

# Interim Barred Owl Working Group



Jim Thrailkill  
January 8, 2008



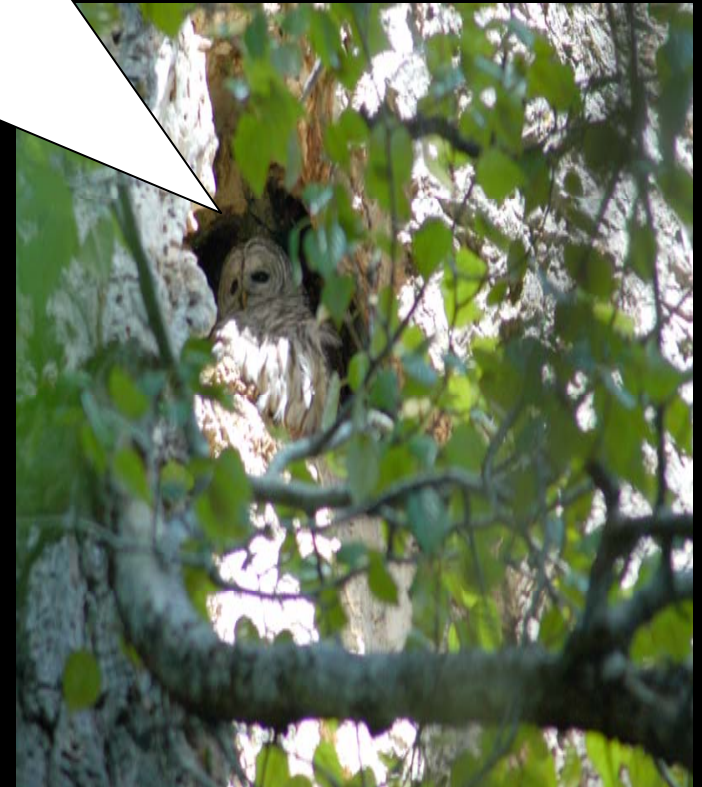
# Barred Owl Working Group (BOWG)

## BOWG

- History
- Composition
- Activities
- Timelines

**Disclaimer:**  
**All products of the BOWG,**  
**including this presentation,**  
**are draft and pre-decisional**

**Photo Credits: Jared Hobbs,**  
**Scott Graham, Peter Singleton,**  
**Lowell Diller, Scott Gremel, Jamie Acker,**  
**and others.**



# BOWG History

- 2007 Draft Recovery Plan released
- 2007 OFWO became FWS R1 lead office for NSO & barred owl issues

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Draft Recovery Plan for the Northern Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*)



# Draft Recovery Actions

**Action 2: Manage to minimize negative effects of barred owls**

**Action 3: Establish a barred owl working group**

**Action 4: Analyze existing data concerning effects of barred owls on spotted owls**

**Action 5: Analyze habitat use and possible habitat and resource partitioning**

**Action 6: Conduct experimental control of barred owls to assess effects on spotted owls**

**Action 7: Incorporate the presence of barred owls into ongoing spotted owl monitoring**

**Action 8: Create and implement an educational outreach strategy**

**Action 9: Give permitting of experimental removal of barred owls a high priority**

**Action 10: Evaluate and improve survey protocols to detect spotted owls**

**Action 11: Evaluate use of spotted owl surveys to declare sites unoccupied**

**Action 12: Create incentives to develop spotted owl habitat and manage barred owls**

# Draft Recovery Plan

## Action 3: Establish a barred owl working group

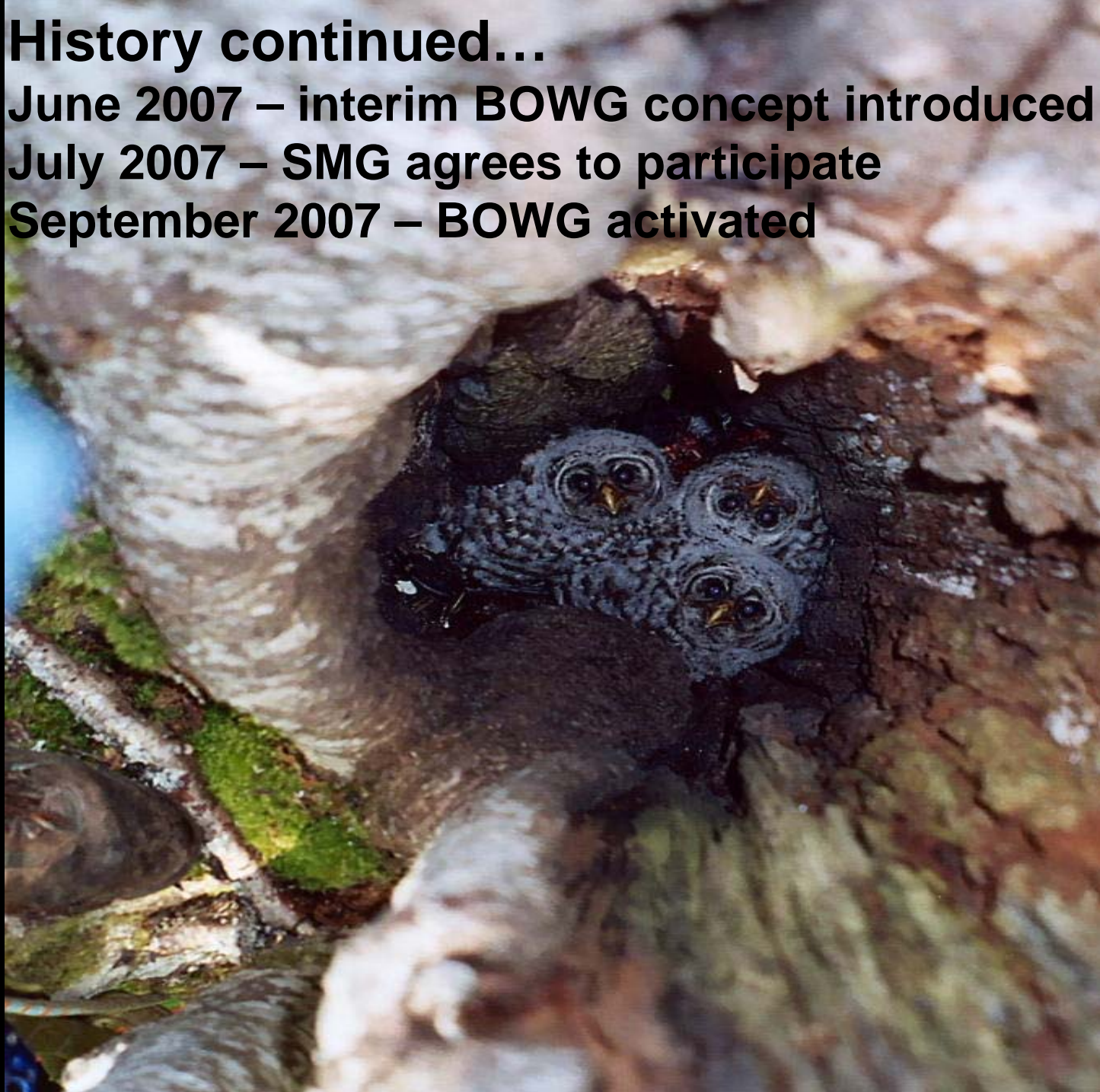
“..establishment of a working group of entities (Federal and state agencies, Tribes, timber industry, universities and NGOs) that would coordinate actions relative to barred owl research, management and public outreach.”

# History continued...

June 2007 – interim BOWG concept introduced

July 2007 – SMG agrees to participate

September 2007 – BOWG activated



# **BOWG Composition**

**FWS: CA, OR, & WA offices**

**BLM – OR/WA SO**

**FS – Region 6**

**NPS – OLY NP**

**WA DF&W**

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**Others being invited**

**-----**

**Specialists as needed**

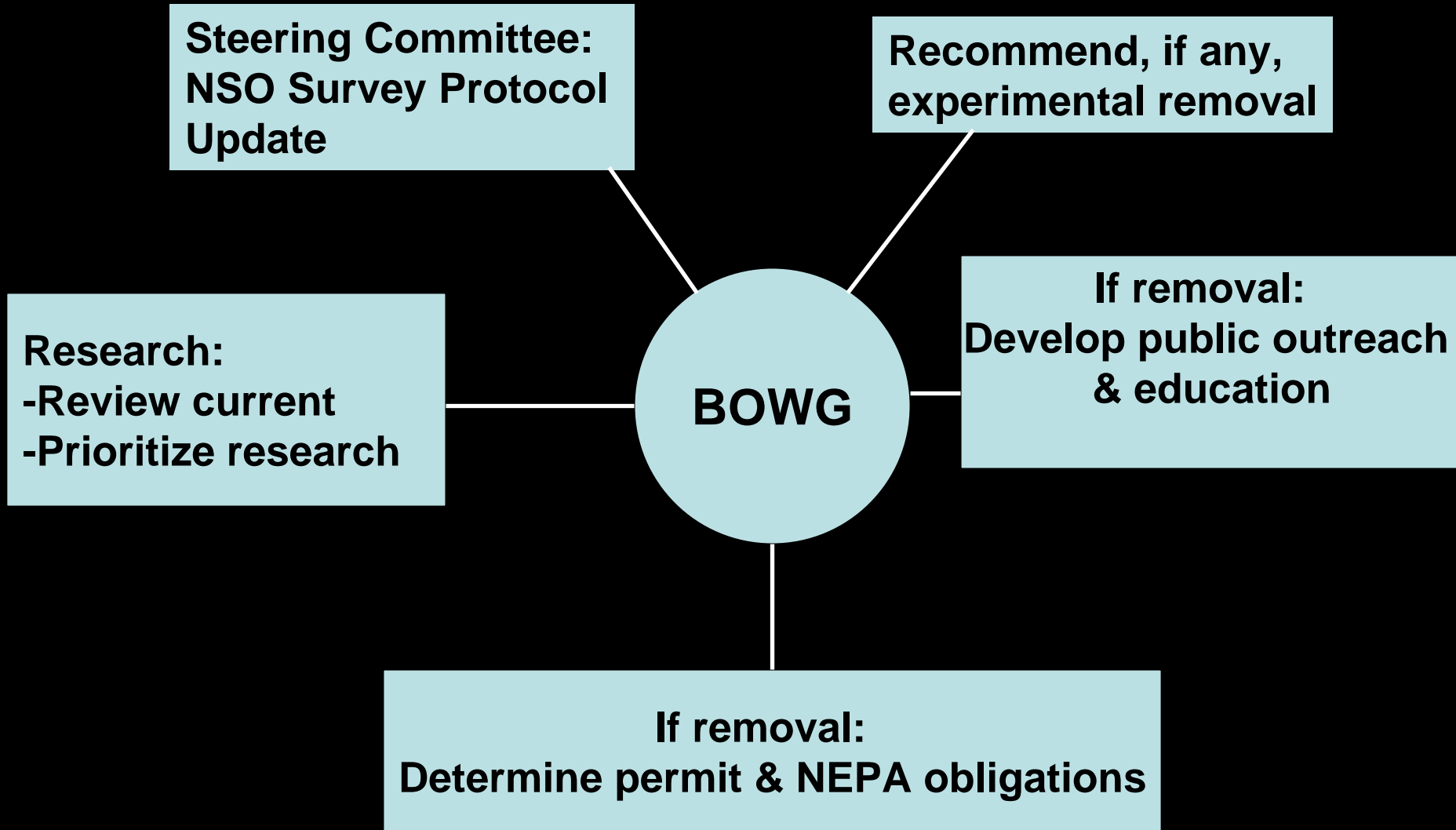


# BOWG Mission

- **Implement barred owl related actions identified in the draft 2007 NSO recovery plan or other actions as needed.**
- **Report to FWS ARD and SMG**



# BOWG Work Plan



# Work Plan Specifics

## Research

- Catalogued approx. 30 research & monitoring activities related to barred owls (home range & habitat selection, diet, interaction, etc)
- Drafting research and monitoring strategy (Mulder et al. 1999)
- January 08 - discussing telemetry/detectability study prioritization, per protocol update

# Work Plan Specifics

## Experimental Removal

- Waiting release of “Ft. Collins” report
- Drafted “mile-posts” needed to cross prior to conducting any experimental removal
- Will review and make experimental removal recommendation(s) to Managers

# Work Plan Specifics

## Public Outreach & Education

- No formal activities, waiting for Ft. Collins report

## Permit & NEPA Obligations

- See above



# Work Plan Specifics

## NSO Survey Protocol Update

### Two approaches:

- Mining existing data
- Field work- detectability



# Protocol Update: Mining Existing Data

## Question of interest:

What is the probability ( $p$ ) of detecting an NSO on a visit given presence or occupancy, with & w/o barred owl presence?

- Provincial variation
- 1 v 2 year surveys

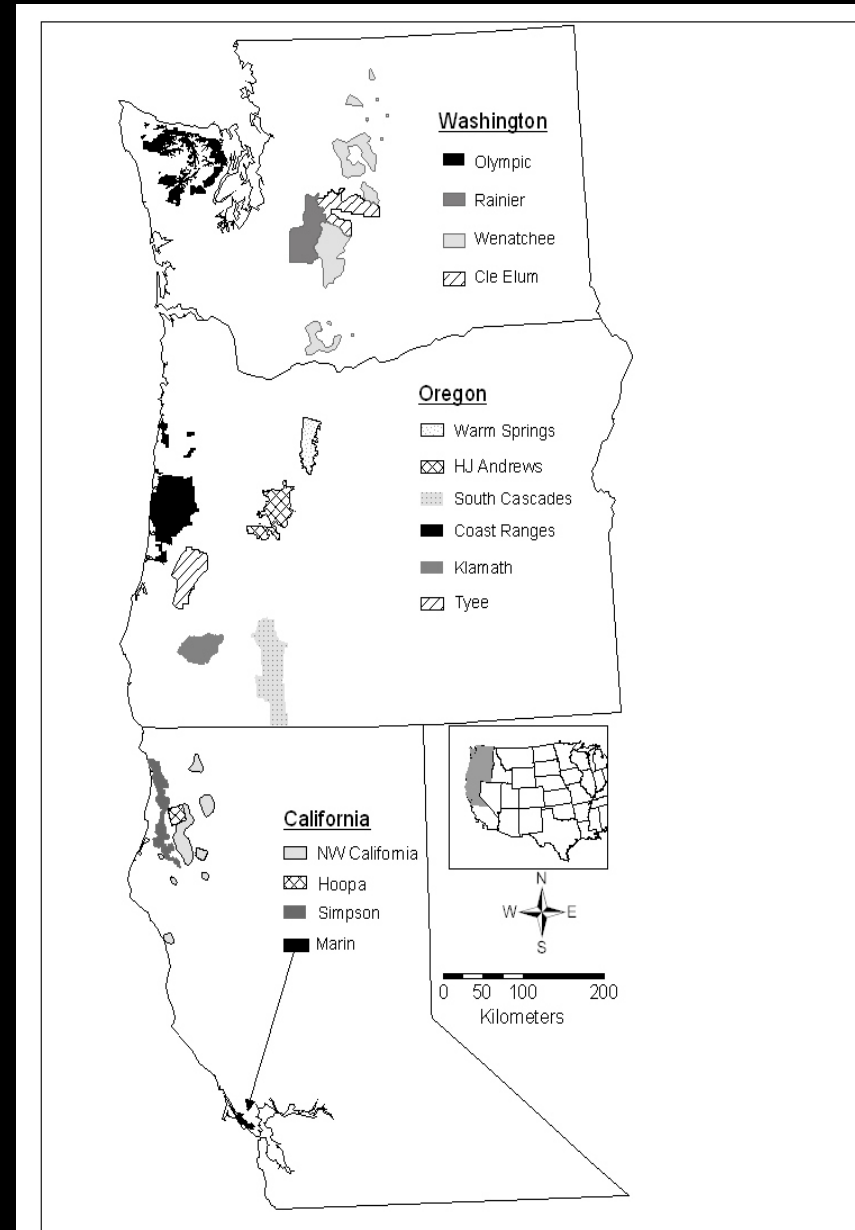
## Question of interest:

What is the reoccupancy rate of historic sites by NSOs?



# Mining Data – From where?

- 8 NWFP NSO monitoring areas
- Other study areas?



# Protocol Update: Field Work

## Detectability:

- Challenge barred & spotted owls with conspecific calls and monitor with radio-telemetry (movement & response data)

Where: Possible study areas  
in WA, OR, & NW CA



# BOWG Timelines - DRAFT!

## Research Strategy:

- Draft end of 2008

## Experimental Removal:

- Recommendation to Managers  
spring/summer 2008
- Outreach concurrently
- Implementation?

## Protocol Update:

- Data analysis 2008
- FWS/SMG deliberations Fall '08
- Release in early 2009

## Interim BOWG:

- Will continue to meet until NSO  
recovery plan signed. Then what?



# Thanks! Questions?

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