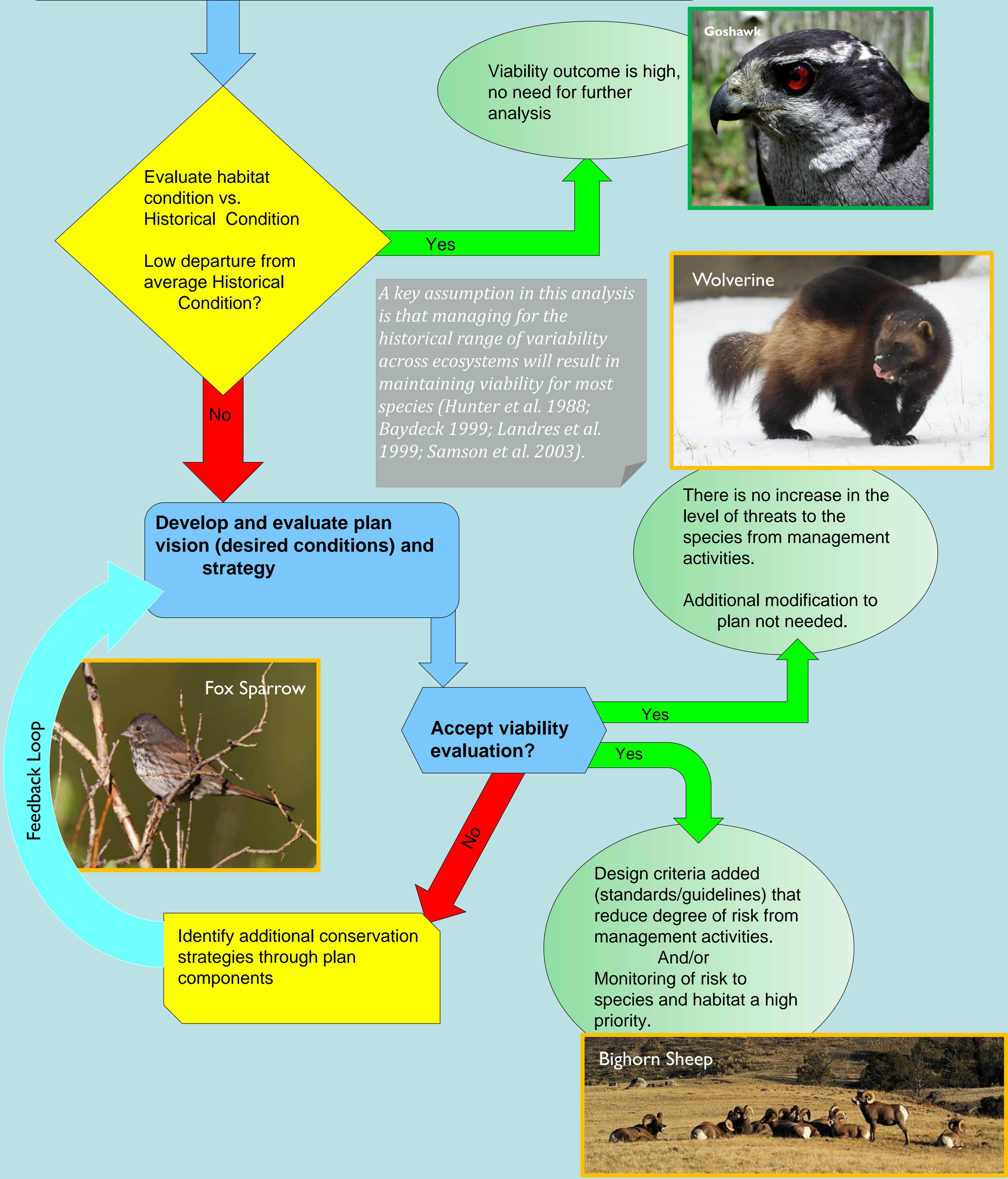




The preferred alternative ...
maintains or improves terrestrial species viability during the
life of the plan while providing other benefits ...
Emphasizes the restoration of the most highly departed habitats (dry forest)

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.



Dry forest restoration needed

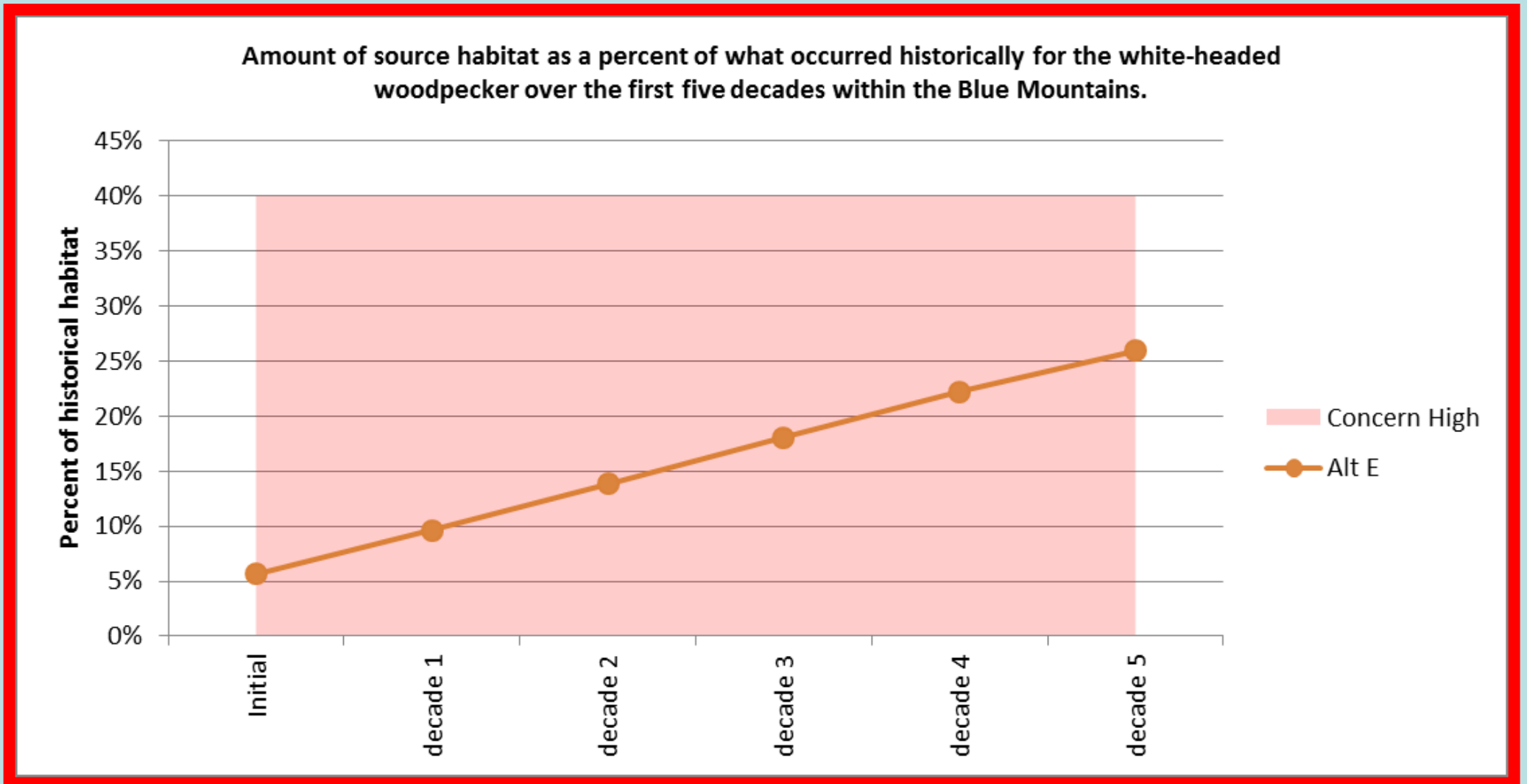
The following two species highlighted the need for restoring both the older and younger stages of the dry forest ecosystem



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.

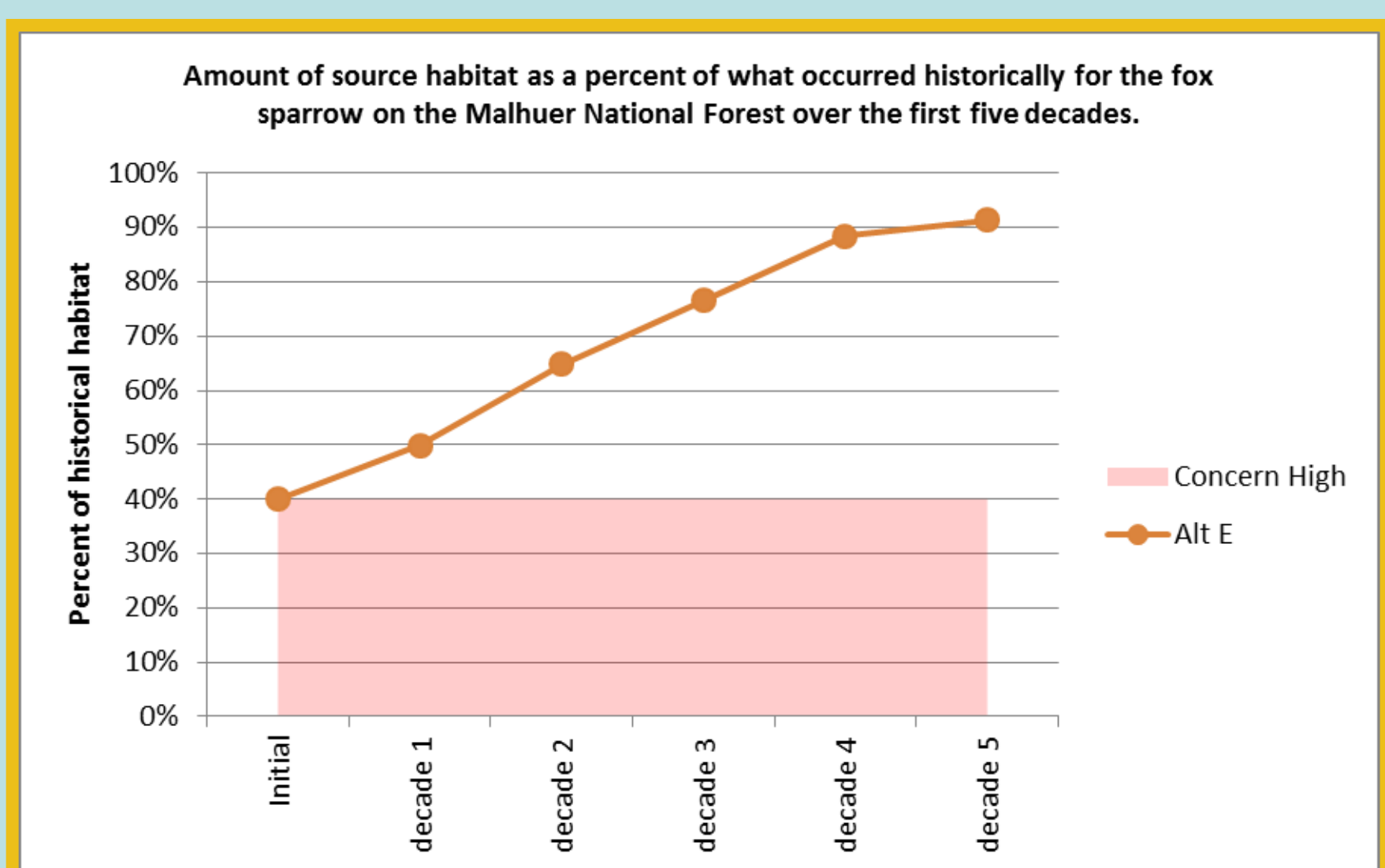


Fox sparrow Open Forest Family Early successional group

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.



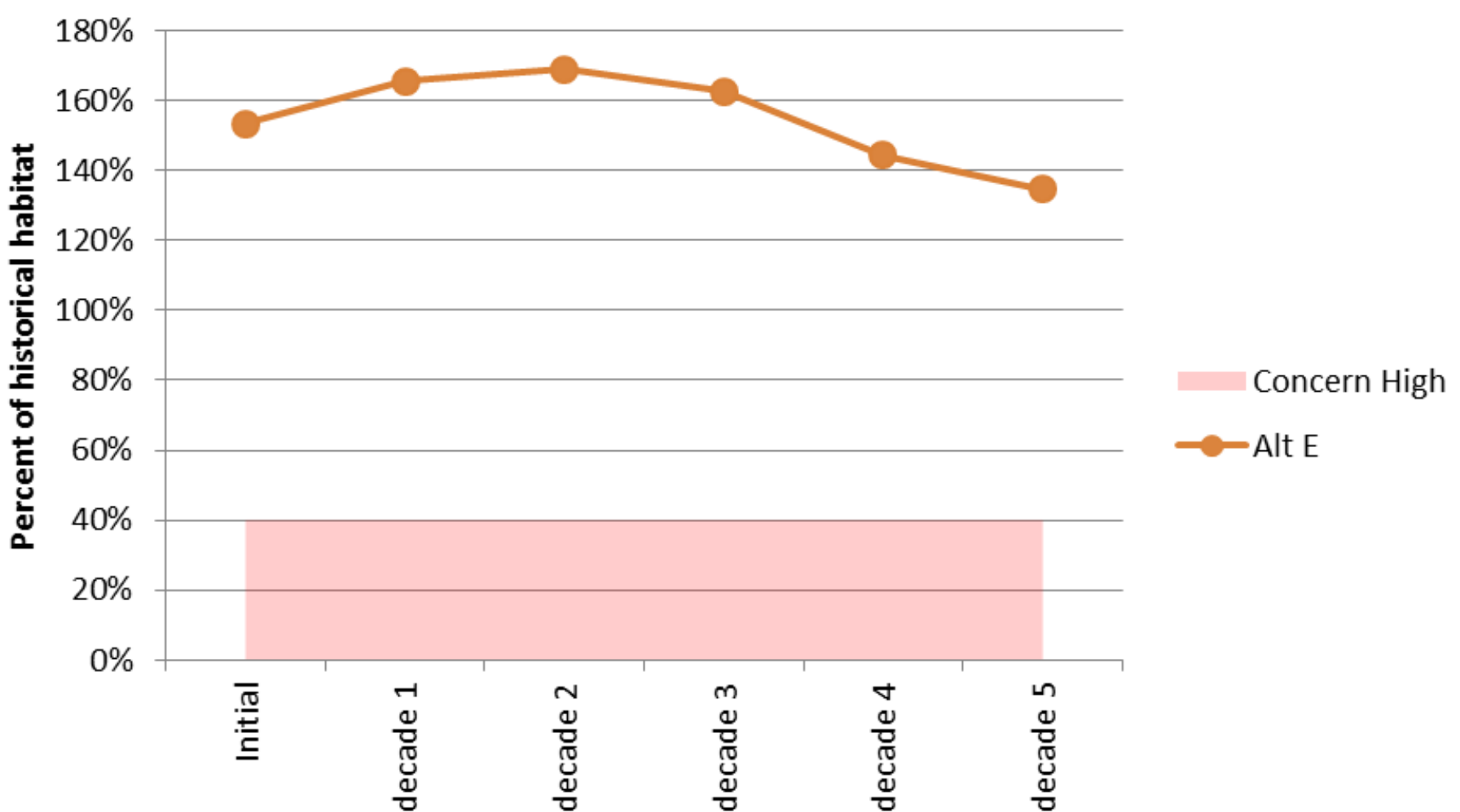
Northern Goshawk
Forest Mosaic Family
All Forest Communities group

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.



Northern Goshawk

Amount of source habitat as a percent of what occurred historically for the northern goshawk over the first five decades within the Blue Mountains.



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.

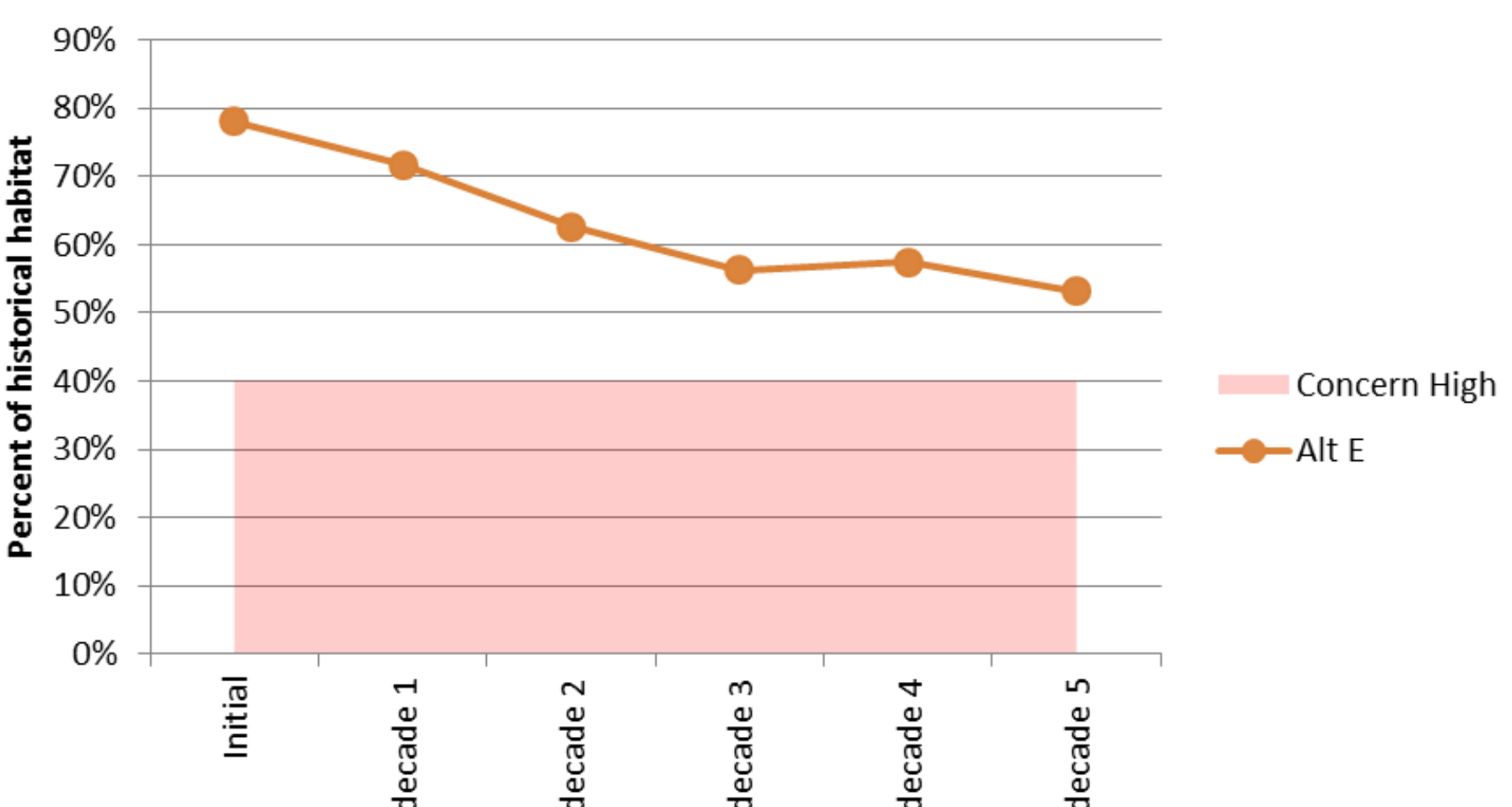
Most of this species habitat exists in MAs other than general forest, suggesting that the decline may be due to natural disturbance regimes incorporated in the vegetation model.

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.



Boreal Owl

Amount of source habitat as a percent of what occurred historically for the boreal owl on the Umatilla National Forest over the first five decades



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