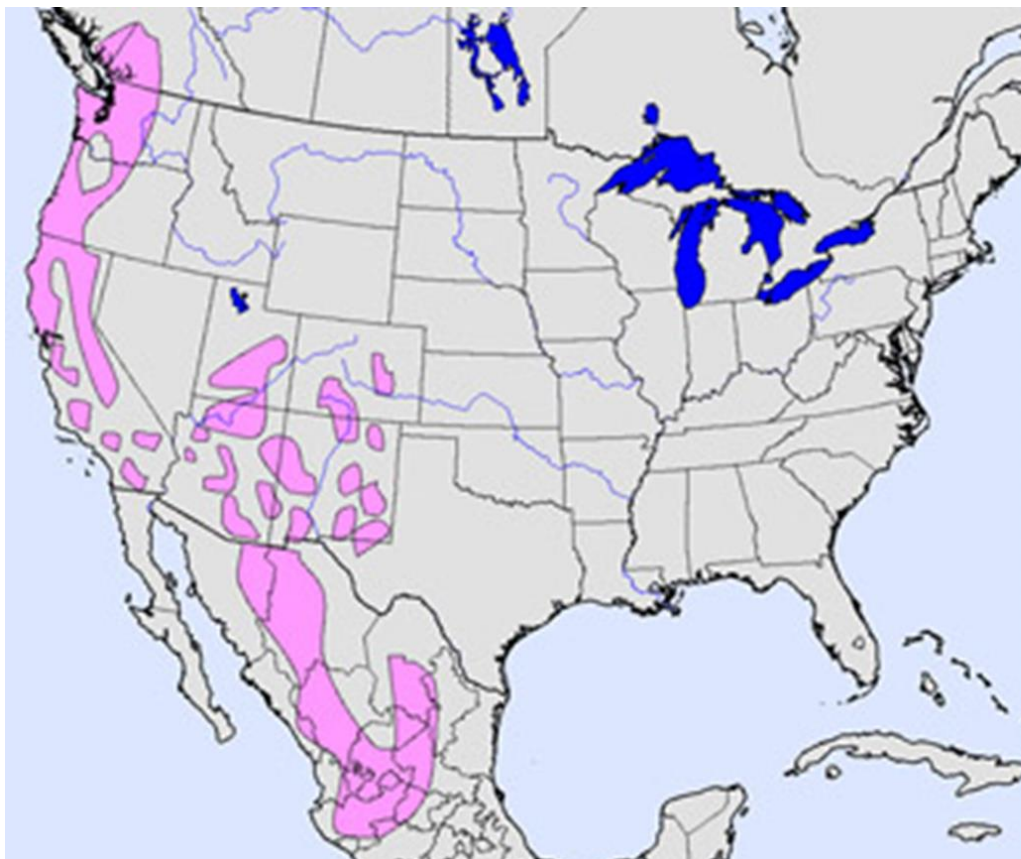


# The Spotted Owl Controversy



## Habitat



*Spotted Owl*  
*Strix occidentalis*

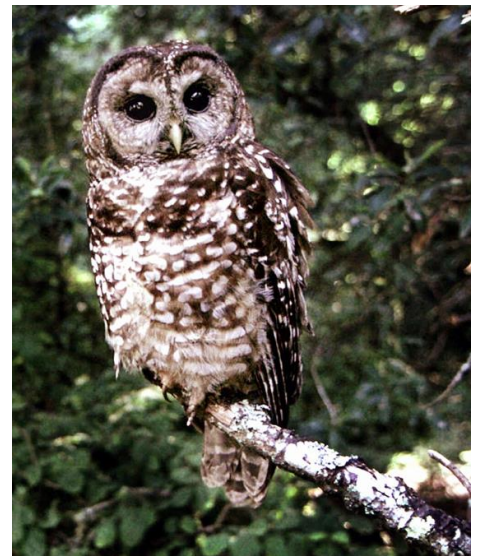
- Permanent Resident
- Breeding Resident
- Nonbreeding Resident
- Passage Migrant
- Introduced
- Uncertain Status
- Vagrant

# Habitat



## The Controversy

- In 1986, a worried environmentalist group petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the owl as an "endangered species"
- 1990 – Northern Spotted Owl is placed on the endangered species list.
  - No more logging (bad for timber industry)
  - Timber companies are required to leave at least 40% of the old-growth forests intact within a 1.3 mile radius of any spotted owl nest or activity site.
  - Thousands of Oregon loggers and mill workers were left jobless – a result of dire economic consequences of preservation.
  - Fight between those who think the owl should be protected and those who think the timber industry (and those who depend on it) should be more important.
- Does society have a fundamental obligation to preserve this rare species and the wilderness it inhabits?



# The Environmentalists

- Pro-Owl
  - Should be on protection list.
- They believe protecting owl should be priority.
- The Spotted Owl is an “indicator species” - believe the health of owl population tells people how healthy the forest is.
- Focused on saving an entire ecosystem on which plants, other animals, and humans depend.
- The owl and its habitat are of immense scientific value, providing opportunities for inquiry and for increasing our understanding of this unique ecosystem
- What kind of society would trade the magnificence of these virgin forests and the splendor of the life that inhabits them -- owl, elk, bald eagles, and mountain goats -- for paper cups and two-by-fours?



# The Timber Industry

- Pro-timber/logging
- Reduced logging in the old-growth forests will harm all Americans and be particularly devastating to communities in the Pacific Northwest.
  - Depend on logging for jobs, health of their community.
  - These forests are a primary source of timber for most independent lumber mills in the Northwest, which account for about 65% of Western wood.
    - Up to 28,000 jobs could be lost
  - Cutting the old growth is essential if present and future generations are to be provided with the wood and paper products they need.
- Believe putting owl on list is too extreme.
- Believe it is more important to protect people than the owls.



Who gives a hoot about owls anyway?

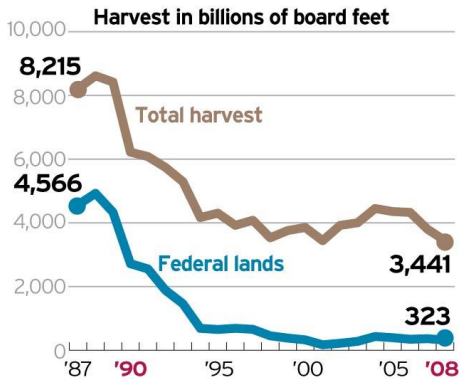


Silly bird-watchers are putting our lumberjacks out of work!



## Oregon's timber harvest

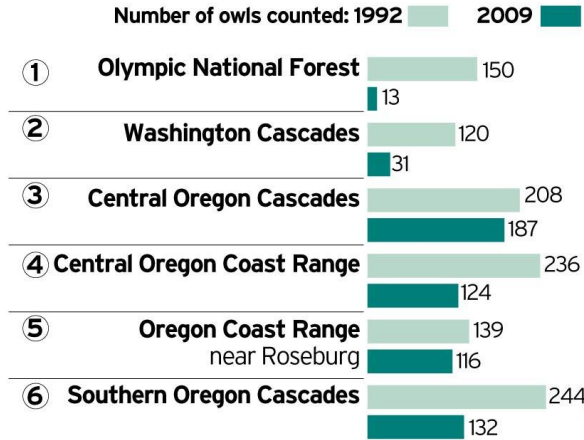
The spotted owl's listing under the Endangered Species Act in 1990 sharply reduced logging on Oregon's federal forests, which cover nearly 60 percent of the state's forestland. Today, three-quarters of Oregon's timber comes from privately owned forests.



Source: Oregon Department of Forestry; Interagency Regional Monitoring Program

## Adult spotted owl trends

For two decades, researchers have counted spotted owls in study areas scattered through the bird's U.S. range from Washington to Northern California. Below are counts, all declining, in six Oregon and Washington study areas that reported results through 2009:



DAN AGUAYO/THE OREGONIAN