

Owl proposal trimmed to save Northwest jobs



WASHINGTON (AP) — The government is further scaling back its proposal to protect the threatened northern spotted owl in an effort to save Northwest timber jobs, congressional and other sources said.

The Fish and Wildlife Service proposed in April that 11.6 million acres of Northwest forest be designated as habitat critical to the survival of the bird.

In August, the service revised the proposal to about 8.2 million acres. Three sources, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the area will be cut to less than 7 million acres in its final proposal this week.

David Klinger, a Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman in Portland, confirmed the final designation would be significantly scaled back and have less economic impact than earlier proposals. But he declined to discuss specifics.

"I think once the final plan is announced you will see some fairly significant changes in response to what we heard in the public hearings and in response to the economic arguments that have been made," Klinger said.

The agency will present the final plan Wednesday to U.S. District Judge Thomas Zilly in Seattle. Interior Department spokesman Steve Goldstein said. Congressional briefings on the habitat boundaries are scheduled Thursday, he said.

The three sources, including one Senate aide, said in interviews with The Associated Press that all state lands would be removed from within the protected boundaries.

They said last-minute changes could possibly be made, but that the draft showed about 6.8 million to 6.9 million acres of national forests and other federal lands would be affected — more than 3.2 million acres in Oregon and more than 1.4 million in northern California.

It was not clear how many fewer jobs would be lost under the final designation compared with the earlier proposals, but sources said the agency was indicating at least 1,000 jobs would be saved.

The Fish and Wildlife Service declared the northern spotted owl a threatened species in June 1990 and said failure to curb years of extensive logging could make it extinct.

Efforts to save the owl are expected to require cutting back logging to about half the region's traditional levels.

Under a federal court order, the agency proposed last April that logging be restricted across 11.6 million acres of so-called "critical habitat" — an area larger than Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

But the agency revised its proposal in August to about 8.2 million acres, largely by removing all the 3 million acres of private land in the original proposal.

Agency officials estimated the region would lose about 2,548 jobs directly as a result of designating 8.2 million acres as critical habitat. Under the final 6.9 million-acre plan, the agency estimates job loss would total about 1,420 jobs, the sources said.

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Abdominals Workout	UH	3:35pm	352 GerX	\$18
Aerobics	MW	4:35pm	352 GerX	\$18
Aerobics	UH	4:35pm	220 Ger	\$18
Aerobics	MW	6:35pm	220 Ger	\$18
Aerobics	UH	6:35pm	352 GerX	\$18
Aerobics	MW	7:35pm	220 Ger	\$18
Aerobics	UH	7:35pm	352 GerX	\$18
Barb/Step Aerobics	MW	8:35pm	220 Ger	\$23
Funk Aerobics	UH	8:35pm	352 GerX	\$18
Women's Weight Workout	UH	6:30pm	36 Es	\$18
Circuit Training**	MW	5:30pm	47 Es	\$18
Power Hour**	UH	5:30pm	47 Es	\$18
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Water Aerobics	UH	4:00pm	Ger Pool	\$23
YOGA				
Hatha Yoga	UH	4:30pm	77 Es	\$18
Hatha Yoga	UH	5:30pm	77 Es	\$18
DANCE				
Swing/50's Rock & Roll	U	7:00pm	850 GerX	\$18
Intermediate Ballroom	U	8:00pm	850 GerX	\$18
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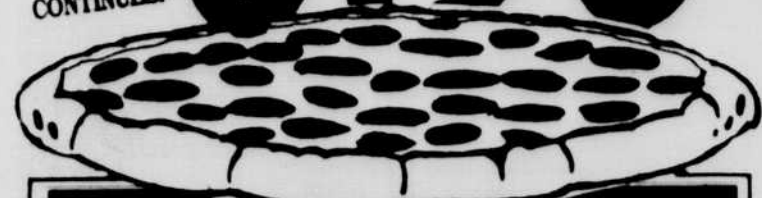
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