

Species Protective Measures for Red-cockaded Woodpecker

Projects on privately owned land occupied by RCW must adhere to the Service's Private Lands Guidelines standard for managed stability located in Appendix 5 of the Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Recovery Plan, second revision (2003):

1. Provide each group of RCW with a minimum of 689 m² (3000 ft²) of pine basal area (BA), including only pines ≥ 25.4 cm (10 in) diameter at breast height.
2. Provide the above pine BA on a minimum of 30.4 ha (75 ac).
3. Count only those pine stands in suitable habitat that, for this standard only, has each of the following characteristics:
 - a. Stands that are ≥ 30 years old.
 - b. An average pine BA of pines ≥ 25.4 cm (10 in) between 9.2 and 16.1 m²/ha (40 and 70 ft²/ac).
 - c. An average pine BA of pines < 25.4 cm (10 in) less than 4.6 m²/ha (20 ft²/ac).
 - d. No hardwood midstory or if a hardwood midstory is present, it is sparse and less than 2.1 m (7 ft) in height.
 - e. Total stand BA, including overstory hardwoods, less than 23.0 m²/ha (80 ft²/ac).
 - f. We recommend that all land counted as foraging habitat be within 0.4 km (0.25 mi) of the cluster and that any stand counted as foraging habitat be within 61 m (200 ft) of another foraging stand or the cluster itself.
 - g. Frequent prescribed burning of foraging habitat, especially during the growing season, is strongly recommended. Development and protection of herbaceous groundcovers facilitates prescribed burning and benefits RCWs.

The full text of RCW Recovery Plan including Appendix 4 Survey Protocol and Appendix 5 Private Lands Guidelines is available here

<https://www.fws.gov/rcwrecovery/files/RecoveryPlan/finalrecoveryplan.pdf>