

OWLS TO BE SHOT DURING NESTING SEASON IN SONOMA AND MARIN COUNTIES

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service cull of barred owls to begin as early as August 2024 - barred and “hybrid sparred” owls to be hunted at night in CA, OR, and WA forests



Each “split” image shows a barred owl on the left and a spotted owl on the right, highlighting their similarities. (Source: NSOBP)

Barred and spotted owls mate and raise fertile offspring.
“Hybrid sparred” owlets can have markings and calls that reflect either or both parents.

This cull would allow the killing of roughly 450,000 barred and sparred owls across the western United States.

- After 100 years of intensive logging, only 5% of original redwood forest remains today. (Source: *Save the Redwoods League*)
- Humans and wildlife need protected forest to help combat global warming and preserve species. (Source: *NOAA, NASA*)
- The proposal “did not attempt to estimate costs” of the cull. If according to *National Geographic*, the estimated pilot cost was \$8.5 million, the estimated lifetime cost of the project would be \$235,450,000. (Sources: *USFWS EIS, National Geographic, Center for a Humane Economy*)
- USFWS deputized hunters are advised to shoot owls at night during nesting season in Muir Woods, Golden Gate Nat’l Recreational Area, Point Reyes Nat’l Seashore, Armstrong Woods, Willow Creek, as well as in State, County, and municipal lands. (Source: *USFWS EIS*)
- Scientists and bird watchers have difficulty distinguishing barred, spotted, and “hybrid sparred” owls, but hunters can bury carcasses on site without genetic testing. (Source: *Washington Post*)

To learn more, read the USFWS Environmental Impact Statement, linked here:

If you have an opinion about the cull, reach out to:

US Senator Laphonza Butler (202) 224 3841
US Senator Alex Padilla (202) 224 3553
US Representative Jared Huffman (202) 224 3121

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