

**REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS
INCIDENTAL TAKE REPORT
(Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet)
2001**

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This report summarizes the permitted incidental take that may have occurred in occupied northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet habitat due to Redwood National and State Parks (RNSP) operations implemented in 2001. We calculated that 4324 ac of suitable marbled murrelet habitat and 400 ac of suitable spotted owl habitat in or within 0.25 mi of project activities were potentially disturbed, and 9 ac of suitable spotted owl habitat were removed by our actions. All projects for which incidental take was permitted to occur in 2001 are summarized in the narrative statements below and in Table 1.

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

Grading occurred on the A-9, A-9-7, and A-9-9 Roads between 23 July and 2 August. This activity resulted in 1,470 ac of marbled murrelet habitat being disturbed. On 21 May a tree was removed from the Orick Horse Trail that required chainsaw operation for 1.5 hrs. The disturbance buffer around this site overlaps with the A-9 roads listed above, therefore, no additional disturbance occurred to the marbled murrelet. The down tree removal did, however, result in 125 ac of habitat disturbance to the spotted owl.

Brushing with power tools occurred along the lower 1.5 mi of the Redwood Creek Trail on 9 April, 1 May, and 14 June, for approximately 6 hrs on each of the days. This resulted in 275 ac of potentially occupied marbled murrelet and spotted owl habitat being disturbed.

Facility and structure maintenance involving mowers, chainsaws, and heavy equipment occurred almost daily from April through June at campgrounds in Jedediah Smith Redwoods, Del Norte Coast Redwoods, and Prairie Creek Redwoods State Parks and at Big Tree Tree Wayside. This resulted in 958 ac of potentially occupied marbled murrelet habitat being disturbed (see Table 1 for acres associated with each site). No spotted owl habitat disturbance occurred because surveys at the four sites have indicated that habitat within 0.25 mi of these sites is not occupied.

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

In 2001 two roads included in the 1998 watershed restoration program BA were partially removed. These were the A100 in the Lost Man Creek watershed and the C-Line North in the Tom MacDonald Creek watershed. Both of these roads were included in an amendment to the consultation due to concerns regarding residual old growth habitat within 0.25 mi of the roads. An amendment in 2001 to the biological opinion authorized an additional 18.5 ac of incidental take associated with noise disturbance in residual old growth habitat during the marbled murrelet breeding season. All of these acres were associated with the A100. In 2001, road removal along the A100 resulted in 9 ac of residual habitat being disturbed. Removal of the C-Line North resulted in 9 ac of suitable second growth spotted owl habitat being removed.

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

Fifty-nine acres of incidental take for the spotted owl and marbled murrelet were originally permitted for trail construction. No incidental take occurred for the spotted owl because the trail was surveyed and the historic activity center near the trail appears to be vacant and/or occupied by one or more barred owls. Visitor use along this trail resulted in 59 acres of occupied marbled murrelet habitat being potentially disturbed.

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

This consultation requires specific information to be reported annually during the life of this project. This information is supplied below. Annual maintenance activities on Howland Hill Road, including down tree removal, resulted in 1577 ac of suitable marbled murrelet habitat potentially being disturbed. Spotted owl surveys along this road indicated the area was not occupied, therefore, no disturbance for this species occurred.

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

1. **Actions performed, including equipment used:** Ripping, shaping, grading, filling, and berm removal along the entire length of road using a grader, roller, dumptrucks, and a back hoe.
2. **Dates work occurred:** 23 April through 2 May and 1 October through 26 October.
3. **Length of road where annual maintenance occurred:** 6 miles.
4. **Length of road re-engineered/re-profiled:** A maximum of 3/8 of a mile of road was re-engineered.
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:** Annual spotted owl inventories along this road in the last three years have not detected any spotted owls.

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

No helicopter use occurred in 2001.

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

Work occurred during the breeding season for the marbled murrelet along one road, the 550 South. Thirty five acres of occupied old growth marbled murrelet habitat with 0.25 mi of this project were potentially disturbed by this activity.

TABLE 1. SUMMARY OF MARBLED MURRELET AND SPOTTED OWL INCIDENTAL TAKE IN REDWOOD NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS IN 2001

BA/BO	Marbled Murrelet Habitat Acres Disturbed	Northern Spotted Owl Habitat Acres Disturbed	Comments
Annual Maintenance/1-14-98-F-24			
Grading	1470	0	
Down tree removal	0	125	
Brushing	275	275	
Jed Smith CG Mtnce	460	0	NSPO surveys
Mill Creek CG Mtnce	13	0	NSPO surveys
Big Tree Wayside	125	0	NSPO surveys
Prairie Creek CG Mtnce	360	0	NSPO surveys
Total	2703	400	
Watershed Rest./1-14-98-F-134	9	9 (ac of habitat removed)	
Skunk Cabbage Trail/1-14-98-F-145			
	59	0	NSPO surveys
Howland Hill Rd Re-profiling/1-14-99-F-112	1577	0	NSPO surveys
Helicopter Use/1-14-2001-888	0	N/A	
			No flights in 2001
Watershed Restoration in Lost Man Cr/1-14-2001-1010	35	N/A	
Total Incidental Take	4383 acres	468 acres	9 ac of habitat removal