

# Project WAfLS – Western Asio flammeus Landscape Survey

What: The person who handed you this flier is a volunteer working on an 8-state survey of Short-eared Owls. Their sole intent is to detect the presence or absence of these birds from public roadways. We appreciate your understanding and support of this dedicated volunteer and the task that they are performing.

Purpose: Project WAfLS is an eight-state program designed to assess the population status, trends, and threats against the Short-eared Owl, an enigmatic, open-country species. Project WAfLS engages enthusiastic citizen-scientist volunteers across the west to gather critical survey data, enabling a rigorous assessment of the status of this species. Our results directly influence high-value conservation actions by state and federal agencies, and our volunteers are rewarded with training and experience in critical observation, the scientific method, data collection, and regularly report unique and exciting observations.

Volunteers will complete two 90-minute surveys between March and May where they will visit multiple points in the period leading up to evening darkness. At each point, the volunteer will get out of their vehicle and survey the area for Short-eared Owls for five minutes, take some quick notes about the habitat surrounding the point, and then move on to the next point.

All data for Project WAfLS is aggregated across the study. Observations in individual locations will not result in any local management decisions.



## Partner organizations:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
Klamath Bird Observatory  
Owl Research Institute  
Utah Department of Natural Resources  
Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Hawkwatch International  
Intermountain Bird Observatory  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
University of Wyoming Biodiversity Institute  
Washington Department of Fish and Game

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