

# Washington Status Factors

**Elcode** ABNSB12040  
**Gname** STRIX NEBULOSA  
**Gcomname** GREAT GRAY OWL

## Number of Occurrences

A = 1 - 5

**Comments** Single Element Occurrence in northeast Okanogan and northwest Ferry Counties. 3 nests of pairs listed in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Heritage database. Also found elsewhere in North Central Washington.

## Number of Occurrences with Good Viability

U = Unknown what number of occurrences with good viability

**Comments** Several nest territories in Okanogan and Ferry counties are used regularly.

## Population Size

A = 1-50 individuals

**Comments** 8 nests or pairs, 3 since 1992 listed in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Heritage database. Scattered winter records, irruptive. Jewett cites scattered records, but no nests.

## Range Extent

D = 1,000-5,000 km<sup>2</sup> (about 400-2,000 square miles)

**Comments** The Washington GAP Analysis Project mapped habitat is small, but records known from outside this area. Habitat (montane meadows rimmed with substantial trees for nesting and including hunting perches) widespread through the northern part of the state, the high Cascades, and in parts of Blue Mountains.

## Area of Occupancy

E = 100-500 km<sup>2</sup> (about 25,000-125,000 acres)

LE = 1,000-5,000 km (about 620-3,000 miles)

**Comments** Unknown

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

U = Unknown. Long-term trend in population, range, area occupied, or number or condition of occurrences unknown

**Comments** No apparent trend. Irregular nesting and irruptive winter appearance.

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

U = Unknown. Short-term trend in population, range, area occupied, and number and condition of occurrences

unknown.

**Comments** No evident population decline in the vast majority of the range; apparently stable, but actual population data is lacking for many areas (Nero, 1979 COSEWIC report; Kirk et al. 1995).

### Threats

F = Widespread, low-severity threat. Threat is of low severity but affects (or would affect) most or a significant portion of the population, occurrences, or area. Ecological community occurrences are not threatened severely, with changes reversible and recovery moderately rapid.

**Scope** Moderate                      **Severity** Low                      **Immediacy** High

**Comments** Degradation of meadows by grazing and fire suppression; loss of woodlands to logging and fire; loss of snags.

### Number of Appropriately Protected and Managed Occurrences

U = Unknown whether any occurrences are appropriately protected and managed

**Comments** Habitat in the Cascades is protected, but the species is not known from there. Occurrences in Okanogan County are vulnerable to logging, fire and grazing.

### 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** Numbers in Washington are very low. May be dependent on outside sources if extirpated.

### Environmental Specificity

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

**Comments** Montane meadows, with appropriate woodlands.

### Other Considerations

Young don't disperse widely and adults usually nest in the same area year after year. Peripheral in Washington.

**Edition** 11/14/2002                      **Edauthor** J.W. Fleckenstein

**Grank** S1B,SZN                      **Grank Date** 11/14/2002

### Reasons

Peripheral in Washington, limited threats.

### BCD Sources

### New Sources

Bull, E.L. and J.R. Duncan. 1993. Great gray owl (*Strix nebulosa*). No. 41 IN A. Poole and F. Gill, editors. The birds of North America. The Birds of North America, Inc., Philadelphia, PA. 16 pp.  
Desimones, S. 2002. Wildlife biologist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. Personal communication.

Heritage database. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 14 November 2002.

Jewett, S.G., W.P. Taylor, W.T. Shaw, and J.W. Aldrich. 1953. Birds of Washington State. U. Washington Press. 767 pp.

Washington Gap Analysis Project. Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit. University of Washington Box 355020, Seattle, WA 98195-5020.