

Oregon Vesper Sparrow Status Report



Washington Department of
FISH and WILDLIFE

Oregon Vesper Sparrow



- ‘West-side’ subspec. of widespread grassland spp.
- Bred from SW BC, south to N California

Oregon Vesper Sparrow

*“rather abundant on the Nisqually plains” and
“common in summer on the prairies”*

—George Suckley, 1860





- Numbers/range declined with prairie habitat
- State Candidate since 1998
- USFWS (2018)—may be warranted for ESA

Oregon Vesper Sparrow:

- In Washington April-September
- Winters in California
- Ground nester
- High site fidelity



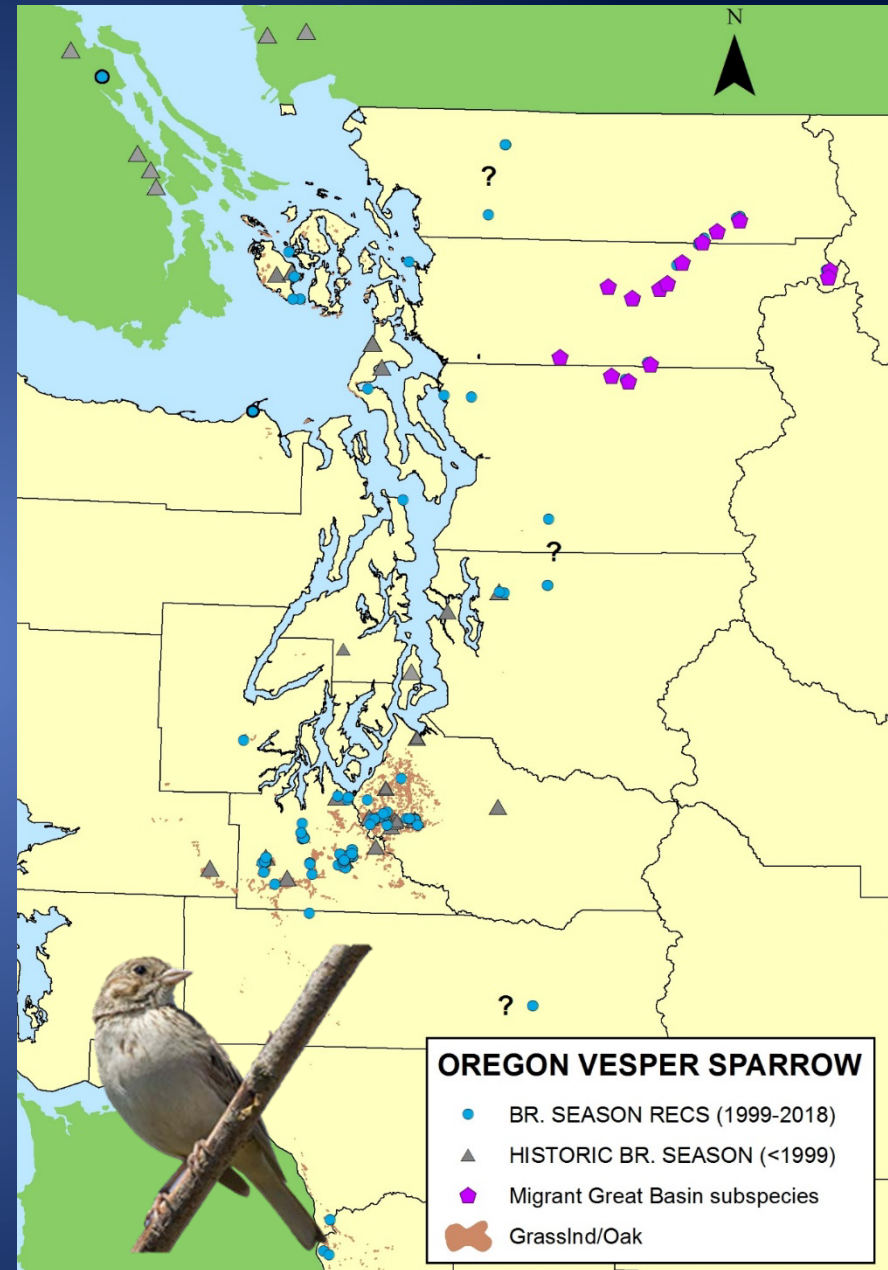
POPULATION STATUS

Extirpated:

- British Columbia
- Vashon Island
- Seattle area
- Dungeness
- San Juans (?)

Current:

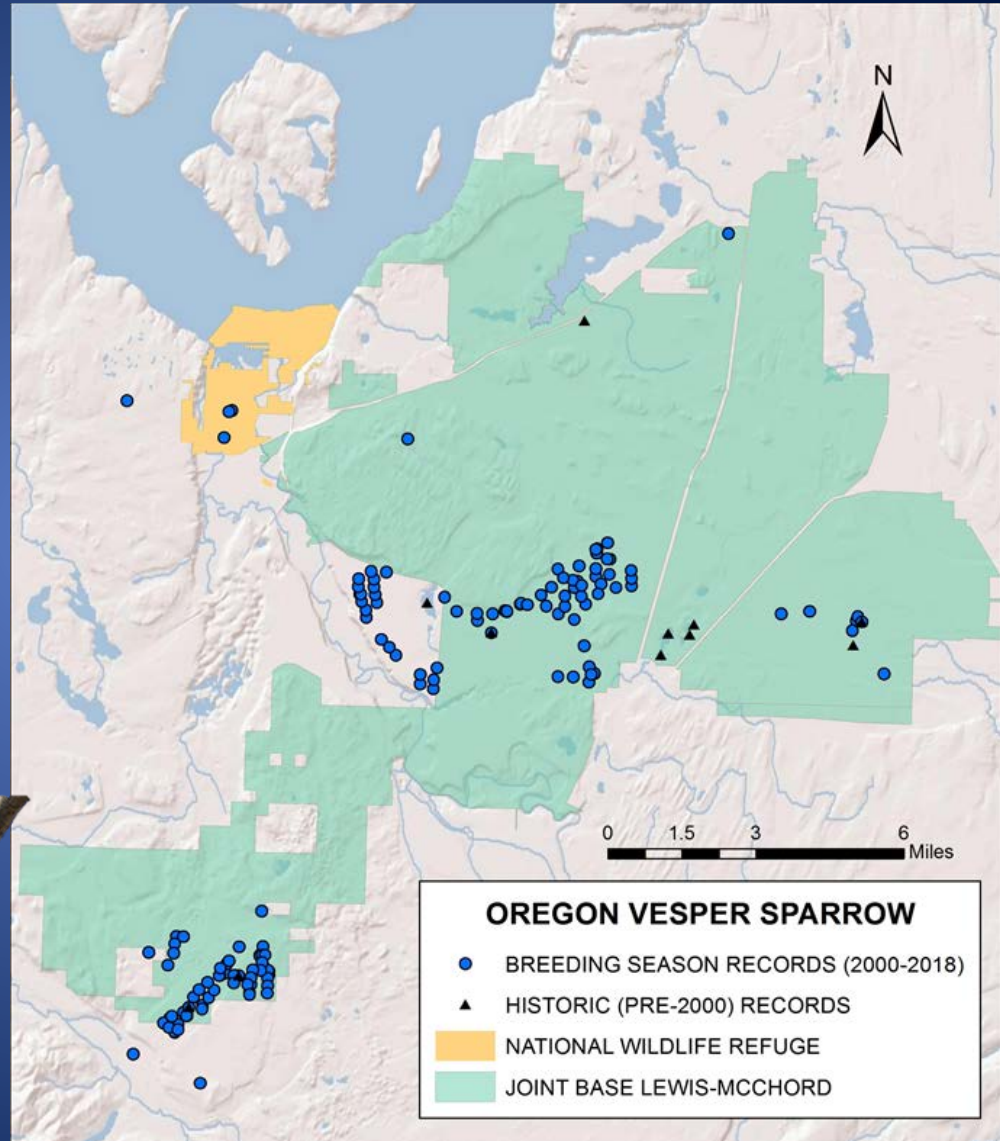
- WA pop <300 of <3,000



WASHINGTON POPULATION STATUS

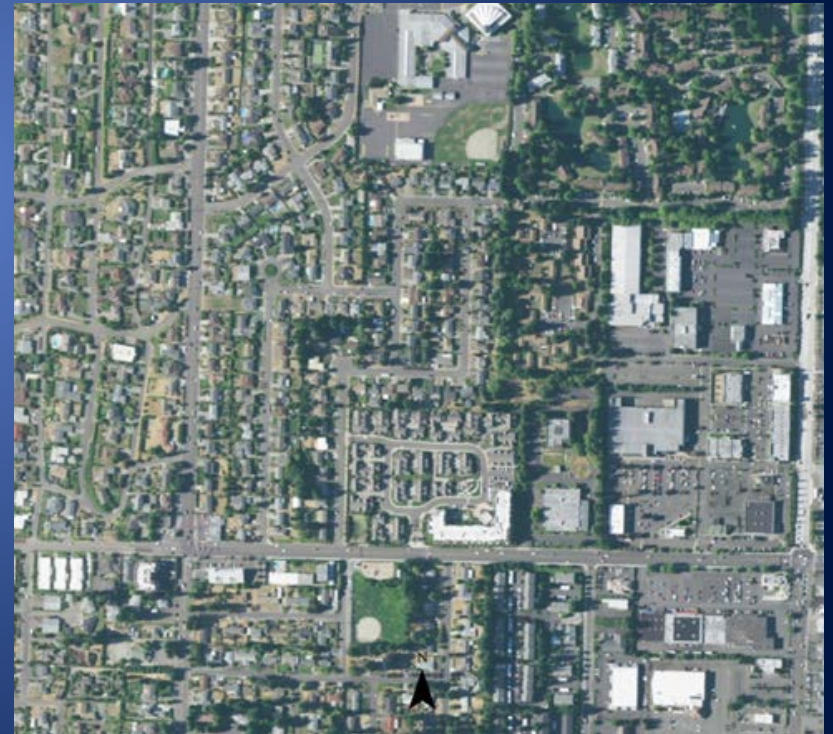
Current:

- ~85% on Joint-Base Lewis-McChord



FACTORS AFFECTING POPULATIONS:

- **Habitat loss:** fragmentation, development
[Washington's human population predicted increase to 9.2 million by 2040 (OFM 2018)]
- Scotch Broom, invasives



FACTORS AFFECTING POPULATIONS:

- Habitat loss, fragmentation, continued development
- Scotch Broom, invasive species

- **Small population size:**

- Loss of genetic health
- Reduced egg hatchability (observed)
- Reduced fitness



FACTORS AFFECTING POPULATIONS:

- Habitat loss, Scotch Broom, small population size
- Predation
- Disturbance
- Migration/winter: treated seeds?

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48°F



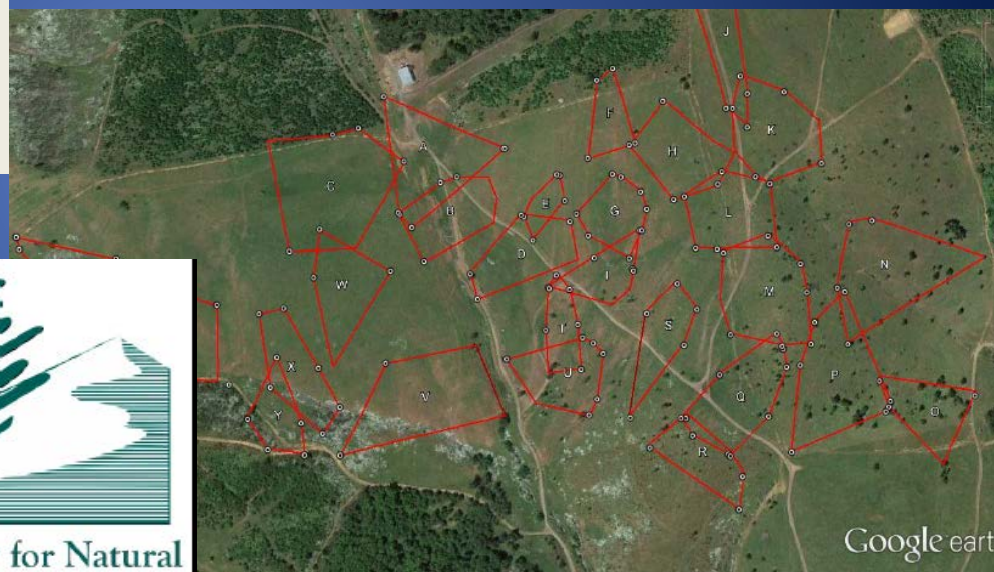
A neonicotinoid insecticide reduces fueling and delays migration in songbirds

Margaret L. Eng¹, Bridget J. M. Stutchbury², Christy A. Morrissey^{3,4*}

Neonicotinoids are neurotoxic insecticides widely used as seed treatments, but little is

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:


- Surveys, research



MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

- Surveys, research
- Prairie protection, restoration
 - Prescribed fire program
 - CNLM, JBLM,

Center for Natural
Lands
Management

**SOUTH PUGET SOUND &
NORTH OLYMPIC WILDLIFE AREAS
2017 MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE**
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Land Management Summary



**Puget Sound Ecological Fire Program
2017 Summary Report**



Center for Natural
Lands
Management

Partnerships and planning



**Bush Prairie
Habitat Conservation Plan**

About THURSTON COUNTY, WA

Developing Solutions: Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

Working together to create an efficient process for the community



Recommendation



- History of decline, extirpations
- Small population (<300), small distribution
- Restricted to rare/declining habitat

Recommendation:

- List as Endangered

Recovery actions?

- Adapt prairie management
 - Singing perches
- Include species in HCP's
- PHS, Wildlife Area planning



THURSTON COUNTY, WA

Developing Solutions: Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

Working together to create an efficient process for the community

Public comments received:

5 supported listing and recovery action
1 did not support listing



Questions?

