

Ferruginous Hawk

Buteo regalis

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Conservation Status

Included in Section 7 Notice: No

Designated as Identified Wildlife: No

Federally Designated (COSEWIC): **Yes (Special Concern)**

Species identified in Kamloops, Lillooet or Merritt SFMP: **Yes (Merritt SFMP)**

Description

- Largest member of the hawk family (wingspan: 140cm, Length: 60cm).
- Rusty back and shoulders, paler head, and white tail washed with pale rust.
- Snowy white chest.
- Strongly hooked bill with yellow cere.
- In flight, the wing linings are white with a dark crescent at the wrist.



Photo: Dave Rintoul



Vocalization

Alarm call is kree-a or kaah kaah. [Click here](#) to be linked to a website featuring a recording of its vocalization.

Forest Districts

Okanagan Shuswap

Cascades

BEC Zones

- BGxh, BGxw
- IDFxh, IDFdm, IDFdk, IDFmw
- PPxh, PPdh

Important Habitat Features

- Open grasslands with copses of aspens, cottonwoods and mixed woodlands.
- When nesting in trees, this species utilizes sparse old-growth and mature ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir forests (age class 7, 8, 9), probably including mature cottonwoods and aspens (age class 5) at the edge of grasslands. Typically live or decaying (not dead) trees are used for nest sites.

Additional Information

Known breeding localities are restricted to the Southern Thompson Uplands (Aspen Grove and Logan Lake). Potential breeding habitat exists in the Okanagan valley, Nicola valley, across the Thompson Plateau, Thompson Basin, eastern Similkameen valley and Richter Pass.

Management Recommendations

Consult with a Registered Professional Biologist prior to implementing the following management recommendations because certain situations may require custom solutions based on specific site characteristics.

- Budget permitting, develop a habitat model to help identify high value habitat found within your areas of interest. The complexity of the model, and therefore its accuracy, will be dependent on budgetary constraints.
- Identify locations where this species is known to occur: if available, obtain occurrence data from the Conservation Data Centre (<http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/cdc/>) and if necessary conduct surveys to confirm presence or absence of this species.

In areas where this species is identified:

- Establish a 60 m no harvest buffer zone around the nest tree.
- Outside of the no harvest zone, avoid disturbance to active nest sites during the breeding season (between April 1 and September 1). In general, avoid harvesting, salvage, blasting (within 1km), road construction, helicopter activity (within 500m) or other prolonged disturbance.
- Maintain sparse stands of old-growth and mature ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir (age class 7–9) and mature cottonwood and trembling aspen (age class 5) stands near the nest site. Retain perching snags (decay class 2–4) that are adjacent to foraging habitat.
- Where possible, avoid road construction through potential Ferruginous Hawk hunting habitat (open grasslands and fields).
- Do not use pesticides, rodenticides, or insecticides near nests or in foraging areas.

References

B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection. 2004. Prairie Falcon in Accounts and Measures for Managing Identified Wildlife – Accounts V. 2004. B.C. Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Victoria, B.C. 9pp.

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Cooper, J.M. 1998. An Inventory Report on the Status of Diurnal Raptors (Ferruginous Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Prairie Falcon, Peregrine Falcon) at Risk in the Southern Grasslands of British Columbia. B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, Wildlife Branch. Working Rep. WR-92. 24pp.

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