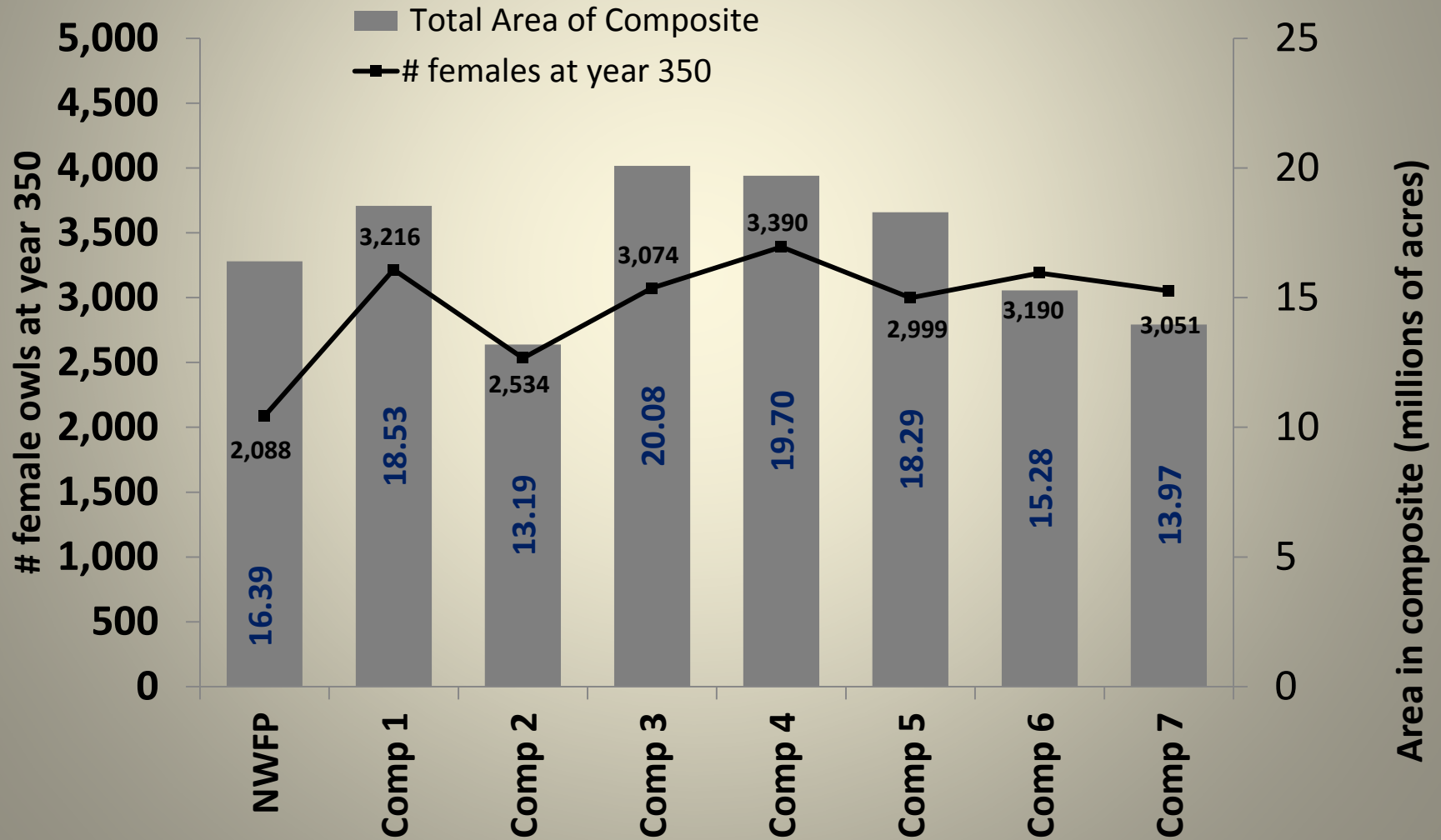
Step 2 – Aggregate habitat value into blocks (ZONATION)
Klamath

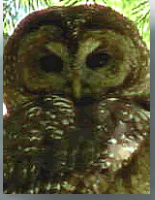


Step 3 – Test effectiveness of various scenarios (HEXSIM)

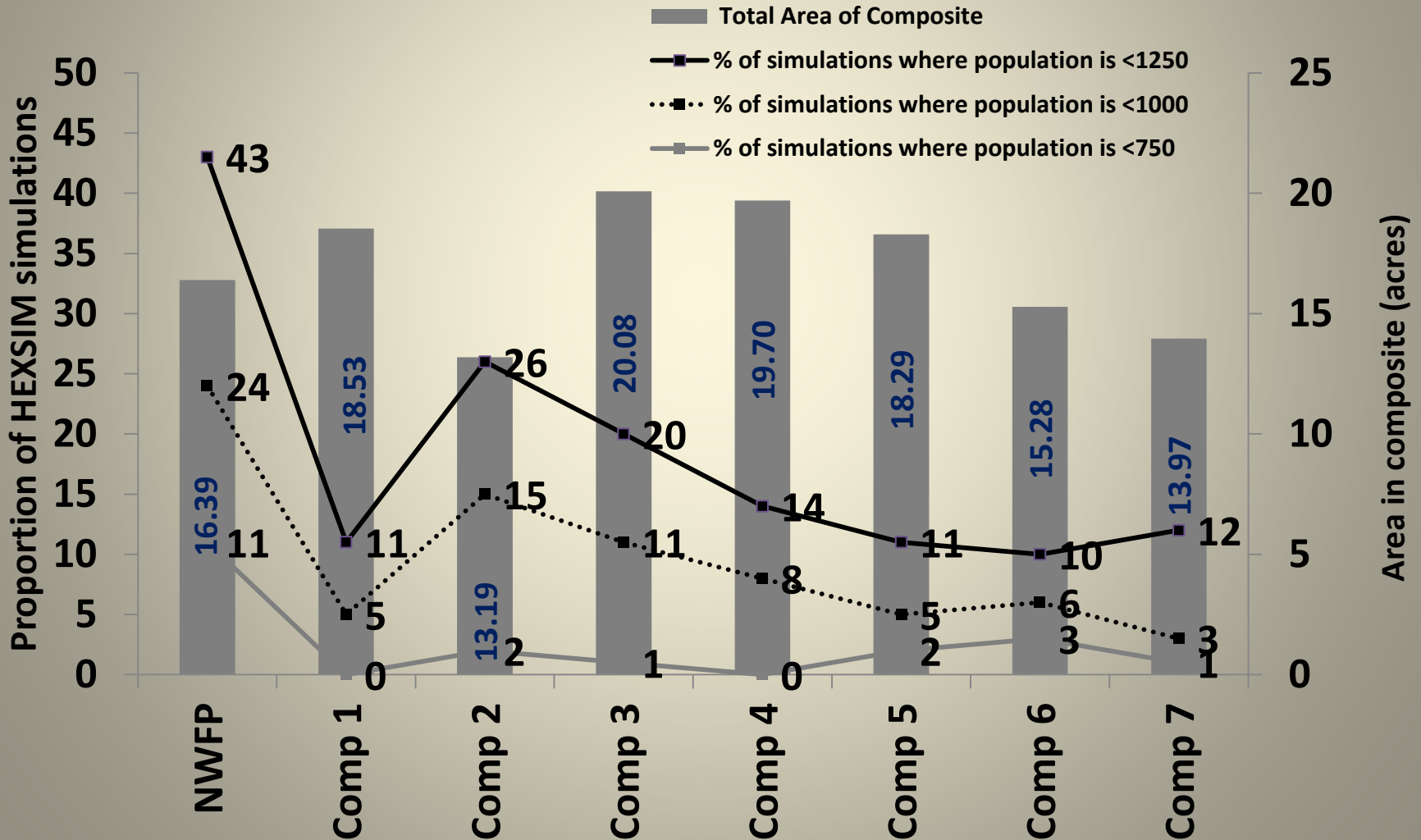


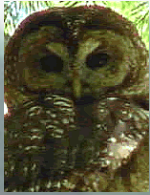
Critical Habitat





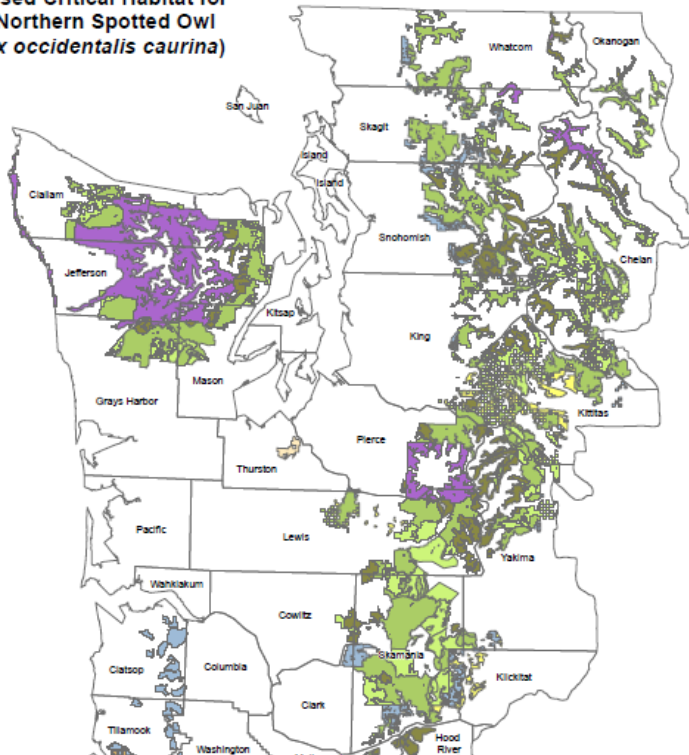
Critical Habitat



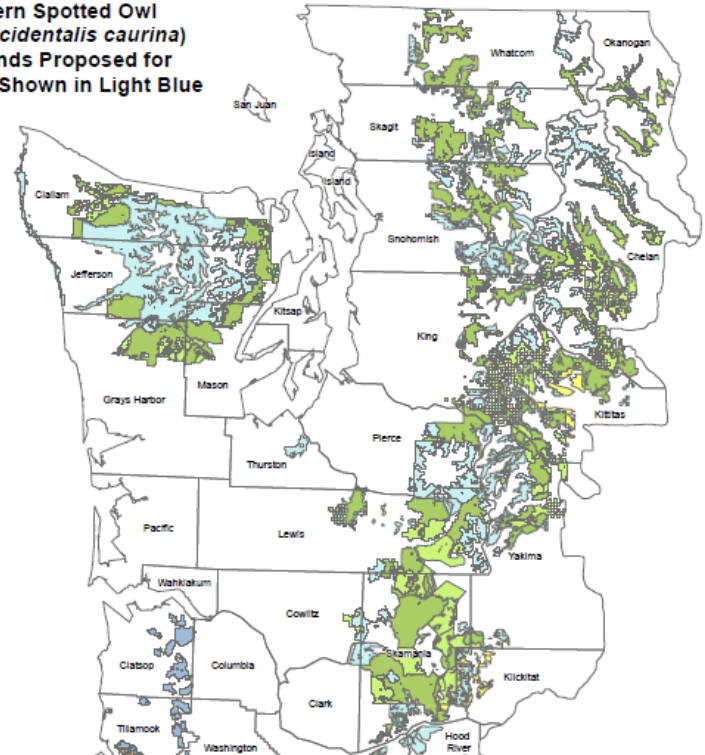


Critical Habitat

Proposed Critical Habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)



Proposed Critical Habitat for Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) with Lands Proposed for Exclusion Shown in Light Blue

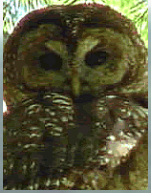


Legend

○ County Boundary

Land Ownership

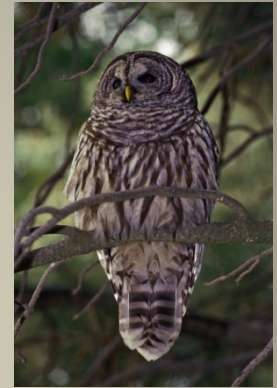
- Bureau of Land Management
Congressionally Reserved Lands
- Bureau of Land Management
Late Successional Reserve
- Bureau of Land Management
Matrix
- National Park Service
Congressionally Reserved Lands
- Other Federal
- Private
- State
- U.S. Forest Service
Congressionally Reserved Lands
- U.S. Forest Service
Late Successional Reserve
- U.S. Forest Service
Matrix

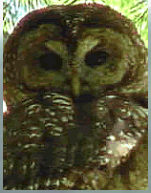


Barred Owl Draft EIS

Draft EIS on Barred Owl Experimental Removal:

- We have a clear obligation to do all we can to prevent extinction and recover spotted owl
- Barred owl has competitive advantage
 - More generalized food and habitat requirements
 - Can use younger and variable forests
 - More aggressive and strongly defend territory
 - Produce more young

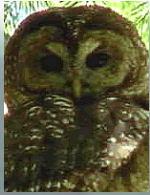




Barred Owl Draft EIS

- Goal is to test effectiveness and feasibility of barred owl removal as a management tool
 - Effectiveness in improving spotted owl demography
 - Efficiency in managing barred owl densities
 - Ability to maintain lower barred owl densities
- With strong habitat protections in place, there's a good chance of succeeding in recovery in the long term if the barred owl challenge can be addressed in the short term.





Barred Owl Draft EIS

Key Points

- Includes 8 Alternatives, including a No Action. Vary on
 - Methods of removal -- lethal, non-lethal (capture and captivity), and combinations.
 - Number and locations of study areas (1 to 11);
 - Duration (3-10 years),
 - Cost
 - Number of barred owls removed.





Barred Owl Draft EIS

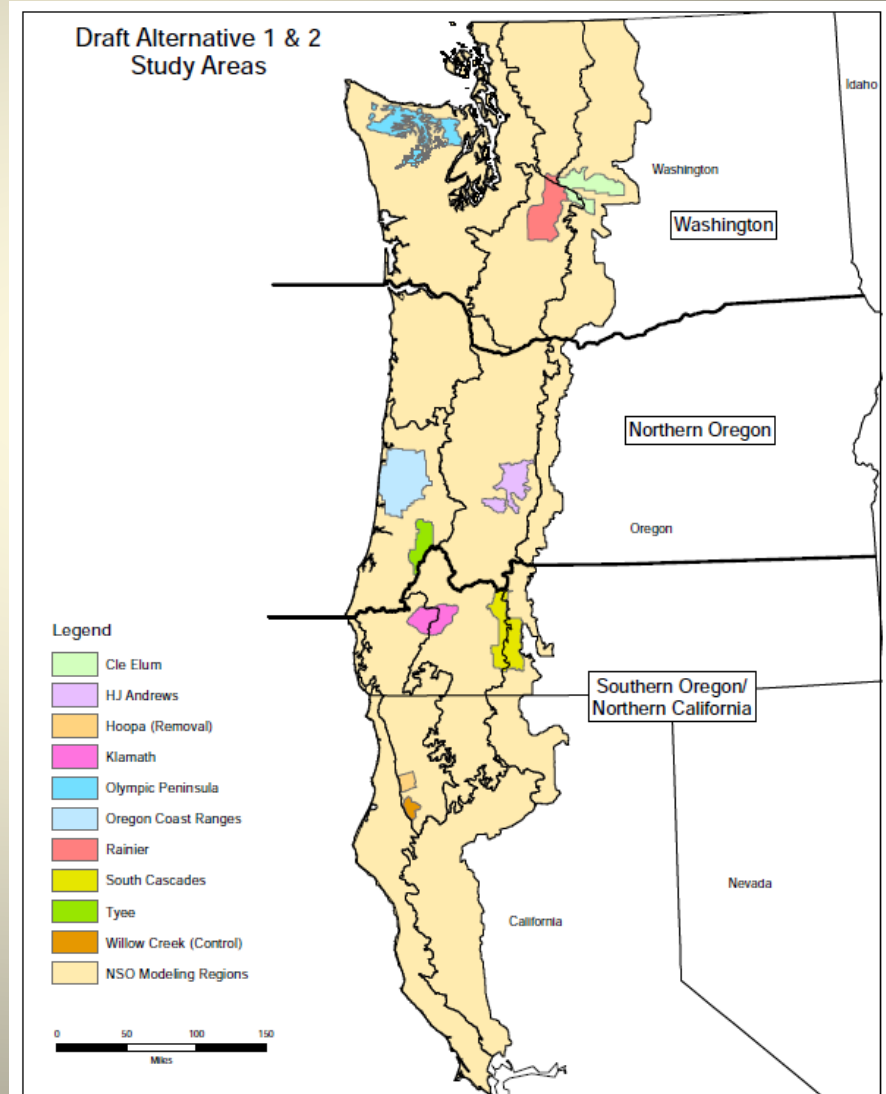
Addressing the Challenges:

- Hired environmental ethicist and convened stakeholder group to foster understanding and constructive dialogue on ethical aspects of policy-making on barred owl management.
- “Front-loaded” outreach efforts; proactive and incremental communications with constituents (Congressional staff, media, partners, state and federal agencies, tribes) to prevent reactive mode, clarify rationale(s), and minimize misperceptions.



Barred Owl Draft EIS

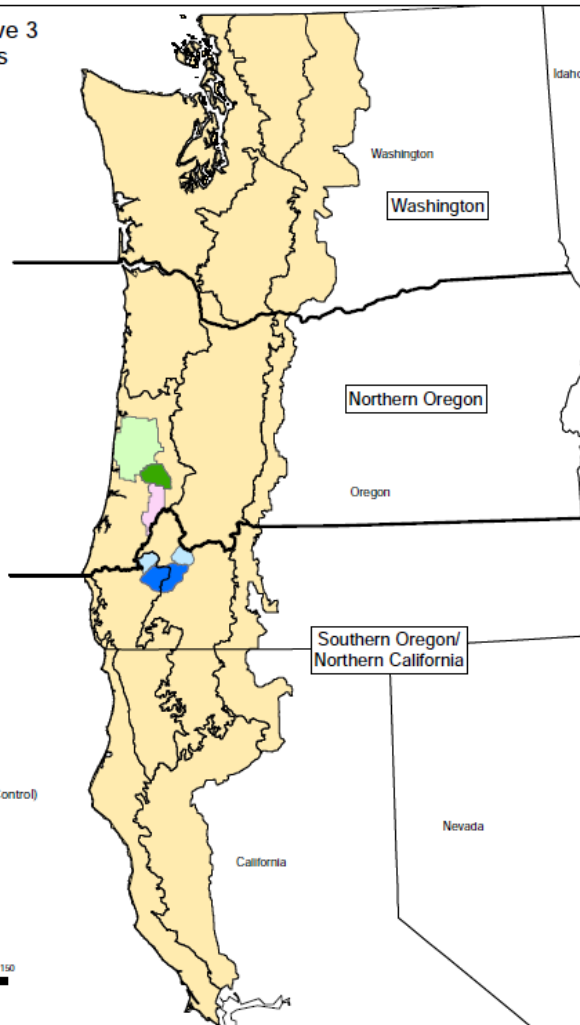
- Alt 1 – one study area
- Alt 2 – three study areas



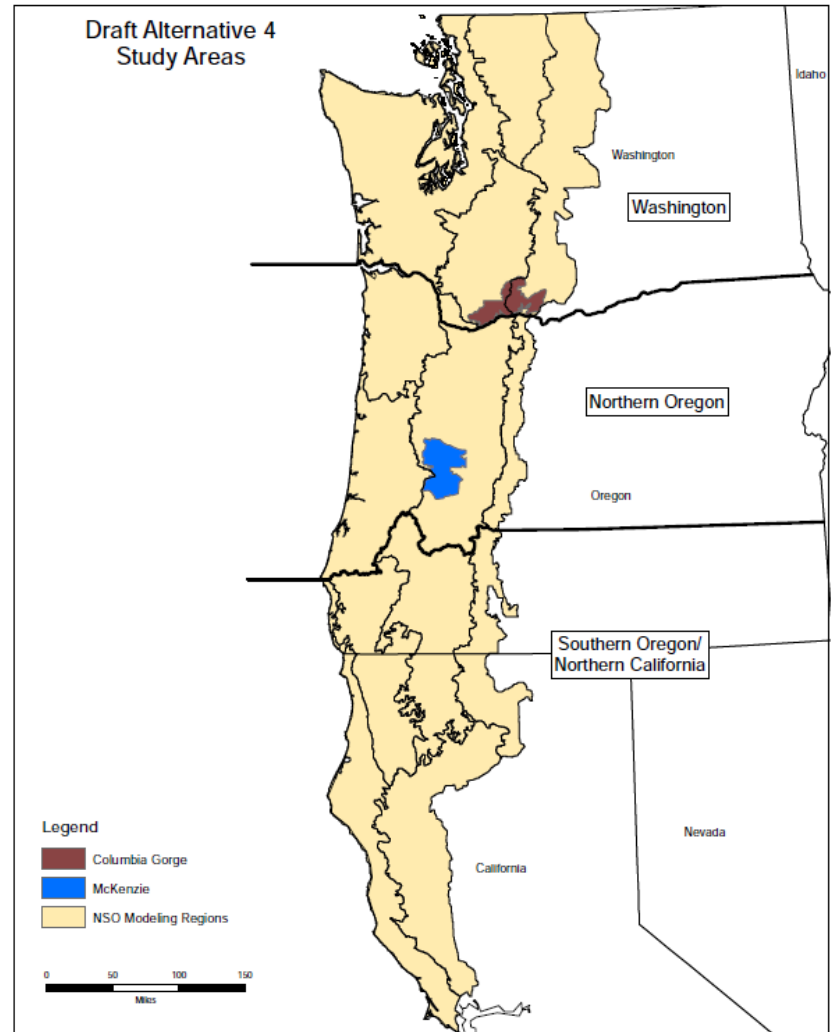


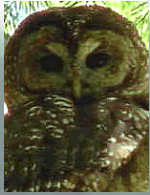
Barred Owl Draft EIS

Draft Alternative 3 Study Areas



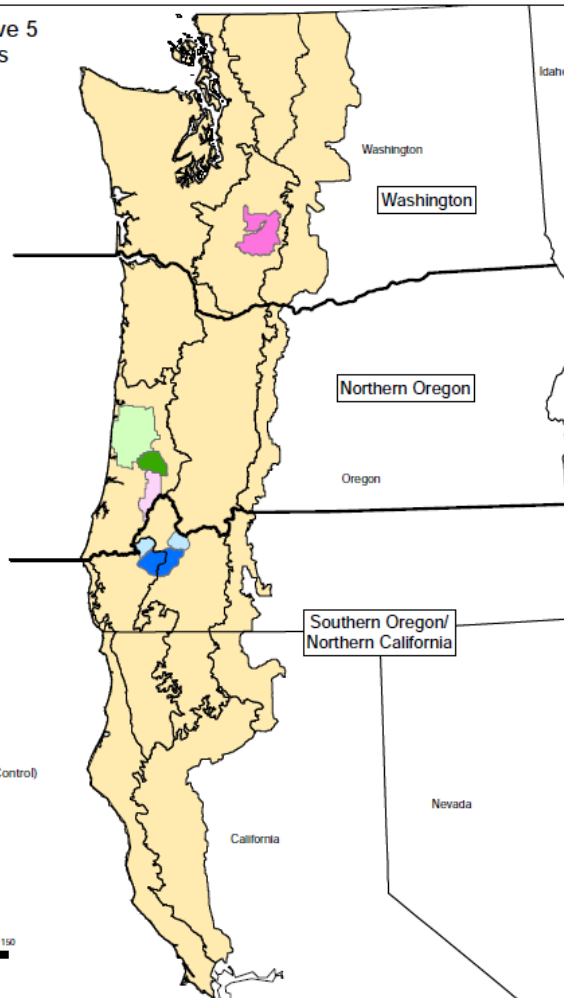
Draft Alternative 4 Study Areas



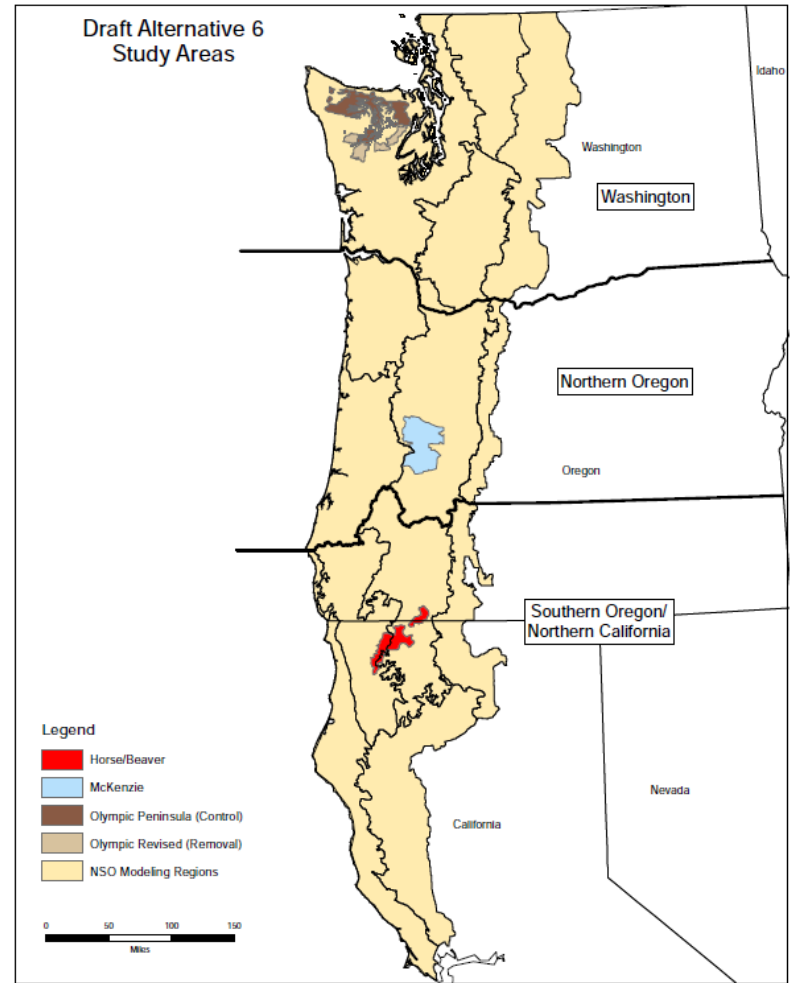


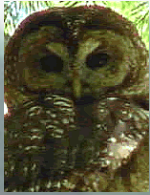
Barred Owl Draft EIS

Draft Alternative 5 Study Areas



Draft Alternative 6 Study Areas





Barred Owl Draft EIS

