

# Public Scoping Meeting to Begin Shortly

Welcome! The meeting will begin momentarily.

Thank you for your patience as we wait for others to join.

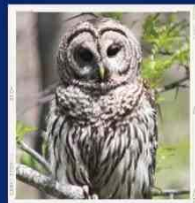
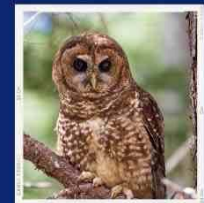
- Please join using computer audio
- Closed captioning is available by selecting the Closed Caption icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

Notice of Intent for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

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# Meeting Agenda

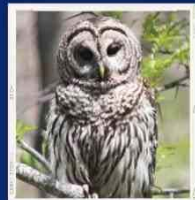
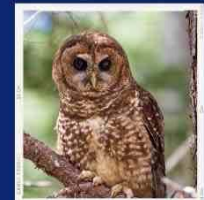
- Meeting Ground Rules
- USFWS Presentation
- Question and Answer Session
- Closing Remarks



## **Barred Owl Management Strategy**

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# Meeting Ground Rules

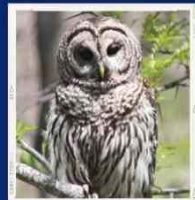
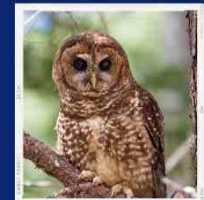
- The meeting is being recorded; and will be posted to the USFWS website.
- Microphones and videos of participants will be automatically muted for the duration of the meeting unless the moderator unmutes you during the Question-and-Answer session.
- Questions will be addressed during the Question-and-Answer session at the end of the PowerPoint presentation.
- Written comments can be submitted at <http://www.regulations.gov> (In the Search box, enter FWS-R1-ES-2022-0074) or via the mail.



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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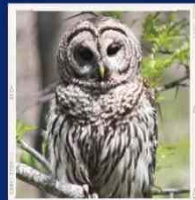
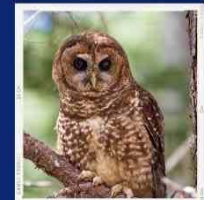
# Public Scoping Meeting to Begin Shortly



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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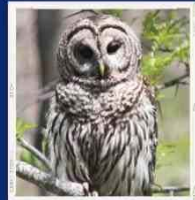
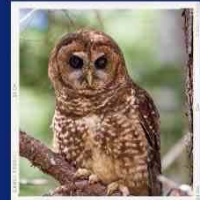
# FWS Welcome and Overview



## **Barred Owl Management Strategy**

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# Barred Owl Management Strategy

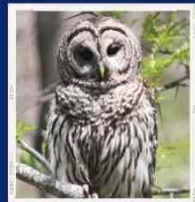
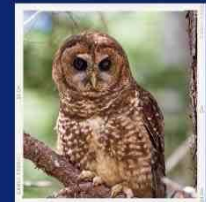
Developing a barred owl management strategy to support conservation of the northern and California spotted owl subspecies.



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# National Environmental Policy Act Process

US Fish and Wildlife Service – Lead Agency

## Cooperating Agencies

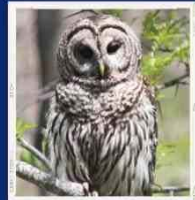
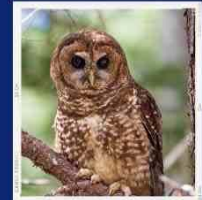
Bureau of Land Management (OR & CA)  
US Forest Service (Regions 5 & 6)  
National Park Service  
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
Washington Dept. of Natural Resources  
Oregon Dept. of Forestry  
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife  
California Dept. of Forestry and Fire Protection



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Purpose of Scoping

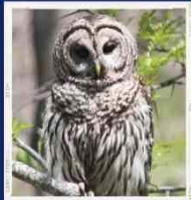
- Engaging Tribal, state, and local governments and the public early in the process
- Gaining input and insight from the public, Tribes, and government agencies
- Helping to identify the range of reasonable alternatives
- Focusing the analysis of the EIS on significant issues



## **Barred Owl Management Strategy**

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# National Environmental Policy Act Process



## USFWS Steps:

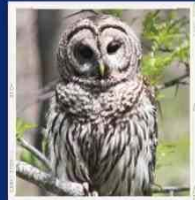
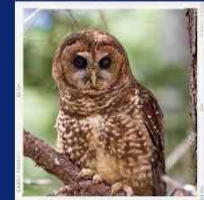
- Review all scoping comments
- Draft EIS, public comment period
- Review comments on draft EIS
- Prepare final EIS
- Prepare Record of Decision



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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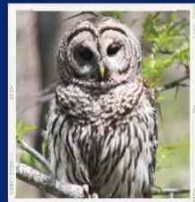
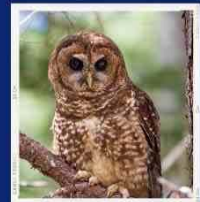
# Barred Owl Management Strategy and NEPA Process



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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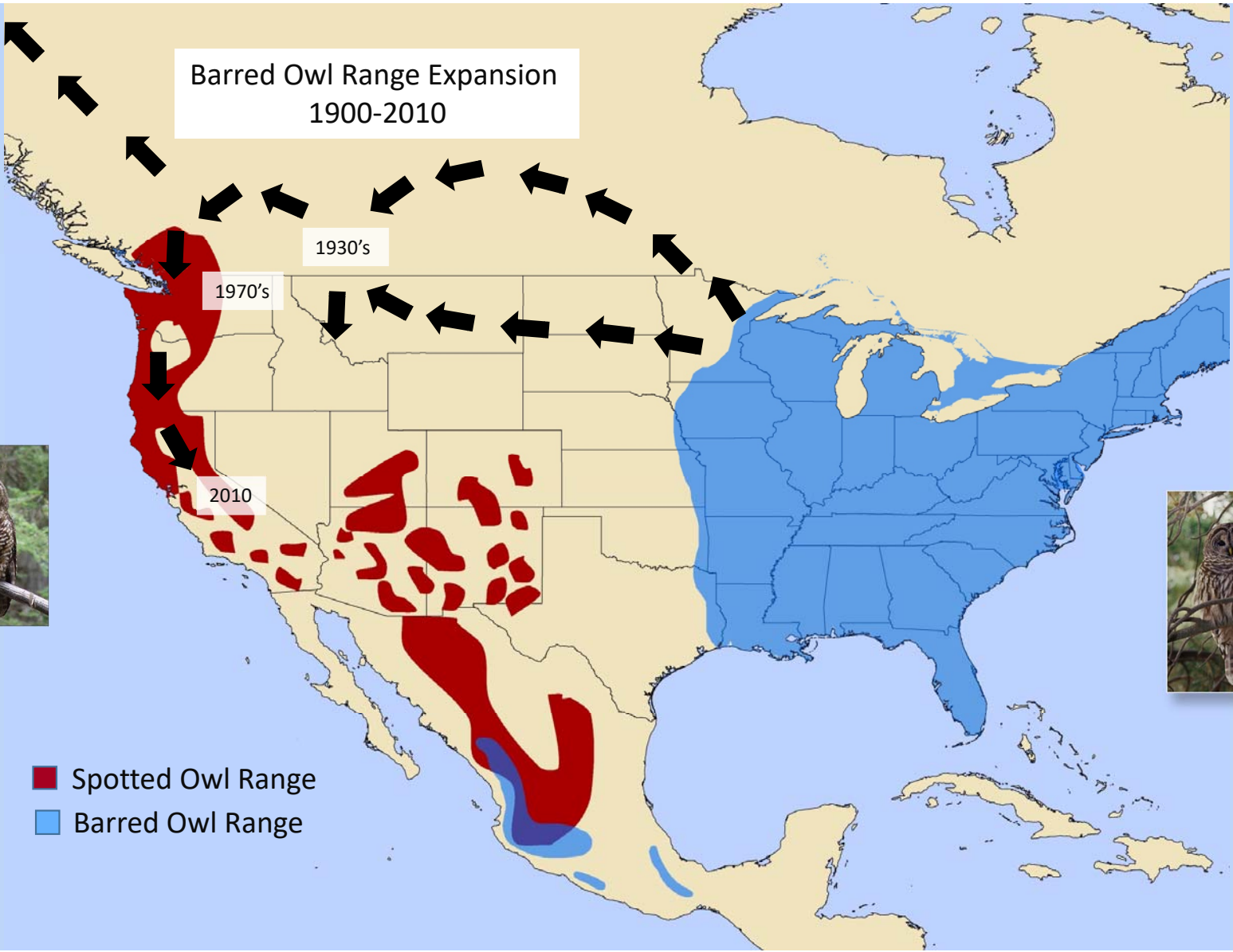
# Barred Owl Range Expansion 1900-2010

1930's

1970's

2010

- Spotted Owl Range
- Barred Owl Range



# Barred Owl Invasion - Causes

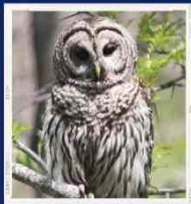
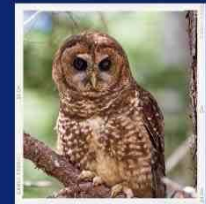
Removal of bison and beaver,  
Planting of trees associated with  
homesteading of the Great Plains,  
Suppression of fire.



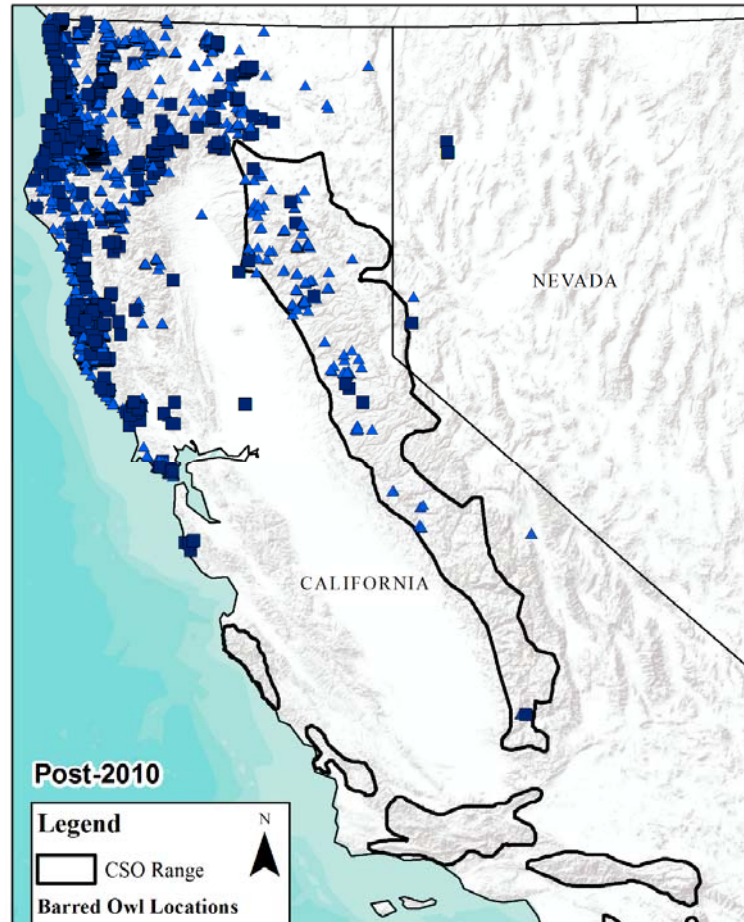
## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Barred Owl Invasion of the California Spotted Owl Range



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

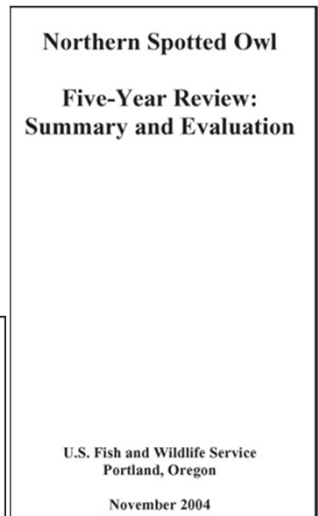
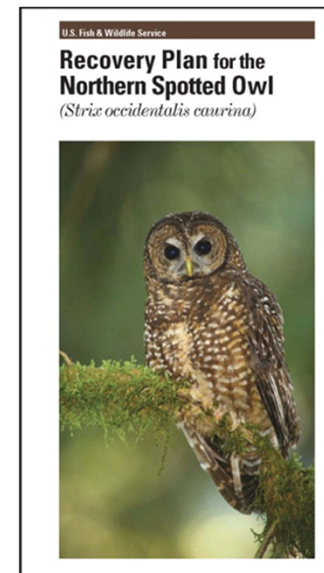
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# Recognition of the Barred Owl Threat

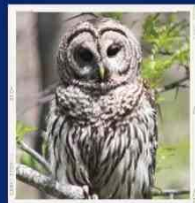
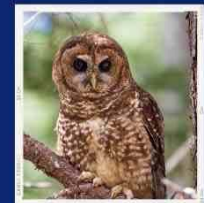
- “Our understanding of this [barred owl] threat has improved, raising it from an issue of concern to a primary threat of greater imminence.” (5-year review 2004)
- The Recovery Plan identified two primary threats: increasing competition from barred owls, and habitat loss from timber harvest and fire. (Spotted Owl Recovery Plan 2008)



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Barred Owl Management Experiment

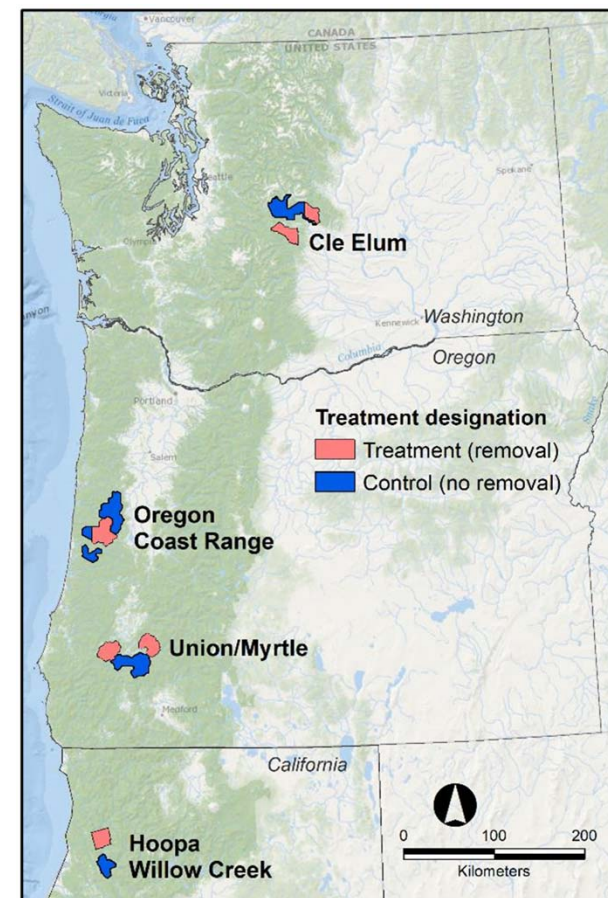
Recovery Action 29: Design and implement large-scale control experiments to assess the effects of barred owl removal on spotted owl site occupancy, reproduction, and survival.



## Barred Owl Removal Experiment

Replicated on 4 areas

Each area divided into Treatment (removal) and Control (no removal) areas



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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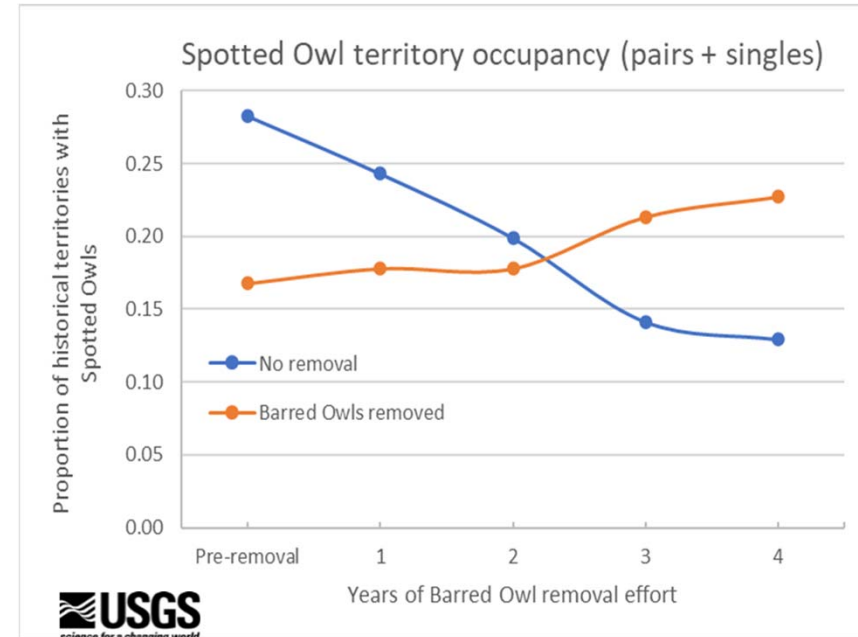
# Barred Owl Management Experiment Results

## The removal of barred owls resulted in:

Strong positive effect on survival of spotted owls  
Positive effect on spotted owl dispersal and recruitment

## Spotted owl populations:

Stabilized in treatment areas with barred owl removal  
Declined 12% per year in paired control area without removal  
Occupancy on historic sites increased in the treatment areas



USGS  
science for a changing world

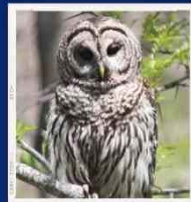
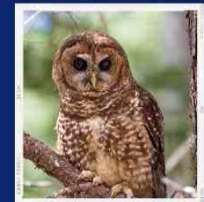
Preliminary information-subject to revision  
Not for citation or distribution



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Barred Owl Management Strategy

**Recovery Action 30:** Manage to reduce the negative effects of barred owls on spotted owls to support stable and increasing spotted owl populations.

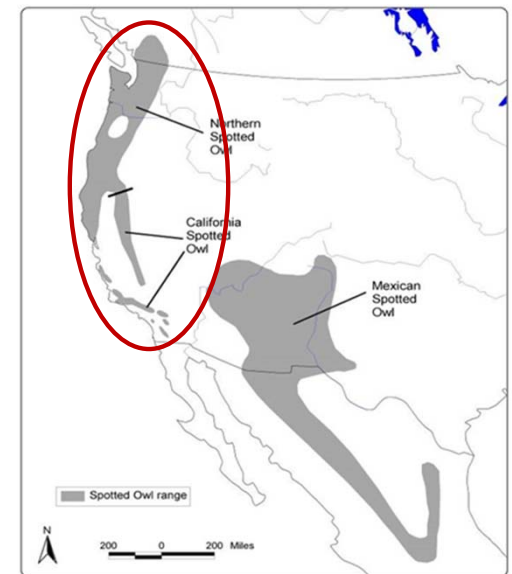
## Approach:

USFWS Strategy and Decision

Cover northern and California spotted owls

Consider all lands and landscapes

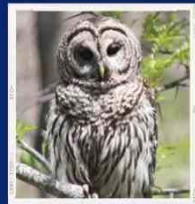
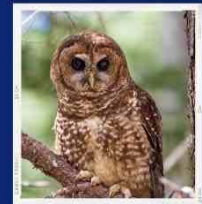
Variable approaches in space and time



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Purpose and Need

The purpose of this action is to reduce barred owl populations to improve the survival and recovery of northern spotted owls and to prevent declines in California spotted owls from barred owl competition.

Relative to northern spotted owls, the purpose is to stop or slow spotted owl population declines within selected treatment areas in the short term and increase spotted owl populations in the intermediate term.

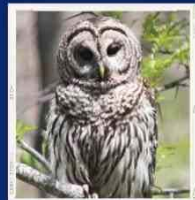
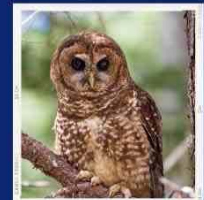
Relative to the California spotted owl, the purpose is to limit the invasion of barred owls into the range of the subspecies and respond quickly to reduce barred owl populations that may become established.



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Preliminary Elements of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

## The management strategy will:

- Identify high-priority areas for management
- Evaluate all methods for reducing barred owl populations
- Scope, scale, and elements of barred owl management will vary by region



## Draft EIS will include a reasonable range of alternatives, including:

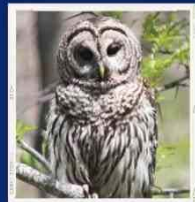
- Variations in the identification of high priority management sites, areas of concern, and specific mapped areas;
- Protocols for the selection of management areas; and
- Methods for managing barred owls in selected areas.



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Associated Authorizations



Implementation of a management strategy would involve take of barred owls, even for non-lethal removal.

Barred owls are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) which prohibits take of protected bird species unless authorized.

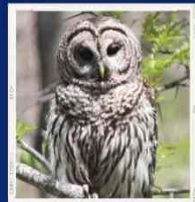
Barred owl management may also require State authorizations.



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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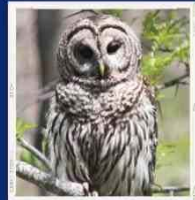
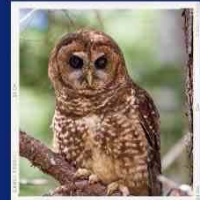
# Public Scoping and How to Comment



## **Barred Owl Management Strategy**

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# Purpose of Scoping

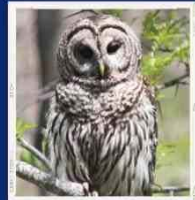
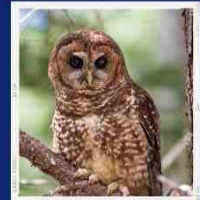
- Early engagement with Tribes, states, local governments and the public
- Gain input and insight from all interested parties
- Help identify the range of reasonable alternatives
- Focus the analysis of the EIS on significant issues



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Focus of Scoping Comments

Alternative courses of action that meet the purpose & need:

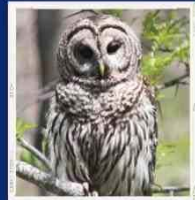
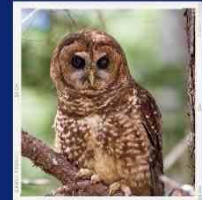
- Reducing barred owl populations to improve northern spotted owl survival
- Prevent widespread declines in California spotted owls from barred owl competition



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Focus of Scoping Comments

Management recommendations such as:

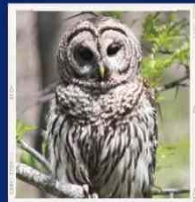
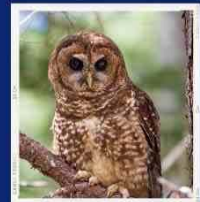
- Criteria and approaches for selecting management areas
- Locations where barred owl management should be focused, or where management should be avoided
- Specific techniques for reduction in barred owl populations



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# Focus of Scoping Comments

Resources that may be impacted:

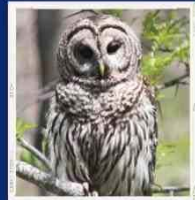
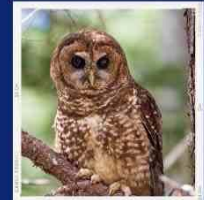
- Fish and Wildlife
- Vegetation
- Water Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Land Use
- Recreation and Visitor Use
- Tribal Resources
- Historic and Cultural Resources
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental Justice
- Climate Change



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Focus of Scoping Comments

Other requested input:

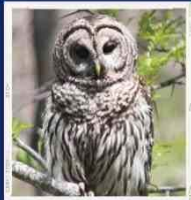
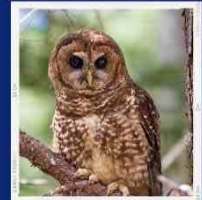
- Relevant current or planned activities or cumulative effects
- Appropriate geographic or temporal scale of the analysis
- Suggested methods for the EIS analysis
- Information and data sources



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# Keys to Effective Comments

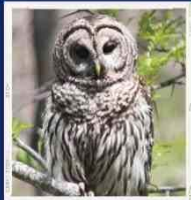
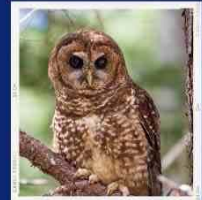
- Clear and concise
- Specific to the project
- Supported by documentation or resources
- Constructive solutions and recommendations
- Avoid general opposition/support or broad statements



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# How Scoping Comments Are Used

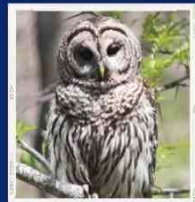
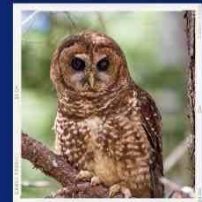
- Determining the scope of the EIS analysis, including the alternatives and issues analyzed
- All comments will be summarized in the Draft EIS
- Service is responsible for determining the scope of the EIS



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# How to Provide Written Comments

Comments will be accepted through August 22, 2022

## On-line Comments

Visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and enter the document ID:  
FWS-R1-ES-2022-0074

## Submit written comments:

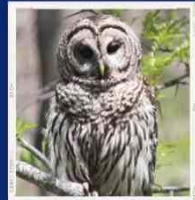
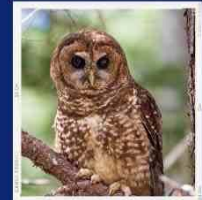
Public Comments Processing  
Attn: Docket No. FWS-R1-ES-2022-0074  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters, MS: PRB/3W  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# Anticipated Schedule/Next Steps

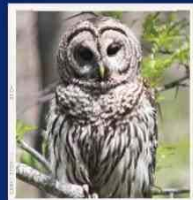
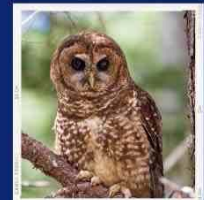
- Scoping Period: July 22 – August 22, 2022
- Draft EIS: Winter 2022/2023
  - Public Review and Comment period
- Final EIS: Early Fall 2023
- Record of Decision: Winter 2023



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

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# For More Information and to Stay Informed

For more information visit the USFWS website:

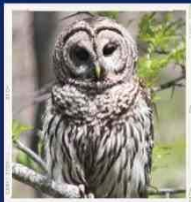
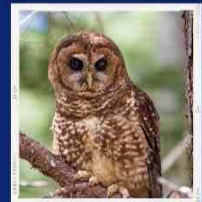
<https://www.fws.gov/project/barred-owl-management>



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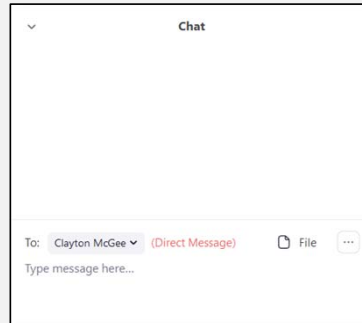
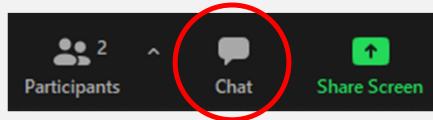


# Question-and-Answer Session: Instructions



## Using the Zoom Web Platform or App

- Click on the “chat” icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen to write and send your question to Hosts and Panelists



- The moderator will read questions aloud for all participants to hear and a USFWS staff member will respond to questions aloud.
- We will try to answer questions in the order they are received.



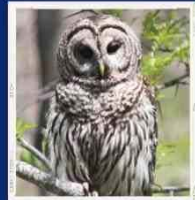
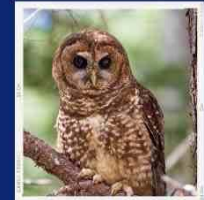
## Using Your Phone

- Press \*9 to “raise your hand” to let staff know you have a question. The moderator will then unmute you so that you can ask your question.
- You can unmute yourself by pressing \*6 on your phone keypad.
- You will be identified by the last four digits of your phone number.



## Barred Owl Management Strategy

Notice of Intent for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement





# Question and Answer Session



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