

Northern Goshawks and Forestry

Wildlife in Managed Forests:
Reference Series

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.

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



Photo by Nick Flatten (USFWS).

SOURCES & MORE INFORMATION

Cornell Lab of Ornithology

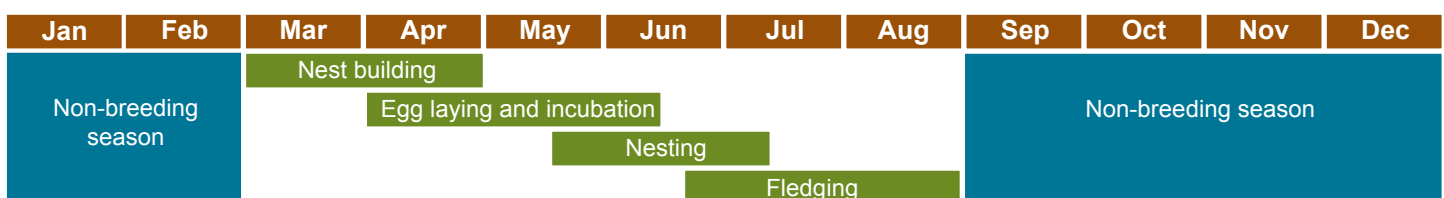
Oregon Forest Practices Act:
<http://www.oregon.gov/odf/Pages/lawsrules.aspx>

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?



ABOUT OFRI

The Oregon Forest Resources Institute was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1991 to advance public understanding of forests, forest products and forest management and to encourage sound forestry through landowner education.

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