

## **R2 Sensitive Species (SS)**

### **Recommendations and Evaluations**

**Common Name:** Peregrine Falcon

**Scientific Name:** *Falco peregrinus*

**Recommendation:** R2 Sensitive Species (SS)

#### **Recommendation Rationale:**

The requirement to monitor population trends for five years post-delisting is, by itself, a strong argument for sensitive designation in R2. Although pesticides loads have declined in the past 2 decades to levels that have allowed a significant rangewide rebound in natural reproduction, pesticide exposure on the winter grounds likely still affects reproductive output of falcons breeding in some parts of R2. This may account for observed differences in recolonization rates of suitable breeding habitat between the Colorado front range (lower occupancy rates and reproductive output) and the Colorado western slope (higher occupancy rates and reproductive output). Some areas of R2 have failed to be recolonized to former levels despite large management and reintroduction efforts. Current distribution of the species is still patchy in some areas of R2 despite the availability of suitable habitat. At peak abundance there were likely less than 200 breeding pairs in CO, and thus low population size infers continued potential vulnerability to random stochastic events or rapid population declines that might not be detected without long term monitoring.

In summary, the species' well documented sensitivity to pesticides and human recreation, its rapid population decline to near extinction in R2 and current lack of recovery in some areas formerly occupied by the species, continued low-level pesticide exposure on winter grounds, large number of sites occurring on NFS lands, all provide strong support for SS designation in R2.