

- Retain key forest species such as oak.
- Retain key habitat components such as snags and large downed logs.
- Harvest conifers less than 9 inches in diameter only within those protected activity centers treated to abate fire risk as described below.

Treat fuel accumulations to abate fire risk.

- **In general**, select for treatment 10 percent of the [Mexican spotted owl] protected activity centers (PAC) where nest sites are known **or where a 100 acre “no treatment” area has been delineated (based on Ward and Salas, 2001)** in each recovery unit having high fire risk conditions. Also select another 10 percent of the PACs where nest sites are known as a paired sample to serve as control areas. **For the Rio Peñasco/La Luz Watershed, 38 PACs will have vegetative treatment and will be monitored as described in the Rio Peñasco II EA, Appendix C, August 2002.**
- Designate a 100-acre "no treatment" area around the known nest site of each selected PAC **or based on methods described by Ward and Salas, 2001.** Habitat in the no treatment area should be as similar as possible in structure and composition as that found in the activity center.
- Use combinations of thinning trees less than 9 inches [in] in diameter, mechanical fuel treatment and prescribed fire to abate fire risk in the remainder of the selected PAC outside the 100-acre "no treatment" area. **The nine-inch diameter limit is exempted in the Rio Peñasco/La Luz Watershed where scientific studies are designed to test fuel management prescriptions in MSO protected activity centers.**
- Retain woody debris larger than 12 in diameter, snags, clumps of broad-leafed woody vegetation, and hardwood trees larger than 10 in diameter at the root collar.
- Select and treat additional protected activity centers in 10 percent increments if monitoring of the initial sample shows there were no negative impacts or there were negative impacts which can be mitigated by modifying treatment methods.
- Use light prescribed burns in non-selected PACs on a case-by- case basis. Burning should avoid a 100-acre "no treatment" area **within** the PAC. Large woody debris, snags, clumps of broad-leafed woody vegetation should be retained and hardwood trees larger than 10 in diameter at the root collar.
- **Pre- and post-treatment monitoring should be conducted in protected activity centers treated for fire risk abatement. (See monitoring guidelines).**

Steep Slopes (Mixed conifer and pine-oak forests outside protected activity centers with slopes greater than 40% that have not been logged within the last 20 years): No seasonal restrictions apply. Treat fuel accumulations to abate fire risk.

- Use combinations of thinning trees less than 9 inches in diameter, mechanical fuels removal, and prescribed fire.
- Retain woody debris larger than 12 inches in diameter, snags, clumps of broad-leafed woody vegetation, and hardwood trees larger than 10 inches in diameter at the root collar.

- Retain key forest species such as oak.
- Retain key habitat components such as snags and large downed logs.
- Harvest conifers less than 9 inches in diameter only within those protected activity centers treated to abate fire risk as described below.

Treat fuel accumulations to abate fire risk.

- **In general**, select for treatment 10% of the Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers where nest sites are known or where a 100 acre “no treatment” area has been delineated (based on Ward and Salas, 2001) in each recovery unit having high fire risk conditions. Also select another 10% of the protected activity centers where nest sites are known as a paired sample to serve as control areas. **For the Rio Peñasco/La Luz Watershed, 38 protected activity centers will have vegetative treatment and will be monitored as described in the Rio Penasco II EA, August 2002.**
- Designate a 100 acre no-treatment area around the known nest site of each selected protected activity center or based on methods by Ward and Salas, 2001. Habitat in the no treatment area should be as similar as possible in structure and composition as that found in the activity center.
- Use combinations of thinning trees less than 9 inches in diameter, mechanical fuel treatment and prescribed fire to abate fire risk in the remainder of the selected protected activity center outside the 100 acre no treatment area. **The nine-inch diameter limit is exempted in the Rio Peñasco/La Luz Watershed where scientific studies are designed to test fuel management prescriptions in MSO protected activity centers.**
- Retain some woody debris larger than 12 inches in diameter, snags, clumps of broad-leafed woody vegetation, and hardwood trees larger than 10 inches in diameter at the root collar.
- Select and treat additional protected activity centers in 10% increments if monitoring of the initial sample shows there were no negative impacts or there were negative impacts which can be mitigated by modifying treatment methods.
- Use light prescribed burns in non-selected protected activity centers on a case-by-case basis. Burning should avoid a 100-acre "no treatment" area within the protected activity center. Large woody debris, snags, clumps of broad-leafed woody vegetation should be retained and hardwood trees larger than 10 inches diameter at the root collar.
- Pre and post treatment monitoring should be conducted in some protected activity centers treated for fire risk abatement. (See monitoring guidelines)

Steep Slopes (Mixed conifer and pine-oak forests outside protected activity centers with slopes greater than 40% that have not been logged within the past 20 years): No seasonal restrictions apply.

Treat fuel accumulations to abate fire risk.

- Use combinations of thinning trees less than 9 inches in diameter, mechanical fuel removal, and prescribed fire.
- Retain woody debris larger than 12 inches in diameter, snags, clumps of broad-leaved woody vegetation, and hardwood trees larger than 10 inches in diameter at the root collar.
- Pre and post treatment monitoring should occur within all steep slopes treated for fire risk abatement. (See monitoring guidelines)