



A NEST OF AN OSPREY

Definition

A nest and its supporting structure that either (1) is currently occupied by an osprey to hold its eggs or offspring, or (2) is habitually occupied and still capable of holding eggs or offspring of an osprey.

Location

- Generally close to a permanent body of water
- Typically at the top of dead or live trees, and on man-made structures such as power poles (nest in manmade structures are not features)

Features

- Made of large sticks >0.75 cm in diameter
- Often lined with bark, sod, grass, or man-made materials
- Evidence of use at base of tree (e.g. feces, prey remains, feathers)
- Size
 - Diameter: 1.5-2.5 m
 - Depth: 0.5-1.5 m

Notes

- Strong fidelity to nests; used year after year
- Yellow-listed in British Columbia.
- COSEWIC provides no designation for this bird.

Sensitive Timing

Courtship	Eggs Present	Young Present
Apr 1 – Apr 30	May 1 – Jul 1	May 31 – Sept 1



Photos left to right: Mark Nyhof, Chris Wilson

Similar features to an Osprey nest

Bald eagle nests - how to distinguish:

- Bald eagle nests are larger, and are often within the top third of the tree
- Bald eagle nests often contain only sticks, not other material such as grasses, sod, plastic bags, and other man-made materials.

Great blue heron nests - how to distinguish:

- Great blue heron nests are less robust ('flimsy'), smaller and shallower
- Multiple heron nests can be found in the same area (rookery) whereas eagle nests are solitary
- May regurgitate food leaving dark gray wash with greasy-look at base of tree

Habitat	BEC
Interior Douglas-fir	IDF
Interior Cedar – Hemlock	ICH
Montane Spruce	MS
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir	ESSF
Ponderosa Pine	PP

Information to Consider

- **Sensitive Timing: April 1 – September 1**
- Unaccustomed levels of noise or activity near the nest tree can cause pairs to abandon their nest, particularly early in nesting season. Minimize time spent in the nest area during late January to mid-May.
- Increase buffer, or delay activities, if the nest is active and the bird constantly flushes away when using minimum buffers.
- Consider the sight lines between the activity and the nest; in more open forests or terrain, a larger buffer may be required for these visually acute species.
- During breeding season, consider adding a “quiet” buffer of an extra 100 m to the no disturbance buffer in which no unusual or sudden loud activities will occur (e.g., blasting, tree felling, chain saws, trucking, etc.).

Recommended disturbance buffers around an Osprey nest, depending on existing disturbance and disturbance level of the proposed activity.

		Existing Exposure to Disturbance			
		NIL Isolated site, little or no prior access	LOW Undeveloped area with occasional human use	MODERATE Near secondary logging road or minor recreation site	HIGH Near primary road, major recreation site or human development
Disturbance Level of Proposed Activity	LOW Activities on foot. Small group, visual screening present. Livestock attractants. Examples: layout, cruising reconnaissance.	100-200m	1.5 x tree length	1.5 x tree length	1.5 x tree length
	MODERATE Light mechanized activities. Larger group/duration, no visual screening. Examples: spacing, planting, fence construction.	200-500m	100-200m	100-200m	1.5 x tree length
	HIGH Mechanized activities Examples: road construction, falling and yarding, landing sites.	200-500m	200-500m	200-500m	100-200m
	VERY HIGH Blasting, helicopter logging.	1000m +	1000m +	1000m +	1000m +