



90 W REDWOOD AVE, FORT BRAGG, CA 95437 PHONE: 707-409-5144

2024-2025 Northern Spotted Owl Surveys' Summary for the Usal Redwood Forest Company Ownership

Prepared by Mike Stephens – Head Biologist, Usal Redwood Forest Company

Please refer to past reports for Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) surveys' summary from 2016-2023. These past reports include descriptions of the property and the NSO survey efforts throughout the property's history under the different ownerships in addition to the increasing impact of Barred Owls. This report will summarize NSO survey efforts from 2024 and (partially) 2025 in addition to the current status of Barred owls on the property.

In 2024 I became the head biologist for the Usal Redwood Forest Company (URFC) and responsible for NSO surveys efforts on the property. Prior to my hiring, I had operated as a consultant/contractor for URFC starting in 2008. In 2024 and 2025 we conducted NSO surveys property-wide, surveying each of our 259 stations a total of 6 times throughout the survey season (March 1 – August 31). Below is a table of our 2024 surveys with a partial table for 2025 (2025 data is still being entered and processed). In 2024, we were able to expand our survey area to the northeastern part of the property which had previously been inaccessible due to a number of obstructions and road issues. We conducted NSO activity center searches on all of the historic 20 NSO territories of the property. In 2024 and 2025 we have determined that all historic NSO activity centers are now occupied by Barred owls. The process of conducting nocturnal station surveys property-wide, 6 times in 2024 and 2025 has led to the discovery of 8 new NSO territories. These new NSO territories are mostly located approximately 1 mile from historic NSO activity centers and in more marginal habitat. 3 of the 8 new NSO territories have not been located in the daytime and thus their activity centers are not currently known. In some cases, these new NSO activity centers, where close enough to historic activity centers, have been incorporated into the existing historic core areas, expanding their overall size and the amount of acres. Moving forward, our NSO surveying are planned to continue with the same effort with an emphasis on finding daytime roost locations for the 3 new territories so as to establish activity centers for them. This will undoubtedly be a challenge as these new NSO territories are a result of Barred owl presence and densities across our ownership and it could very well be that these new territories will once again become occupied by Barred owls, forcing NSO into more marginal habitat. One of the upsides of finding these new NSO territories, is that they have been successful at fledging young. In 2024, 4 of the new NSO territories nested and fledged young. In 2025, 3 of these same NSO territories also successfully nested and fledged young (1 of the 4 2024 nesting NSO territories was not located in 2025).



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URFC NSO Survey Information 2024 – 2025 (partial)

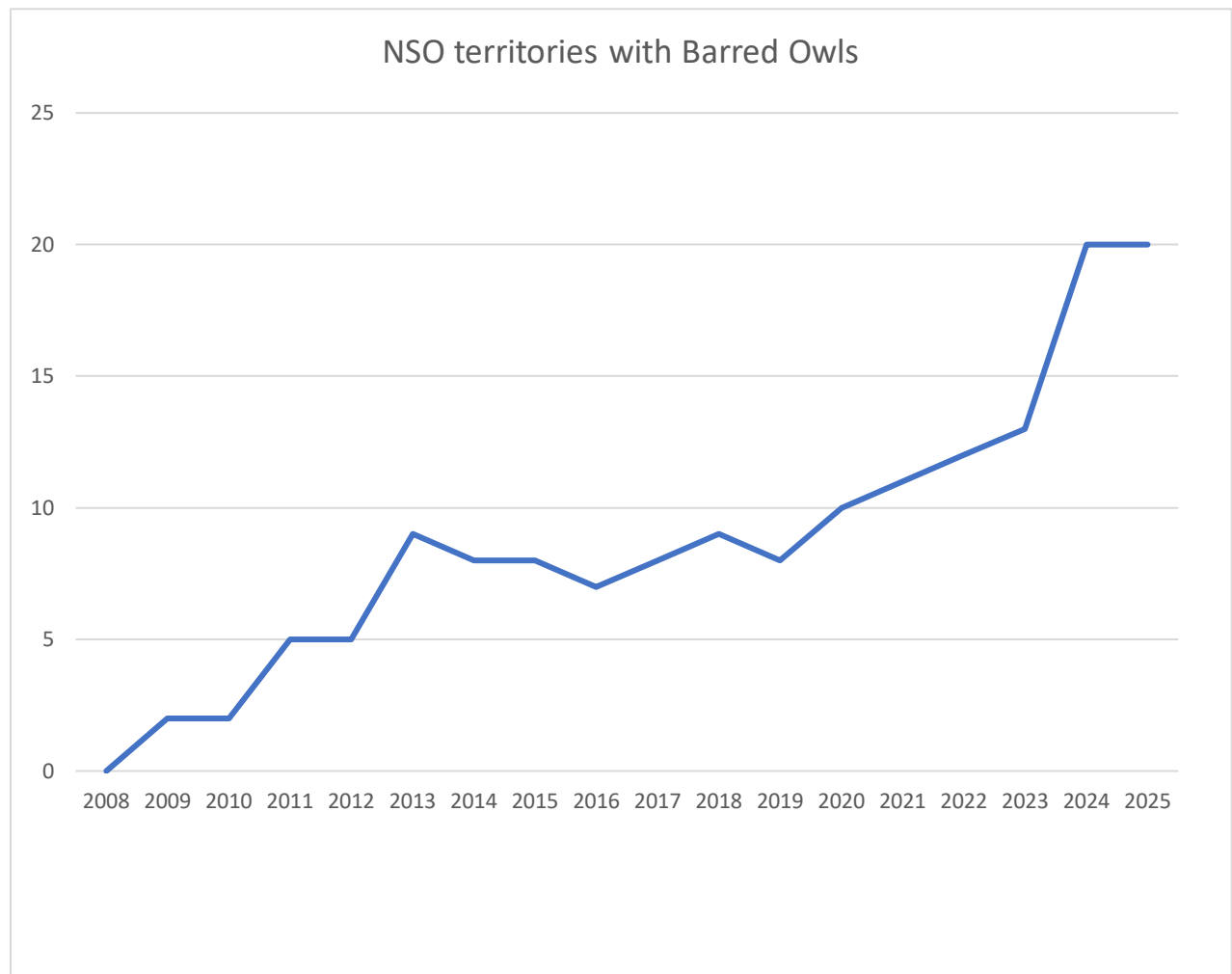
NSO Survey Results	2024	2025
NSO Stations Surveyed	251	*
NSO Station Surveys	1472	*
NSO Territories Monitored	27	27
Active NSO Territories	8	8
Historic NSO Territories not Detected	20	20
New NSO Territories	8	0
Nests Attempted	4	3
Nests Successful	4	3
Young Produced	7	6
Spotted Owl Detections	75	*
Barred Owl Detections	88	*
NSO Territories with Barred Owl Detections	20	20
Barred Owl Nests Confirmed	3	2

***2025 NSO Survey Data not yet complete - still being entered and analyzed**



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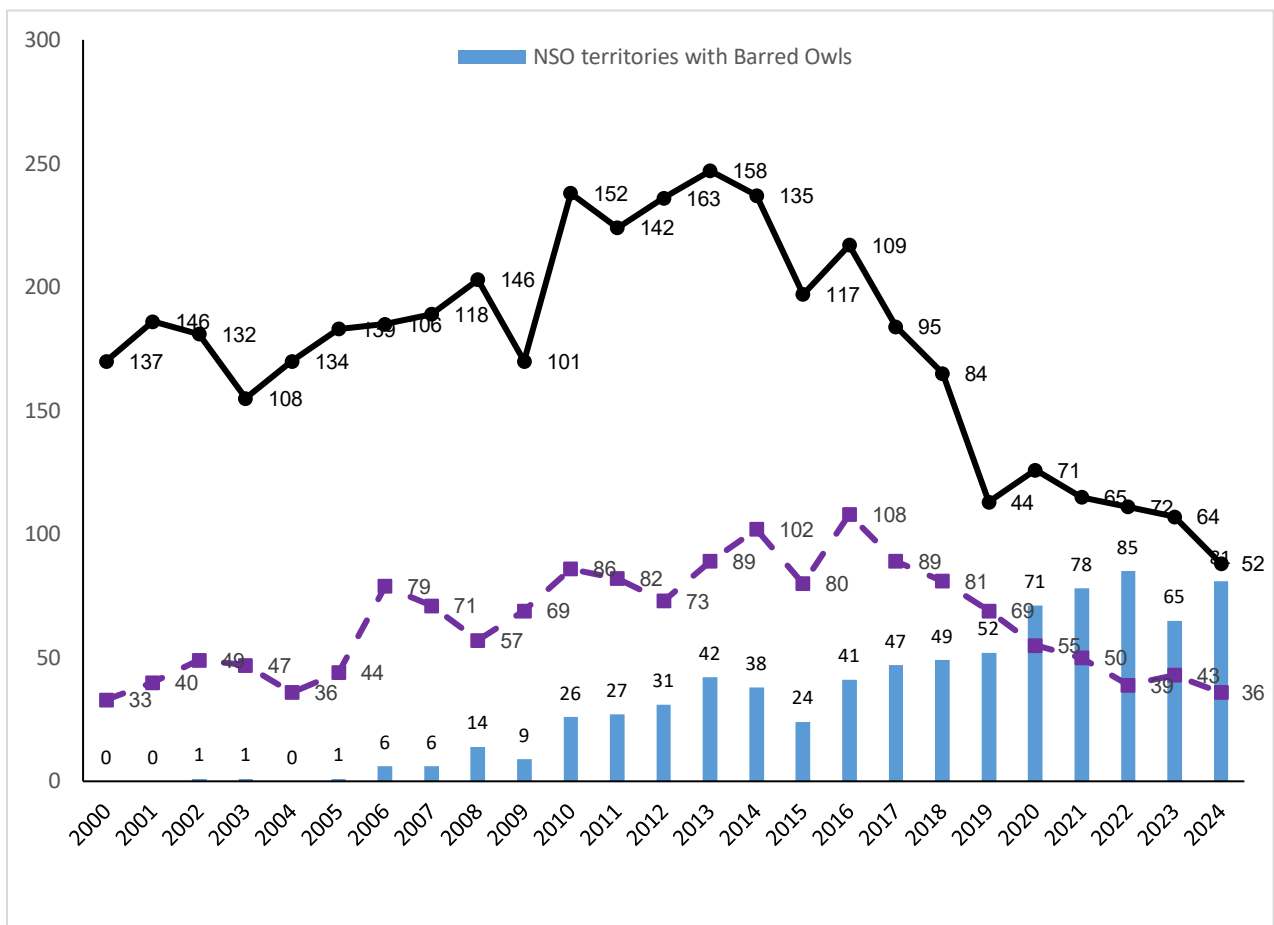
URFC Historic NSO Territories now occupied by Barred owls. Does not include new territories discovered in 2024





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For the past decade NSO survey data from various forestland owners throughout the county has been compiled by myself and Robert Douglas, the Biologist at Jackson Demonstration State Forest (JDSF). Our NSO survey data is collected from landowners representing 500,000 acres in Mendocino County including the Usal Redwood Company property. Below is a graph representing the county-wide trends of NSO and Barred owl detections.



Black = NSO Pairs

Purple = Single NSO