

CURRENT USFWS GUIDANCE ON AUDITORY AND VISUAL HARASSMENT THRESHOLDS

Bald eagle- Nests and Known Winter Roosts

Activity	Harassment Threshold Distance
Noise	0.25 mi (400 m)
Visual activity	0.5 mi (800 m)

Marbled murrelet

Activity	Harassment Threshold Distance
Blasting (greater than 2 lb charge)	1.0 mi (1.6 km)
Blasting (less than a 2 lb charge)	360 ft (110 m)
Effect pile driving, jackhammer, or rock drill	180 ft (55 m)
Helicopter or single-engine Aircraft	360 ft (110 m)
Chainsaws	135 ft (40 m)
Heavy equipment	105 ft (32 m)
Visual activity	300 ft (90 m)

Note: Because the thresholds are much closer, the visual threshold typically trumps the non-blasting auditory thresholds.

Northern spotted owl

Activity	Harassment Threshold Distance
Blasting (greater than 2 lb charge)	1.0 mi (1.6 km)
Blasting (less than a 2 lb charge)	360 ft (110 m)
Effect pile driving, jackhammer, or rock drill	180 ft (55 m)
Helicopter or single-engine Aircraft	360 ft (110 m)
Chainsaws	195 ft (60 m)
Heavy equipment	105 ft (32 m)

Note: No established visual harassment threshold for spotted owls.

Other Species

Most other federally listed species that are potentially susceptible to harassment have the default 0.25 mile threshold for noise and includes:

- Canada lynx
- Columbian white-tailed deer
- Brown pelican
- Pacific Coast population of the Western snowy plover

In addition to considering the harassment distance thresholds, you must also consider the critical breeding/nesting period, and other seasons in which species may be susceptible to harassment. These time periods vary by species, province (NSO), or colonial roosting periods (brown pelican and bald eagle).

Marbled Murrelet

The critical nesting period for marbled murrelets is *April 1 to August 5*. Non-blasting high noise producing construction activities conducted from *August 6 to September 15* shall implement a daily limited operating period (LOP) of daytime work being conducted from two hours after sunrise to two hours before sunset.

Bald Eagle Review the most recent Isaacs and Anthony bald eagle nesting survey database for nest locations.

The critical nesting period for bald eagles in Oregon is from *January 1 to September 1*. However, Frank Isaacs can be consulted for site specific nesting chronology information. The critical winter roosting period is *October 31 to December 31*.

Northern Spotted Owl Critical nesting periods are set by province or sub-province as follows:

March 1 to July 7 for the North Coast Province

March 1 to June 30 for the Rogue/Siskiyou National Forest (NF) and Medford District of U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the Southwest Province.

March 1 to July 15 for the Umpqua NF in the Southwest Province.

March 1 to July 15 for the Willamette Province.

March 1 to September 30 for the Deschutes NF, and the Fremont, and Winema NF unless otherwise specified by the Klamath Basin Ecosystem Restoration Office.

Western Snowy Plover (Pacific Coast Population)

The critical nesting period for snowy plovers nesting along the Oregon coast is *March 15 to September 15*.

Canada Lynx

The sensitive denning period for Canada lynx in Oregon is *May 1 to August 31*.

Columbian White-tailed Deer

The sensitive fawning period for Columbian white-tailed deer is *June 1 to July 15*.