

Appendix C Wildlife Report

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

The proposed projects are within the Lost Creek Watershed. For a more complete description of the existing environment, see the Lost Creek Watershed Analysis (completed 1998). There are several special land designations for wildlife in the Flounce Around Project Area within the Lost Creek Watershed. These include: 3 northern spotted owl (NSO) activity centers within the project area boundary; one late-successional connectivity block (T33S -R1E – Section 1), one “Big Game Winter Range and Elk Management area” north of Lost Creek Reservoir, and approximately 8,000 acres of designated northern spotted owl “critical habitat” in the northwest portion of the project area.

Wildlife Appendix table 2 lists the Special Status wildlife species that may occur within the Butte Falls Resource Area, including Federally listed, State listed, Bureau Sensitive species, and Survey and Manage species.

T&E SPECIES

Bald Eagle

There are two known bald eagle nests near the Lost Creek Reservoir. These nests are considered to be the same site. The original nest site location has been vacant since 1997. The alternate nest has been active since 1998. The active nest is on Army Corps of Engineers land and adjacent to BLM land. No timber sale units are proposed within ½ mile of the nest, and a seasonal restriction on actions within ¼ mile (1/2 mile line of sight) would be in place from January 1 to August 15 for any year nesting occurs.

Bald eagles have been seen on the north end of the reservoir, but no additional nests have been found to date. Individual bald eagles have also been observed in the project area during the winter months.

Northern Spotted Owl

3 northern spotted owl sites within the project area have designated activity centers. The activity centers are 100 acres of the best habitat near the center of activity of each pair or resident single site which was known on January 1, 1994 (ROD, pg 10). Two additional spotted owl sites within the project area were located after January 1, 1994. These sites do not have designated activity centers. However, the nest locations would be buffered and protected from timber harvest. One additional NSO site with a designated activity center is located north of the project area and is within the provincial radius (1.2 miles for the Cascade Province) of a proposed timber sale unit. These sites have been monitored in the past several years by BLM biologists and only 2 were active in 2003. 8,000 acres of designated northern spotted owl “critical habitat” (CHU-34) is located in the northwest portion of the project area.

Connectivity Block

T33S - R01E - Section 1 is a RMP/ROD designated connectivity block. ROD recommendations are to maintain 25-30% of late successional forest in the connectivity block. 305 acres of the best late successional habitat in the section have been deferred from harvest at this time.

SURVEY AND MANAGE

Great Gray Owl

Surveys for great gray owls (GGO) have been completed to current interagency protocol *Survey Protocol for the Great Gray Owl* (April 1995). Two years of great gray owl protocol surveys were completed in 2001. Additional surveys were conducted in the spring of 2002 and 2003. No great gray owls have been detected and no nests have been located in the project area. The closest known GGO nest is approximately 5 miles away from the project area, in the eastern end of the Lost Creek watershed. This site has been vacant for 6 years.

Terrestrial Mollusks

Mollusk surveys were completed in the spring of 2003 using current protocol in effect at the time, *Survey Protocol for Terrestrial Mollusk Species from the Northwest Forest Plan, Versions 2.0 and 3.0*. No survey and manage mollusk species were located in the timber sale units. 22 Oregon Shoulderband, *Helminthoglypta hertleini*, were located in the fuels units prior to the Oregon Shoulderband being removed from the Survey and Manage list as a result of the 2002 Survey and Manage Annual Species Review (March 14, 2003). The current direction is to protect known sites, so these locations would be protected from fuels treatments with a no treatment buffer area. This meets both the current management guidelines, the *Draft Management Recommendations for Helminthoglypta hertleini, the Oregon Shoulderband, Version 2.0* (October 15, 1999) and the *Survey and Manage Management Recommendation Amendments for Fuel Hazard Reduction Treatments Around At-Risk Communities, Group 2* (February 23, 2003).

Red Tree Vole

Red tree vole (RTV) surveys were completed on all proposed timber sale units, as well as timbered stands within fuels treatments according to protocols that were in effect at the time of surveys. The following protocols were used: *Interim Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole in Oregon, Version 1.0* (September, 1996); and *Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole, Version 2.0* (February, 2000,); and *Version 3.0* (October 2002). Red tree vole surveys were completed in the spring of 2003. A total of 392 trees were climbed in proposed timber sale and fuel treatment units. Tree climbing surveys were conducted to determine the nest status of unknown nests discovered through ground surveys. No red tree voles, red tree vole evidence, or red tree vole nests were located from ground surveys or tree climbing surveys. New boundaries for required RTV surveys were established in the protocol version 2.0. The units east of Lost Creek Reservoir are outside the known or suspected geographic range of the red tree vole, so surveys are not required. However, some of these units were originally surveyed in 1997 for another project using the interim RTV protocol, and no RTV evidence was observed at that time.

SENSITIVE SPECIES

Northern Goshawk

Approximately 550 acres have been surveyed to current interagency protocols within the project area during the past three years. Timber stands that appeared most likely to provide suitable goshawk habitat were surveyed. Two years of surveys were completed in 2002 and additional surveys were done in 2003. Some early surveys were also done in 1997 when the project area was being considered for another sale plan. There are two known northern goshawk nests within the project area. One known nest is located within a northern spotted owl activity center, as well as within a designated connectivity block and would be protected. 305 acres of the best late successional habitat in the designated connectivity block have been deferred from harvest at this time. The second nest was discovered in 2003 and is located in a fuels treatment unit. The nest would be buffered and a seasonal restriction for activities within a ¼ mile of the nest would be in place from March 1 to August 30.

Peregrine Falcon

There are no known peregrine sites within this project area or the Lost Creek Watershed. There are two cliff areas that could provide suitable nesting substrate for peregrines, but no birds have been detected there on annual opportunistic surveys. Birds from a nest site in an adjacent watershed forage within the Lost Creek Watershed.

The peregrine falcon was de-listed by USFW in August, 1999 and is no longer a federally listed species. It is currently recognized as a Bureau Sensitive species.

Other Raptors

Golden Eagle

There is one historic nesting cliff on private land on the north end of the project area. This site was occupied by golden eagles through 1993. These eagles have been absent from 1994 to 2003.

Sharp Shinned Hawk

There is one known sharp shinned hawk nest within the project area. This nest would be buffered with a 10 acre no-entry buffer. A seasonal restriction from March 1 through August 15 would be in place for activities within a ¼ mile of the nests if they are active. This buffer and the adjacent stands would continue to provide nesting, roosting, and foraging habitat for sharp shinned hawks.

Osprey

Approximately 32 nests are located around Lost Creek Reservoir within the project area. Not all nests are monitored each year. Approximately 24 nests have been checked in 2003 and 18 nests are active. 7 nests are located within proposed timber harvest or fuels treatment units. However, no osprey nest trees would be removed by the proposed actions. These nests would

be protected with a 5 acre no harvest buffer. A seasonal restriction would be in effect for activities within a ¼ mile of known osprey nests from March 1 to August 31.

Flammulated Owl

One survey route was conducted within the Lost Creek Watershed in 1995. No flammulated owls were detected, but they could occur in the Lost Creek Watershed. Flammulated owls have been observed in adjacent watersheds within the past 2 years.

OTHER WILDLIFE SPECIES

Cavity Nesters

No inventory data on snag and cavity nester populations has been collected within the project area. In all of the proposed action alternatives, all large snags would be retained which did not need to be felled for human safety reasons. Snags which need to be felled for human safety reasons would be left on site to provide coarse woody debris. The minimum ROD standard requirements would be met. An average of two snags per acre would be left to meet snag requirements. Coarse wood would meet 120 linear feet of logs per acre greater than or equal to 16 inches in diameter and 16 feet long in decay class one and two.

Big Game Animals

Deer, elk, bear, and cougar are present in the Lost Creek Watershed. Approximately 3,580 acres north of Lost Creek Reservoir is designated in the Medford District RMP as "Big Game Winter Range and Elk Management Area." Guidelines in designated winter range are to maintain at least 20% of the thermal cover within the project area. Thermal cover is a forest stand with at least 70% canopy cover, with the average tree height at least 40 ft. 720 acres have been deferred from timber harvest and fuels reduction treatments within this designated "Big Game Winter Range and Elk Management Area." The Medford District RMP management guidelines also include observing a seasonal restriction to avoid disturbance from November 15 to April 1. However, this cannot always be achieved due to high public use of roads in the area, vandalism to gates, and requirements to provide access to adjacent private lands. A portion of the Jackson Access and Travel Management Area (JACTMA) is located within the Lost Creek Watershed. This plan restricts vehicular access to the area north and west of Lost Creek for 7 months of the year to reduce disturbance and poaching pressure.

ODFW and Army Corps of Engineers have improved foraging habitat through several seeding and fertilization projects on adjacent Army Corps of Engineers land. Additional seeding projects have also been done on private meadows.

Neotropical Migratory Land Birds

Neotropical migratory birds are present during spring, summer, and early fall. 3 additional birds on the Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern list, which are not previously addressed in this appendix, have been observed in the Butte Falls Resource Area and could be present in the Flounce Around Project Area. These species are rufous hummingbird, Lewis' woodpecker, and olive-sided flycatcher. Another bird on the same list, the white-headed woodpecker, has not been recorded in the Butte Falls Resource Area, but could be a transitory visitor.

Bats

No Townsend's big-eared bats have been recorded in the project area; however, they could be present. No known caves, mines, abandoned wooden bridges are within any proposed timber sale unit. Snags and large hollow oaks would be left in the proposed units to provide roosting habitat.

SPECIAL HABITATS

Oak Woodlands/ Shrublands/ Meadows

Oak woodland habitat is found in the project area and is important to several wildlife species. This habitat type is declining due to dense conditions from lack of fire, and encroaching brush species and conifers.

Dense stands of wedgeleaf and manzanita are common throughout the project area. The lack of fire or other disturbance has led to decadent and less productive forage for big game species.

There are several meadows within the project area. These unique areas are shrinking due to encroaching wedgeleaf, manzanita, oaks, and conifers.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

TIMBER HARVEST

T&E SPECIES

At the time of writing, formal consultation is ongoing with the USFW. The project would be covered under Rogue River/South Coast FY 04/05/06/07/08 Medford District, Bureau of Land Management, Rogue River and Siskiyou National Forests Biological Assessment and Biological Opinion (FWS).

A seasonal restriction would be in effect for all activities within ¼ mile of any site containing northern spotted owls. Known sites in the project area would be checked in the year of the action to determine nesting status.

A seasonal restriction would be in effect for all activities within ¼ mile (1/2 mile line-of-site) of any active bald eagle nests. Known nest sites within the project area would be checked in the year of the action to determine nesting status.

Mandatory project design features in the USFW BO would be followed (See project design features).

SUMMARY OF SUITABLE SPOTTED OWL HABITAT DISTURBANCE				
Alternative	Total suitable NSO habitat proposed for entry	Total unsuitable NSO habitat proposed for entry	Total suitable habitat to unsuitable habitat	Total suitable habitat to dispersal habitat
No Action	0	0	0	0
Alternative 2	467	36	98	369
Alternative 3	467	36	18	449
Alternative 4	467	36	98	369
Alternative 5	467	36	18	449

Table 1: Comparison of spotted owl habitat effects by alternative

The proposed actions, while potentially adversely disrupting local individuals of sensitive wildlife species and causing loss of habitat in some cases, is not expected to affect long term population viability of any species known to be in the area. Activities under all alternatives would not lead to the need to list sensitive wildlife species.

EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE 1 – NO ACTION

TIMBER HARVEST

Threatened and Endangered Species

The No Action Alternative would have no immediate direct effect on the NSO. Under the No Action Alternative, no suitable NSO habitat would be removed or altered.

The No Action Alternative would have “no effect” on the bald eagle.

Other Wildlife

With the No Action Alternative, wildlife habitat and populations would continue at current trends. Without the proposed treatments of the timber stands, current levels of habitat would be allowed to develop naturally. Coarse woody debris and snag recruitment would continue to increase naturally, which would provide additional habitat in the long term for species associated with coarse woody debris and snags.

FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION

Threatened and Endangered Species

With the no action alternative, dense stands and fuel hazards would slowly continue to build. This could leave adjacent northern spotted owl sites and suitable habitat vulnerable if a large stand replacement fire occurs.

Other Wildlife

With the No Action Alternative, the size of many natural openings and meadows would continue to shrink due to encroachment from conifers and wedgeleaf. In the long term, this could limit the amount of suitable forage habitat for great gray owls and big game species.

Under the No Action Alternative, current trends in the oak woodlands and wedgeleaf habitat would continue. Presently, the lack of fire or other disturbance has led to decadent and less productive forage for big game species. The brush species that provide forage for big game species would be expected to decline. Without treatment, better forage conditions would not be expected to develop. The increased density of decadent wedgeleaf would reduce movement and limit travel for big game species.

Under the No Action Alternative, one pump chance north of Lost Creek Reservoir (T32-R2E-Section 33 on road 32-2E-34) would not be repaired. Under current conditions, this pump chance would continue to fill with soil and vegetation and it would be difficult for wildlife to access for an additional water source.

SHORT TERM USES VS. LONG TERM PRODUCTIVITY

Without the loss of habitat from timber harvest, a long term increase in productivity for late-successional dependent species is expected to occur. Some areas that would not be thinned or burned would develop late-successional characteristics at a slower rate. A long term decrease in productivity for open grassland and early seral shrub land dependent species is expected to occur, without the treatment of encroaching conifers and decadent brush development.

IRREVERSIBLE/ IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES

None identified.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS

No change expected from current trends within the watershed. Non-federal lands would be harvested and most would remain in early-to-mid seral conditions. The amount of suitable spotted owl habitat has been reduced by approximately 2,887 acres in the adjacent Elk Creek Watershed due to the Timbered Rock fire in July, 2002.

EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE 2

TIMBER HARVEST

Threatened and Endangered Species

Approximately 503 acres of matrix land would be treated for timber harvest.

Alternative 2 may adversely affect the northern spotted owl (NSO) since suitable habitat would be removed near known owl sites. Alternative 2 would have the greatest impact to northern

spotted owls of the 4 action alternatives considered due to the greatest loss of nesting/roosting/foraging and dispersal habitat as well as increased disturbance from harvest activities. Approximately 467 acres of suitable NSO habitat would be entered (See Table 1). This proposal would remove approximately 98 acres of suitable NSO habitat through regeneration harvest. This treatment type would result in the loss of 91 acres of suitable nesting habitat and the loss of 7 acres of suitable dispersal habitat. Areas which would be treated for density management and selective cut would leave more than 40% canopy cover. These treatment areas would be expected to remain as spotted owl dispersal habitat.

Approximately 150 acres of proposed timber harvest would occur in a designated northern spotted owl critical habitat unit (CHU-34). Under Alternative 2, approximately 83 of these acres within the CHU would be regeneration harvest. This would result in the greatest loss of suitable spotted owl habitat within the CHU of the four action alternatives.

The project meets the FSEIS and RMP ROD minimum guidelines and consultation with the USFW will be completed before the Decision Record is signed. A ¼ mile seasonal restriction would be in place to reduce noise and activity disturbance to active NSO sites during times when the owls are nesting.

Alternative 2 would have the greatest impact to the connectivity block in T33S – R01E - Section 1. 23 acres are proposed for regeneration harvest, and 9 acres are proposed for selective cut or density management harvest. The 23 acres of regeneration harvest would be non-suitable northern spotted owl habitat after harvest. However, only 10% of the available late successional habitat would be entered. 305 acres of the best late successional habitat in the section have been deferred from harvest at this time. 46 % of the section would still provide late successional habitat.

The Lost Creek Watershed Analysis suggests maintaining additional patches (40-80 acres) of forest stands in long-term rotation and light-touch entry to provide older stand structure connectivity along a two mile wide corridor between two designated LSR blocks (pg. 77). Alternative 2 would not accomplish this because approximately 59 acres in T32S - R1E – Section 33 are proposed for regeneration harvest. This would remove suitable nesting/roosting/foraging and dispersal habitat within this proposed 2 mile wide corridor.

According to the Medford Resource Management Plan (pg. 57), older forests would be retained within ½ mile of the known bald eagle nests. No timber units are planned within ½ mile of these nests. The RMP also suggests retaining two 80 acre areas for future nest sites. The Lost Creek Watershed Analysis recommends sections 14 and 23 to meet this objective. In Alternative 2, the treatments in sections 14 and 23 would meet this objective. In Alternative 2, 85 acres in section 14 would be thinned, hand-piled and underburned. This treatment would reduce the present levels of ladder fuels, which would increase the chance of the survival of the larger trees in this section in the event of a large stand-replacement fire. In this alternative, 48 acres of density management are proposed in section 23. This treatment would allow for the development and maintenance of large, healthy trees. 115 acres would also be thinned, hand-piled and underburned in section 23.

No known bald eagle nest trees, perch trees, or roost trees would be cut. Suitable eagle habitat within ¼ mile of the nest would not be removed. Large snags within ½ mile of the nest would not be cut, except as needed to protect human safety. A seasonal restriction would be in place from January 1 to August 31 for any year nesting occurs.

Other wildlife

Alternative 2 would lead to greatest loss of future snags and coarse woody debris due to the higher number of acres proposed for regeneration harvest. Minimum ROD standards and guidelines would be met. Under all proposed actions, some snags may need to be felled for safety reasons, but would be left as coarse woody material. This could result in the loss of cavity nesting habitat, and could disrupt the nesting/breeding cycle for some species, depending on the season the unit is harvested.

In Alternative 2, 61 acres in the winter range and management area would be treated with timber harvest. The treatment type for all 61 acres would be density management. This would reduce the canopy cover to 40-60%. Even though some thermal cover would be lost, the effects have been mitigated by deferring 20% of the thermal cover in the project area from treatment (720 acres). Only 0.3 miles of new road construction would occur in the winter range and management area. This section of road would be decommissioned after harvest which would minimize disturbance and poaching pressure. These activities and effects are common throughout all alternatives.

Alternative 2 would have the greatest impact to neotropical birds. Approximately 98 acres are proposed for regeneration harvest under this alternative. This would remove a higher amount of cover and nesting habitat for some neotropical birds that use older forests. Buffers for Survey and Manage species would preserve small patches of habitat for cover and nesting birds. As mentioned above, minimum ROD guidelines would be met to provide snags for cavity nesting species. The effects would be negligible to the birds on the Fish and Wildlife Birds of Concern list that are suspected to be found within the project area. While the proposed actions would remove habitat for some birds, other birds such as the olive-sided flycatcher would benefit from the activities. Flycatchers forage in open areas and can benefit from understory thinning.

FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION

Threatened and Endangered Species

Under Alternative 2, dense stands and fuel hazards would be reduced. This would minimize the risk of losing adjacent NSO sites and suitable habitat if a large stand replacement fire occurs.

Other Wildlife Species

In Alternative 2, 284 acres would be treated mechanically with a slashbuster. While slashbuster activities could cause increased damage to habitat and the loss of some local individuals, the overall effects would be minimal within the project area. Slashbuster treatments would only occur in 11% of the 2,625 total acres proposed for fuels treatments within the project area.

Fuels treatments, such as prescribed fire, thinning, hand piling, and slashbuster treatments in the spring, could result in the loss of some ground nesting birds. Spring burning often creates a mosaic with patches of brush and cover which do not burn due to moisture conditions, but the loss of some bird habitat and potentially nestlings would be expected. Early spring or fall burning would be the preferred method if environmental conditions are acceptable. Buffers for Survey and Manage species would preserve small patches of habitat for cover and nesting birds. There is no planned take of any individual birds as part of the proposed actions. The

effects would be negligible to the birds on the Fish and Wildlife Birds of Concern list that are suspected to be found within the project area. While the proposed actions would remove habitat for some birds, other birds such as the olive sided flycatcher would benefit from the activities. Flycatchers forage in open areas and can benefit from understory thinning.

The 22 locations of Oregon Shoulderband terrestrial mollusks in fuels units would be buffered with a 50 foot radius no treatment buffer. This would help maintain the microclimate and key habitat features at the site. This meets both the current management guidelines, the *Draft Management Recommendations for Helminthoglypta hertleini, the Oregon Shoulderband, Version 2.0* (October 15, 1999) and the *Survey and Manage Management Recommendation Amendments for Fuel Hazard Reduction Treatments Around At-Risk Communities, Group 2* (February 23, 2003). Perennial streams and known seeps and springs would be buffered, which would also protect potential Crater Lake Tightcoil, *Pristiloma arcticum crateris*, mollusk sites. However, no Crater Lake Tightcoil mollusks were located during surveys.

Approximately 720 acres were removed from potential fuels treatments to meet the minimum RMP 20% thermal cover requirements. An additional 87 acres in the “Big Game Winter Range and Elk Management Area” were removed from timber harvest, but proposed fuels treatments in these areas would still maintain a higher canopy closure to provide thermal cover. Approximately 750 acres of wedgeleaf habitat would receive fuel treatments in the winter range and management area. These treatments would improve forage conditions.

50-60% of untreated brush habitat would be left within the fuels treatment areas in the wedgeleaf communities. The untreated areas would be left in a mosaic pattern, with a variety of patch sizes, as well as individually spaced tree and brush species. This would allow for hiding cover for big game species, and cover and nesting habitat for bird species. These patches would also serve as refuge for other wildlife species.

Under Alternative 2, one pump chance north of Lost Creek Reservoir would be repaired (T32-R2E-Section 33 on road 32-2E-34). A variety of wildlife species would benefit from the removal of dense vegetation and soil to improve the storage capacity of this additional water source. It is currently too overgrown to provide suitable open water habitat for foraging bats.

EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE 3

TIMBER HARVEST

Threatened and Endangered Species

Approximately 503 acres of matrix land would be treated for timber harvest.

Alternative 3 may adversely affect the northern spotted owl since suitable habitat would be removed near known owl sites. Approximately 467 acres of suitable NSO habitat would be entered (See Table 1). Alternative 3 would have a lesser degree of impact to northern spotted owls of the 4 action alternatives considered. The same number of acres would be treated, but this proposal would only remove approximately 18 acres of suitable habitat through regeneration harvest compared to 98 acres of regeneration harvest in Alternatives 2 and 4. All

18 acres of regeneration harvest in Alternative 3 would be suitable nesting habitat prior to harvest. Areas which would be treated for density management would leave more than 40% canopy cover. These treatment areas would be expected to remain as spotted owl dispersal habitat.

Approximately 150 acres of proposed timber harvest would occur in a designated northern spotted owl critical habitat unit (CHU-34). Under Alternative 3, approximately 12 of these acres within the CHU would be regeneration harvest. In Alternative 3, the effects to the spotted owl critical habitat unit would be minor since fewer acres of suitable spotted owl habitat within the CHU would be lost compared to Alternatives 2 and 4.

Alternative 3 would have a lower impact to the connectivity block in T33S - R1E – Section 1. All 32 acres proposed for harvest would be selective cut or density management harvest. Regeneration harvest would not occur in this section under Alternative 3. These acres of treatment would be expected to provide spotted owl dispersal habitat after harvest.

The Lost Creek Watershed Analysis suggests maintaining additional patches (40-80 acres) of forest stands in long-term rotation and light-touch entry to provide older stand structure connectivity along a two mile wide corridor between two designated LSR blocks (pg. 77). Alternative 3 would help accomplish this because approximately 59 acres in T32S - R1E – Section 33 are proposed for selective and density management harvest. This would retain dispersal habitat within this proposed 2 mile wide corridor to supplement the owl core “stepping stones.”

Other Wildlife Species

In Alternative 3, more snags and coarse woody debris would be retained because only 18 acres are proposed for regeneration harvest. Minimum ROD standards and guidelines would be met. Under all proposed actions, some snags may need to be felled for safety reasons, but they would be left for coarse woody material. This could result in the loss of cavity nesting habitat, and could disrupt the nesting/breeding cycle for some species, depending on the season the unit is harvested.

The higher number of thinning treatment acres in Alternative 3 could be beneficial for northern goshawks. Both density management and selective cut treatments would reduce the stand density and produce more suitable goshawk habitat and provide better foraging conditions. In the Butte Falls Resource Area, goshawk nests have been found in two timber sale units after the units were commercially thinned. There is no evidence that Alternative 2 would lead to the need to list the goshawk as T&E species.

Under Alternative 3, there would be fewer impacts to neotropical birds within the project area compared to Alternative 2. Only 18 acres are proposed for regeneration harvest under this alternative vs. 98 acres in Alternative 2. A higher amount of cover and nesting habitat for some neotropical birds that use older forests would be retained in Alternative 3. Buffers for Survey and Manage species would preserve small patches of habitat for cover and nesting birds. As mentioned above, minimum ROD guidelines would be met to provide snags for cavity nesting species.

FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION

Threatened and Endangered Species

The effects of fuel hazard reduction would be the same as in Alternative 2.

Other Wildlife Species

The effects of fuel hazard reduction would be the same as in Alternative 2.

The effects of repairing the pump chance would be the same as in Alternative 2.

EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE 4

TIMBER HARVEST

Threatened and Endangered Species

The effects of timber harvest would be the same as in Alternative 2.

Other Wildlife Species

The effects of timber harvest would be the same as in Alternative 2.

FUEL HAZARD REDUCTION

Threatened and Endangered Species

The effects of fuel hazard reduction would be the same as in Alternative 2.

Other Wildlife

The overall effects of fuel hazard reduction would be the same as in Alternative 2. However, in Alternative 4, no units would be treated mechanically with a slashbuster. Therefore, the effects to ground nesting birds would be minimized.

The effects of repairing the pump chance would be the same as in Alternative 2.

EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVE 5

Threatened and Endangered Species

The effects of timber harvest would be the same as in Alternative 3.

The effects of fuels treatments would be the same as in Alternative 4.

Other Wildlife Species

The effects of timber harvest would be the same as in Alternative 3.

The effects of fuels treatments would be the same as in Alternative 4.

The effects of repairing the pump chance would be the same as in Alternative 2.

SHORT TERM USES VS LONG TERM PRODUCTIVITY FOR ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Under Alternatives 2 and 4, timber harvest would result in the greatest loss of habitat for late-successional dependent species. These species would not be expected to recover until late-successional characteristics recover, which could be in 80 to 100 years.

An immediate reduction of forage for big game species would be expected with all action alternatives. However, long term foraging in open areas would be rejuvenated as a result of fuels treatments.

IRREVERSIBLE/ IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES FOR ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

No irreversible effects are identified. In Alternatives 2 and 4, irretrievable commitments would be the loss of 98 acres of large overstory trees in the regeneration harvest units. In Alternatives 3 and 5, irretrievable commitments would be the loss of 18 acres of large overstory trees in the regeneration harvest units. Habitat and connectivity for late-successional species would be provided by riparian reserves, northern spotted owl 100 acre activity centers, and LSR patches in the matrix.

CUMULATIVE EFFECTS FOR ALL ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Under all action alternatives, a reduction of late successional wildlife habitat would occur within the watershed. Habitat protection buffers for the northern spotted owl and other wildlife species would help minimize the cumulative effects to wildlife species within the project area.

Non-federal lands would be harvested and most would remain in early-to-mid seral conditions. The amount of suitable spotted owl habitat has been reduced by approximately 2,887 acres in the adjacent Elk Creek Watershed due to the Timbered Rock fire in July, 2002.

**BUTTE FALLS RESOURCE AREA
SENSITIVE SPECIES REVIEW (May 2003)**
(Table 2)

Project: Flounce Around Timber Sale / Fuels Reduction

U.S.F.W. / OREGON T & E SPECIES						
Species	Status	Range (Y/N)	P/A	Habitat Quality	Survey Level	Comments
American bald eagle	FT	Y	P	High	High	Nests protected
American Peregrine falcon	SE;BS	Y	S	Medium	Limited	No known nests in watershed
Northern Spotted owl	FT	Y	P	Medium	Thorough	LSR, Seasonal Restrictions, No-cut cores, nests protected.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT	N	A	N/A	None	No suitable vernal pools in the project area.

STATE CRITICAL AND BUREAU SENSITIVE SPECIES						
Species	Status	Range (Y/N)	P/A	Habitat Quality	Survey Level	Comments
Black-backed woodpecker	BS	U	U	Low	None	None documented
Cascades frog	BA	Y	S	Medium	Limited	None documented in project area. Present in Lost Creek watershed.
Common kingsnake	BA	Y	S	Medium	None	None documented
Crater Lake tightcoil	BS, SM	Y	S	Medium	Thorough	None detected
Fisher	BS	Y	S	Low	None	None documented
Flammulated owl	BOCC	Y	S	Medium	None	None documented
Foothill yellow-legged frog	BA	Y	S	Medium	Limited	None documented, but suspected
Fringed myotis	BA; PB	U	S	Low	Limited	None documented
Great gray owl	SM	Y	S	Medium	Thorough	Surveyed; No known nests
Lewis' woodpecker	BOCC ; BS	Y	S	Medium	None	None documented
Long-eared myotis						None documented in project area. Present in Lost Creek watershed.
	PB	Y	S	Medium	Limited	
Long-legged myotis	PB	U	S	Medium	Limited	None documented

STATE CRITICAL AND BUREAU SENSITIVE SPECIES						
Species	Status	Range (Y/N)	P/A	Habitat Quality	Survey Level	Comments
Northern goshawk	BS	Y	P	Medium	Thorough	Surveyed; Known nests protected
Olive-sided flycatcher	BOCC	Y	P	Medium	Incidental	Detected during other wildlife surveys
Oregon Shoulderband	BS, SM	Y	P	Medium	Thorough	Known detections protected
Western pond turtle	BS	Y	P	Low	Limited	None detected on BLM land
Pallid bat	PB	U	S	Medium	Limited	None detected None detected. Units East of Lost Creek
Red Tree Vole	SM	Y/N	S	Low	Thorough	Reservoir outside the known range.
Rufous hummingbird	BOCC	Y	S	Medium	Incidental	Detected during other wildlife surveys
Silver-haired bat	PB	Y	S	Medium	Limited	None documented in project area. Present in Lost Creek watershed.
Siskiyou Sideband	SM	Y	S	Medium	Thorough	None detected
Tailed frog	BA	Y	U	Low	Limited	None detected
Three-toed woodpecker	BS	N	A	Low	None	None documented
Townsend's big-eared bat	BS	Y	S	Medium	Limited	None documented
White-headed woodpecker	BOCC ; BS	N	T	Low	None	None documented

Table 2: Special Status Species Review

Status:

FT - Federally Threatened

SE - State Endangered - (note, Peregrine falcons were federally de-listed in 1999, but have not been down-listed in the state of Oregon, due to lack of funds.

SM - Survey & Manage - Forest plan ROD directs protection of known sites and/or survey for new sites

BS - BLM Bureau Sensitive - species that could easily become endangered or extinct. They are restricted in range and have natural or human-caused threats for survival.

BA – BLM Bureau Assessment – species that are not presently eligible for official federal or state status but are of concern, and may, at a minimum need protection or mitigation in BLM activities.

PB – Protection Buffer – Certain survey and manage species that occur outside their designated areas. Any occupied sites would be protected.

BOCC – US Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern list

P/A Presence:

P - Present

S – Suspected

U – Uncertain

A - Absent

American bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

A proposal to remove the American bald eagle from threatened status was considered by U.S.F.W. in 2000. A determination was made to delay the decision until more information is processed. They remain a Federally threatened species.

One bald eagle nest is present in the Lost Creek watershed near Lost Creek Reservoir on Army Corps of Engineer land. Adult and subadult bald eagles have also been observed north of Lost Creek Reservoir during the winter months. An additional nest is located in an adjacent watershed near the mouth of Elk Creek. Lost Creek Reservoir and open fields along the reservoir provide good foraging. Eagles prey on fish, waterfowl, small mammals (rabbits, etc.), and carrion.

Eagles nest in trees are the larger, dominant or co-dominant trees in the stand. These trees are usually components of old growth or older second growth forests.

American Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

Peregrine falcons were de-listed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1999 (Federal Register Volume 64, No. 164, page 46542-46558. August 25, 1999). Protection of nest sites is still required. They remain on the BLM Bureau-sensitive species list. They remain Oregon State endangered and are on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern list.

Peregrines nest primarily in tall cliffs. One active nest site is known within the adjacent Elk Creek Watershed. Suitable cliffs are present in the watershed, and incidental sightings have occurred.

Prey is mostly birds, especially doves and pigeons. Peregrines also prey on shorebirds, waterfowl, and passerine birds. Forest lands provide habitat for prey species for peregrine falcons.

Black-backed woodpecker (*Picoides arcticus*)

The black-backed woodpecker is a Bureau-sensitive species. Presence has not been documented in the Butte Falls Resource area. In Oregon, black-backed woodpeckers are present in higher elevation forests (above 4500 feet). It is closely associated with lodgepole pine and spends most of its time feeding in older lodgepole pine trees.

Cascades frog (*Rana cascade*)

The Cascades frog is a Bureau-assessment species. Cascades frogs are found in the Cascade Mountains, above 2600 feet. They are most commonly found in small pools adjacent to streams

flowing through meadows. Cascades frogs have not been observed in the Flounce Around Project Area. However, they have been observed within the Lost Creek Watershed, approximately 4 miles east of the project area.

Common kingsnake (*Lampropeltis getulus*)

Common kingsnake is a Bureau-assessment species. Common kingsnake are found in oak/pine woodlands, open brushy areas. They are also found in river valleys along streams in thick vegetation. They may also be found in farmlands, especially near water areas. Suitable habitat is limited in the watershed. They could be present in the project area.

Fisher (*Martes pennanti*)

Fisher is a Bureau-sensitive species. Fisher habitat is mature and old growth forests. They appear to be closely associated with riparian areas in these forests. They mainly use large living trees, snags and fallen logs for dens. Fishers were documented in Butte Falls Resource Area during Pacific Northwest Research Station research project on Rogue River National Forest, east of the Flounce Around Project Area.

Flammulated owl (*Otus flammeolus*)

Flammulated owl is on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern list. Habitat is open coniferous forests. Dependent on large primary cavity excavators (Pileated woodpeckers, flickers, and sapsuckers). Flammulated owls have been observed in two adjacent watersheds.

Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana Boylii*)

Foothill yellow-legged frog is a Bureau-assessment species. Habitat is permanent streams with rocky, gravelly bottoms. Distribution is west of the Cascade crest from sea level to 1800 feet. These frogs are closely associated with water. None have been detected within the project area, but they could occur here.

Fringed myotis (*Myotis thysanodes*)

Fringed myotis is a Bureau-assessment and protection buffer species. Fringed myotis is a crevice dweller which may be found in caves, mines, buildings, rock crevices, and large old growth trees. They have been captured in openings and in mid seral stage forest habitats. Food consists of beetles, butterflies, and moths.

Great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*)

Great gray owl is a Survey and Manage species. Habitat preference is open forest or forest with adjoining deep-soil meadows. They nest in broken top trees, abandoned raptor nests, mistletoe clumps, and other platforms created by whorls of branches. They are likely found in low densities across the district.

Lewis' woodpecker (*Melanerpes lewis*)

Lewis' woodpecker is a Bureau-sensitive species and is on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern list. These woodpeckers breed sparingly in the foothill areas of the Rogue River valley. Habitat preference is hardwood oak stands with scattered pine near grassland shrub communities. Breeding areas in the Rogue valley are uncertain. They usually do not excavate nest cavities, but most often use cavities excavated by other woodpecker species. They winter in low elevation oak woodlands.

Long-eared myotis (*Myotis evotis*)

Long-eared myotis is a protection buffer species. They are crevice dwellers found in coniferous forests in the mountains. Individuals are frequently encountered in sheds and cabins. They have also been found beneath the loose bark of trees. They seldom reside in caves, but may occasionally use caves as a night roost. They are not known to occur in large colonies.

Long-legged myotis (*Myotis volans*)

Long-legged myotis is a protection buffer species. They are an open-forest dweller found in small pockets and crevices in rock ledges, caves, and buildings. When in caves, they hang in clumps in deep twilight zones.

Northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*)

Goshawk is a Bureau-sensitive species. Goshawks are found in a variety of mature forest types, including both deciduous and conifer types. Dense overhead foliage or high canopy cover is typical of nesting goshawk habitat. Perches where they pluck their prey, known as plucking posts, are provided by stumps, rocks, or large horizontal limbs below the canopy. 2 nests have been located within the Lost Creek watershed, and only 1 nest is within the Flounce Around Project Area boundary.

Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)

Northern spotted owl is a Federally Threatened species. Old growth conifer forest is preferred nesting, roosting and foraging habitat, or areas with some old growth characteristics. They prefer multi-layered, closed canopies with large diameter trees with an abundance of dead and down woody material. Northern spotted owls nest in cavities 50 or more feet above the ground in large decadent old growth trees. They also nest in large mistletoe clumps, abandoned raptor nests, and platforms formed by whorls of large branches. Prey is primarily small arboreal mammals, such as flying squirrels, woodrats, voles, etc. and occasionally small birds.

Western pond turtle (*Clemmys marmorata marmorata*)

Western pond turtle is a Bureau-sensitive species. They live in most types of freshwater environments with abundant aquatic vegetation, basking spots, and terrestrial surroundings for nesting and over-wintering. Some western pond turtles leave water in late October to mid-November to overwinter on land. They may travel up to 1/4 mile from water, bury themselves in duff and remain dormant throughout winter. Turtles have been found to generally stay in one place in areas with heavy snowpack, but may move up to 5-6 times in a winter in areas with little or no snow. General habitat characteristics of overwintering areas appear to be broad.

In many areas, predation on the hatchlings and competition from bullfrogs, bass, and other exotic species is limiting population levels.

Olive-sided flycatcher (*Contopus borealis*)

Olive-sided flycatcher is on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern list. Habitat is coniferous forests and open woodlands. They use snags for perches.

Oregon shoulderband (*Helminthoglypta hertleini*)

Oregon shoulderband is a Bureau-sensitive mollusk species. It was removed from the Survey and Manage list in May 2003. They are generally associated with moist rocky areas. 22 Oregon shoulderband locations were discovered in the project area during mollusk surveys.

Pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*)

Pallid bat is a protection buffer species. This bat is a crevice dweller. Rock crevices and human structures are used as day roosting sites. Recent radio telemetry studies indicate that pallid bats use interstitial spaces in the bark of large conifer trees as a roost site. They also have been observed roosting in a hollow tree. Food consists of beetles, grasshoppers, moths, and other insects found on or near the ground or on grasses or shrubs.

Red tree vole (*Arborimus longicaudus*)

Red tree vole is a Survey and Manage species. An arboreal vole which lives in douglas fir, spruce, and hemlock forests. Food consists entirely of needles of the tree in which they are living. They build a bulky nest, up to the size of a half bushel measure in the branches, usually near the trunk, 15-100 feet above the ground. The nest becomes larger with age, and may be occupied by many generations.

Rufous hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*)

Rufous hummingbird is on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern list. Habitat is open coniferous forests, oakwoodlands, shrubs, and riparian areas. Needs open space for aerial courtship displays.

Silver-haired bat (*Lasionycteris noctivagans*)

Silver-haired bat is a protection buffer species. The species is a tree dweller, living mostly under bark and in tree trunks. It may also be found roosting in foliage of trees. Silver-haired bats are rarely found in human structures.

Siskiyou Sideband (*Monadenia chaceana*)

Siskiyou sideband is a Survey and Manage mollusk species. Their habitat is under rocks, talus, and woody debris in moist conifer forests and in shrubby areas in riparian corridors. No Siskiyou sideband mollusks were detected from mollusk surveys in the project area.

Tailed frog (*Ascaphus truei*)

Tailed frog is a Bureau-assessment species. Their habitat is cold, fast flowing permanent streams in forested areas. Temperature tolerance range is low, 41-61 degrees Fahrenheit. Tailed frogs are closely tied to water.

Three-toed woodpecker (*Picoides tridactylus*)

Three-toed woodpecker is a Bureau-sensitive species. Presence is undetermined in the Butte Falls Resource Area. Range is along the crest of the Cascade Range and eastward. Generally they are found in higher elevation forests, above 4000 feet. In eastern Oregon, three-toed woodpeckers nest and forage in lodgepole pine forests. They are occasionally found roosting in hemlock and Engelmann spruce trees in mature and over mature mixed conifer forests. Bark beetle larvae are primary food source.

Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*)

Townsend's big-eared bat is a Bureau-sensitive species. They roost in mines, caves, cavities in trees, and attics of buildings. They have low tolerance to changes in temperature and humidity and removal of trees around these sites may change airflow patterns to make the area less desirable as a hibernaculum, maternity, or roosting site. Food consists primarily of moths, and other arthropods.

Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*)

Vernal pool fairy shrimp are a Federally threatened species. Habitat is vernal pools. They have only been found in Agate Desert and Table Rock areas in Oregon.

White-headed woodpecker (*Picoides albolarvatus*)

White-headed woodpecker is a Bureau-sensitive species and is on the US Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern list. They are closely associated with ponderosa pine or ponderosa pine-mixed conifer forests. It requires large trees for foraging. They are found on the Dead Indian Plateau. Presence in the Butte Falls Resource Area is undetermined.

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