

R2 Sensitive Species (SS)

Recommendations and Evaluations

Common Name: Northern Goshawk

Scientific Name: *Accipiter gentilis*

Recommendation: R2 Sensitive Species (SS)

Recommendation Rationale:

This is a widely distributed species across the coniferous forests of northern and western Northern America. Currently, the species is considered to be globally secure. Nonetheless, the species is comparatively rare in R2, where its status is variable and poorly documented. Goshawks seem to require mature coniferous and aspen forests as nesting habitat, and evidence indicates that they may be sensitive to disturbance at nest sites. Timber programs, extensive fragmentation of habitat by roads and other development, and ever-increasing human activity may threaten goshawk habitat suitability and quantity. Most lower elevation Ponderosa Pine habitat is in early successional stages, is substantially roaded, and is being increasingly developed. Crocker-Bedford (1998) found that nest fidelity decreased significantly in harvested forests from that found in unharvested forests. Forests such as the Medicine Bow-Routt, Arapahoe-Roosevelt, and Pike along the Front Range of Colorado, and Black Hills appear to be experiencing significant declines in habitat quantity and quality due to harvest and/or development activity in previously suitable nesting habitat. Some 90 percent of the species habitat in the Southern Rockies is found on National Forest System lands. Consequently, the landscape level management strategies of the Forest System has substantial potential for determining the future of this species within the ecosystems of R2.