

Barred Owl Work Group (BOWG)

Chair: Jim Thrailkill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office

Email: Jim_Thrailkill@fws.gov

Phone: 541-957-3470

Roles: The role of the BOWG is to advise and assist the Service with implementation of the Recovery Plan's strategy for managing the apparent threat posed by barred owls (*Strix varia*). Specifically, the BOWG will provide the NSO Recovery Plan Implementation Team with recommendations to implement Recovery Actions 21 to 31, and possibly with elements of Recovery Action 32, which is primarily the responsibility of the Section 7 Work Group.

Geographic area: Entire Recovery Plan area.

Subgroups:

- Spotted owl survey protocol update
- Barred owl survey protocol development
- Stakeholders Group

Members: A mixture of federal, state, private and NGO researchers/technical experts.

Key questions for the group:

- 1) How best to survey for barred owls and document barred owl pressure?
- 2) How best to survey for spotted owls in areas with barred owls?
- 3) What are the best ways to engage the public, especially key interested stakeholders, about the threat of barred owls to spotted owls and the Service's developing barred owl removal experiments?
- 4) How to best design and implement barred owl removal experiments to assess the effects of barred owl removal on spotted owl site occupancy, reproduction, survival, and population trends?

Key milestones/timeline:

February 2009 – Draft of barred owl survey protocol ready for field use and pilot testing
By March 2009 – Initiate stakeholder's outreach and begin NEPA process for experimental removal

By February 2010 – Draft Final of experimental removal EIS

By Fall 2009 – Draft of spotted owl revised survey protocol ready for review by Science Review Committee and other interested parties

Additional Timeline Below

Barred Owl Work Group Short-term Timeline for Implementation of Recovery Actions 23, 24, 26, and 29

<u>Timeline</u>	<u>Barred Owl Survey Protocol (RA 23)</u>	<u>Spotted Owl Survey Protocol Update (RA 24)</u>	<u>Stakeholder Outreach (RA 26)</u>	<u>Experimental Removal (RA 29)</u>
February 2009	Draft Barred Owl Survey Protocol	Continue analysis	Convene stakeholders & begin scoping	Power analysis on candidate areas
March	Protocol use testing initiated		Outreach	
April			Draft FRN & begin NEPA development	BOWG refines removal options
May		BWOG briefings		
June			Ethicist's results	
July				BOWG updates IT on removal status
August			NEPA development	
September		Draft of updates provided		
October		Notification letters	Outreach presentations, field trips, Op-eds	
November	Review and revise	User meetings	Continued stakeholder discussions	Secure funding & permits
December		Release and distribution		
2010	Continued use and testing	Testing & Updates ongoing	Finalize NEPA	Removal implementation and learning