



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Recap from the 2005 workshop, “Managing Northern Spotted Owl Habitat in Dry Forest Ecosystems”

Silvicultural Practices Supporting Northern Spotted Owl
Habitat in Dry Forest Ecosystems Workshop

May 16-18, 2006
Ashland, OR

Background

- In 2003, two large wildfires on the Deschutes NF resulted in the loss of 14,530 acres of NSO habitat, including loss of 16 NSO nest sites.
- The acres lost to these fires in 1 wildfire season exceeded those that had been consulted on for timber harvest in the Eastern OR Cascade Province during the first decade of the NW Forest Plan



Recognition of wildfire effects to NSO habitat

- In 2004, the SEI report (Courtney et al. 2004) affirmed that dry forests in the Eastern Cascades and Klamath provinces were important to NSO conservation.
- And that dry forest habitat to the owl was at risk due to the lack of treatment in LSRs

The background of the slide is a photograph of two Northern Spotted Owls perched on a branch in a forest. The owls are facing forward, and their eyes are visible. The lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting a forest environment.

Managing Northern Spotted Owl Habitat in Dry Forest Ecosystems

**May 24 and 25, 2005
Redmond, Oregon**

**Sponsored by: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
In Cooperation With:
U.S. Forest Service
Bureau of Land Management**

REDMOND WORKSHOP: Problem Statement

Dry forest ecosystems have declining northern spotted owl populations and increasing fuel accumulations. The trend in forest succession will continue to increase the risk of owl habitat loss. How can we minimize these risks while maintaining adequate amounts of suitable habitat for spotted owls across the landscape?





2005 REDMOND WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

- Enhance the science - management dialogue**
- Improve forest management in the dry forest provinces**
- Provide a synthesis report with recommendations for Federal agencies**

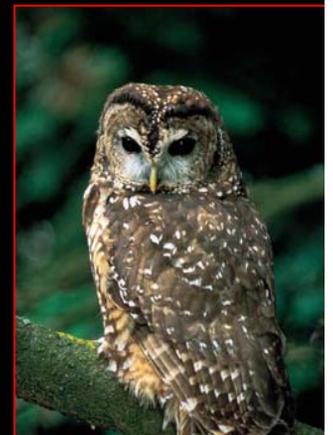
Workshop Synthesis Report

- WEBSITE:
www.fws.gov/oregonfwo
- 14 Key recommendations
- No action is not an option;
we must continue to move
forward



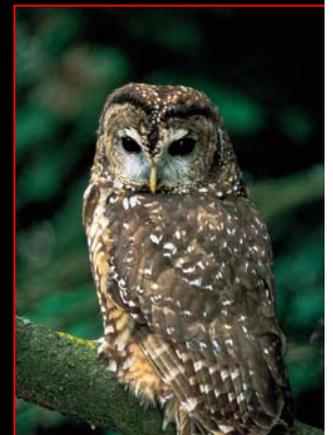
Workshop Synthesis Report - continued

- Convene a NSO recovery team
- Establish interagency provincial teams to set a provincial context for fuel reductions to maintain and restore NSO habitat
- Establish interagency Forest level teams to prioritize where to protect, restore, and enhance existing owl habitats
- Implement interagency planning for projects
- Manage for long-term sustainability of owl habitat regardless of land use allocation



Workshop Synthesis Report - continued

- Conduct pilot treatment projects
- Conduct up-to-date surveys and assess habitat conditions for the NSO
- Dedicate funding resources to treatment of habitat outside the WUI
- Conduct additional workshops
- Facilitate information exchange, education, and public involvement



Workshop Synthesis Report - continued

- Review and establish local spotted owl habitat definitions
- Evaluate the NWFP BIOMapper to map suitable owl habitat in dry forests ecosystems
- Address research questions



Recommendations to be addressed by Ashland workshop

- **Need for more workshops to facilitate information exchange**
 - **Design silvicultural prescriptions for NSO habitat and prey**



THANKS!

