
Barred Owl Science Team

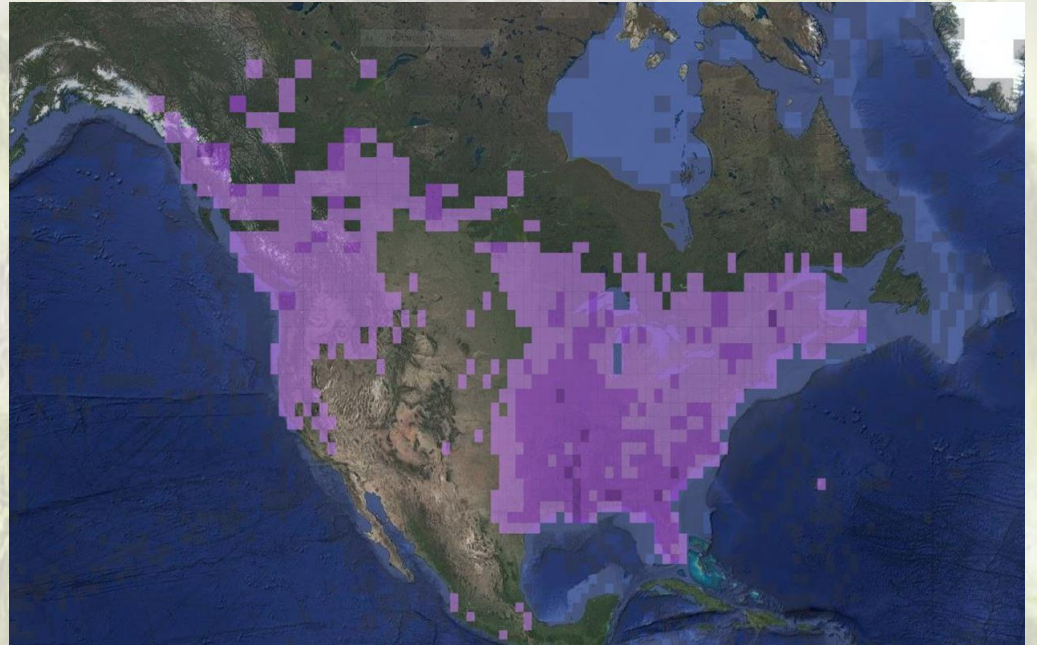
JACK DUMBACHER, BARRED OWL SCIENCE TEAM CHAIR

BOST Formation

- Listing process, Fish and Game Commission
- To address the threat of barred owls to Northern spotted owl and California spotted owl populations
- Formed officially September 2017

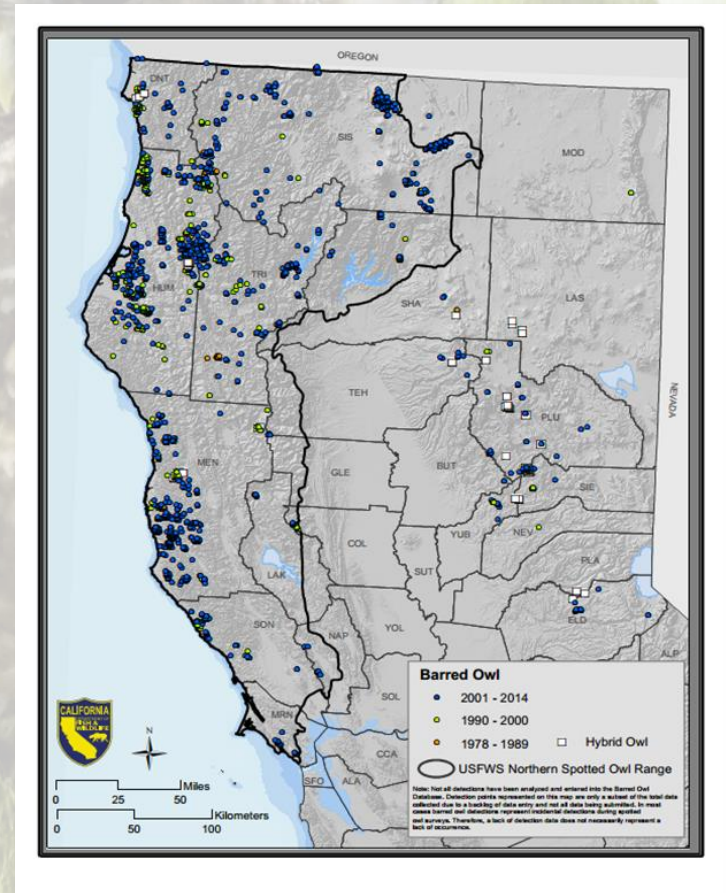
Barred Owl as a Threat

Barred owls are native to eastern North America and have recently expanded into western North America.



Barred Owl as a Threat

Barred owls now occur throughout the range of the NSO, and are starting to encroach into the range of the CSO.



From CDFW's NSO Status Review (2016)

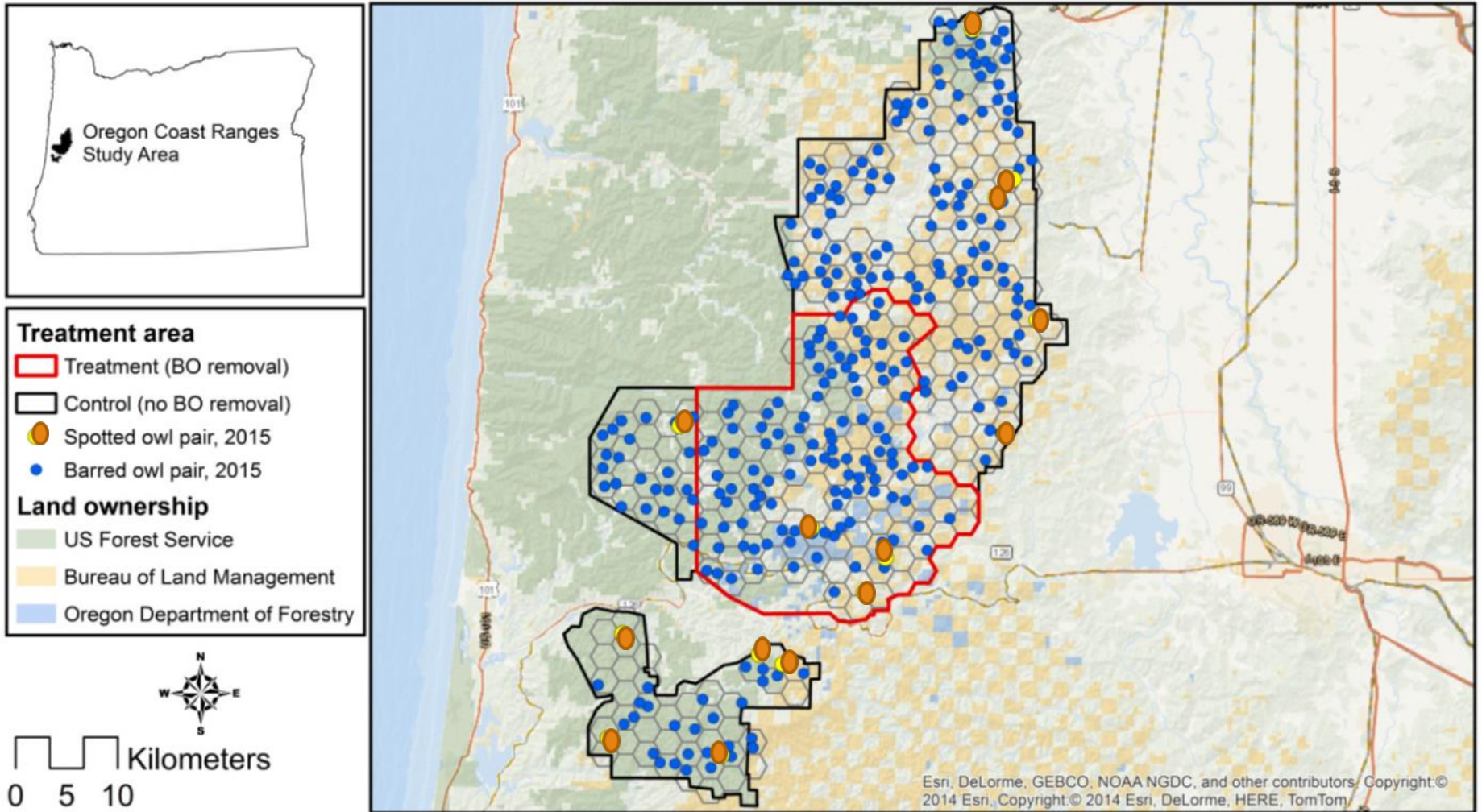
Barred Owl as a Threat

Documented impacts include:

- altered behavior of spotted owls (e.g., reduced calling)
- displacement of spotted owls
- decreased survival
- decreased territory occupancy
- increased territory extinction

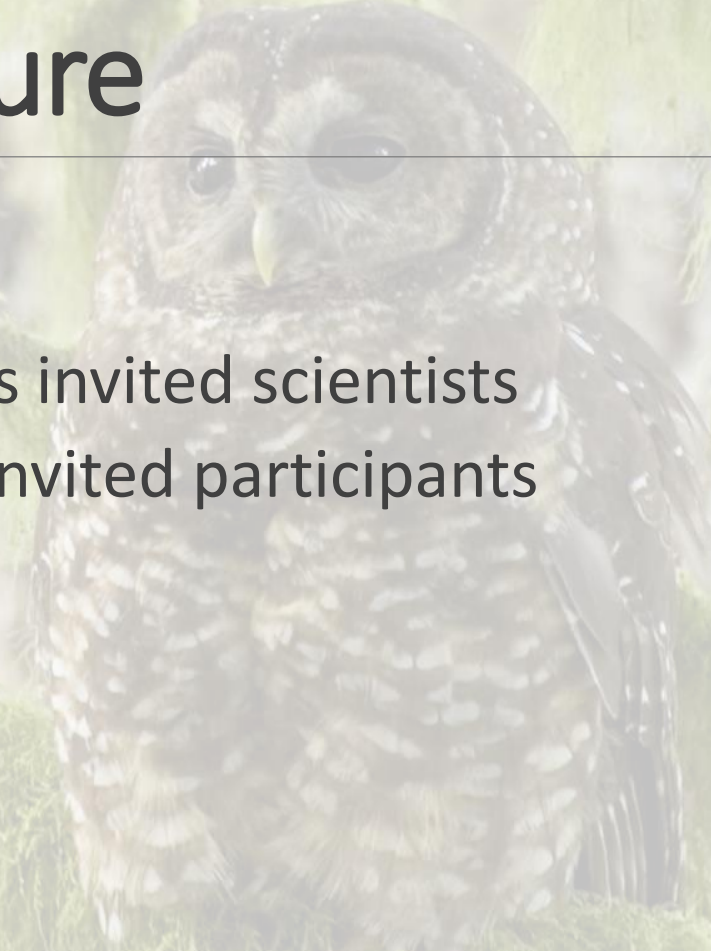


Barred Owl as a Threat



BOST Structure

- Membership includes invited scientists
- Agency liaisons and invited participants
- Chairs
- Work products
- Meeting frequency



BOST Purpose

Provide objective scientific review and recommendations to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to promote the recovery and conservation of spotted owls in California.



BOST Objectives

- Collect and review the information for providing scientific advice
- Ensure recommendations consider the best available science
- Identify and prioritize research needs
- Review research proposals
- Develop standard methodologies
- Devise large-scale regional experiments in California
- Address outreach and education
- Seek input from stakeholders

BOST Past Actions

- Completed Report on *Barred Owl Research Needs and Prioritization in California*
- Developed two process documents
 - Collection/Sampling
 - Hybrid Identification

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Birds/Barred-Owl-Threat>

Research Needs and Prioritization Doc

- Summarizes the threat of barred owls to spotted owls
- Describes 3 high-priority research needs, as well as 6 associated research needs
- Identifies other research needs and considerations

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Birds/Barred-Owl-Threat>

Three Highest-priority Research Needs

Improve understanding of barred owl distribution, density, and recent expansion

Maintain existing barred owl removal experiments

Initiate removal experiments in spotted owl areas with low densities of barred owls

Six Associated High-priority Research Needs

Understand the dispersal ecology and recruitment of juvenile barred owls

Conduct anticoagulant rodenticide screening of barred owl specimens

Understand barred owl/spotted owl hybrids and genetics

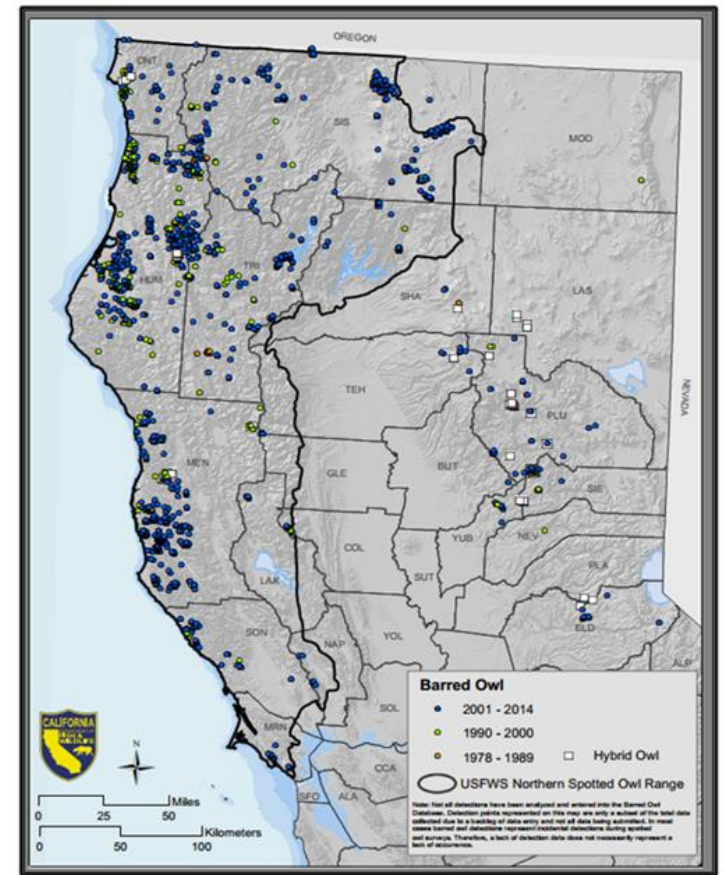
Model proposed barred owl removal strategies and potential spotted owl refugia locations

Understand the broader ecological impacts of barred owl diets

Understand disease risk associated with increased barred owl densities

BOST Current Actions

- Patterns of barred owl range expansion
- Support existing and new removal experiments (NSO, CSO)
- Effects on biodiversity – diet
- Anticoagulant rodenticides
- Genetics



BOST Current Actions

- Prioritizing needs and future actions
- Coordinating with USFWS and agency efforts to develop a BO management strategy.
- Permitting
- Barred owls protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act



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