

Blue Mountains National Forest Plan Revision—Terrestrial Species

Species Viability

The preferred alternative ...

maintains or improves terrestrial species viability during the life of the plan while providing other benefits ...

Emphasizes the restoration of the most highly departed habitats (dry forest)

Species Viability- what does it mean?

That there is enough habitat and reproducing individuals to allow the species to be self-sustaining on the landscape. For habitat, several scientists have concluded that in order to protect the most sensitive species and to deal with uncertainty, a minimum of 40% of the amount of habitat that occurred historically would represent a "critical threshold for habitat".

Focal Species- provide the coarse filter analysis of habitat and ecosystem health to aide in the development of management direction for the forest plan.

Evaluate habitat condition vs. Historical Condition

Low departure from average Historical Condition?

A key assumption in this analysis is that managing for the historical range of variability

Wolverine

is that managing for the historical range of variability across ecosystems will result in maintaining viability for most species (Hunter et al. 1988; Baydeck 1999; Landres et al. 1999; Samson et al. 2003).

Accept viability

evaluation?

Develop and evaluate plan vision (desired conditions) and strategy

There is no increase in the level of threats to the

Additional modification to plan not needed.

activities.

species from management

Fox Sparrow

back Loop

No

Identify additional conservation strategies through plan components

Design criteria added (standards/guidelines) that reduce degree of risk from management activities.

And/or

Yes

Yes

Monitoring of risk to species and habitat a high priority.

Bighorn Sheep

Dry forest restoration needed

The following two species highlighted the need for restoring both the older and younger stages of the dry forest ecosystem

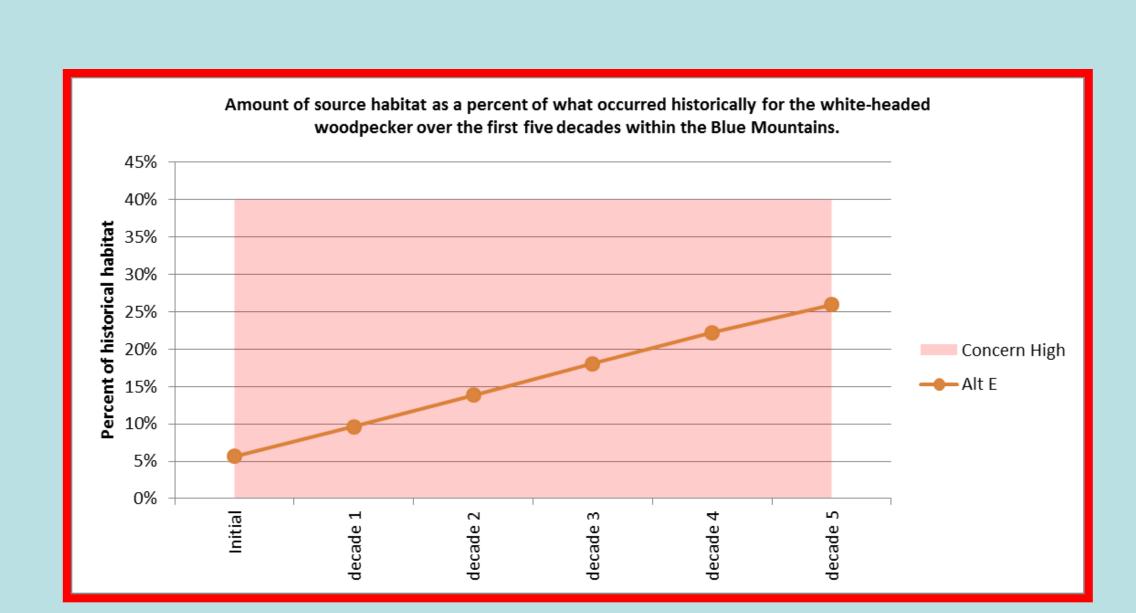


White-headed woodpecker

Medium/Large Tree Family
Dry Forest Group

Results indicate that the amount of source habitat has perilously declined compared to historic conditions. The desired conditions, standards/guidelines and dry forest restoration emphasis will improve habitat for this species. Although habitat is below the 40% threshold, the preferred alternative (E) shows a strong upward trend in habitat.

Monitoring of habitat will occur on all three forests to validate the predictions.



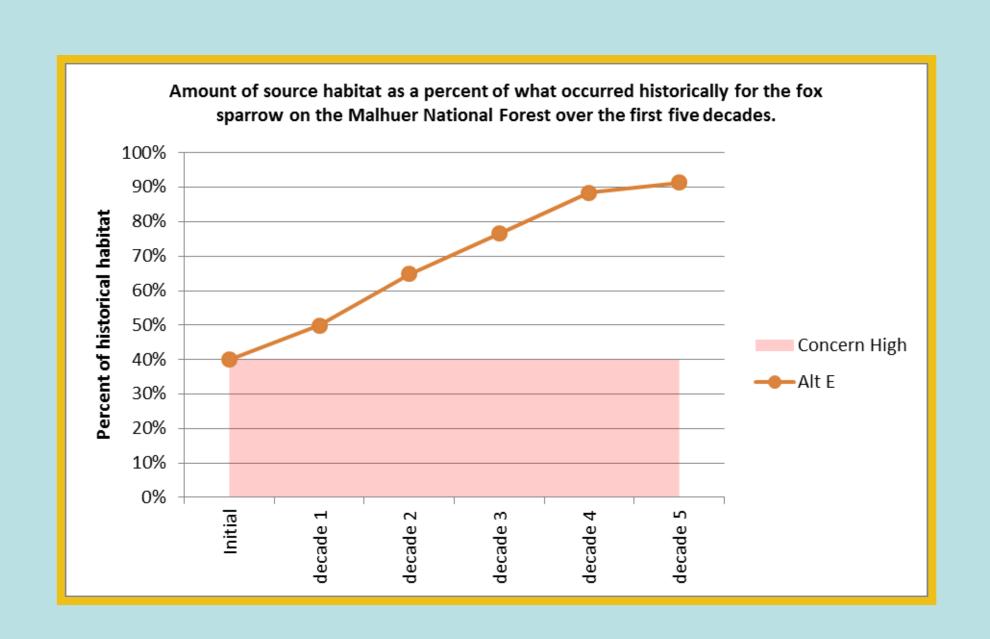
Fox sparrow Open Forest Family Early successional group

Results indicate that the amount of source habitat is well below what occurred historically on the Malheur NF and the amount of source habitat in active grazing allotments remains high. The desired conditions and standards and guidelines will help improve habitat for this species.

Habitat starts below the 40% threshold and Alternatives E reduces the level of concern after the first two decades.

Monitoring of habitat will occur on all three forests to validate the predictions.



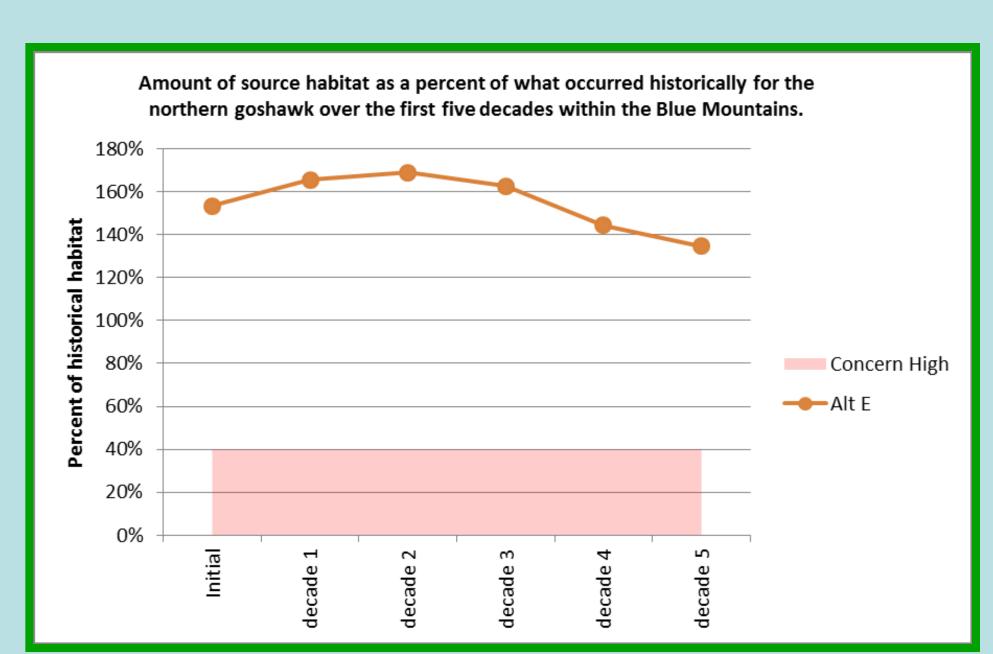


Northern Goshawk Forest Mosaic Family

All Forest Communities group

Results indicate that the amount of source habitat exceeds what occurred historically. All alternatives maintain more than 100 percent over the first two decades. The preferred alternative does not indicate declining habitat until after the third decade and is still above 100 percent.





Boreal Owl Alpine/Boreal Family

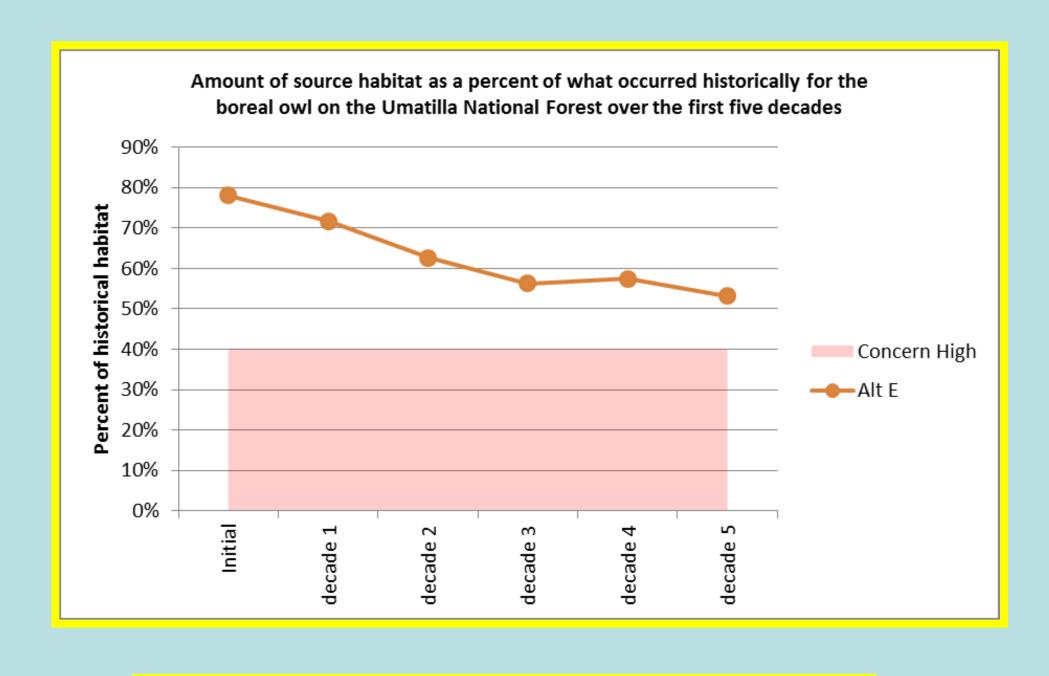
Boreal Forest group

Results indicate that the amount of source habitat will decline in all alternatives on the Umatilla NF, but it still exceeds 60% in the second decade under Alternative E.

Most of this species habitat exists in MAs other than general forest, suggesting that the decline may be due to natural disturbance regimes incorporated in the vegetation model.

Because of this uncertainty monitoring of habitat and risks to the species will occur on the Umatilla NF to validate the predictions and allow for adaptive management if needed.





High priority for monitoring on the **Umatilla National Forest ...**