Oregon Status Factors

Elcode ABNSB12040

Gname STRIX NEBULOSA

Gcomname GREAT GRAY OWL

Number of Occurrences

C = 21 - 80
D = 81 - 300

Comments Uncommon to rare in the state.

Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

U = Unknown what number of occurrences with good viability

Comments Southern populations in the western U.S. are relatively stable. Northern populations and those at the southern edge of the range in eastern Canada are less stable (Bull and Duncan 1993).

Population Size

C = 250-1,000 individuals

Comments

Range Extent

F = 20,000-200,000 km2 (about 8,000-80,000 square miles)

Comments Uncommon to rare inhabitant of forests adjacent to openings in the Cascade, Blue, and Wallowa mountains. Most observations in the Cascades are from east of the crest, though they have been discovered breeding west of the crest in the Willamette National Forest (Goggans and Platt 1992). Recently, a population has been discovered in the Siskiyou Mountains.

Area of Occupancy

G = 2,000-20,000 km2 (500,000-5,000,000 acres)

LG = 20,000-200,000 km (about 12,500-125,000 miles)

Comments Unevenly distributed and variable throughout its range. Average home range size for adults in Oregon is 67.3 km2 (Bull and Duncan 1993).

Long-term Trend in Population Size, Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy, and/or Number or Condition of Occurrences

C = Substantial Decline (decline of 50-75%)
D = Moderate Decline (decline of 25-50%)

Comments Little is known of its actual status, and historical records have largely been limited to infrequent, unplanned encounters (Bryan and Forsman 1987).

Short-term Trend in Population Size, Extent of Occurrence, Area of Occupancy, and/or Number or Condition of Occurrences

D = Declining. Decline of 10-30% in population, range, area occupied, and/or number or condition of

occurrences

Comments Assumed to be declining because of loss of nesting sites (Platt and Goggans 1992).

Threats

A = Substantial, imminent threat. Threat is moderate to severe and imminent for most (> 60%) of the population, occurrences, or area. Ecological community occurrences are directly impacted over a widespread area, either causing irreversible damage or requiring long term recovery

Scope High Severity Moderate Immediacy High

Comments Timber harvest has the greatest potential impact on populations (Bull and Duncan 1993). Livestock grazing could potentially have adverse affects on the prey base.

Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

C = Several (4-12) occurrences appropriately protected and managed

Comments On U.S. National Forest land, known nest sites are protected from logging (Bull and Duncan 1993); however, some interpretations of the no-harvest buffer around meadows and openings is limiting meadow restoration projects.

Intrinsic Vulnerability

B = Moderately Vulnerable. Species exhibits moderate age of maturity, frequency of reproduction, and/or fecundity such that populations generally tend to recover from decreases in abundance over a period of several years (on the order of 5-20 years or 2-5 generations); or species has moderate dispersal capability such that extirpated populations generally become reestablished through natural recolonization (unaided by humans). Ecological community occurrences may be susceptible to changes in composition and structure but tend to recover through natural processes given reasonable time (10-100 years).

Comments Rarely breeds at 1 year, occasionally at 2 years, more commonly at three years. One brood produced per year (Bull and Duncan 1993).

Environmental Specificity

B = Narrow. Specialist or community with key requirements common.

Comments Inhabits mature to old-growth coniferous forests adjacent to openings in the forest, usually meadows. Nesting and roosting requirements involve old-growth. Roost and nest within the forest and forage in the adjacent openings that support abundant small rodents. Build no nests of their own, thus are depend upon pre-existing nesting sites. These nest sites include natural depressions in the tops of large-diameter trees that have broken off, mistletoe clumps, and stick nests built by other animals, often those of Northern Goshawks and Red-tailed Hawks (Bryan and Forsman 1987).

Other Considerations

ORNHIC - List 4

Edition 11/18/2002 **Edauthor** Scheuering, E.

Grank S3 **Grank Date** 11/18/2002

Greasons

Little is known of numbers or changes in populations in Oregon. Assumed to be declining because of loss of required habitat. Potential immediate threats are widespread.

BCD Sources

New Sources

Bryan, T. and E. D. Forsman. 1987. Distribution, abundance, and habitat of Great Gray Owls in southcentral Oregon. Murrelet 68: 45-49.
Bull, E. L., and J. R. Duncan. 1993. Great Gray Owl (Strix nebulosa). In The birds of North America, No. 41 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.). Acad. of Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, and Am. Ornithol. Union, Washington, D.C.
Goggans, R., and M. Platt. 1992. Breeding season observations of Great Gray Owls on the Willamette National Forest, Oregon. Oreg. Birds 18: 35-41.