

Four Species Listed as Threaten or Endangered

Bald eagle — The bald eagle is listed as threatened by USFWS and the state of Oregon. Guidance for species recovery is currently provided under the Pacific Bald Eagle Recovery Plan (USDI Fish and Wildlife Service 1986) and a cooperative implementation plan developed by the Oregon and Washington Bald Eagle Working Team (Washington Department of Wildlife 1990). Most recovery goals have been met or exceeded, and the species has been proposed for delisting by USFWS. Currently, there are 8 known nesting territories in the planning area, and 9 more nesting territories located within one mile of these state forests, on other ownerships. Since a pair of eagles often uses alternate nest sites, each nesting territory can include multiple nesting sites. Bald eagles are found on and adjacent to state forest lands year-round, using available habitats for nesting, foraging, and roosting.

Peregrine falcon — The American peregrine falcon was removed from the federal threatened and endangered species list in 1999, but is still on the state list of endangered species. It is proposed to be downlisted to a state threatened species. A recovery plan for the Pacific states region was approved in 1982 by the USFWS. Extensive monitoring, research and reintroduction programs have occurred in Oregon and the West for the past 15 years and populations have slowly recovered. No active nest sites are currently known on state forest lands. However, preliminary surveys indicate that potential nesting habitat is present on the Tillamook, Astoria, and Santiam Districts. Most state forest lands would be considered potential foraging and perching habitat. Peregrines currently nest in close proximity to state forest lands and likely forage seasonally in coastal and Cascade areas.

Marbled murrelet — The marbled murrelet is a seabird that uses mature or old growth coniferous forests within 50 miles of the ocean for nesting. Marbled murrelets do currently use some areas of northwest Oregon state forests in the Coast Range, for nesting. During surveys, 75 to 95 percent of murrelet detections are bird calls rather than sightings of birds. Because it is so difficult to actually see the murrelets or find the nests, surveys cannot accurately count the number of murrelets nesting on northwest Oregon state forests. When surveys detect occupied behavior from murrelets, then a MMMA (marbled murrelet management area) is established in that area. Currently, 6,352 acres are in designated MMMA in northwest Oregon state forests, within 50 miles of the ocean.

Spotted owl — Early surveys found extremely low densities of northern spotted owls in the northern Coast Range, an area with extensive forests of young Douglas-fir stands (less than 65 years old) and few remnant stands of old growth or mature forests (Forsman et al. 1977, Forsman 1986, Cunningham 1989). More systematic surveys began on state land after the USFWS listed the owl as a threatened species in June 1990. Since 1992, the Oregon Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit of the Oregon State University has conducted owl surveys on state forest lands. Nearly all potential nesting habitat, with special emphasis on habitat in or adjacent to planned or previously sold timber sales, has been surveyed during this time period.