

**REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS
INCIDENTAL TAKE SUMMARY REPORT
(Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet)
2003**

**Compiled by Kristin Schmidt, Wildlife Biologist
3 February 2004**

This report summarizes the permitted incidental take that potentially occurred in occupied northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat due to Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) operations implemented in 2003. We calculated that 2,532 ac of potentially occupied suitable marbled murrelet habitat and 650 ac of unsurveyed suitable spotted owl habitat at or within 0.25 mi of project activities were potentially impacted by disturbance. This equates to 44% and 14% of the authorized acres of potential incidental take for marbled murrelets and spotted owls, respectively, in 2003. Summaries of the status of all projects with permitted 2003 incidental take are presented in the narrative statements below and in Table 1.

The Redwood Complex Wildland Fire Suppression took place in 2003. We estimated that 1,263 ac of potentially occupied marbled murrelet habitat could have been adversely impacted by noise disturbance associated with suppression activities. However, this consultation has yet to be completed, therefore, 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 mi of the Redwood Creek Trail once per month in April, May, and June, for approximately 6 hrs on each of three days. This resulted in 275 ac of potentially occupied marbled murrelet and spotted owl habitat being impacted by disturbance.

On 19 March two old growth trees were removed from the Tall Trees Trail. This resulted in 250 ac of potentially occupied spotted owl habitat being impacted by noise disturbance. On 22 April an old growth tree was removed from the Orick Horse Trail resulting in 125 ac of potentially occupied spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat being impacted by noise disturbance.

Mowing of residence lawns occurred once in April, May, and June, for approximately one hour each time, in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. This resulted in 460 ac of potentially occupied marbled murrelet habitat being impacted by disturbance. Facility maintenance in the other two 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 mi 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 2003. Three culverts were replaced for erosion control on 10 July on the A-9-9 Road. Thirty-six acres of potentially occupied, unsurveyed

marbled murrelet habitat within 0.25 mi of these work sites may have been impacted by noise disturbance.

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

Visitor use along this trail resulted in 59 ac 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.

(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 2003 resulting in 1,577 ac of potentially occupied marbled murrelet habitat being disturbed by project activities.

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 mi
4. **Length of road re-engineered/re-profiled:** 0 mi
5. **Cumulative amount of road re-engineered/re-profiled to date:** To date an estimated 3 mi 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 2002. To date, no spotted owls have been detected within 0.25 mi 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 2003.

(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 mi habitat buffer, in 2003.

Contributors:

Jeff Bomke, CDPR Maintenance Chief
Stephen Fisher, CDPR Trails Coordinator
Corky Farley, Supervisory Park Ranger
Richard Mayle, NPS Roads and Trails Foreman
Mike Sanders, Geologist

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF MARBLED MURRELET AND SPOTTED OWL POTENTIAL INCIDENTAL TAKE IN REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS IN 2003

BA/BO	Marbled Murrelet Habitat Acres Potentially Impacted by Disturbance*	Northern Spotted Owl Habitat Acres Potentially Impacted by Disturbance*	Comments
Annual Maintenance/1-14-98-F-24			
Brushing and Grading Roads	0	0	
Down tree removal	125	325	
Brushing Trails	275	275	
Jed Smith Facility Mtnce	460	0	NSPO surveys
Mill Creek Facility Mtnce	0	0	NSPO surveys
Big Tree Wayside Mtnce	0	0	NSPO surveys
Prairie Creek Facility Mtnce	0	0	NSPO surveys
Sub Total	860	650	
Watershed Rest./1-14-98-F-134	36	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	2,532 acres	650 acres	Acres constitute 44.4% and 14.0% 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.**