



Identified Wildlife Species in the Mackenzie Region:

IWMS Home	Bull Trout	American Bittern	Sandhill Crane	Trumpeter Swan	Northern Goshawk	Fisher	Grizzly Bear	Mountain Goat
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Northern Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis atricapillus*)

This species is considered REGIONALLY IMPORTANT because it is associated with habitats that are becoming rare, & because adjacent jurisdictions have listed it at risk. The sub-species *Accipiter gentilis laingi* (Queen Charlotte goshawk) is RED-listed.

Distinguishing Characteristics



Adult:

1. Broad WHITE stripe over RED eye
2. Belly & breast: finely barred & PALE GREY
3. Fine bands on under-side of wings
4. GREY back
5. Large stick nests built in the crotch of deciduous trees, approx. 2/3 of the way up



NORTHERN GOSHAWK CALL



Juvenile:



1. Plumage BROWN until approx. 3 years of age
2. Characteristic white stripe over eye may or may not be present
3. Eye colour YELLOW until approx. 1 year of age

Similar Species: *Red-tailed Hawk*



1. Plumage mostly BROWN
2. Breast mostly WHITE, not barred
3. Wings have characteristic BLACK BARS on fore edge of wings
4. Tail feathers most often RED



RED-TAILED HAWK CALL



Species Ecology:

- Habitat: coniferous/deciduous forest in mountain regions
- Feeds on large birds & small mammals associated with old-growth forests or forest edges
- Adult will not feed young if nest is disturbed
- Nesting females are very aggressive in the spring while rearing young, & will often "dive-bomb" intruders
- Females alternate nest sites between nesting seasons

Distribution:



Northern Goshawk Management:

Critical Habitat:

- Nesting areas in stands of large trees with dense canopies & relatively open understories
- Post-fledging areas that contain feeding perches (stumps, downed snags, large horizontal limbs below the canopy) with relatively open understory to facilitate pursuit & capture of prey
- Coarse woody debris important to provide habitat for Goshawk prey. Northern Goshawks avoid foraging in open habitats
- Breeding season: March 15 thru September 1 (activity restrictions may be removed after June 30 for inactive or unsuccessful nests)



Wildlife Habitat Area:

- A "two-tiered" WHA implemented at breeding sites for a total area of approximately 240 ha
- The entire WHA should include the nest area & post-fledging area (PFA)
- The 240 ha area should include three nest areas, 12 ha in size each: one should be the

- active nest, and the other two nests will provide alternate nesting sites
- If alternate nest sites cannot be identified (based on presence of inactive nests), appropriate 12 ha areas should be selected which include suitable habitat
- Known breeding sites include any active nest, or any nest which is known to be active within the last 5 years

CRITICAL DISTURBANCE TIMES:

Post-fledgling Area



Mar 15 June 30

Active Nesting Area



Mar 15 Sept 1

Road Construction:

- **Active Nesting Area:** no road construction within nest areas (12 ha)
- **Post-fledgling Area:**
 - no blasting during courtship & nest establishment (March 15 - June 30)
 - no road building or modification within 200 m of active nest between March 15 - September 1

Silviculture:

- **Active Nest Area:** No harvest or salvage within nest areas, except for treatments aimed at maintaining or improving stand structure for nesting - all activities should be restricted during breeding (March 15-September 1)
- **Post-fledging Area:** Plan harvest sequence to create mosaic of successional stages, with at least 20% closed-canopy old growth & 40% in mature forest
 - restrict harvest to less important goshawk habitat
 - no prolonged hauling on existing roads within 200 m of active nest between March 15 - September 1
 - no logging or hauling within WHA with active nest from March 15 - September 1
 - no silviculture treatments between March 15-June 30 within 500 m of active nest