



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species
FOR USE TO GUIDE SITE SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OF PRIORITY SPECIES

Ferruginous Hawk (*Buteo regalis*)

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species* do not have regulatory authority. Therefore, the following are recommendations only. This abbreviated version of a chapter in *Management Recommendations for Washington's Priority Species: Volume IV* (see http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/phs/vol4/phs_vol4_birds.pdf) has been streamlined for easier application. Where applicable, these recommendations should be put into practice consistently across a landscape to be most effective. The following recommendations are not site-specific. Where available, a professional in a relevant field (e.g., wildlife biologist) should evaluate the site and surrounding landscape when applying these recommendations.

Attach parcel map with species location indicated if available.

General Recommendations

- Avoid disturbance to nesting ferruginous hawks and their prey base as defined in the table below.
- Retain $\geq 50\%$ of the shrub-steppe existing on site within current use area (i.e., home range) or within mapped PHS area. Shrub-steppe and grasslands with significant small mammal and other prey populations (e.g., ground squirrel colonies) is especially important for protection.
- Protect isolated nest trees from cattle rubbing by surrounding them with stick piles or fences.
- Do not cut unoccupied nest trees until at least 10 years after they are abandoned.
- Plant junipers and black locusts to provide future nest sites.
- Supplement areas where natural nesting materials are in short supply with sagebrush stems and other large sticks in close proximity to potential nest structures.
- Artificial nest structures can be an effective if prey populations are adequate and disturbances are minimal. Artificial structures are often platforms mounted on poles, trees, or cliffs. Poles should be buried ≥ 1 m deep and located away from watering holes, gates, and other areas where livestock congregate. Platforms should be approximately 1 m². The structure should allow adult hawks to anchor nest materials. Specifications for cliff nest structures are available at Spokane's Bureau of Land Management office.
- Avoid range management activities such as chaining, disking, and brush burning within known prey concentration areas (e.g., ground squirrel colonies). Where chaining cannot be avoided, brush may be windrowed (a long row of brush left in a field) to provide cover for prey species. Reseeding of native seeds after chaining or burning benefits prey species.

Table. Recommended protective buffers for specified activities.

Activities	Buffer width^a	Buffer around	Timing	Comments
Avoid all human access & ground-based activities	820'	active nests	1 March – May 30 ^c	Delay construction and development until after young have dispersed, which generally occurs about a month after fledging
Prevent prolonged activities (>0.5 hours)	3280'	active nests	1 March – August 15 ^c	Ferruginous hawk's breeding season
Avoid development, rodenticide and pesticide application.	1300'	major prey concentrations	year round ^b	Prey concentrations include ground squirrel colonies

^a Buffers should be tailored to the individual hawks involved, based on factors such as line-of-sight distance between nest and activity, nest structure security, disturbance history, observed responses, and nest elevation in relation to the activity. ^b Permanent buffer. ^c Seasonal buffer to minimize disturbance during critical periods.

I have read and understand the above recommendations (s) placed on Parcel # _____ located in the _____ Quarter of _____ Quarter of Section _____, Township _____, Range _____ (East/West meridian) with actual street address of _____.