

# QUEEN CHARLOTTE GOSHAWK



The northern goshawk inhabits forested lands throughout North America, favoring dense stands of conifer or deciduous mature and/or old growth for nesting habitat

## 2008 Forest Plan *Sensitive Species*

A. Northern Goshawk (including the Queen Charlotte goshawk subspecies).

1. Preserve nesting habitat around all goshawk nest sites. ***Protection measures may be removed from probable nest stands if, after two consecutive years of monitoring, there is no further evidence of confirmed or probable nesting.***

a) Consider the following evidence for determining confirmed nest sites:

- (1) A goshawk observed on or near a nest;
- (2) Nestlings or branchers (young not able to fly) observed on or near a nest;
- (3) Goshawk feathers or eggs obtained from the nest;
- (4) One or more nest structures indicative of goshawk were found with goshawk prey remains, but without positive identified goshawk on the nest and without positive identified feathers from nest;

b) Consider the following evidence for determining ***probable nest sites***:

- (1) Aggressive, territorial breeding season adults vocalizing or attacking an observer (without locating a nest); or
- (2) Adults observed during the breeding season in a territory and recently fledged young were observed (without locating a nest).

c) Nesting Habitat: Maintain ***an area of not less than 100 acres of productive old growth forest (if it exists) generally centered over the nest tree or probable nest site*** to provide for prey handling areas, perches, roosts, alternate nests, hiding cover, and foraging opportunities for young goshawks. Vegetative structure should include, where available, multi-layered, closed (over 60 percent) canopy stands, a relatively open understory, with large trees (usually 20+ inches diameter at breast height) and low ground vegetation.

d) Management: ***No commercial timber harvest is permitted. Existing roads may be maintained.*** New road construction is permitted if no other reasonable roading alternatives outside the mapped nesting habitat exist. ***Permit no continuous disturbance likely to result in nest abandonment within the surrounding 600 feet from March 15 to August 15. Activity restrictions are removed for active nests that become inactive or unsuccessful.***

Other management activities that maintain the integrity of the forest stand structure are consistent with the objectives for this area. Activities such as cabin, trail, or campground construction should be consistent if designed with minimal vegetative manipulation.

e) Consider surrounding landscapes when managing for goshawk nest sites. Plans for an alternate nest management strategy to c) and d) above may be implemented if the rationale is documented.



## Goshawk Surveys

The Forest Plan states that inventories will be conducted to determine the presence of nesting goshawks for proposed projects that affect goshawk nesting habitat (USDA 2008, p. 4-100). Every effort should be made to adequately survey potential nesting habitat in proposed project areas. Therefore, the protocol should be applied to projects that propose to reduce productive old growth 60 years or older in less productive forested sites if they represent potential nesting habitat. (POG) habitat or activities that will occur within at least 600 feet of documented goshawk nests. **Surveys may be completed for activities that will reduce young growth habitat in stands that provide characteristics of potential goshawk nesting habitat.** Although the availability of potential nesting habitat will vary with location and by forest productivity, consider surveying stands 40 years or older in productive forested sites and stands.



The goshawk inventory protocol is a modified version of the Broadcast Acoustical Survey (BAS) method as described in the “Northern Goshawk Inventory and Monitoring Technical Guide” (Woodbridge and Hargis, 2006). The BAS method was selected for use based on detection rate, logistical feasibility, and applicability under a wide range of conditions. This method was modified to meet survey strategies and objectives defined for the Tongass National Forest and to deal with environmental conditions associated with the temperate rainforests of southeast Alaska including extensive rain, dense vegetation, steep slopes, large survey areas and limited access, time and funding.

## Project Level

Nests, active or probable can help to determine project level alternatives. Once a probable or active nest is documented the 2008 Forest Plan buffer will be implemented. Nesting Habitat: Maintain an area of not less than 100 acres of productive old growth forest (if it exists) generally centered over the nest tree or probable nest site to provide for prey handling areas, perches, roosts, alternate nests, hiding cover, and foraging opportunities for young goshawks.

