BCTS BC Timber Sales Skeena	**Standard Operating Procedure Northern Goshawk and Large Stick Nests**

May 1, 2017

APPLICATION:
This SOP applies to all BCTS Contractors, including their employees, agents and subcontractors, involved in multi-phase timber development projects.

BACKGROUND:
Northern goshawks are a species of management concern and their nest sites and breeding areas require conservation. BC's Wildlife Act and Canada's Migratory Bird Convention Act both prohibit the destruction of nests of birds that re-use their nests from year to year. Large stick nests are typically re-used by the Northern Goshawk as well as other species of owls, herons, and raptors.

PROCEDURE:
All forest workers will be vigilant in observing for and detecting any large stick nests, including those of Northern goshawks, within or in proximity to work areas. Observations and locations will be reported to BCTS for further management actions. Goshawks and their nests will not be disturbed.

STOP WORK and contact your project supervisor and the BCTS representative if:
- You observe any large stick nest
- You encounter a goshawk or its nest or;
- You observe goshawk behavior indicating there may be a nest nearby such as birds repeatedly circling an area, alarm calls, aggressive "dive-bombing".

BCTS will ensure a qualified person will evaluate the nest and provide recommendations, including the conditions under which work may be resumed in the NO WORK ZONE.

Project activities can continue outside of the NO WORK ZONE.

IDENTIFICATION and NESTING:

Northern goshawks, a raven-sized bird of prey, live and nest in mature and old-growth forests in the region. Typically, goshawks will choose the largest trees within a territory to build large stick nests (>80cm diameter) below the canopy. Breeding season begins in late winter-early spring when the birds will pair up then incubate eggs. A hatching of chicks occurs in mid to late spring; the chicks fledge in late spring-early summer. Goshawks are fiercely protective of their nest area and will display aggressive behaviour when encroached upon.