

WILDLIFE IN MANAGED FORESTS: OREGON FOREST PRACTICES ACT REFERENCE SERIES



Managed forests provide valuable habitat for wildlife at all forest stages. Some wildlife, including sensitive, threatened and endangered species, has special protections under the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA) and/or the state and federal Endangered Species Acts (ESA). The Wildlife in Managed Forests: Reference Series serves to outline these protections for a variety of species of interest. Each fact sheet in the Reference Series also includes brief background information about the species, including identifying features, habitat requirements and nesting or mating chronology.

WHAT DOES THE FPA REQUIRE?

Requirements for species protections vary widely under the FPA, dependent upon species needs and existing regulations. The FPA outlines several generic prescriptions for all wildlife species, such as leaving wildlife trees and down logs. On top of these prescriptions, sensitive wildlife sites receive additional species-specific protections. Sensitive wildlife sites are defined as:

- habitats of fish and wildlife species identified as threatened and endangered under the federal or state ESA
- sensitive bird nesting, roosting and watering sites (associated with osprey and great blue heron)
- biological sites that are ecologically and scientifically significant
- significant wetlands
- additional critical wildlife or aquatic habitat sites as designated by the Oregon Department of Forestry

FPA protections to sensitive wildlife sites generally include timing restrictions (no work near nest sites during critical nesting/breeding periods) and site buffers, although some additional species-specific protections are required. These protections are outlined in each of the individual species fact sheets included in the Reference Series.

WHEN ARE THE CRITICAL NESTING PERIODS?

Critical nesting periods vary by species. A table showing an overview of the nesting and breeding periods for each of the species included in the Reference Series is provided on the opposite page.



SPECIES INCLUDED IN THE REFERENCE SERIES

- Bald eagle
- Band-tailed pigeon
- Golden eagle
- Great blue heron
- Marbled murrelet
- Northern goshawk
- Northern spotted owl
- Osprey
- Peregrine falcon

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

[Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

[Oregon Forest Practices Act](#)

[KnowYourForest.org](#)

[EPA.gov](#)



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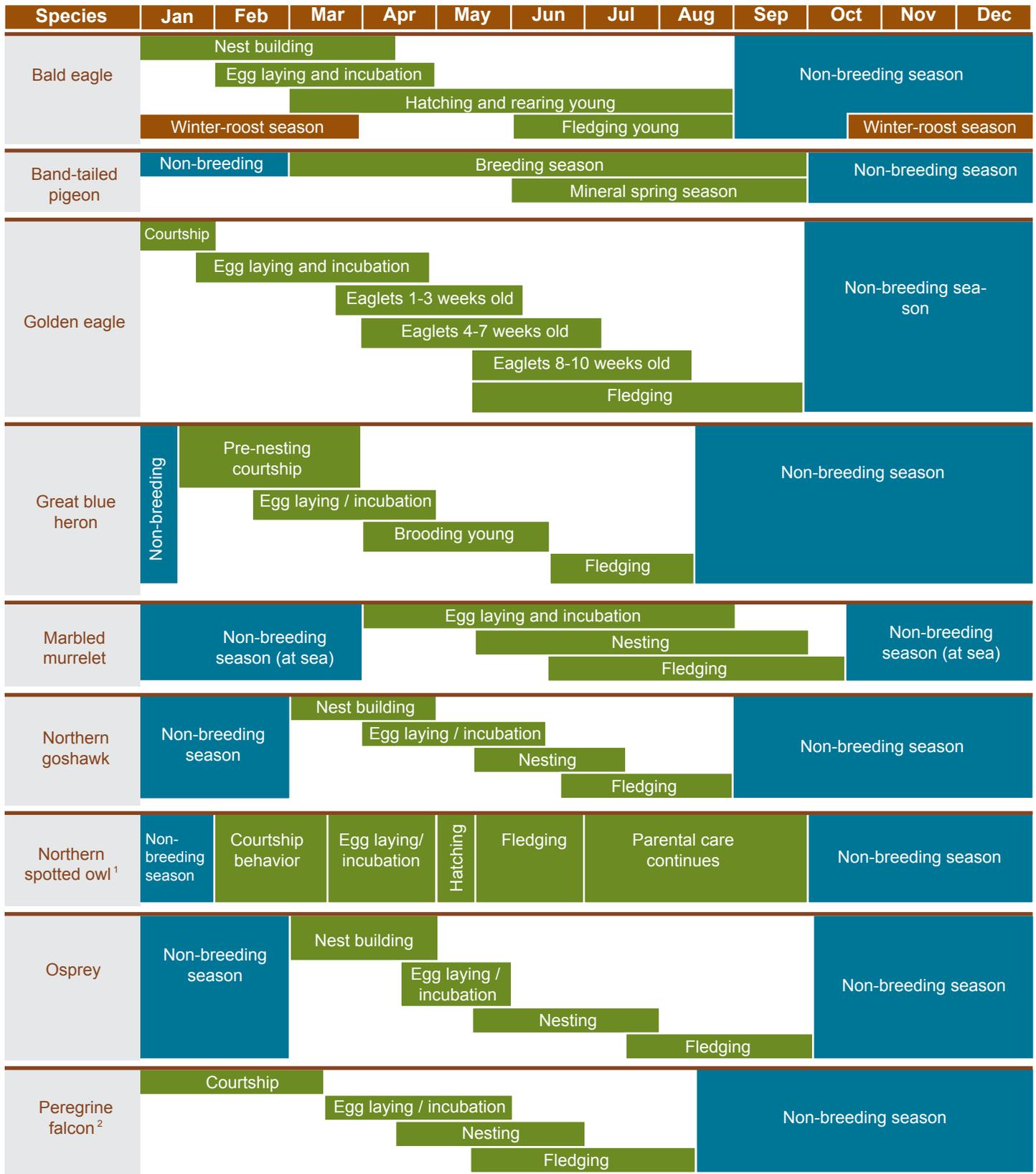
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CRITICAL NESTING PERIODS



¹ Nesting chronology generalized. Timing of nesting and fledging vary by latitude and elevation.

² Variable dependent upon elevation of nest sites. Lower-elevation sites experience earlier chronologies than higher-elevation sites. Egg laying at high-elevation sites may not be completed until late May, with fledging extending to mid-August.

Bald Eagles and Forestry

Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and their habitat are protected in Oregon by the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA). In addition, they are an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Sensitive Vulnerable species and are an Oregon Conservation Strategy species. Bald eagles are also protected federally by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Bald eagles (BAEAs) have a wingspan of 6 to 8 feet. Adult BAEAs are easily identified by their white head and tail, their yellow eyes, beak and legs, and their dark brown body. Immature BAEAs are darker and mottled; they do not obtain adult plumage until they are 4 to 5 years old.

BAEAs are most abundant in Oregon during the late winter and early spring, and are best detected by searching suitable habitat by eye, binoculars or spotting scope. BAEAs primarily eat fish caught by other birds of prey (e.g., osprey), but also hunt other birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. BAEAs eat what is available, and will capture their food live or as carrion (already dead).

BAEAs typically nest in live-top trees, often choosing a large dominant tree generally within 2 miles of water. Nest building and repair are done by both sexes, and nests are often 5 to 8 feet in diameter and two to three feet deep. They exhibit strong fidelity to nests and mates. BAEAs will often build and maintain more than one nest. All nests, associated roosting and winter roost habitat require protection under the Oregon FPA even though the site may not be occupied that year. During nesting season, BAEAs are usually detected near shorelines of rivers, lakes and reservoirs.



Photo by Christine Maynard.



Photo by Steven Wilder.

WHAT ARE SOME THREATS TO THE BAEA?

- Bald eagles are a success story. Their recovery has been so successful that BAEAs are commonly found throughout Oregon
- Starvation is one of the main causes of death in juvenile bald eagles, due to competition for food
- Toxicants

WHAT IS MOST LIKELY TO DISTURB A NESTING BAEA?

- The BAEA is most sensitive to disturbance during the nest-building phase of the nesting chronology, and while hatching and rearing young.
- Chainsaw noise and other timber-felling equipment noise
- Road construction
- Repeated passes by low-flying aircraft such as helicopters
- Blasting

WHEN DO BALD EAGLES NEST?

Critical nesting period:
Jan 1 - Aug 31



WHAT DOES THE FPA REQUIRE FOR NESTING SITES?

Protect the resource site, which includes the active nest tree and alternate nest sites, as well as an area no less than 330 feet surrounding the nest tree. The resource site includes all identified key components important to BAEAs: perching and fledging trees, replacement nest trees, and forested area around the nest tree.

HOW DO I PROTECT THE NESTING SITE?

ODF will determine site-specific protections, if operations are found to be within 0.25 miles of a nest (or 0.5 miles of a nest if within sight of the nest). Generally, protections will include:

- Designing operations to protect the nest tree and surrounding buffer from damage and windthrow
- Working with ODF to determine trees that are left. The protected trees are there to provide a visual screen for the BAEA nest
- Prohibiting forest operations within 0.25 miles of a nest tree, or within 0.5 miles if conducted within line of sight of the nest tree, from **January 1 to August 31**
- Submitting plans to ODF before operating within or near a nest site. Plan must clearly describe how the nest site will be protected.

WHAT DOES THE FPA REQUIRE FOR ROOSTING SITES?

Protect the roosting resource, which includes active roost trees, probable roost trees (as identified by ODF) and other key components, including staging areas and a minimum 300-foot forested area around roost trees. An active roost site is one that has been used within the last five years.

HOW DO I PROTECT THE ROOSTING SITE?

Avoid destruction, abandonment or reduced use of the roosting site by bald eagles. Generally, protections include:

- Designing operations to protect the roost site and surrounding buffer from damage and windthrow
- Working with ODF to determine trees that are left. The protected trees are there to provide a visual screen for the BAEA roost
- Prohibiting forest operations within 0.25 miles of the roost site, or within 0.5 miles if conducted within line of sight of the roost site during the winter roost period. Winter roost periods extend from November 15 to March 15 for the majority of the state, and from October 31 to March 31 in the Klamath Basin
- Submitting plans to ODF before operating within or near a roosting site. The plan must clearly describe how the roosting site will be protected

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

Oregon Forest Practices Act: <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/lawsrules.aspx>

www.fws.gov/pacific/eagle/

National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines

Birds of Oregon A General Reference
(Marshall et. al 2003/2006)



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Band-tailed Pigeons and Forestry

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Band-tailed pigeons (*Patagioenas fasciata*) are an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife game species, and are also an Oregon Conservation Strategy species. Some mineral springs used by band-tailed pigeons (BTPIs) are protected in Oregon by the Forest Practices Act (FPA). BTPIs are about the size of domestic pigeons. The BTPI is a common summer resident in forested areas west of the Cascades. It typically nests in forested mountain areas, usually at less than 4,000 feet elevation, but does frequent valleys to visit mineral sites and feed.

BTPIs nest primarily in Douglas-fir trees within closed-canopy conifer or mixed conifer forests. Nests are loosely constructed twig platforms and are located from 6 feet to 120 feet off the ground. BTPIs need closed-canopy forests for nest sites, open-canopy forests for foraging, and mineral sites. Mineral sites such as springs, estuaries, wastewater sites or livestock salting areas are used more frequently if they have an abundance of nearby perching locations; use is also dependent upon the salt content of the site. These birds are known to travel long distances away from mineral and nest sites for food (more than 30 miles). BTPIs seek salts and minerals because their diets are deficient in them. Access to mineral sites is critical for their life history.

BTPIs eat buds, flowers and fruits of deciduous trees and shrubs, especially oak, madrone, elderberry, cherry, cascara, huckleberry and blackberry. Band-tailed pigeons are also known to frequent bird feeders and prefer corn. BTPIs are migratory and generally begin to arrive in Oregon in March, depending on available food.

HOW DO I PROTECT THE RESOURCE SITE?

ODF will notify you if there is a protected BTPI resource site near your planned operation when you submit your Notification of Operation form. A conflict may exist if an operation has the potential to modify or destroy the resource site or cause abandonment of the site. Conflicts are solved by working with ODF and may include measures such as:

- Conducting a site inspection with ODF and applicable wildlife agencies
- Implementing timing restrictions for forest operations (outside the use season of June to September)
- Developing a management plan for the resource site
- Revising forest operations to avoid the resource site
- Retaining buffers around mineral springs; retaining trees for perching and staging areas
- Retaining fruiting shrubs and trees for foraging opportunities



Photo by Todd Sanders.

WHAT DOES THE FPA REQUIRE?

Protect the resource site, including the mineral watering places and any identified key components. Key components include buffer trees around the spring to protect the hydrology of the spring as well as staging trees for BTPIs to perch in before they drop to the ground to drink.

NESTING CHRONOLOGY

Oct-Feb	Non-breeding season
Mar-Sep	Breeding season
Jun-Sep	Mineral spring season

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

[Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

[Oregon Forest Practices Act](#)

[Birds of Oregon: A General Reference \(Marshall et. al. 2003/2006\)](#)



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Golden Eagles and Forestry

Golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) and their habitat are protected in Oregon by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. In addition, some nest sites are protected under the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA).

Golden eagles (GOEAs) are the largest raptor in Oregon. Their wingspan measures up to 7.5 feet in females and 7 feet in males. They are distinguished from other dark raptors by their large size and massive bill. It can be difficult to distinguish immature bald eagles and GOEAs from a distance.

GOEAs are most abundant east of the Cascades. However, a breeding survey conducted by Frank Isaacs from 2011 to 2013 found nesting GOEAs in southwest Oregon, Eastern Oregon, and a few in northwest Oregon and the Willamette Valley.

GOEAs are found in many habitats, including open ponderosa pine and mixed conifer/deciduous forests. Nests can be found on cliffs or in trees. Nests are massive (sometimes greater than 10 feet in diameter) and are used year after year. GOEAs primarily eat jackrabbits (when available), but are known to consume a wide variety of prey, including ground squirrels, marmots and other birds. They will also eat domestic sheep and lambs and carrion, and will take prey from other raptors.

WHAT IS MOST LIKELY TO DISTURB A NESTING GOEA?

- Human activity nearby (such as hiking and rock climbing)
- Road construction
- Timber harvest

Critical nesting period:
Feb 1 - Aug 1

WHEN DO GOLDEN EAGLES NEST?



Photo by USFWS.



Photo by Frank Isaacs.

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Golden eagles nesting in Oregon,
2011 - 2013 annual report

www.fws.gov/pacific/eagle/

Oregon Forest Practices Act:
<http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/lawsrules.aspx>



Photo by Tony Hisgett.

WHAT THREATENS THE GOEA?

Power line poles are often used by GOEAs for roosting. GOEAs are electrocuted if they touch two lines. There are new designs that minimize this problem, and many are being or have been replaced.

WHAT DOES THE FPA REQUIRE?

Protect the resource site (active nest tree and any identified key components). An active nest tree is one that has been used by GOEAs in the recent past. Key components include forested areas around the nest trees that has perching, fledging and replacement trees.

HOW DO I PROTECT THE RESOURCE SITE?

Your local ODF office has the responsibility for maintaining inventories of resource sites. ODF will notify you if there is a known GOEA near your planned operation when you submit your written Notification of Operation form.

A conflict may exist if an operation has the potential to modify or destroy the resource site, cause nest abandonment or failure, or reduce productivity of the resource site. Conflicts are solved by working with ODF and may include measures such as:

- Conducting a site inspection with ODF and applicable wildlife agencies
- Implementing timing restrictions for forest operations (outside of the nesting season of Jan. 1 - Sept. 30)



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Great Blue Herons and Forestry

Wildlife in Managed Forests:
Reference Series

Great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*) and their nesting habitat are protected in Oregon by the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA). These birds are also protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Great blue herons (GBHEs) have a wingspan of 5.5 to 6.5 feet and weigh about 5 or 6 pounds.

These large birds will eat nearly any small animal within striking distance, including fish, amphibians, reptiles, small mammals, insects and even other birds. GBHEs mostly feed in wetlands, ponds, streams and pastures.

GBHEs are colonial nesters, which means they nest in groups of nests, called a rookery. Rookeries are often near water. They typically nest in live trees, but have also been found to nest on the ground, in bushes and on man-made structures. During nesting season, males arrive first at the nest colony and court passing females. Rookeries can be as small as a single nest or upward of 500 individual nests. Nests are constructed mainly by the female with materials brought by the male, and are used year after year.

WHAT IS MOST LIKELY TO DISTURB A NESTING GBHE?

- Timber harvest
- Log hauling
- Road construction
- Low-flying aircraft

WHAT THREATENS THE GBHE?

- GBHEs compete with increasing bald eagle populations for nesting space and food
- GBHEs are especially sensitive to disturbance at rookeries



Photo by Larry Pecenka.

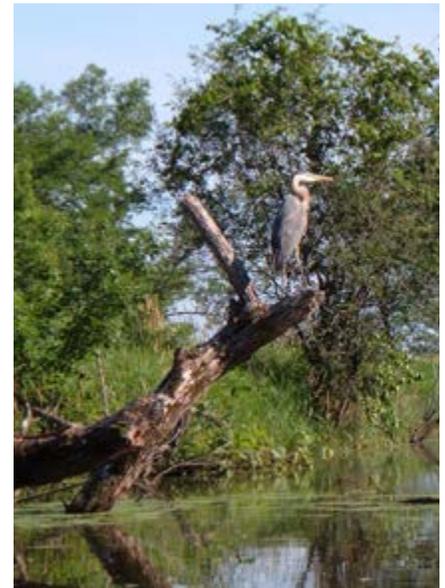
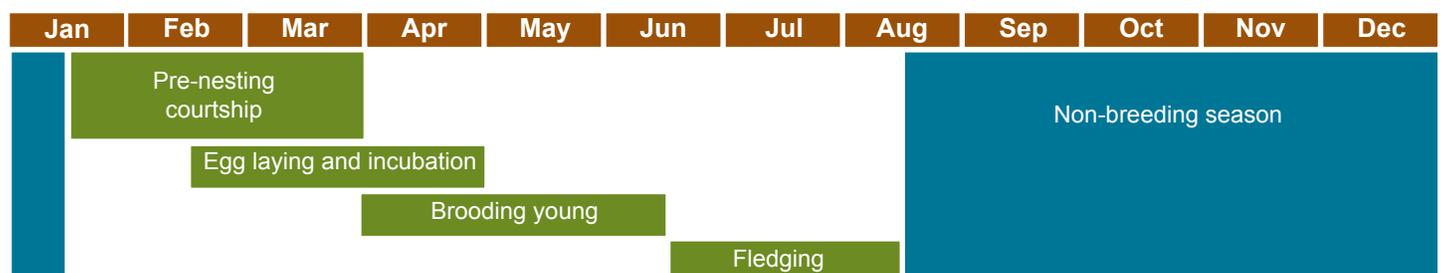


Photo by Cathy Dewitz.

Critical nesting period:
Feb 15 - Jul 31

WHEN DO GREAT BLUE HERONS NEST?



WHAT DOES THE FPA REQUIRE?

Protect the resource site (active nest tree and any identified key components). An active nest tree is one that has been used by GBHEs within the last three nesting season. Key components include forested areas around the nest trees that have perching, fledging and replacement trees.

HOW DO I PROTECT THE RESOURCE SITE?

- Maintain site integrity and avoid disturbance during the critical nesting season (February 15 to July 31)
- Forest operations are not allowed within 1/4 mile of the active nest trees from February 15 to July 31
- Maintain a 300-foot buffer of trees around the active nest tree. The buffer should include a forested area that provides a visual screen for the nest site



Photo by Larry Pecenka.

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

Oregon Forest Practices Act: <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/lawsrules.aspx>

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/01371/wdfw01371.pdf>

www.KnowYourForest.org

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

EPA.gov



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Marbled Murrelets and Forestry

Wildlife in Managed Forests:
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Marbled murrelets (MAMUs) (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*) are protected in Oregon by the state and federal Endangered Species Acts, where they are listed as threatened, and by the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA).

MAMUs are small, chunky seabirds with short necks. They have short, pointed bills and tails, and have sooty brown upperparts and mottled brown underparts during the breeding season. During other portions of the year, they have blackish upperparts and white underparts.

MAMUs spend most of their time at sea, but breed in older coniferous forests up to 50 miles inland. Breeding sites are characterized by large trees, multiple canopy layers and moderate to high canopy closure. Nest trees are generally the largest available in the stand, with appropriate horizontal nest platforms (such as those created by large moss-covered limbs, mistletoe brooms, limb deformities or tree damage).



Photo provided by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

WHAT ARE SOME THREATS TO MAMUS?

- High rates of predation by corvids, especially common ravens and Steller's jays
- Lack of available suitable nesting habitat due to windfall, fire and timber harvest
- Oil spills, marine pollution and entanglement in gill nets

WHAT DOES THE FPA REQUIRE?

A plan is required if forest operations are planned near a known marbled murrelet location.

HOW DO I PROTECT KNOWN MAMU SITES?

Recommended protection measures include:

- Maintaining site integrity
- Avoiding disturbance during the nesting season
- Submitting plans to ODF before operating within or near a resource site

WHEN DO MARBLED MURRELETS NEST?



SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

Oregon Forest Practices Act:
<http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/lawsrules.aspx>

USFWS Species Profile

Evaluation report for the 5-year status review of the MAMU in Washington, Oregon and California.

Critical nesting period:
Apr 1 - Sept 15



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Northern Goshawks and Forestry

Wildlife in Managed Forests:
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Northern goshawks (NOGOs) (*Accipiter gentilis*) are protected in Oregon by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and are an Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Sensitive Vulnerable Species. NOGOs are also an Oregon Conservation Strategy species.

NOGOs are large hawks with a long, banded tail and broad, rounded wings. Adult NOGOs have a blue-gray back and fine gray barring on the chest. They have a dark cap and eye stripe, with a white stripe through the eyebrow. NOGOs are the largest and most aggressive of the Accipiters, but can be difficult to distinguish from Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks.

NOGOs inhabit mature forests with open understories, and can be found in the Cascade, Blue and Klamath-Siskiyou mountains in Oregon. NOGOs are also found in the Oregon Coast Range, but rarely. NOGOs are more commonly found east of the Cascades. Nests are generally located in the largest trees of a stand, and are generally located in the lower third of the canopy. Nest trees are often located near forest gaps or edges. NOGOs utilize alternate nests in different years.



Photo by Nick Flatten (USFWS).

WHAT IS MOST LIKELY TO DISTURB A NESTING NOGO?

- Timber harvest
- Road construction
- Low-flying aircraft
- Log hauling

HOW DO I PROTECT THE RESOURCE SITE?

Generally, protections for nest sites include:

- Maintaining site integrity. This can include a buffer around the nest as well as minimizing canopy openings at a larger stand or landscape scale
- Avoiding disturbance during the breeding season

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

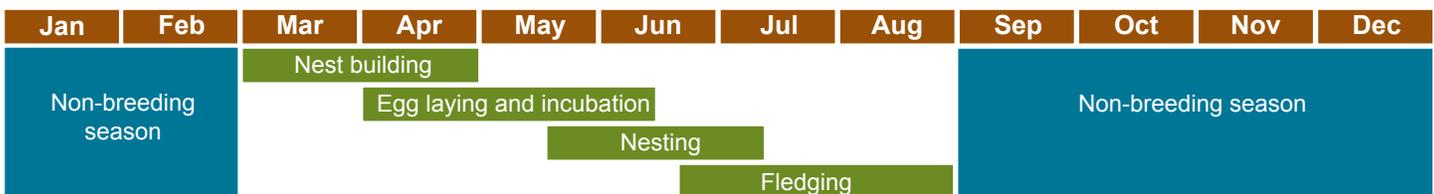
Oregon Forest Practices Act:
<http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/lawsrules.aspx>

www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/assessments/northerngoshawk.pdf

Birds of Oregon: A General Reference
(Marshall et al. 2003/2006)

Critical nesting period:
Mar 1 - Aug 31

WHEN DO NORTHERN GOSHAWKS NEST?



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Northern Spotted Owls and Forestry

Wildlife in Managed Forests:
Reference Series

Northern spotted owls (*Strix occidentalis caurina*) are protected in Oregon by the state and federal Endangered Species Acts, where they are listed as threatened. The Northern spotted owl (NSO) species also receives protections through the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA).

NSOs are medium-size owls that live in heavily forested areas within and west of the Cascade Mountains. NSOs are dark brown with white spots on the head and breast. Their tails are barred with white.

NSOs inhabit mature forest stands with large trees forming a multi-layered, multi-species canopy. They require dense canopy closure (>60%), and forests with large standing and fallen dead trees, and many trees with deformities (such as cavities and broken tops).

NSOs prey primarily upon small mammals, including wood rats and flying squirrels. They will also prey upon insects, other birds and juveniles of larger mammals. They are “perch and pounce” hunters, and require adequate space beneath the forest canopy to fly and capture prey.

WHAT ARE SOME THREATS TO THE NSO?

NSOs must compete with increasing barred owl populations for nesting habitat and food. In addition, timber harvest was historically, and still is today, a threat to NSO habitat. Timber harvest (especially near NSO activity centers) poses threats to nesting NSOs.

WHAT IS MOST LIKELY TO DISTURB A NESTING NSO?

- Timber harvest
- Road construction
- Low-flying aircraft



Critical nesting period:
Mar 15 - Sep 30

WHEN DO NORTHERN SPOTTED OWLS NEST?

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Non-breeding season	Courtship behavior	Egg laying/ incubation	Hatching	Fledging	Parental care continues	Non-breeding season					

WHAT DOES THE FPA REQUIRE FOR NESTING SITES?

- Protect the resource site, which consists of a 70-acre “core area” surrounding an NSO nest site or activity center of a pair of owls
- The shape of the 70-acre core area may depend upon the characteristics of the forest: It must encompass the activity center or nest tree and consist of forest stands that come closest to the habitat desired by NSOs
- Seasonal restrictions

HOW DO I PROTECT THE RESOURCE SITE?

- Maintain the suitable habitat for NSO within the core area. Forest practices that do not maintain the suitability of the core area are prohibited. Generally, timber harvests within the core area are not allowed
- Restrict operations within 0.25 mile of a nest site between March 1 and September 30. This may be waived if it can be shown that there are no NSOs present or they are not nesting
- Maintain protections to NSO resource sites until there is reliable evidence (usually protocol surveys) that the site is no longer occupied by owls

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

Oregon Forest Practices Act:
<http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/lawsrules.aspx>

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Northern spotted owl Information site: www.fws.gov/oregon-fwo/species/data/northernspottedowl/main.asp

HOW DO I MAINTAIN SUITABLE HABITAT?

Suitable NSO habitat means habitat that provides nesting, roosting and foraging opportunities. Important habitat elements may include high canopy closure, a multi-layered, multi-species canopy with large overstory trees and a presence of broken-topped trees or other nesting platforms (e.g., mistletoe clumps), as well as snags and logs. The appearance and structure of these forests will vary across the range of the spotted owl, particularly in dry eastside forests. Maintaining or managing for these types of habitat conditions, both within core areas and within the larger home range area (up to 1.5 miles from a nest site), is likely to benefit spotted owls.

Maintain suitable habitat by:

- Limiting or prohibiting timber harvest activities within the core area
- Submitting a Notification of Operation to ODF when working within 1/2 mile of an NSO resource site
- If ODF finds that the proposed operation will be in conflict with an NSO resource site, submitting a written plan for review by ODF



Photo by Christine Maynard.



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Ospreys and Forestry

Wildlife in Managed Forests:
Reference Series

Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) are protected in Oregon by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Oregon Forest Practices Act (FPA).

Ospreys are large hawks with slender bodies and long, narrow wings and legs. When in flight, ospreys have a distinctive kink in their wings, which makes an “M” shape when seen from below. Ospreys have brown upperparts and white underparts, with a distinctive dark spot at the “wrist” of the wing (visible in flight). The head is white with a brown stripe through the eye.

Ospreys feed almost exclusively on fish. They can be found along almost any expanse of water with fish, including rivers, lakes and marshes.

Ospreys nest near water, in large prominent snags or trees with broken tops. They will also nest on artificial platforms, including power line poles. Nest trees are generally large snags, up to 60 inches in diameter and 100 to 150 feet in height. Nest trees are generally taller than the surrounding forest, and must be able to support a large nest (4 to 6 feet in diameter and 1 to 2 feet deep). Ospreys prefer nest sites with easy access to open water areas.



Photo by USFWS.

WHAT ARE SOME THREATS TO OSPREYS?

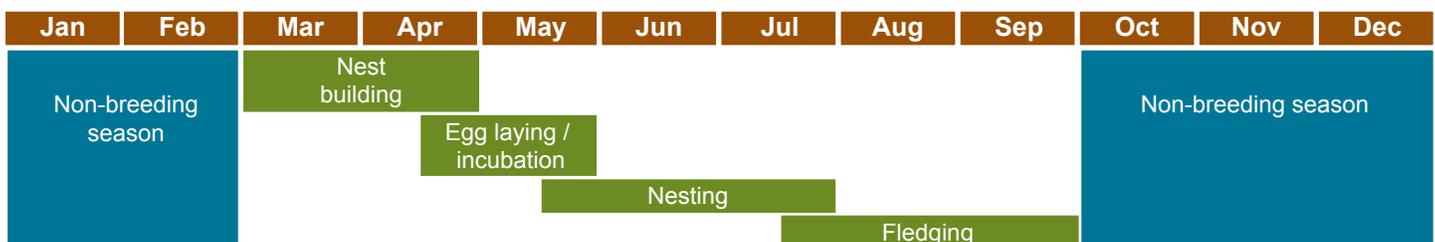
- Habitat loss (abundance of suitable nest sites near water)
- Human disturbances and man-made hazards
- Chemical contaminants, including pesticide poisoning
- Electrocution when nesting on power lines

WHAT IS MOST LIKELY TO DISTURB AN OSPREY?

Individual ospreys can be relatively tolerant of human activities, provided they are habituated to them. However, activities that are initiated during incubation and early nesting are more likely to disturb nesting ospreys. The late nesting season is also a critical time for ospreys, as juveniles are prone to leave the nest too early.

WHEN DO OSPREYS NEST?

Critical nesting period:
Mar 1 - Sep 15



WHAT DOES THE FPA REQUIRE?

Protect the resource site including the active nest tree, the area within 600 feet of the nest tree, and any key components.

- Active nest trees are those that have been used by ospreys within the last five nesting seasons
- Key components are perching and fledging trees and replacement trees
- Seasonal restrictions apply

HOW DO I PROTECT THE RESOURCE SITE?

- Prohibit forest operations within 600 feet of the nest site from March 1 to September 15
- Retain the active nest tree
- Retain no fewer than 8 additional trees as key components (perching, fledging and replacement trees)

Perching trees should:

- Provide maximum visibility of the surrounding terrain
- Contain structure that allows the osprey easy access
- Be within 600 feet of the active nest

Examples of perching trees include tall snags and trees with broken or dead tops, forks or high lateral branches

Replacement trees should:

- Provide maximum visibility of the surrounding terrain
- Be large enough to support an osprey nest
- Protect the resource site from windthrow



Photo by George Gentry (USFWS).

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

Cornell Lab of Ornithology:

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife:
http://www.dfw.state.or.us/wildlife/living_with/docs/osprey.pdf

U.S. Geological Survey:
<http://fresc.usgs.gov/products/fs/fs-153-02.pdf>

Oregon Forest Practices Act <http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/lawsrules.aspx>

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**Oregon Forest
Resources Institute**

317 SW Sixth Ave., Suite 400
Portland, OR 97204-1705
971-673-2944
OregonForests.org

Peregrine Falcons and Forestry

Wildlife in Managed Forests:
Reference Series

Peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*) are protected in Oregon by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Once protected under the Endangered Species Act, the peregrine falcon (PEFA) population has recovered and is now de-listed, and therefore no longer receives specific protections under the Endangered Species Act or Oregon Forest Practices Act.

PEFA are medium-sized raptors with black or dark gray backs, tail feathers and upper wings. This dark plumage extends down the face and cheeks in an easily recognizable “hood.” Male peregrines are smaller than females, and are similar in size to an American crow. The larger female is similar in size to a common raven. Peregrine falcons are charismatic and noted as one of the world’s fastest animals, as they can reach speeds of more than 240 miles per hour while diving after prey.

Peregrine falcons nest on small ledges on cliff faces, or on man-made structures resembling cliffs, such as bridges or skyscrapers. Nest sites are typically near large bodies of water, as one of their main prey items is water-dwelling birds. Peregrines don’t construct nests, but instead scrape a small depression in sand, gravel or other substrates found at the nest site.

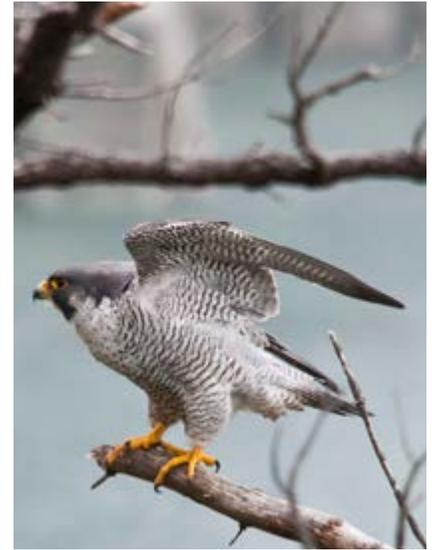


Photo by Roy Lowe.

WHEN DO PEREGRINE FALCONS NEST?



HOW DO I PROTECT PEFA?

The primary issue forest operations present for nesting falcons is disturbance; they are not typically affected by loss of timber as their nests are often already in areas without significant tree cover. PEFA can be protected by avoiding activities that cause visual and auditory disturbances within 1/4 mile of a nest site during the breeding season. Activities that are most likely to disturb PEFA are those activities occurring during the breeding season that produce loud noises or significant visual disturbances, such as blasting, timber falling, road construction or low-flying aircraft.

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

[Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#)

[EPA.gov](#)

[Oregon Forest Practices Act](#)

[Birds of Oregon: A General Reference \(Marshall Et. al. 2003/2006\)](#)

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