

**OLYMPIC PENINSULA
NORTHERN SPOTTED OWL DEMOGRAPHY STUDY
2013 Annual Report
10 January 2014**

**Brian L Biswell
USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station
3695 93rd Ave SW
Olympia, WA 98512**

This document is a preliminary field summary of survey observations from the 2013 Olympic Peninsula Spotted Owl Demographic Study.

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Direct questions or comments to:

Eric Forsman
USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station
3200 SW Jefferson Way
Corvallis, OR 97331
eforsman@fs.fed.us
541-750-7266

Principal Investigator(s) and Organization(s):

Eric D. Forsman (PI), Lead Biologist: Brian L. Biswell.
Biologists: Debaran Kelso and Kari Williamson.

This document summarizes the results of northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) surveys conducted during the 2013 field season on the Olympic Peninsula Demographic Study by the US Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station (PNW). These results are preliminary survey results for each owl territory and are reported by study area. In 2013, we conducted 261 surveys to 49 owl territories (mean = 5.3 visits per site, range = 3–13). The Quilcene Study Area occurred in the northeast Olympic Mountains and the Soleduck Study Area occurred in the northwest Olympic Mountains. The number of spotted owl sites surveyed in the Quilcene and Soleduck Study Areas were 26 and 24, respectively (Fig. 1). We confirmed bands on 9 non-juvenile spotted owls (3 male, 6 females). Of the 49 sites, we did not detect spotted owls at 41 (84%). Of the 8 sites where we confirmed spotted owls, 3 were occupied by pairs and 5 were occupied by resident singles (Table 1).

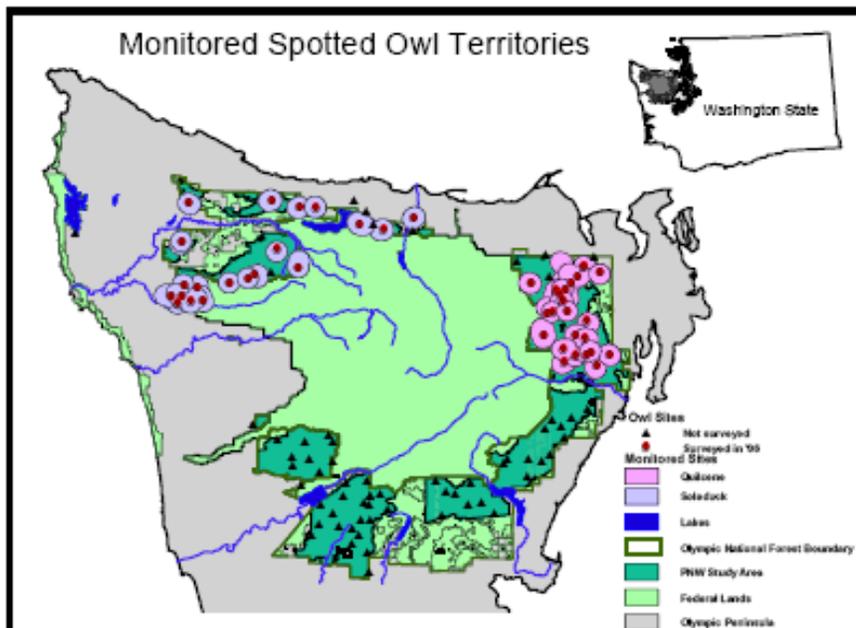


Figure 1. Distribution of northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) survey sites on the Olympic Peninsula Northern Spotted Owl Demography Study. Continuously monitored sites (1987–2013) are depicted as colored circles and southern Olympic Peninsula spotted owl survey sites that were monitored in 1987–2006 are displayed as black triangles.

Table 1. Pair status and nesting status of Northern spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) at territorial sites where owls were located on the Olympic National Forest Demography Study in 2013.

Study area—Site	Occupancy status	Nesting status	Number of young fledged
Quilcene			
Cougar/Bungalow Creek	Pair	No	0
Sink Lake	Pair	No	0
Tunnel Creek Trailhead	Pair	Yes	0
Tyler Peak	Single female	No	0
Soleduck			
Brandeberry Creek	Single male ¹	No	0
Sitkum River, Upper	Single male ²	No	0
Pine Mountain (S Fk SI Duc River) ³	Single female	No	0
Shuwah Creek	Single female	No	0

¹ A female may have been detected on one occasion but the detection was not confirmed.

² The Pine Mountain female was found roosting with the Upper Sitkum River male in July after being confirmed at the Pine Mountain site.

³ Non-demographic owl site.

The following site summaries include the historic owl territory names used by us and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) name and site numbers. In cases where the WDFW used a "site name" different from ours, we included the WDFW name. However, our survey areas may include a greater geographic search area than reflected by the WDFW site name alone.

2013 Soleduck Study Area Summary

Of the 24 sites surveyed in 2013, 4 sites were occupied by single owls. The only male confirmed on the Soleduck Study Area was at Brandeberry Creek. The historic Pine Mountain female was confirmed far down and across the river from where she nested last season. She was located later in the season roosting with the Upper Sitkum River male who earlier had been documented alone on 3 occasions at the site. The Upper Sitkum River male was captured and his juvenile cohort band was replaced with an adult band. He was originally banded as a juvenile on the Quilcene Study Area at Tyler Peak in 2008 by Debaran Kelso.

During non-work related hike along the Bogachiel River, Kari Williamson located a spotted owl in the Olympic National Park. It was in an area historically surveyed by the park but not part of their current demographic study. The owl was banded as a juvenile at a historic Washington Department of Natural Resource (DNR) site in 1996 by Dave Manson and Scott Horton. In 1997–1998, the spotted owl was seen by DNR crews near the coast and the park but was not located until Kari found the owl. This detection, although not on a long-term survey site, provides additional survival data for this bird.

The other interesting event was the reappearance of the Shuwah Creek female on the third visit to

the site this season. This site had detections of several barred owls before she was found and hand grabbed in the same area as she was found 5 years ago. She seemed to be alone and vocal, making contact calls and barks on all 3 visits. This area had been surveyed on foot and covered on a long night hoot earlier in the season, suggesting that she was not present at the site when it was surveyed.

There were no detections at the Boundary Creek or East Twin River sites this year. Both sites have multiple barred owl activity centers. The area was surveyed on foot and covered on a long night hoot earlier in the season. In 2012 the males at both sites were only heard 1–2 times and in 2011 the males were seen a couple of times.

Most sites had barred owl detections on several occasions but Goodman Creek, Cold Creek, and Lower Bear Creek did not.

SOLEDUCK INDIVIDUAL SITE SUMMARIES

ALCKEE CREEK [WDW: # 64]

Status: 4 surveys. **No Spotted owls detected in 2013**
 Historic Location: T29N R10W SEC 36 NE1/4 NW1/16 (2006)
 Historic Pair: Female - R/877-24605, L/Red. (Last confirmed 2006)
 Male - R/1387-65831, L/Black. (Last confirmed 2006)
 Barred owls: The Olympic National Park owl crew detected 1 barred owl

This site was surveyed 3 times by the Olympic National Park crew and 1 time by Kari with no spotted owl detections. The park crew accesses the site by crossing a log that spans the Sol Duc River in the Olympic National Park. Kari surveyed the old route, starting on the 2918 road. Sadly this access is no longer an easy old logging road walk. Starting at the parking area on the 2918, the 100 spur road has been fully decommissioned. Kari's daytime search covered the hillside directly across from the historic area, and the long road walk out, covering the upper basin. Jays were heard, but no barred owls were detected.

BEAR CREEK [WDW: # 3]

Status: 4 surveys. **No spotted owls were detected in 2013**
 Historic Location: T28N R12W SEC 30 NE1/4 SE1/16, Elev.: 760' (2001 nest tree, "BEAR01")
 Historic birds: No spotted owls have been detected since 2001
 Barred owls: No Barred owl were detected

Brian conducted night surveys on the abandoned logging roads of the southern Elk-Reade Block, including the Bear Creek site. No spotted owls or barred owls were detected during 4 complete night surveys

BEAR CREEK, LOWER [WDW: # 115]

Status: 3 surveys. **No Spotted owls were detected in 2013**
 Historic Location: T28N R13W SEC 25 NW1/4 SE1/16, Elev.: 800' (1996 nest tree, "LB96")
 2009 bird Male: L/138759527, R/Black was seen once here in 2009. This wondering individual had been observed at 2 other sites in the previous 5 years and was not detected anywhere in 2010–2013.
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected

No spotted owls or barred owls were detected on 2 complete night surveys on the north side of Lower Bear Creek (Sportsman Road system out of Forks), and along the 4200 road. In addition, no spotted owls or barred owls were detected during a day search covering much of the southern core area (2009 area).

BOUNDARY CREEK [WDW: # 646]

Status: 7 surveys. **No Spotted owl detections in 2013**
 2011 Location: T30N R9W SEC 8 SW1/4 SW1/16; Elev.: 1600' (Daytime male location)
 T30N R9W SEC 17NE1/4 NW1/16; Elev.: 1000' (second daytime location)
 Historic Location: T30N R9W SEC 7 SE1/4 SE1/16; Elev.: 1800' (2004 nest tree, "BND04")
 2011 Male: Male- R/1387-75165, L/Seafoam
 Historic Female: Female- L/1387-84059, R/Black/Yellow/Dot (last confirmed in 2006)
 Barred owls: Detected on 3 visits, all west of the historic core

The historic male was never located in 2013. In 2011 he was seen twice, and in 2012 he was only heard once at night. The core area was searched on foot several times but no spotted owls responded. A northern goshawk was documented once in the historic core. A male barred owl responded twice in the western end of the site during night surveys, and on a pre-dawn hoot. The Crescent Ridge area, the higher slope to the south, was walked once. The "Sadie Creek" access, which covers the higher northern slopes of the site, was called a couple times. A female barred owl was seen in the drainage west of the historic core (one west), with a vocalizing juvenile until the ravens moved in. Mid-season an audio recorder was installed for 10 days where the male spotted was first found in 2011. This location was just east of the historic drainage and no spotted owls were detected with the audio recorder.

BRANDEBERRY CREEK [WDW: # 7]

Status: 11 surveys. Historic male confirmed on 2 visits, not-nesting.
 Possible female detection on May 10 follow-up to Cabin survey.
 2012 Nest: T28N R11W SEC 2 SE1/4 SW1/16; UTM: 419213 5311854, Elev.: 1465'
 2011 Location: T28N R11W SEC 2 SE1/4 SW1/16. Elev.: 1560' (2010 nest tree, "BC10")
 Pair: Female- L/1177-00293, R/Blue/White/Dot
 Male- R/1177-37410, L/Orange/White/Dot
 Barred owls: A male barred owl was detected on 3 visits.

A barred owl was detected with the audio recorder which was placed at the core for 2 weeks mid-season. In 2008 the spotted owl pair's activity center and nest site moved to the north side of the 29 Road from the previous location on the south side of the Sitkum River. The new nest trees were <100 m north of the old management unit boundary. The 2012 nest tree was about 100–150 m beyond the 2010 nest tree at the same elevation. Early in the season the male was found next to the 2010 nest tree. He was moused to protocol, and later he was found across Brandeberry Creek at a slightly higher elevation. On that visit a barred owl was heard in the core area for the first time. After that Kari put out an audio recorder for 2 weeks and Brian reported that it did detect a far off spotted owl call on one night but only barred owl calls afterwards. A barred owl flew in when Kari was retrieving the recorder from down slope. A few night and pre-dawn visits on the southern side of the Sitkum River resulted in no additional spotted responses. Late in the season, a male spotted owl was heard farther up Brandeberry Creek than had been previously detected. Kari found some very nice habitat past the 2012 nest on elk trails. Kari called from the spur road on the west side of Brandeberry Creek and heard a male spotted owl either down in the drainage or across the drainage. Kari did not find the male spotted owl on a couple follow-up visits, suggesting he went

silent or was on the move. The historic female may have been detected during a follow-up to a survey that covered the overlap between Brandeberry and Cabin Creek on May 10. Female barking calls were detected but the bird could not be located during additional follow-up visits.

CABIN CREEK [S] [WDW: Rugged Ridge East # 58]

Status: 8 surveys. No spotted owls were confirmed here in 2013. See notes below regarding detections of the Upper Sitkum and Brandeberry birds in the overlap areas between these 3 sites

Historic Location: T28N R11W SEC 12 NW1/4 NE1/16; Elev.: 2000' (2004 nest tree, "CC04")

Historic Pair: Female- R/1387-43624, L/Orange (last confirmed in 2008).
Male- L/1387-65882, R/Green (last confirmed in 2006).

Barred Owls: Barred owls were detected on pre-dawn and night hoots from the 29 road.

Cabin Creek was called 5 times at night and had 5 daytime surveys. Two surveys were conducted to the area north of the 29 road, and two covered the historic core areas across the Sitkum River to the south. Two different spotted owl males were detected at each end of a road call station transect on one night survey. These detections were in the overlap between Brandeberry-Cabin Creek and Upper Sitkum-Cabin Creek. The follow-up visit for the eastern detection led to the confirmation of the Upper Sitkum male.

The follow-up visit for the male detection west from call station CC01 led to the detection of a female spotted owl responding with contact whistles and barking directly across the Sitkum River. Additional follow-up visits did not locate the female spotted owl. These events led us to conclude that the detections were of the Brandeberry Creek and the Upper Sitkum River spotted owls that were out foraging and that the historic Cabin Creek territory remains unoccupied. Barred owls were heard from pre-dawn and night stations 3 times from the 29 road.

COLD CREEK [WDW: # 152]

Status: 3 surveys. **No spotted owls were detected in 2013**

Historic Location: T30N R12W SEC 17 NW1/4 NE1/16. Elev.: 800' (1988 nest tree)

Historic birds: No spotted owls detected here since 1998

Barred owls: No barred owls were detected this season.

Three night surveys were conducted in 2013, including one that began with an evening walk into the historic core area. Surprisingly no barred owls were detected this season, even with expanded number of night call stations.

EAST TWIN RIVER [WDW: # 755]

Status: 6 surveys. **No Spotted owls were detected in 2013**

2011 Location: T30N R10W SEC 11 NE1/4 SW1/16; Elev.: 1750' (daytime male location)
T30N R10W SEC11 SE1/4 SW1/16; Elev.: 1250' (second daytime male location)

2010 Pair: Female- L/1387-79479, R/Blue/White/Dot
Male- L/1387-99663, R/Orange

Barred owls: Barred owls responded on several visits. There still seem to be barred owls living at both ends of the site.

Intensive surveys were conducted at East Twin River in 2012 after the male was heard twice during night surveys. The site was well covered during day surveys and the male spotted owl was never

found in any of the follow-up visits. The male spotted owl's reluctance to respond may be due to the barred owl occupation of the area. In 2013 Kari conducted 4 complete night surveys, hoping to turn up this male spotted owl as only a pair of barred owl pairs responded from both ends of the site. Kari covered the core areas and believes that this site has become unoccupied by spotted owls.

ELK CREEK [WDW: # 23]

Status: 3 surveys. **No spotted owls were detected in 2013**
 Historic Location: T28N R12W SEC 17 SW1/4 NW1/16 Elev.: 820' (1988 nest tree, "ECK88")
 Historic Pair: No spotted owls detected here since 2000
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected in 2013

Two of three surveys were complete day surveys of the core area on the west side of Elk Creek. Spotted or barred owls were detected during those day surveys. One night survey from the 2932 road system was conducted by Brian and resulted in no response. Note: The northern end of this site along the 2932 road is scheduled to be thinned in the fall-winter of 2013–2014 and there were a number of new spur roads being opened for timber sales. Brian was not sure how long the thinning will take to finish but access issues should be checked at the start of the 2014 season.

GOODMAN CREEK [WDW: # 28]

Status: 7 surveys. No spotted owls were detected in 2013. The female from this site was found nesting with a new male in the Olympic National Park at Kloshe Creek in 2012 but not was detected in 2013.
 2010 Location: T29N R10W SEC 16 SE1/4 SW1/16 Elev.: 2290' (1996 nest tree, "GC96")
 2010 Pair: Female- R/1387-84056, L/Green
 Male- R/1387-65828, L/Red
 Barred owls: No barred owls detected during day or night surveys in 2013.

No spotted owls or barred owls were detected during 2 day surveys of the core area, and 5 night surveys. Night surveys were done 3 times on the east side of the drainage (one with perfect conditions), once in the upper basin, and twice on the 29 road. A great horned owl was detected on 1 visit.

KAHKWA CREEK [WDW: #79]

Status: 4 surveys. No spotted owls were detected in 2013
 Historic Location: T28N R12W SEC 27 SE1/4 SE1/16 Elev.: 1340' (2005)
 Historic Pair: Not detected here since 2006.
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected this season.

The Olympic National Park owl crew conducted 3 daytime surveys and Kari conducted a 4th day survey along the Bogi Bouncer/Trail route and came out the Forest Service ridge route and walked the road back to the parking lot for the second year. All historic areas were covered. This was a hard site to night call. It has lots of good habitat but not even a barred owl was detected this season.

LAKE ALDWELL [WDW #742]

Status: 3 surveys. **No spotted owls were detected in 2013**
 Historic Location: T30N R7W SEC 22 NW1/4 SW1/16 Elev.: 350' (1994 nest tree, "LA94B")
 Historic Pair: No spotted owls detected here since 2002
 Barred owls: Barred owls were detected at both the west and east sites (both side of "Old Lake Aldwell").

The western area was closer to Indian Valley and the boat launch, while the eastern site was closer to the historic core area right off 101. Lake Aldwell is no more after the dam was removed. One night survey was conducted by walking down the middle of the old lake. In 2013 no spotted owls were detected in the area, but like years past there was a lot of barred owl activity. However, no barred owl juveniles were detected this year.

LAKE SUTHERLAND [WDW FALLS CREEK\LAKE SUTHERLAND #299]

Status: 4 surveys. **No spotted owls were detected in 2013**
 Historic Location: T30N R8W SEC 29 NW1/4 SW1/16 Elev.: 2175' (1996 nest tree, "LS96")
 Historic Pair: No spotted owls detected here since 1998
 Barred owl: Barred owls were detected on 2 of 2 night hoots, and once in the day in an extended search area closer to Lake Crescent. There seem to be barred owls at both ends of this site.

Two complete daytime foot searches were conducted and 2 night surveys along the 100 spur road below the historic site. Barred owls were detected on 3 of 4 visits. One of the off trail searches covered the historic core really well, and the other covered the core as well as the area closer to Lake Crescent. No Spotted owl detections. Note: Recent decommissioning has occurred starting at the old clear-cut not quite a mile up the 3050 road from South Shore making this a more difficult walk up to Mt. Baldy and Lake Sutherland especially at night. This year Kari walked to the highway via old logging roads from the end of the spur road. Kari stayed on the most obvious one and came out at the top of Govin's Hill at the east end of Lake Crescent.

LOST CREEK [WDW: Lost Creek \ Calawah River # 74]

Status: 3 surveys. **No spotted owls were detected in 2013**
 Historic Location: T28N R12W SEC22 NW1/4 NW1/16. Elev.: 1200' (1994 nest tree, "LC94")
 Historic birds: No spotted owls confirmed here since 1999

Barred owls: A barred owl was detected in the daytime close to the historic core across Lost Creek. None were detected this year off the 2932 road.

Kari conducted a search of a large area on the east side of Lost Creek again this year, picking up at least one barred owl near the same location as detected last year. A second day survey of the historic core on the west side of Lost Creek resulted in no response. Brian conducted one night survey along the 2932 Rd this year which resulted in no response. The northern end of this site along the 2932 road will be thinned during the fall-winter of 2013–2014 and there are a number of new spur roads being opened to access timber sales. Kari was not sure how long the thinning will take to finish but access issues need to be check at the start of the 2014 season.

MCDONALD MOUNTAIN (LITTLE RIVER) [Non-Demographic Site]

Status: 4 surveys. **No spotted owl detections**

Barred owl: A female barred owl has consistently responded from down by Little River directly south of Kari's house. It was heard from the clearcut west of her property.

Kari surveyed this old site because it was close to her house. Over the course of the winter, she had detected 5 species of owls near her home and wanted to see what would turn up if she conducted surveys near a historic spotted owl site across the valley. She conducted 2 day surveys on the south side of the drainage. She detected 1 barred owl up high on the ridge. During a night survey, Kari hooted the road and established 5 call stations starting at the park entrance and along Olympic Hot Springs Road and up Little River Road.

MORGANROTH CREEK [WDW: # 148]

Status: 5 surveys. **No spotted owls were detected in 2013**
 Historic Location: T28N R12W SEC 33 NW1/4 NW1/16. Elev.: 900' (Daytime pair location, 1989)
 Historic Pair: Female-R/1387-21660, L/White (last confirmed in 1989)
 Male-R877-24649, L/Salmon (Kahkwa Creek male found in 2007)
 Barred owls: No Barred owls were detected

Since Morganroth Creek has not had spotted owls since 1989 this area was surveyed as a general survey using night time survey stations from the 2932 road system. As in the past, this year there were no detection of spotted owls or barred owls during these visits.

MOUNT BALDY [WDW: # 54]

Status: 3 surveys. **No Spotted owl was detected in 2013**
 Historic Location: T30N R8W SEC 35 NE1/4 NW1/16. Elev.: 2900' (1991 nest tree, "Baldy91")
 2011 Location: T30N R0W SEC 33 NE1/4 SE1/16 Elev.: 4015' ("end of the road")
 Historic Pair: Female- R/1387-43609, L/Orange (last confirmed in 2008)
 Male- R/1387-48775, L/Green/White/Green (last confirmed in 2008)
 Barred owls: No barred owls detected in the historic core area or from the road

The Mount Baldy core area was completely surveyed on foot 2 times but no spotted owls were detected. Road conditions are the same as noted above for Lake Sutherland. The third was conducted from Barnes Creek. Kari surveyed up Barnes Creek from the Lake (hooting 2 Olympic National Park sites from the trail), and then traveled north up and over Baldy Ridge. Kari and another surveyor were able to find a good route, hooting the whole way before camping on the highest point west of Mount Baldy. Kari called near the core of Mount Baldy and above it in the evening. The next day Kari and the other surveyor hooted the ridgeline west to connect with the end of the road and hiked out on it. This resulted in no detections of any owls. No spotted owls have been detected in the Mount Baldy core since 2008, and no barred owls have been documented at this upper elevation site.

OZETTE LAKE [WDW: # 12]

Status: 3 surveys. **Occupied by a pair of barred owls (historic banded barred male confirmed).**
 2013 Location: T29N R15W SEC 15 NW1/4 NW1/16 Elev.: 270' (Daytime location, across from noted 2008 nest area). UTM: 378645E, 5320880N
 Barred owl pair: Female barred owl that was not banded
 Male- L/1177-00292, R/ FL-YELLOW
 Historic Hybrid Female: L/877-62562, R/Orange (hybrid last confirmed in 2007)

Kari and another surveyor conducted 3 daytime visits and hooted the area once at night by kayak, camping west of Baby Island. Interestingly, no owls were detected that night. The barred owls did not respond until the third day survey through the historic core on a really windy and rainy day. The male barred owl flew in as Kari and the other surveyor passed the area where he was found late last season with juveniles. He took 3 mice and ate or cached them all. He did not call with them. About 20 minutes later the female barred owl flew in from the same direction and was interested in mice, but didn't take any. They both flew in from the area where barred owls were documented nesting in 2008. No juveniles were heard on this visit when the weather was sub-optimal. Considering the newly forming beaver pond on the western road access into the old growth (which can flood the road if there's been a lot of rain), Kari would have continued to use the eastern access. An obvious trail

heads west from the path to Lake Ozette, and can easily take you into the historic core.

PINE MOUNTAIN (S FORK SOL DUC River)

Status: 7 surveys. The male spotted owl from the last 2 years was never located. The female spotted owl was found once far from the nest core during the nesting period and was moused. She was never detected again this season at Pine Mountain. However, she was located in July roosting with the Upper Sitkum River male at Upper Sitkum Site.

2013 Female: T29, R10, S26, NW, NW UTM: 428320, 5314789, Elevation: 2320'

2012 Nest Location: T29, R10, S34, SE, SW UTM: 427508, 5312281, Elevation: 2350'

Pair: Female – 1177-30054R, Hot Pink/White/Dot L
Male – 1177-30045L, White R

2011 Male: T29N R10W SEC 33 SE1/4 SE1/16; Elev.: 2950' (Upper Basin area)

Barred owls: No barred owls were detected in this area in 2013.

This site was not an official demographic site. But it is a historic site from the 1980s and since it had a spotted owl detection in 2011, Brian and Kari decided to survey the site to protocol. The female was found on 1 of 7 day surveys when she was far down and across the river from where she nested last year. It was just "luck" to have heard her over there. She was moused to protocol and determined non-nesting. Follow-up visits to this area, the nest tree area, and the upper basin never detected a male spotted owl. The female spotted owl was not seen again till later in the season when she was found at the Upper Sitkum River site with that male, who Kari had re-banded with a hot pink band on a previous visit. She is hot pink with white dots which can be hard to see but the bands are on opposite legs however. The spotted owl pair were moused to protocol and found to be non-nesting, though they were located close to last season's Upper Sitkum River pair location. In addition, an audio recorder was put up at in the 2012 nest core area for 2 weeks this season.

READE HILL [WDW: # 400]

Status: 7 surveys. No spotted owls were detected in 2013

Historic Location: T28N R12W SEC 31 NW1/4 SE1/16. Elev.: 1200' (1997 nest tree, "RH97")

Historic Pair: No spotted owls detected here since 1998

Barred owls: Barred owls were detected on 2 of 4 night surveys.

This site has not had a spotted owl since 1998 so it is surveyed as a general survey site. The ridge top trail was surveyed at night on 4 occasions by Brian and the lower road access was surveyed twice by Kari. In addition, Kari conducted one day survey through the mid-slope in the historic core area. No Spotted owls were detected this year but barred owls were detected during 2 night surveys.

RUGGED RIDGE [WDW: # 73]

Status: 5 surveys. No spotted owls detected in 2013

Historic Location: T28N R11W SEC 17 NE1/4 NE1/16 Elev.: 1600' (1998 nest tree, "RR98")

Historic birds: Female- Unbanded (Seen in 1998 only. Last marked ♀ confirmed in 1994.)
Male- R/1387-99669, L/Hot Pink (last confirmed in 2007)

Barred owls: Barred owls were detected on every night hoot.

Four complete night surveys and 1 day survey were conducted, resulting in no spotted owl detections. Barred owls were heard on every night survey from stations on the 29 road. No barred owls were detected this season at the Rugged Ridge parking area. The one day survey expanded

the search area slightly west to the “Calawah Ridge” which is the park boundary between the Sitkum River and the South Fork of the Calawah River. There was great habitat on the ridge top and to the south and Kari was hopeful because this area hasn’t been called in the recent past. Still, no spotted owls were detected.

SHUWAH CREEK [WDW: # 151]

Status: 5 surveys. The historic female showed back up late in the 2013 season.
 2013 Location: T29N, R12W, S18, NW, NW, 402911E, 5319530E, 1360’
 Historic Location: T29N R12W S18 NE1/4 NW1/16 (1992 nest tree, “SH CK NT 92”)
 Historic Female: Female- R/1177-00297, L/White/Black/Dot (last confirmed 2008)
 Barred owls: At least 2 pairs of Barred owls were detected maybe 3.

This was one of the best surprises of the season, happening late in August. Kari had already covered the core once on foot and conducted a long night survey, which resulted in barred owls detections. On the night Kari detected the female spotted owl, barred owls were also detected so Kari went to the call stations out at the end of the 300 spur. At this station that covers the whole historic hillside, Kari instantly heard contact calls, whistling and barking. The female spotted owl was in the older trees right on the edge of a clear cut. She was subsequently located in this area, once down low, and again higher on the ridge in far better habitat. She was captured to confirm her identity, and moused to protocol, indicating that she did not nest. This all occurred in the same general area where she was in 2008. It’s a mystery where she has been. She did not vocalize when she flew into Kari on the 3 concurrent day visits when the female was detected. She took mice well on the second visit. No male spotted owls or juveniles were not detected.

SITKUM RIVER, UPPER [WDW: # 92]

Status: 7 surveys. The 2012 male was located alone 3 times in different areas of the site, and color band changed from a juvenile band to an adult color band. The 2012 female was never located. In early July the Pine Mountain female was detected roosting with this male. Moused to protocol and not nesting with reproduction status confirmed. NOTE: In this none nesting year, we cannot speculate on pair status of these 2 birds because she was on her normal territory at the start of the breeding season and was not detected here until July. In none nesting year it is not uncommon for birds to move around and be found roosting with other individuals. We need to wait until 2014 to see if these two form a pair.

2013 Location: T28N, R10W, S29, SW, SW UTM: 423360E, 5313733N, Ele: 1940’
 2013 birds: Female – 1177-30054R, Hot Pink/White/Dot L (from Pine Mt)
 Male – L/1177-00263, R/Hot Pink (same as 2012 bird but w/ adult band)

2012 Core: T29N, R10W, S29, SW, CT. UTM: 423531, 5314110 Elevation: 2075’ 2012
 STOC: Female - L1387-84070, R/Yellow/Black/Dot
 Male - Band # undetermined, R/Red/White/Red

2010 Location: T29N R10W SEC 32 SE1/4 SW1/16. Elev.: 2100’ (2010 nest tree, “US10”)
 2010 Pair: Female- R/1177-00300, L/Black/White/Dot
 Male- R/1177-30040, L/Red/White/Triangle

Barred owl: A barred owl was detected on 1 occasion near the 400 spur road gate.

The 2010 pair was not been detected 2011–2013. The 2012 female was never found in 2013. The 2012 male was confirmed here and located alone 3 times at different locations all over the territory; once far above the historic core, once right where he possibly tried to nest last year, and once down the Sitkum River near the Cabin Creek boundary. He was hand grabbed at this last location and his juvenile band on his right foot was replaced with an adult hot pink band. He was originally banded in 2008 on the Quilcene Study Area as a juvenile by Debaran Kelso at Tyler Peak.

The July detection was a female who was barking and contact calling slightly south of where the 2012 pair tried to nest. Kari assumed it would be the 2012 female but on the follow-up Kari found the missing Pine Mountain female. Kari moused the pair of spotted owls to protocol and confirmed that they did not produce any young. If the Pine Mountain female stays here we will need to be cautious in reading bands because they both have hot pink bands. Hers is pink with white dots (which can be hard to see), and the bands are on opposite legs but such similar bands can be confusing. Note: A thinning project is slated for the upper Sitkum River with units in the area across the canyon from the good habitat and should occur sometime in the next year or so.

WEST TWIN RIVER [WDW: # 255]

Status: 4 surveys. **No spotted owls detected in 2013**
 Historic Location: T30N R10W SEC 8 NE1/4 NW1/16. Elev.: 1140' (1998 nest tree, "WT98")
 Historic Pair: No spotted owls detected here since 2001
 Barred owls: Barred owls were detected on all night visits at multiple locations. Great horned owls also detected.

Three night surveys included many night call stations and detected at least 2 different barred owls. One day survey covered some spur roads to the east, overlapping with East Twin River. Kari was looking for the "lost" male from East Twin River but not spotted owls were detected. Kari conducted a night survey off road to the ridge-top of the North Point area, expanding the usual call stations.

EXTRA CREDIT DETECTION 15 MILE BOGI BRIDGE BIRD (IN ONP)

Status: Male spotted owl; L/1387-59346, R/Green/Whi/Tri, No reproduction status
 2013 Location: UTM's 424187; 5305820, Elev. 1350'
 Historic Location: Kari thinks the Olympic National Park calls the area "Elbow Creek"
 Historic Pair:

Barred owl: No barred owls detected.

Never having hiked the upper 10 miles of the Bogachiel Valley, Kari decided to recreationally hike it. Kari knew that the habitat would be excellent and that the area is south of several of the demographic sites. Kari called the entire trail at about a 2 mph pace. Kari's dream was to find some long lost bird living in the Park. Right before crossing the bridge over the north fork of the Bogachiel River, Kari heard contact calls coming from upslope. Sure that it was a spotted owl, Kari dropped her pack and went up about 100'. Kari assumed the spotted owl was a female based on the contact calls she heard but the owl never hooted. The spotted owl was eager for mice. Kari could see bands when the first mouse was taken. Kari hand grabbed the spotted owl as it flew into the second mouse. This bird was banded as a juvenile by Dave Manson and Scott Horton in 1996 on the Third Beach Trail site. It was subsequently located twice in the following years, 1997-1998, on Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land closer to the coast and the park. Then it was not seen again. It was identified by DNR as a male, which it very well may be since Kari never heard it hoot. It took a second mouse and cached it. Scott Gremel agreed with Kari that next season someone should go up and check to see if this owl stays in this location and if it has a mate.

2013 Quilcene Annual Site Summary

This was an odd survey season dominated by the relocation of two long missing spotted owl pairs at Tunnel Creek Trailhead and Cougar/Bungalow Creek. The spotted owl pair at Tunnel Creek Trailhead were banded as adults in 2004 and the Cougar/Bungalow pair in 2005. Neither had been seen since.

The spotted owl pair at Cougar/Bungalow Creek was heard near each other on a dusk call on 8 April, with the pair confirmed non-nesting the following day near Bungalow Creek where they were banded in 2005. The female was found near this same place on 13 June and again confirmed with no nest or young produced. Finding this pair somewhat altered the calling of this whole area. The location of the birds was central to several sites including Skookum Creek, Three O'Clock Ridge, and Silver Creek and it was necessary to avoid some normal call points for these sites to avoid disturbing the Cougar/Bungalow pair.

Tunnel Creek Trailhead was a much more complicated case as the birds were much more wary and difficult to work with. We initially found the pair on site on 7 May when they did not call, but were detected visually. They refused mice and were completely unresponsive to survey efforts. Debaran believed that the female was the historic female with a new male, previously banded with a juvenile band. Debaran had hoped they would be easier to work with when the young fledged and were begging to be fed, but the nestling disappeared before fledging was confirmed and the adults disappeared shortly after. Debaran believed that something happened to the young directly after fledging as there was a lot of fresh juvenile sign near the nest tree on 27 June but she could never find any young, despite multiple visits. The male hung about the area for a few days then disappeared. We never saw signs of spotted owls in the area again. I believe that the young owlet was likely taken by a barred owl which was reported up trail about a mile from the nest location in mid-July.

Sink Lake was almost as frustrating to work with as Tunnel Creek with pair occupancy confirmed many times by auditory responses but never on a daytime follow-up. Debaran was never able to confirm female bands but confirmed the male as an unbanded adult at the end of the season. He was very reluctant to mouse and wary of capture but Debaran was finally able to get him to take enough mice to confirm that he had no young this season.

Debaran also had a spotted owl respond towards the end of the season at Tyler Peak. Debaran confirmed the the historic female twice and that she had no young. This female did not respond during the day though by night she was quite vocal.

Barred owls were plentiful this year but mostly concentrated in areas of fragmented marginal habitat where they have been detected previously at East Doghair, Jimmycomelately Creek, and Gold Creek. The most disconcerting of the detections was hearing and seeing barred owls up Tunnel Creek again this year as these cliffy relatively high elevation old forests have rarely been penetrated by barred owls before. Even more disheartening was the suspicion that a barred owl was a factor in the disappearance of the young produced by the Tunnel Creek Trailhead pair. There was a notable lack of barred owl responses in the Dungeness River drainage where there had been increasing

detections in recent years. This year we only had one sighting in this large drainage near Dungeness trailhead.

Of the 26 Quilcene sites surveyed, eight had barred owl detections and four had spotted owls (Sink Lake, Cougar/Bungalow Creek, and Tunnel Creek Trailhead with pairs, and Tyler Peak with a single female).

Apparent changes in spotted owl behavior are worth noting for future survey efforts as birds seem much less vocal and most of the birds were found with visual searches. Careful searches for sign in historic core areas have also become much more important as an indicator of activity concentration.

QUILCENE INDIVIDUAL SITE SUMMARIES

BIG CANYON [WDW: Big Canyon Tunnel Creek # 411]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted or barred owl detections.
 Location: T27N, R03W, S35, NE1/4, SW1/16; Elev.: 2040'
 Historic birds: No spotted owls have been confirmed here since 2000.
 Barred owls: No barred owl detections this year.

BIG QUILCENE RIVER (PNW's historic Mt. WALKER site) [WDW: # 781- Big Quilcene River]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted owls detected & 1 barred owl detection.
 Location: T27N, R02W, S33, SW1/4, NW1/16; Elev.: 1420'
 Historic birds: No spotted owl detected here since 1998.
 Barred owls: Barred owls were detected.

See barred owls fly across road near old spotted owl core on last survey of the area in August, but no vocal responses this year.

CHARLIA LAKES TRAIL [WDW: # 159. North Fork Tunnel Creek]

Status: 3 surveys. No owls detected.
 Location: T27N, R03W, S29, SW1/4, SW1/16; Elev.: 3130'
 Historic female: 1387-75183/L, Orange/white/dots/R
 Historic male: 1387-53196/R, Salmon/L (91-2000 Tunnel Creek Upper, male)
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected.

One of the great disappointments of the season was not finding this normally reliable pair. Debaran made 3 visits in to this area under perfect call conditions, once each in April, May and early June, but the only thing seen was a bit of sign in historic core in May (and this may not even have been spotted owl). These birds are usually found right in the historic core area, even in non-nesting years. Debaran suspects that the historic male may have died over the course of the winter (as he was very old, the oldest bird ever confirmed in the Quilcene study area at 21 years old last year), and the female is moving about this year looking for a new mate.

COUGAR / BUNGALOW CREEK [WDW: Cougar Creek – Dungeness, #9]

Status: 6 surveys. Missing 2005 pair confirmed non-nesting.
 Location: T28N, R03W, S18, SW1/4, SW1/16; Elev.: 3400'
 1994 Male: 1387-53008/R, Salmon w/blue tab/L (conf in 2009)

2005 Female: 1177-30037/R, Hot pink w/ white dots/L
 2005 Male: 1177-30038/R, White w/ black dots/L
 Barred owls: Barred owls were detected.

Surveys at this site were the greatest success story of the season in the Quilcene Study Area. Debaran confirmed the missing 2005 pair as non-nesting twice in Bungalow Creek, near where they were first banded as adults in 2005. They have not been seen since their initial banding, with very few single spotted owl responses in this area over the intervening years, and no pairs. Barred owls were notably absent from this site, as well as from most of the Dungeness drainage this year.

DEER RIDGE [WDW: # 847]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted owl detections
2008 Location: T28N, R04W, S09, NW1/4, NW1/16.; Elev.: 2610'
Female: 1387-75106/R, Green w/white peaks/L;
2008 Male: 1387-84091/R, Orange w/black dots/L
Barred owls: Female barred owl was heard.

Spotted owls have not been confirmed here since 2008. A barred owl female was heard in historic spotted owl drainage on night hike on 20 August.

DIRTY FACE RIDGE [WDW: # 413]

Status: 4 surveys. No spotted owl detections.
Location: T28N, R03W, S32, NE1/4, NE1/16.; Elev.: 3750'
2009 Female: 1177-00266/L, Black w/yellow dots/R
Historic male: Band number unknown, Red/White/Red/L
Barred owls: No barred owls were detected

No owl of any species were detected in this area for second year in a row.

DUNGENESS TRAILHEAD [WDW:# 142]

Status: 4 surveys (plus 2 partial surveys). No spotted owl responses.
Location: T28N, R04W, S36, NE1/4, SW1/16. ; Elev.: 2860'
Historic Female: 1387-83953, Blue/white triangles/R
Historic Male: 1387-59389/R, Yellow/L
Barred owls: A barred owl may have been heard

Technically no spotted owl responses at this site this year, but the Tyler Peak female was confirmed at the neighboring Tyler Peak site late in the season and she was formerly the female at this site. On the same night that Debaran first heard the female at Tyler, Kari Williamson saw a bird which she thought was a barred owl fly across the road near the old Dungeness Trailhead nest core. Debaran went back to search this area during the day and called it at night, finding some fresh sign, but never any positive identification as to species. We also had great horned owl activity in this area last year, along with previous years.

EAST DOGHAIR [WDW: # 726 Salmon Creek]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted owls detected.
Location: T29N, R02W, S31, NE1/4, SE1/16; Elev.:1630'
Historic birds: No spotted owl detected here since 2003

Barred owls: Barred owls were detected on 2 of 3 surveys.

East Doghair was a hot bed of barred owl activity this year. Debaran had what she thought were two different barred owls fly in to spotted owl calls at 2 separate call stations on 17 April, and another fly in on evening of 19 August. Debaran believed that the barred owls that were usually detected in the West Doghair area had probably moved east a bit this year as she heard no barred owls at West Doghair this season.

GHOUL CREEK [WDW: # 181]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted detections.
 Location: T27N, R04W, S14, SW1/4, SE1/16.
 Historic Female: 1387-83947/L, Green/R. -- Not confirmed here since 2001.
 Historic Male: 1387-75121, Blue w/white dots/L
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected.

Spotted owls have not been detected at this site since 2009.

GOLD CREEK [WDW: # 26]

Status: 3 surveys (plus 1 partial survey). No spotted owl detected.
 Location: T28N, R03W, S6, NE1/4, NE1/16
 Historic birds: No spotted owls confirmed here since 1991.
 Barred owls: Barred owls were detected

Barred owls were heard here on 3 out of 4 visits and recorded under this site. However the location was near edges of West Doghair and Skookum Creek sites and the barred detections could be attributed to all of these sites.

JIMMYCOMELATELY CREEK (NEW YARDBIRDS) [WDW: #768, Jimmycomelately Creek, West]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted detections.
 Location: T29N, R03W, S26, SE1/4, NW1/16;
 Historic birds: No spotted owl confirmations here since 1992.
 Barred owls: Barred owls were detected on 2 of 3 surveys

Barred owls were heard twice, including a probable pair.

JOLLEY CREEK [WDW: # 38]

Status: 3 surveys (plus 1 partial survey). No spotted owls detected.
 Location: T27N, R03W, S23; Elev.: 2760'
 2007 Female: 1387-84070/L, Yellow/black/dots/R.
 2007 Male: 1387-84069/L, Black/white/dots/R
 Additional male in 2007: 1177-30044/L, Salmon/green/salmon /R
 Barred owls: Barred owls were detected

Barred owls were detected, probable a pair. They were heard twice near area of old spotted owl historic core.

MOUNT WALKER (proper, non-demographic site) [WDW: # 171 – Mt. Walker]

Status: No spotted or barred owl detections.

The road to the top of Mount Walker was surveyed one time this year. No spotted owls were detected. The area around Mount Walker is considered by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as a separate site from our Mount Walker site. Therefore we are including this information to confirm there were no spotted owl or barred owl detections here in 2012.

ROCKY BROOK [WDW: # 409]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted owl detections.
 Location: T26N, R02W, S07, NW1/4, SW1/16; Elev.: 3300'
 Historic birds: No spotted owls confirmed here since 2001.
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected

SCHMITH KNOB (OLD YARDBIRDS0 [WDW: #265]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted owls detected.
 Location: T29N, R03W, S29, NW1/4, NW1/16
 Historic birds: No spotted owls detected here since 1990.
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected
 No barred owls were detected at this site this year, which was unusual.

SHELTER ROCK [WDW: # 235 Wet Weather Creek]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted owl detections.
 Location: T27N, R03W, S15, SW1/4, NW1/16; Elev.: 2780'
 2005 Female: 1177-30041/L, White with Red dots/R
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected
 No spotted owls have been detected at Shelter Rock since 2005.

**SHELTER ROCK, UPPER [WDW: # 157 Shelter Rock Camp] (non-demographic site) **

Status: 2 surveys. No spotted owl detections.
 Location: T27N, R03W, S19, NE1/4, SW1/16; Elev.: 4470'
 2005 Male: 1177-30044/L, Salmon/Green/Salmon/R.
 2009 Female: 1387-84070/L, Yellow w/ black dots/R (Jolley Creek female)
 Barred owls: No barred were detected

No spotted owls were detected this year despite Debaran hiking all the way to Marmot Pass. Spotted owls have not been detected at the site since 2009. The last female that was confirmed at the site was last year nesting on the Soleduc study area.

SILVER CREEK [WDW: # 141]

Status: 4 visits. No spotted or barred owl detections
 Location: T28N, R03W, S20, SW1/4, SW1/16; Elev.: 3520'
 Barred owls:

No spotted owls confirmation here since 1994.

SINK LAKE [WDW: # 91]

Status: 12 surveys. Female heard, unbanded male confirmed.
 Location: T27N, R03W, S02, SE1/4, SE1/16. Elev.: 3260'
 Female: 1177-30042/L, Blue with white dots/R
 Male: 1387-84026/L, Green w/ white dots/R; not confirmed since 2009

Barred owls: No barred owls were detected

These birds were very difficult to work with this year. Both the male and female were quite vocal at night but then refusing to respond during the day. Some of the problem was due to the fact that they were apparently not nesting and therefore moving around quite a bit and partly due to the fact that they have become almost entirely non-responsive during the day. Debaran did find the male at the very end of the season. She believed that he was the same unbanded adult found on site as a replacement male in 2011. He was confirmed with no young two days in a row though one of these days was 1 Sept but he was quite reluctant to mouse and too wary for capture.

SKOOKUM CREEK [WDW: #258]

Status: 4 surveys. No spotted owl detections.
 Location: T28N, R03W, S08, SW1/4, NE1/16.
 Female: 1387-83939/R, Plum w/sea dots/L, last confirmed in 2002.
 Male: 877-24629/R, Sea/L with Orange tab, last confirmed in 2005
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected
 A barred owl heard in area but recorded under the Gold Creek site.

THREE O'CLOCK RIDGE [WDW: # site not on WDW data base list]

Status: 4 surveys. No spotted owl detections this year.
 Location: T28N, R03W, S18, SE1/4, SW1/16.
 Historic birds: Last spotted owl confirmed here in 1996
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected

TUNNEL CREEK, NORTH FORK [WDW North Fork Tunnel Creek Lower #1232]

Status: 4 surveys. No spotted owl detections.
 Location: T27N, R03W, S35, SE1/4, NW 1/16
 Historic birds: Last spotted owls confirmed here in 2005.
 Historic Female: 1387-83948/R, White/blue/white /L.
 Historic Male: 1387-59390/R, Blue w/ white triangles/L.
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected

TUNNEL CREEK TRAILHEAD [WDW: South Fork Tunnel Creek, Lower #412]

Status: 13 surveys. Pair confirmed nesting, but produced no young.
 Location: T27N, R03W, S33, SE1/4, SE1/16.
 Historic Female: 1387-84024/L, Plum w/sea dots/R, Confirmed nesting.
 Historic Male: 1387-84025/L, White w/ black dots/R. Last confirmed in 2004.
 New Adult Male: USFWS? /L, Red/white/red/R
 Barred owls: Barred owls were detected

Debaran found a pair of spotted owls at this site again for the first time since 2004, and then found them nesting, the only nest on both study areas this season. The spotted owl pair subsequently disappeared before they were positively identified or fate of juveniles positively determined. The female was first seen heading into the historic nest tree on 7 May and was still in the nest cavity on 3 June. The spotted owls at this site were very wily because they did not respond to calls were hardly active during daylight hours, would not take mice, and would not come within capture range. Debaran had one look at the female band and was quite sure that she was the historic female. The male was not the historic male and his banding pattern is unusual. Debaran thought initially that he was unbanded, because his left leg looked so fluffy, but Debaran finally got a look at his right leg and saw that it had a red/white/red band or brighter, orange with white stripe band. Debaran wondered if

there were any cases of Juveniles banded on the Olympic Peninsula that did not get a US Fish and Wildlife band, just a color band? Debaran had hoped that these birds would become a lot easier to work with once the young were off the nest and were begging to be fed. Debaran believed that the young were picked off by a predator when they fledged but found no sign of predation. Debaran found lots of juvenile sign near the nest tree when she surveyed the site on 27 June but no sign of young. The male was seen hanging about area for another few days after this date but then disappeared and Debaran never saw any sign of spotted owls again despite repeated trips in. Debaran even resorted to sleeping out on site the evening of 10 July, thinking that if juvenile was still alive it could not have moved very far away and the adults would come to feed it sometime during the night and she would hear them but she heard no owls. Debaran theorized that the juvenile was picked off soon after it fledged was further substantiated by a hiker having seen what looked to be a barred owl beside the trail on 17 July only about a mile west of the nest area. Debaran also heard a barred at the Upper Tunnel site in early June.

TUNNEL CREEK, UPPER [WDW: South Fork Tunnel Creek # 160]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted owls were detected.
 Location: T26N, R03W, S05, SW1/4, SE1/16 (last known nest location) Elev.: 3800'
 Historic female: 877-61676/R, White/L – last confirmed in 1999
 Historic Male: Last confirmed here in 2000 and confirmed at Charlia Lakes in 2004
 Barred owls: Barred owls were detected.

Debaran heard a barred owl just east of historic core area on 3 June and a hiker reporting apparent barred owl on the trail between this site and Tunnel Trailhead on 17 July (listed under Tunnel Trailhead, but may be same bird).

TYLER PEAK [WDW; # 56]

Status: 5 surveys (plus 1 partial survey). Female confirmed with no young, nest status unknown.
 Location: T28N, R04W, S35, SE1/4, NE1/16; Elev.: 2980'
 Historic Female: 1387-83953/L, Blue/w/ white tri/R
 2008 Male: 1387-84096/R; Orange w/black dots/L
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected

Debaran confirmed the female spotted owl twice late in the season (14–15 August), with no young. As with most birds this season, she was vocal at dusk, but did not respond during the day. Debaran was lucky to find her visually as she was close to her nighttime location. She looked old, her facial disk rather blotchy and worn looking. She was banded as an adult, so there is no way of estimating her age.

WEST DOGHAIR [WDW: Doghair #18]

Status: 3 surveys. No spotted owl detections.
 Location: T29N, R03W, S03, NW1/4, NE1/16; Elev.: 2560'
 Historic birds: The last spotted owl was confirmed on site in 2000.
 Barred owls: No barred owls were detected

Debaran said that it was very unusual not to hear barred owls at this site but she believed that they have just moved slightly, so that they are now recorded under Gold Creek or East Doghair.