

**REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS
NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL AND MARBLED MURRELET
2004 INCIDENTAL TAKE SUMMARY REPORT**

**Compiled by Keith Bensen, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
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This incidental take report summarizes Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) 2004 operations that may have adversely impacted potentially occupied northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat. Approximately 2,711 acres of potentially occupied suitable marbled murrelet habitat and 301 acres of unsurveyed suitable spotted owl habitat at or within 0.25 miles of project activities were potentially impacted by noise disturbance (hereafter, disturbance). This equates to 47% and 6% of the authorized acres of potential incidental take for marbled murrelets and spotted owls, respectively, in 2004. Summaries of the status of all non-emergency projects with permitted 2004 incidental take are presented in the narrative statements below and in Table 1.

The Redwood Complex Wildland Fire Suppression occurred in 2003, however, this consultation was not completed in time for the 2003 report. Therefore, incidental take authorized for this emergency action is included in this year's report. We estimated that 1,263 acres of potentially occupied marbled murrelet habitat could have been adversely impacted by noise disturbance associated with fire suppression activities.

The escaped Xowannutuk prescribed fire occurred in late October 2003 and destroyed 1.2 acres of suitable marbled murrelet habitat. A follow up consultation entitled "An addendum to the Biological Assessment of Impacts to Terrestrial Threatened and Endangered Species From the 2002 Prescribed Burns in Redwood National and State Parks due to the escaped Xowannutuk prescribed fire and subsequent suppression activities" was prepared and the final draft was submitted in early November 2004. This consultation is not complete and thus any incidental take authorized for this action will be included in next year's report.

(BO Ref. # 1-14-98-F-24) Annual Maintenance (Facilities, Roads, and Trails)

Brushing with power tools occurred along the lower 1.5 miles of the Redwood Creek Trail once per month in April, May, and June, for approximately 6 hours on each of the three days. This resulted in 275 acres of potentially occupied marbled murrelet and spotted owl habitat being impacted by disturbance.

The A-9-9 road was graded in May for two days for approximately 6 hours on each day. This resulted in 26 acres of potentially occupied marbled murrelet and spotted owl habitat being impacted by disturbance.

Mowing of residence lawns occurred once in April and May for approximately six hours total as well as heavy equipment use once for four hours in May, in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State

Park. This resulted in 460 acres of potentially occupied marbled murrelet habitat being impacted by disturbance. Mowing of road edges and campsites at the Mill Creek campground occurred over four weeks in May. This resulted in 13 acres of potentially occupied marbled murrelet habitat being impacted by disturbance. Mowing of campsites, mowing of resident lawns and campsite rehabilitation using heavy equipment occurred in Prairie Creek State Park throughout April and May. This resulted in 360 acres of potentially occupied marbled murrelet habitat being impacted by disturbance. Other facility maintenance in the three state parks occurred between Memorial Day and Labor Day, when ambient background noise is equal to, or greater than, noise generated by maintenance. No spotted owl habitat was impacted by facility maintenance in the state parks because recent surveys indicated that habitat within 0.25 miles of these sites was not occupied by spotted owls.

(BO Ref # 1-14-98-F-134) Watershed Restoration Program (1998)

No road removal projects were implemented in 2004. In addition, no periodic maintenance or drainage repair projects were implemented in 2004 during noise restriction periods, thus, no there were no noise disturbance impacts.

(BO Ref. No. 1-14-98-F-145) Skunk Cabbage Memorial Grove Trail

Visitor use along this trail resulted in 59 acres of occupied marbled murrelet habitat being potentially impacted by disturbance. Incidental take for the spotted owl did not occur because the trail was surveyed and results indicated that spotted owls have not reoccupied the historic activity center (both members of the historic pair were killed). The area formerly occupied by the spotted owl pair was occupied by a reproductive pair of barred owls in 2003 while only a single male barred owl was found in 2004.

(BO Ref No. 1-14-99-F-112) Howland Hill Road Re-profiling and Re-engineering

This consultation required specific information to be reported annually during the life of this project. Maintenance, including ripping the surface and reshaping, occurred along the entire road in 2004 resulting in 1,577 acres of potentially occupied marbled murrelet habitat being disturbed by project activity noise.

Specific information required by the BA/BO is as follows:

1. **Actions performed, including equipment used:** The road was ripped in its entirety, shaped, watered, and rolled to provide compaction. Two motor graders, one water truck, one roller, and one bulldozer were the types of equipment used to do this work.
2. **Dates work occurred:** Early to mid June.
3. **Length of road where annual maintenance occurred:** 10 miles.
4. **Length of road re-engineered/re-profiled:** 0 miles.
5. **Cumulative amount of road re-engineered/re-profiled to date:** To date an estimated 3 miles of road has been re-engineered.
6. **Results of annual spotted owl surveys:** Spotted owl surveys are done along this road every other year, with the most recent survey done in 2004. To date, no spotted owls have been detected within 0.25 mile of the road. However, we have numerous records of barred owls, some of which may be associated with the reproductive pair at Cedar Creek, occurring at a number of locations along the spotted owl survey route.

(BO Ref. No. 1-14-2001-888) Helicopter Use

No helicopter use by protection park rangers occurred in 2004.

(BO Ref. No. 1-14-2001-1010) Watershed Restoration in Lost Man Creek

No work occurred during the breeding season within suitable spotted owl or marbled murrelet habitat, or in the 0.25 mile habitat buffer, in 2004.

Contributors:

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TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF MARBLED MURRELET AND SPOTTED OWL POTENTIAL INCIDENTAL TAKE IN REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS IN 2004

BA/BO	Marbled Murrelet Habitat Acres Potentially Impacted by Noise Disturbance*	Northern Spotted Owl Habitat Acres Potentially Impacted by Noise Disturbance*	Comments
Annual Maintenance/1-14-98-F-24			
Brushing and Grading Roads	26	26	
Down tree removal	0	0	
Brushing Trails	275	275	
Jed Smith Facility Mtnce	460	0	NSPO surveys
Mill Creek Facility Mtnce	13	0	NSPO surveys
Big Tree Wayside Mtnce	0	0	NSPO surveys
Prairie Creek Facility Mtnce	360	0	NSPO surveys
Sub Total	1,134	301	
Watershed Rest./1-14-98-F-134	0	0	
Skunk Cabbage Trail/1-14-98-F-145	59	0	NSPO surveys
Howland Hill Rd Re-profiling/1-14-99-F-112	1,577	0	NSPO surveys
Helicopter Use/1-14-2001-888	0	N/A	
Watershed Restoration in Lost Man Cr/1-14-2001-1010	0	N/A	
Total Potential Incidental Take	2,711 acres	301 acres	Acres constitute 47% and 6% of authorized acres potentially impacted for murrelet and owl, respectively

*** Acres potentially impacted are based on the assumption that all acres were occupied by the species of concern at the time of project implementation.**