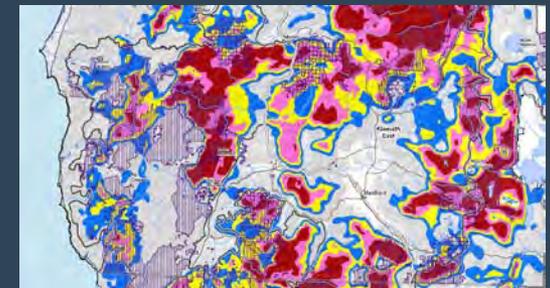
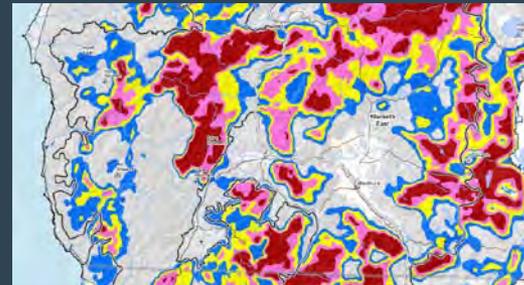


Northern Spotted Owl



2010 Final Revised Recovery Plan





Northern Spotted Owl Revised Recovery Plan

Overview:

1. **Status of the Owl**
2. **Key RP Recommendations**
3. **Next Steps for Recovery Implementation**





Status of the Spotted Owl

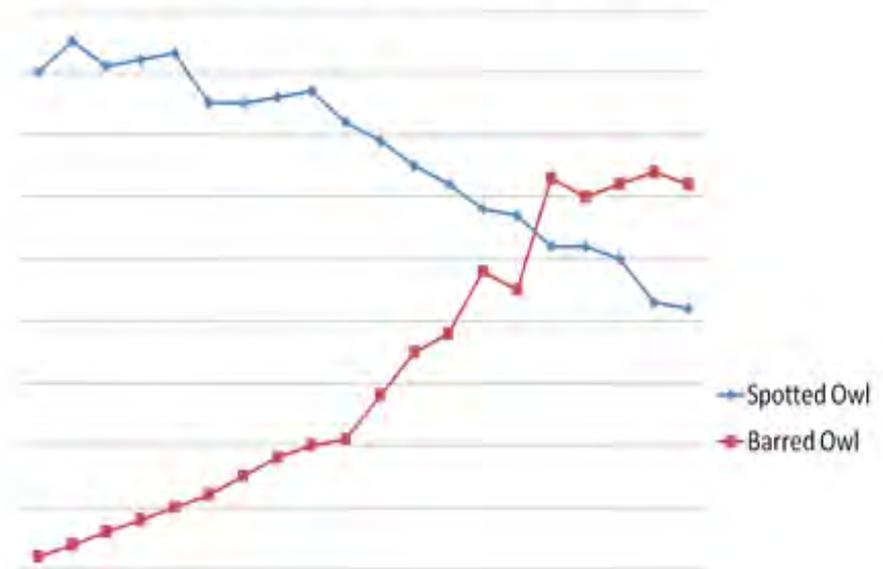
Spotted owls:

- Declining population (@3%/yr)
- Range contraction

Main threats:

- Habitat loss
- Barred owl expansion

Proportion of territories occupied by Spotted Owls and Barred Owls, 1990–2008
Coast Range Study Area





Key Recommendations of Revised Recovery Plan

- 1. Conserve occupied spotted owl sites and high value habitat, including in the Matrix**
- 2. Consider contribution from State and private lands**
- 3. Proposes “active management” of forests to promote ecosystem health and resilience**
- 4. Manage the barred owl to reduce threats**
- 5. No mapped “reserves” – use habitat modeling in future critical habitat revisions**



1. Protect High Value Habitat

- **Conserve occupied and high value older forest to maintain NSO populations and mitigate barred owl threat**
- **This recommendation primarily affects Federal lands**
- **NSO aside, harvest of older forests has been controversial and subject to litigation for past decade, causing impacts to timber harvest programs**





2. Role of State and Private Lands

- **Most NSO recovery occurs on Federal lands**
- **Fragmented parts of the NSO range need more connection (e.g., SW WA, NW OR, checkerboard lands)**





2. Role of State and Private Lands

- **Specific to Washington State**
 - Due to proactive planning, substantive progress has already made. RA 18 builds on this progress



- **RP Recovery Action 18:**

- The WA State FPB should use the final recovery plan & modeling tool to inform processes currently underway to identify areas on non-federal lands in WA that can make strategic contributions to owl conservation over time.



3. Support active forest mgmt and ecological forestry

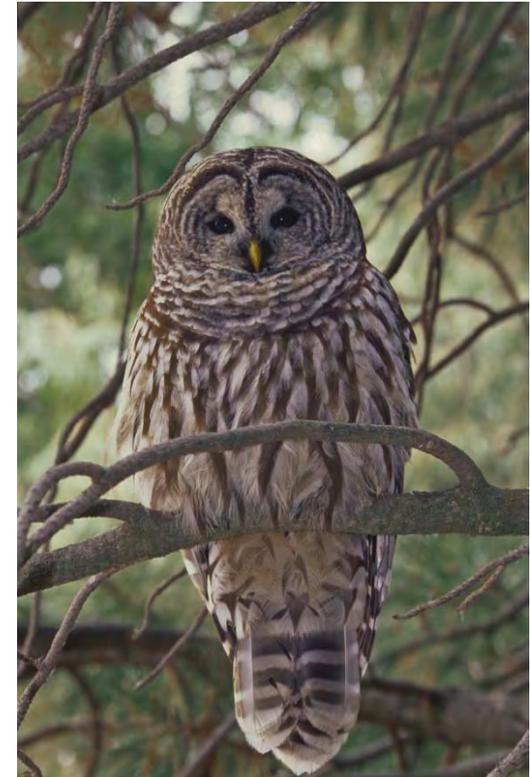
- **ESA: recover species and**
- **Forest health at risk due to climate, disease, wildfire, and insects**
- **RP recommends applying “ecological forestry” principles to restore natural resilience to forest dynamics**
- **Beneficial for long term NSO recovery to reduce potential for catastrophic events**
- **Science still emerging – need to conduct treatments as adaptive management experiments**





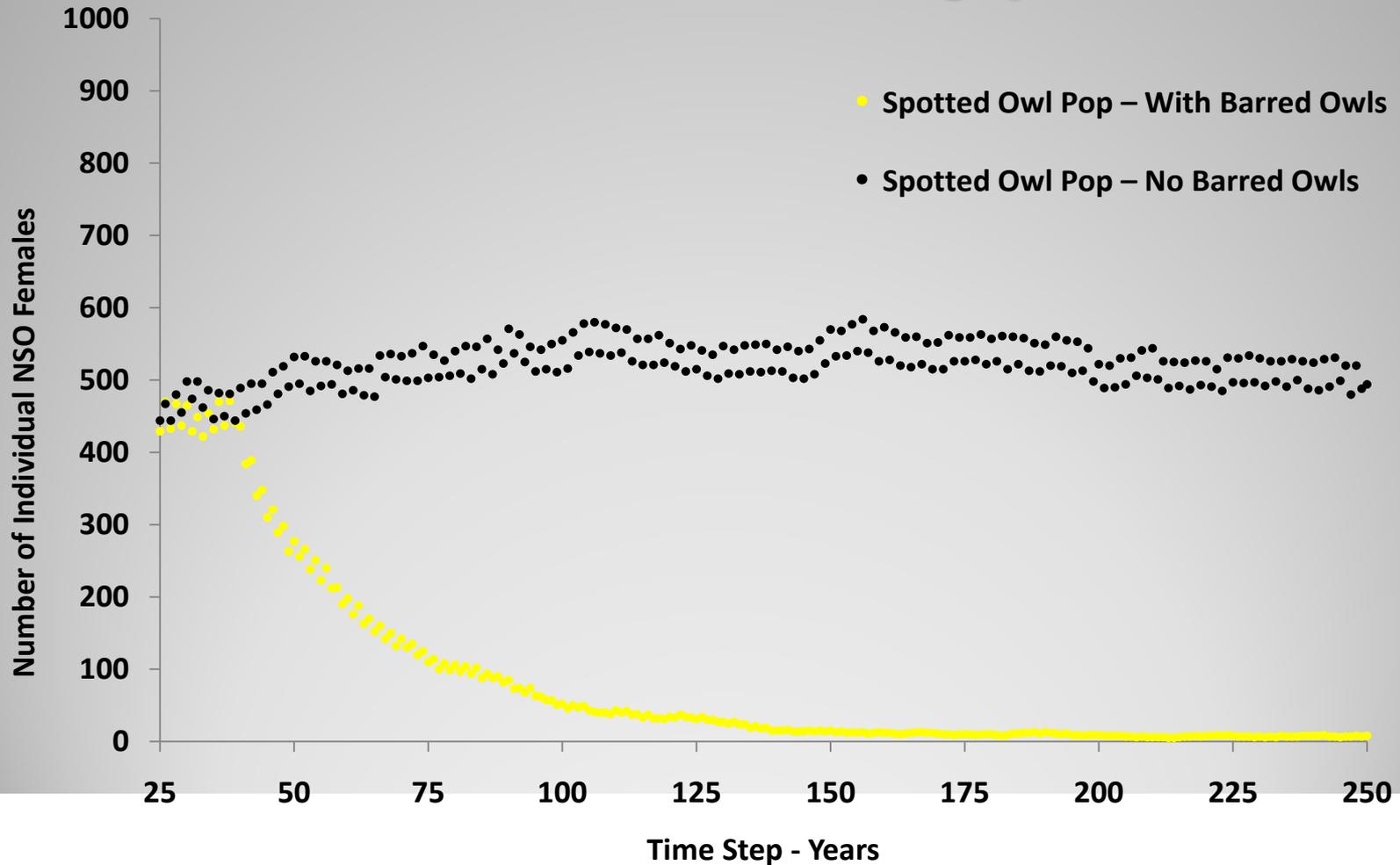
4. Manage the Barred Owl Threat

- **Native to eastern N. America, expanded west during last 100 years**
- **Occurs throughout spotted owl range**
- **Aggressively competes for food and shelter**
- **RP- 1/3 of all recovery actions are barred owl focused**
- **Propose scientific experiment to test barred owl management options**
- **Draft EIS will be published this Fall**
- **Experiment will be controversial**



Predicting Barred Owl Impacts

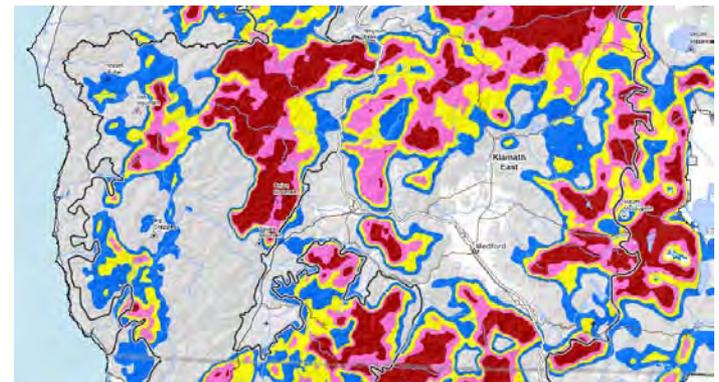
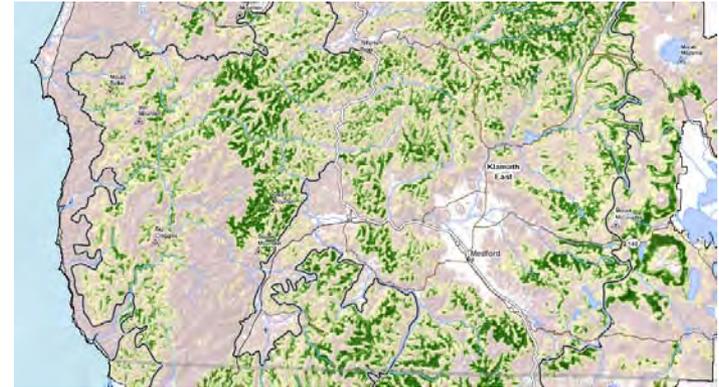
(Assumptions: habitat stays the same; barred owl encounter rate is high)

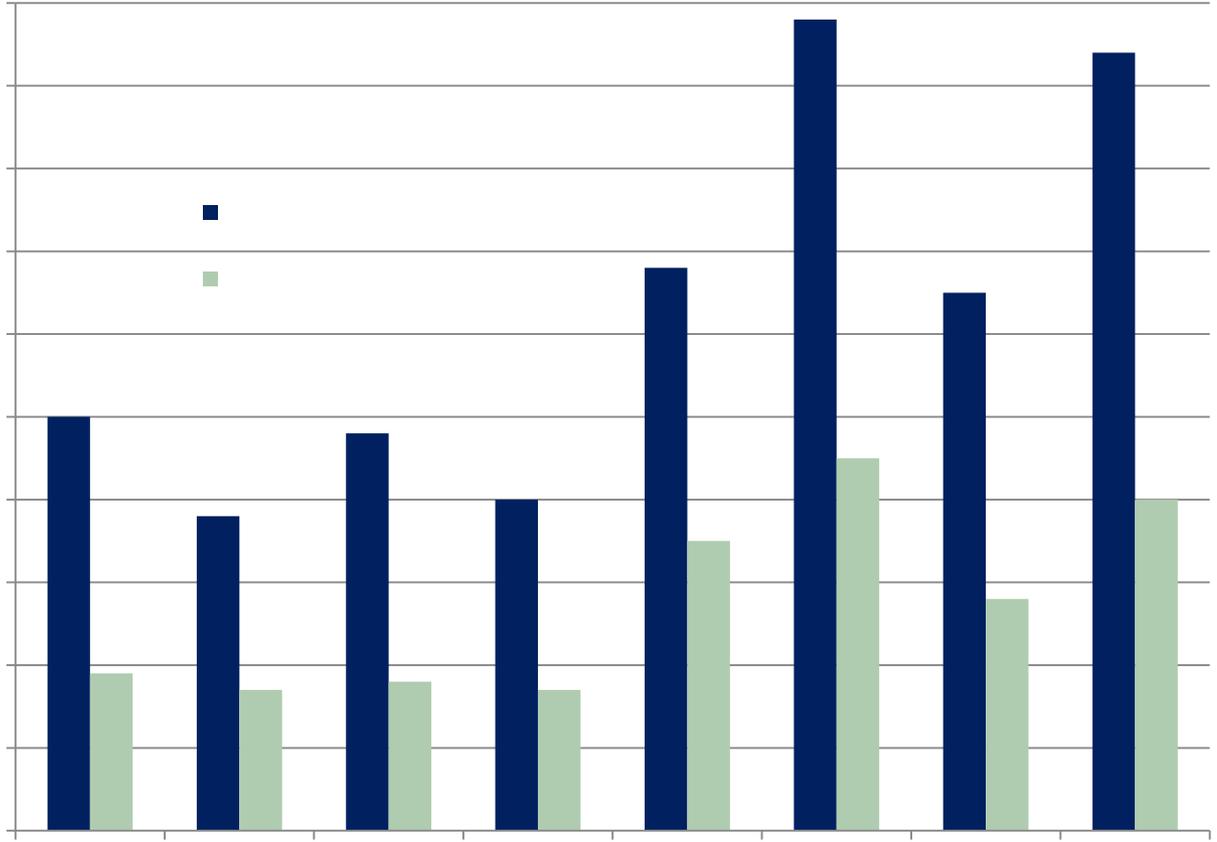




5. Reserves (“lines on a map”)

- NSO RP does not propose new mapped reserves
- Initiated rangewide habitat modeling effort
- Will use modeling and critical habitat (CH) process to propose habitat conservation network
- Court ordered deadline
 - Nov 2011 for proposed CH
 - Nov 2012 for final CH
- CH process provides for public comment and economic analysis







Stakeholder Reaction to RP



Next Steps in Recovery Implementation

- **Continue outreach**
 - **Congressional Delegation**
 - **Fed agencies**
 - **States**
 - **Tribes**
 - **NGOs/Industry**
- **Begin implementing RP recommendations**
- **Propose revised Critical Habitat by November 2011 and finalize by November 2012**
- **Publish barred owl management DEIS Fall 2011**
- **Continue participating in BLM “Pilot” projects**