

Enclosure 1

Region 6 Peregrine Falcon Policy Following De-Listing and During the Five-Year Monitoring Period

Evaluation of impacts of proposed actions on the peregrine falcon should follow the process described in FSM 2673.4 and be documented in the Biological Evaluation. If a proposed project may potentially impact the species or its habitat, surveys using the Regional protocol (*Pagel, Joel E. 1992. Protocol for observing known and potential peregrine falcon eyries in the Pacific Northwest*) should be conducted.

Development of Nest Site Management Plans has been a successful approach in peregrine recovery. They should continue to be developed for new nest sites discovered during the five-year monitoring period. Nest site management plans should continue to be used to guide evaluation of activities in Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary Management Zones. Spatial boundaries for these zones around nest sites should be detailed on a site-specific basis in the individual plan, and will vary according to observed use of the site by the birds (for example, for perches and foraging) and topographic conditions. General distances that guide identification of these zones are:

- Primary: an average of 0.5 mile around an active nest cliff (0.25 - 0.75 mile)
- Secondary: 0.5 - 2.0 air miles from an active cliff
- Tertiary: 3.0 air miles from an active cliff

The two major concerns that should be addressed in a Nest Site Management Plan are (1) impacts of disturbance during the nesting period; and (2) effects of vegetation changes on habitat for prey species.

General guidelines for seasonal restriction periods for known nest sites in Oregon and Washington, based on elevation above sea level, are summarized below. Site-specific information on nesting chronologies, if known, can be used to identify more specific restriction periods.

Low	1 - 2000 feet	January 1 - July 1
Medium	2001 - 4000 feet	January 15 - July 31
High	≥4001 feet	February 1 - August 15

Entry into the Primary Zone at any time during the nesting chronology could induce nest failure. For example, agitation of an adult bird could interrupt incubation so that eggs or young could die from chilling or overheating. An adult could also evict an egg or young bird as it bolts from the eyrie when disturbed. Young falcons older than 15 days could be frightened off the nest ledge prior to development of flight capabilities, again resulting in mortality. Furthermore, results of monitoring activities have indicated that peregrine falcons in Oregon and Washington are still experiencing nesting failure due to eggshell thinning. Disturbance of adults during incubation can therefore more easily result in eggshell damage and subsequent nest failure.

Projects planned within the Primary Zone should enhance or be neutral in effects on peregrine nesting activity and prey habitat. Potential disturbance in this Zone should be scheduled outside the nesting period. Exceptions may be considered if an analysis determines that the short-term effects of disturbance on nesting are outweighed by the long-term benefits of the proposal on the species. Projects within Secondary and Tertiary Zones should be carefully screened for potential disturbance effects during the nesting season from sources such as aircraft or explosives, or activities that are located within the line-of-sight of the eyrie. Blasting should be excluded within 3 miles of a nest during the restricted period, unless topographic features within this zone will block the sound.

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