

Example Wildlife Sections (Resource Category 6)

Wildlife Example 1

Resource assessment

General conditions

There are several integrated habitat features on the property. Stand 1 along with stand 2 are characteristic of a mature mixed age (approx. 32 to 70 years) naturally vegetated mid-elevation site. It is dominated by hardwoods with 10% of the stand composed of conifer distributed throughout.

Snags

There is a moderate snag component within the stand. Some of the snags are alder, maple or cottonwood, which have fairly short functional lives. There are a couple second growth conifer snags.

Coarse woody debris

There are plenty of downed logs on the forest floor. We use some for firewood and leave the rest for wildlife habitat.

Understory vegetation

The ground vegetation consists of salmonberry, huckleberry, vine maple, sword fern, Oregon grape, red-flowering current and devil's club.

Observed wildlife species

A tributary to Swiftwater River flows through the stand. The aquatic and terrestrial resources of Stand 1 suggest it is highly used by a wide variety of wildlife ranging from several amphibian species to numerous and abundant birds and mammals. Any ponded areas, whether left by receding spring floods or attributable to precipitation and surface ground water are likely breeding ponds for Pacific treefrogs (*Hyla regilla*), northern red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora*) and long-toed salamanders (*Ambystoma macrodactylum*). Northwestern salamanders (*Ambystoma gracile*) may also be present.

Stand 1 and 2 are significantly diverse to provide habitat for select guilds of birds. The mature forest canopy provides nesting and foraging habitat for many forest interior birds including Ruffed grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), Band-tailed pigeon (*Columba fasciata*), raptors such as Red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) and Accipiter hawks, and Northern pigmy (*Glaucidium gnoma*) and Great horned owls (*Bubo virginianus*). Other species more commonly present include pileated (*Dryocopus pileatus*), hairy (*Picoides villosus*) and downy (*Picoides pubescens*) woodpeckers as well as the red-breasted sapsucker (*Sphyrapicus ruber*). Varied thrush (*Ixoreus naevius*), rufous-

sided towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) and winter wren (*Troglodytes troglodytes*) occupy the ground levels. Other passerines include dark-eyed junco (*Junco hyemalis*), golden-crowned kinglet (*Regulus satrapa*) and black-capped chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*).

The sheltered characteristics of the site with available water resources suggest numerous mammals use it. Large mammals present include coyote (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Felis rufus*), mountain lion (*Felis concolor*), mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) and black bear (*Ursus americanus*). Smaller mammals at the site most likely include porcupine (*Erethizon dorsatum*), mountain-beaver (*Aplodontia rufa*), ermine (*Mustela erminea*), long-tailed weasel (*Mustela frenata*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) and Douglas squirrels (*Tamiasciurus douglasii*). Both the common deer mouse and forest deer mouse (*Peromyscus spp.*) are likely abundant as are Pacific jumping mouse (*Zapus trinotatus*), bushy-tailed woodrat (*Neotoma cinerea*), creeping, long-tailed and Townsend voles (*Microtus spp.*). Insectivores most likely include the dusky, montane and Trowbridge shrews (*Sorex spp.*), little brown and Yuma bats (*Myotis spp.*), big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), hoary bat (*Lasiurus cinereus*), shrew mole (*Neurotrichus gibbsii*) and moles (*Scapanus spp.*).

The second habitat area is Stand 3, the alder sapling stand along with stand 4, the understocked areas. Currently this provides a more open brushy habitat with abundant grasses, forbs and mast suitable for foraging to a wide range of the wildlife occupying both the mature forest and this more open stand. Some species such as the American robin (*Turdus migratorius*) and rufus hummingbird (*Selasphorus rufus*) prefer this more open habitat. The abundant food draws squirrels, mice and others, which in turn are favored prey for raptors and carnivores. Wildlife trees scattered throughout the young stand provide roosts for foraging and feeding, habitat for insects, as well as nest sites for species preferring open areas. Where the habitat types join, referred to as edge, the most diverse association of wildlife is found. In total, the habitats form a complex and rich food web.

Management recommendations

The tributary forming and flowing within our property flows into the Swiftwater River and contributes to water quality and quantity. Contribution to water quantity and quality should be maintained and enhanced. Riparian areas should be managed according to most current science and best practices. Activities within our property will be conducted in a manner that creates minimal disturbance to brush, forbs and duff layers.

Given the young age of the reforestation stand in conjunction with recent harvest on nearby parcels, habitat provided by the mature mixed hardwood/conifer should be maintained. Underplanting with shade tolerant conifer seedlings in some of the more open hardwood areas would assure advanced reforestation as the hardwoods die or are harvested. This will help maintain canopy cover and eventually improve thermal cover. Keeping a mosaic of conifers and hardwoods provides a range of mast. The forested wetland habitat values would be improved over time by underplanting with shade tolerant conifer species. As the reforestation stand enters stem exclusion, productivity of grasses, forbs and shrubs will decline. Varied density thinnings will help maintain habitat benefits.

Wildlife Example 2

Resource assessment

General conditions

Having been logged in the 19th and late 20th centuries, our property exhibits the first three stages of forest development: stand initiation (Stand 1), stem exclusion (Stands 1 and 2), and very early understory re-initiation (Stand, 3).

Snags

There are snags throughout the property, several of which were created during the most recent windstorm.

Coarse woody debris

There are a good number of fallen trees that provide shelter to wildlife.

Understory vegetation

Habitat in the understory re-initiation consists primarily of salal, sword fern, holly, mosses, and various berry bushes, which grow amid

Observed wildlife species

We do not live on our property and so our wildlife observations are limited to that which we observe when on the land. We have seen blacktail deer, squirrels, chipmunks, rabbits, bats, insects (dragonflies), a garter snake, a barred owl, woodpeckers, geese, ravens, crows and numerous smaller bird species. We've also heard frogs and coyotes, but to date have not seen them. There are no fish streams on the property.

Management recommendations

As we fall trees to establish a view corridor, we will take the opportunity to create and incorporate snags. We also intend to leave standing those trees that were windsnapped in November 2023.

Clearing a home site has provided the opportunity to create piles of wood debris for use by wildlife. In addition, we will leave many of the trees that were uprooted by the recent windstorm in place as another source of shelter for wildlife.

Stand 2 is in a state of stem exclusion; we intend to thin the Douglas-firs in this stand to allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor and encourage growth of the understory.

One of our objectives is to increase the variety of deciduous trees on our property by planting bigleaf maple, black cottonwood, paper birch, Pacific madrone, and bitter cherry trees in Stand 1. A secondary benefit will be to provide new sources of habitat and food to the wildlife population.

Our home site will be cleared of trees. The area below the home that is designated for the septic system and drain field will be sown with native grasses, which will provide cover, nesting material, and a source of food to wildlife.

Lastly, we are strong advocates for bats and will build and install bat boxes on our property. These will hopefully provide shelters to these flying mammals and help to naturally reduce the insect population.

Wildlife Example 3

Resource assessment

General conditions

Overall, there is diverse, good quality wildlife habitat.

Snags

There are several standing snags to provide shelter for birds. The snags show signs of significant woodpecker activity.

Coarse woody debris

There are numerous naturally occurring downed logs that provide a welcome habitat for wildlife. We are developing brush piles as fallen limbs are cleared off deer trails to be used to form habitat piles across the property.

Understory vegetation

There is a robust understory with a mix of tall shrubs and low ground cover.

Observed species

An important goal of our forest management will be to provide appropriate habitat for a variety of wildlife. Wildlife which has already been observed and documented on or near the property, at different times of year, include:

Table 1: Observed wildlife species on the property.

Amphibians	Birds	Mammals	Reptiles
Western toad	Barred owl	Raccoon	NW garter snake
Pacific salamander	Bald eagle	Bobcat	
Pacific tree frog	Rufous hummingbird	Mule deer	
	Anna's hummingbird	Black bear	
	Pileated woodpecker	Blacktail deer	
	Stellar jay	Western gray squirrel	
	American robin	Douglas squirrel	
	Common raven	Vagrant shrew	
	Western tanager	Northern flying squirrel	

	Ruffed grouse	Townsend's chipmunk	
	Blue grouse	Coyote	
	American crow	Elk	
	Band-tailed pigeon	Wood rat	
	Red-breasted sapsucker	Bats	
	Hairy woodpecker	Possum	
	Northern flicker	Brush rat	
	Western wood-pewee		
	Mountain chickadee		
	Red-breasted nuthatch		
	Varied thrush		
	Chipping sparrow		
	Dark-eyed junco		

There is a diverse bee population, including bumblebees, honeybees, and mason bees. We have observed some butterflies, beetles, moths, flies, mosquitos, and violet tail dragonflies.

