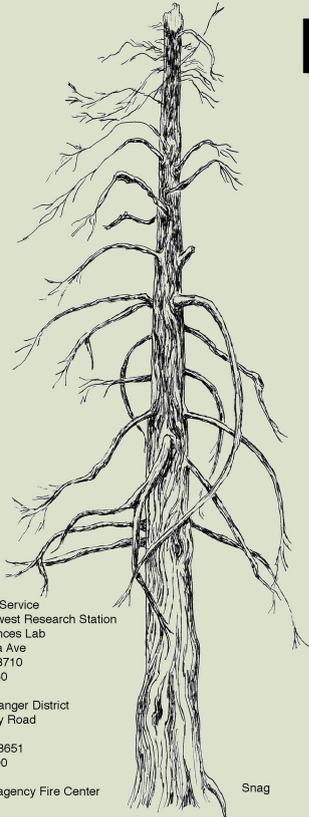




FIRE

benefits many plants and animals. Birds depend on fire to maintain their habitat.



Trees are killed by fire, as well as other causes, resulting in dead trees that are still standing called snags. Snags provide crucial nesting habitat for many forest birds, including the white-headed woodpecker.

Look closely around you. Can you spot a snag being used by birds for nesting?

Historically forests in this area experienced fire every 8-10 years. However, over the last 100 years most forest fires were extinguished in their early stages. This fire suppression allowed trees and shrubs to become much more crowded than they would have been naturally.

While some birds rely on thick foliage to conceal their nests, many birds also use open forest, free of dense shrubs, to find food. Fire creates patchiness when it clears out some trees and shrubs to create open spaces, but also leaves some areas of the forest dense. Over 45 known bird species depend on the varied types of forest habitat in this area.



Severe wildfire may be the greatest threat to California spotted owl habitat. In an attempt to reduce this threat, the effects of prescribed fire and tree thinning are being studied.



Spotted towhees, which lay their eggs on the ground, use bearclover to conceal their nests. Bearclover, or mountain misery, is a dense ground cover that regrows quickly after a fire.



Bearclover

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