



Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Timeline

- 1990:** *The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lists the northern spotted owl under the Endangered Species Act as threatened in Washington, Oregon, and California.*
- 1992:** *FWS designates 6.9 million acres of critical habitat in those states, all on federal lands.*
- 1992:** *FWS releases draft recovery plan. (The plan was not finalized due to the development of the Northwest Forest Plan in 1994.)*
- 1993:** *The Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team—an interagency, interdisciplinary team of scientists, economists, sociologists, and others—is assembled to craft balanced, comprehensive, and long-term options for the management of more than 24 million acres of federal forestlands within the range of the spotted owl.*
- 1994:** *The Northwest Forest Plan is finalized, in part to guide the federal contribution to spotted owl recovery throughout the owl's range. The plan amends federal resource management plans within 19 National Forests (19.4 million acres) and seven BLM districts (2.7 million acres). Six National Parks (totaling 2 million acres) are also covered under the plan.*
- 1994-2003:** *A variety of lawsuits related to forest management under the Northwest Forest Plan significantly affect Forest Service and BLM timber sales.*
- 2003:** *As part of a settlement agreement for timber industry lawsuits, FWS agrees to conduct a 5-year status review for the spotted owl and consider revising critical habitat.*
- 2004:** *FWS releases 5-year review for spotted owl, including the recommendation that it remain listed in threatened status. This status review report serves as a comprehensive summary of scientific information on the spotted owl.*
- 2006:** *Recovery team established and new recovery plan process is initiated.*
- 2007:** *FWS releases draft recovery plan.*
- 2007:** *FWS proposes revised critical habitat designation of 5.3 million acres.*
- 2008:** *FWS releases final recovery plan, identifying habitat loss and competition from barred owls as the two greatest threats to the species' survival.*

2008: *FWS receives critical reviews of the recovery plan from leading scientific organizations in the conservation community.*

2008: *FWS finalizes revised critical habitat designation of 5.3 million acres in Washington, Oregon, and California, all on federal lands.*

2008-2009: *FWS litigated on recovery plan and critical habitat.*

2009: *FWS releases draft statewide Safe Harbor Agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to encourage private forest landowners to contribute to spotted owl recovery.*

2009: *FWS seeks public comments on an environmental analysis of possible experimental removal of barred owls from three areas in Oregon and Washington to determine if the removal benefits spotted owls.*

2009: *In an effort to resolve litigation, FWS requests voluntary remand of 2008 recovery plan and critical habitat so that they can be revised to address legal and scientific concerns.*

2010: *FWS initiates targeted scientific revision to the 2008 recovery plan.*

2010: *FWS releases draft revised survey protocol (primary monitoring tool) to improve efforts to locate spotted owl occupied sites in the presence of barred owls.*

2010: *In response to FWS's request for voluntary remand, Federal Court orders FWS to revise recovery plan and 2008 critical habitat designation, and issues a schedule for both.*

2010: *FWS finalizes statewide Safe Harbor Agreement with Oregon Department of Forestry and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

2010: *FWS releases draft revision to the 2008 recovery plan. The draft plan is available for review for a 90-day public comment period. Nearly 12,000 public comments are received.*

2011: *FWS provides an additional 30-day public comment period on an updated Appendix C (related to habitat modeling) from the draft revised recovery plan. About 20 public comments are received.*

2011: *FWS releases final revised recovery plan.*

On the Horizon

- *A draft Environmental Impact Statement on experimental removal of barred owls in certain areas will be released in the fall of 2011.*

- *A proposed revised critical habitat designation will be completed in November 2011.*
- *A final revised critical habitat designation will be completed in November 2012.*