



BCTS

BC Timber Sales
Kootenay Business Area

Standard Operating Procedure Bird Nest Encounters

July 7, 2017

APPLICATION:

This SOP applies to all BCTS Licensees, Permittees and Contractors, including their employees, agents and subcontractors, involved in timber harvesting, road construction, road maintenance and silviculture projects.

BACKGROUND:

The Federal Migratory Birds Convention Act protects migratory birds and prohibits the disturbance or destruction of migratory bird nests and eggs. Section 34 of the BC Wildlife Act prohibits the injuring, molesting or destruction of a bird, its egg or a nest occupied or the nests (active or vacant) of an eagle, peregrine falcon, gyrfalcon, osprey, heron or burrowing owl. Large stick nests may be re-used by birds from year to year and are to be protected, even if they are not currently occupied. An active bird nest is one with eggs or live young in it. Signs you may be near an active nest include birds swooping at you or machinery, birds flying in to tree cavities, or cheeping coming from tree cavities, trees or shrubs.

PROCEDURE:

If you encounter an active bird nest or a large stick nest, **STOP WORK** in the vicinity and immediately report the nest to the Project Supervisor and BCTS. BCTS staff will provide additional guidance or direction consistent with applicable licence, permit or contract provisions.



Establish a **NO WORK ZONE** that will ensure no further disturbance to the nest. Recommended best practices are to cease disturbances in the nesting area until the young have permanently left the nest (which could range from a few days to a few weeks, depending on the species and stage of development). The nest should be protected with a buffer zone (NO WORK ZONE) appropriate to the species, the level of disturbance and the landscape context. Example buffer distances that may be considered range from:

- 10 - 50 meters or more for songbirds and other small bird nests, exception is when brushing-leave a 5-m no-cut zone in the direction you have not cut yet, and if others need to work in the area, flag a 10m no-work zone around the nest
- 25-50 meters or more for swallow colonies
- 100 to 200 meters for a pileated woodpecker,

Additional information is available from Environment Canada or qualified professionals.

Operations can continue outside of the NO WORK ZONE

