

SPECIES: Scientific [common]	<i>Falco peregrinus</i> [Peregrine Falcon]
Forest:	Bridger-Teton National Forest
Forest Reviewer:	Randall Griebel, James Wilder
Date of Review:	06/20/2018; reviewed 5/13/2025
Forest concurrence (or recommendation if new) for inclusion of species on list of potential SCC: (Enter Yes or No)	NO

FOREST REVIEW RESULTS:

1. The Forest concurs or recommends the species for inclusion on the list of potential SCC:
Yes ___ No X ___
2. Rationale for not concurring is based on (check all that apply):
Species is not native to the plan area _____
Species is not known to occur in the plan area _____
Species persistence in the plan area is not of substantial concern ___X___

FOREST REVIEW INFORMATION:

1. Is the Species Native to the Plan Area? Yes X ___ No ___

If no, provide explanation and stop assessment.
2. Is the Species Known to Occur within the Planning Area? Yes X ___ No ___

If no, stop assessment.

Table 1. All Known Occurrences, Years, and Frequency within the Planning Area

Year Observed	Number of Individuals	Location of Observations	Source of Information
1988-1989	6*	Greys River Ranger District	Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (May 2018)
1995-2010	3		
-	0	Kemmerer Ranger District	Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (May 2018)
-	0		
1990	14*	Pinedale Ranger District	Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (May 2018)
2000	1		
1978-1989	4*	Big Piney Ranger District	Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (May 2018)
2006-2015	5		
1983-1989	3	Blackrock Ranger District	Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (May 2018)
1990-2009	9*		
1985-1987	2	Jackson Ranger District	Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (May 2018)
1991-2015	19*		

**Breeding detected*

- a. Are all Species Occurrences Only Accidental or Transient?

Yes___ No_X__

If yes, document source for determination and stop assessment.

- b. For species with known occurrences on the Forest since 1990, based on the number of observations and/or year of last observation, can the species be presumed to be established or becoming established in the plan area?

Yes_X__ No___

If no, provide explanation and stop assessment.

- c. For species with known occurrences on the Forest predating 1990, does the weight of evidence suggest the species still occurs in the plan area?

Yes_X__ No___

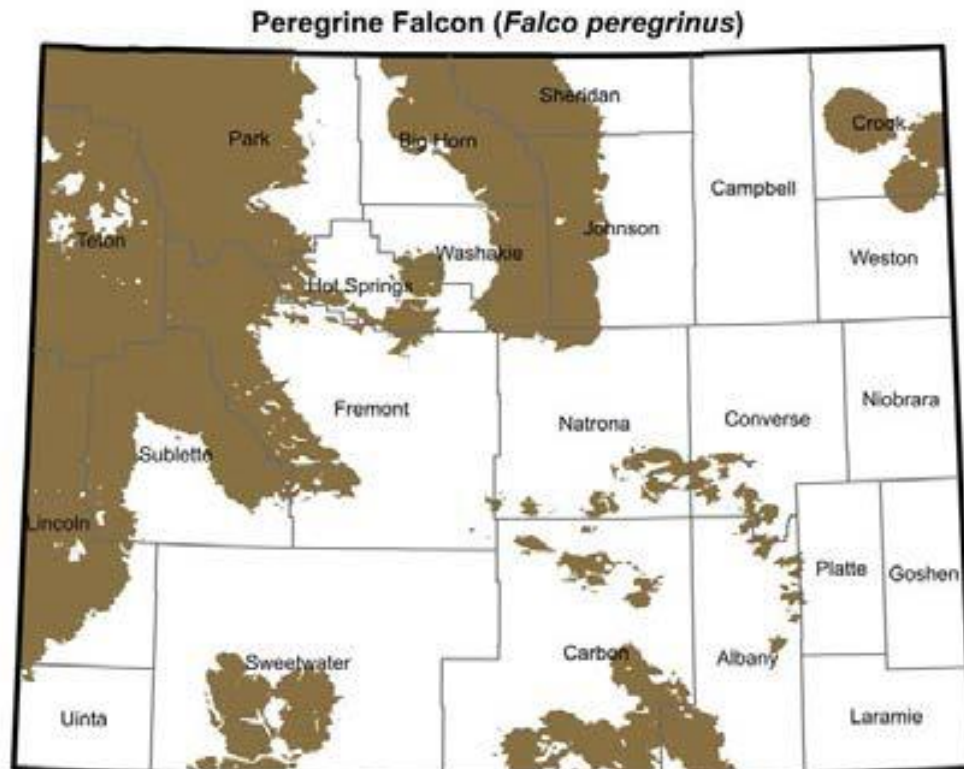
If no, provide explanation and stop assessment.

d. **Map 1**, Peregrine falcon range map of North America



Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).

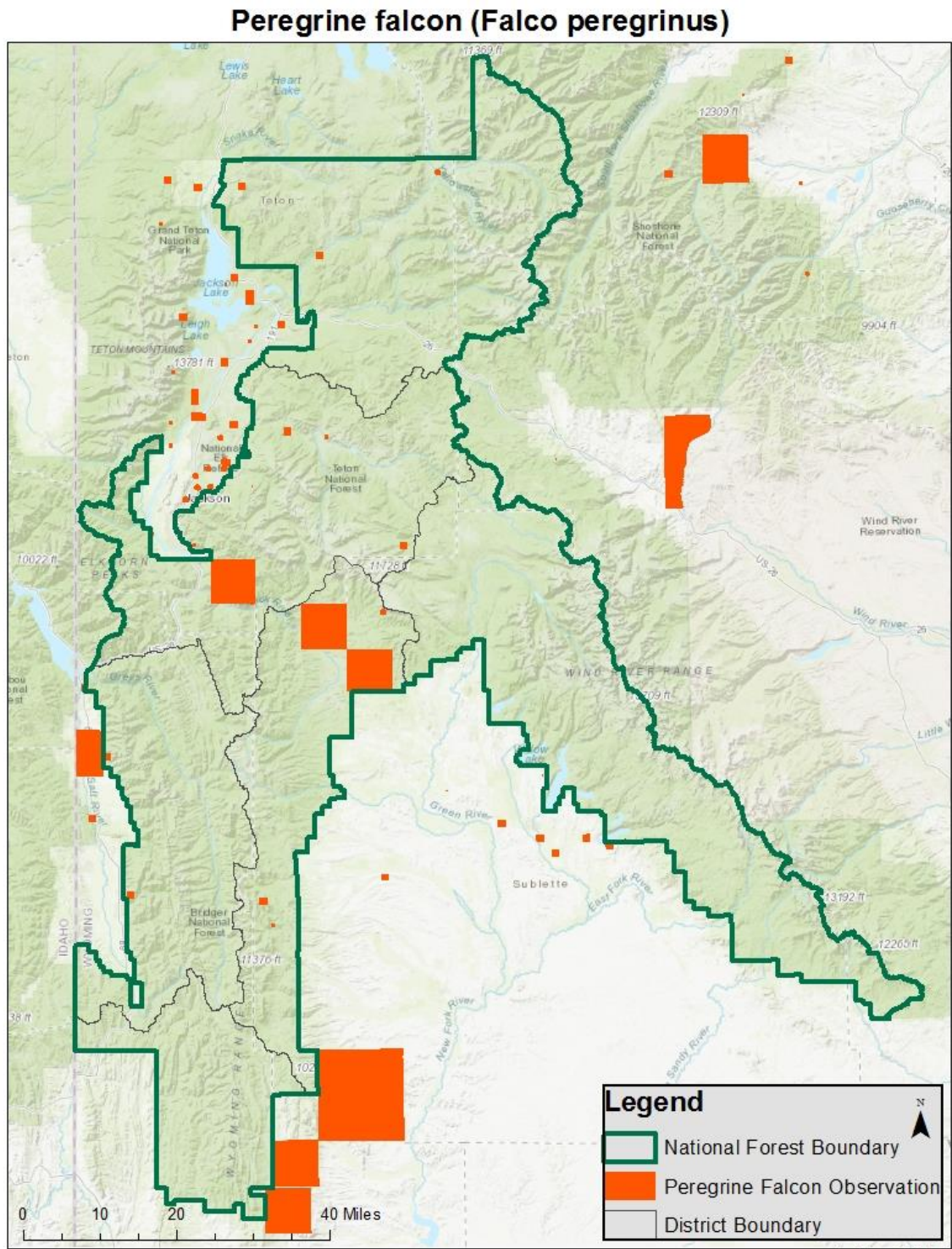
e. **Map 2**, Range and predicted distribution of *Falco peregrinus* in Wyoming.



SOURCE: Digital maps of ranges for Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need: Sept. 2016.
Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.
Note that brown indicates the predicted distribution of the species;
heavy black lines indicate outermost boundaries of possible occurrence.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).

- f. **Map 3**, Map of Peregrine falcon occurrences on the Bridger-Teton National Forest (Wyoming Natural Diversity Database [May 2018])



3. Is There Substantial Concern for the Species' Capability to persist Over the Long-term in the Plan Area Based on Best Available Scientific Information?

Table 2. Status summary based on existing conservation assessments

Entity	Status/Rank (include definition if Other)
<p>NatureServe Global Status</p>	<p>G4— Apparently Secure</p> <p>Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to declines or other factors. Widespread, with increasing populations in many areas.</p>
<p>NatureServe State Status</p>	<p>S2B,S2S3N — Imperiled</p> <p><i>Imperiled because of rarity due to very restricted range, very few populations (often 20 or fewer), steep declines, or other factors making it very vulnerable to extirpation.</i></p>
<p>WGFD</p>	<p>NSS3 (Bb), Tier II</p> <p><u>Population Status:</u> Population size or distribution is restricted or declining but extirpation is not imminent.</p> <p><u>Limiting Factors:</u> Limiting factors are severe and not increasing significantly.</p> <p><u>Tier II:</u> Moderate priority</p> <p><i>[The WGFD's Species of Greater Conservation Need (SGCN) designation process is based upon its Native Species Status (NSS) classification system that compares population and limiting factor variables using a 16 cell matrix. As a species moves from a placement closest to the upper left corner of the matrix (Aa/NSS1) toward the lower right corner (Dd/NSS7) the species' population status in Wyoming is considered more secure. Numerical scores were assigned to each of these variables and summed to provide a total score (i.e. NSS3). SGCN were placed into one of three tiers based on their total score: Tier I – highest priority, Tier II – moderate priority, and Tier III – lowest priority.]</i></p> <p>(WGFD - Wyoming Species of Greatest Conservation Need)</p>
<p>WYNDD</p>	<p>Species of Concern</p> <p><i>Species vulnerable to extirpation at the global or state level due to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. their rarity (e.g., restricted distribution, small population size, low population density)</i> <i>b. inherent vulnerability (e.g., specialized habitat requirements, restrictive life history)</i> <i>c. threats (e.g., significant loss of habitat, sensitivity to disturbances)</i> <p>(Wyoming Natural Diversity Database - Species of Concern)</p>

USDA Forest Service	<p>Region 4: Sensitive Species</p> <p><i>Those plant and animal species identified by a Regional Forester for which population viability is a concern, as evidenced by</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Significant current or predicted downward trends in population numbers or density.</i> <i>b. Significant current or predicted downward trends in habitat capability that would reduce a species' existing distribution.</i> <p>(FSM 2670.5 – Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive Species)</p>
UDI FWS	Delisted; Migratory Bird; Bird of Conservation Concern
WY BLM	Sensitive
IUCN	<p>LC – Least Concern</p> <p><i>A taxon is Least Concern when it has been evaluated against the criteria and does not qualify for Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable or Near Threatened. Widespread and abundant taxa are included in this category.</i></p> <p>(IUCN – Red List Categories and Criteria)</p>
Partners in Flight (PIF) Continental Concern Score	9

Table 3. Status summary based on best available scientific information.

Species (Scientific and Common Name): <i>Falco peregrinus</i> [Peregrine falcon]		
Criteria	Rationale	Literature Citations
Distribution on Bridger-Teton National Forest	The Peregrine falcon is a migratory species throughout much of Wyoming with the breeding range overlapping the northwest part of the state, including the Bridger-Teton National Forest (BTNF; Map 1). Similarly, most of the species distribution and habitat is located in the northwestern portion of the state, overlapping with a large portion of the BTNF (Map 2). On the BTNF, the Peregrine falcon has been documented on 5 of the 6 Ranger Districts (Map 3), excluding the Kemmerer Ranger District in the south – which is outside the predicted distribution of the species. The species is a habitat generalist across much of its range (WGFD 2017); however, it appears that Peregrin falcons are not well distributed throughout the Forest. The species typically requires cliffs	Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>).

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	for nest sites and open areas for foraging. Therefore, suitable Peregrine falcon breeding habitat (i.e. rock/cliff) is also not well distributed across the Forest, and such habitat may be a limiting factor of Peregrine falcon distribution and abundance on the BTNF. Most breeding Peregrine falcons are found in Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks, adjacent to the Bridger-Teton National Forest, and non-breeding individuals represent many of the occurrences on the Forest.	
Abundance on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	<p>The abundance and distribution of Peregrine falcons across the state of Wyoming appears to coincide with that of the BTNF, where the rank is <i>rare</i> and is based on the rather small area known to be occupied in any given season, and the small coverage of suitable habitat within that area (WGFD 2017). Within suitable habitat in the occupied areas across Wyoming, Peregrine falcons appear to be uncommon, occurring in relatively low densities and requiring intensive survey efforts to detect the species, also similar to the species abundance on the BTNF. Most breeding Peregrine falcons in Wyoming are in the northern and northwestern part of the state in the Bighorn, Teton, and Wind River Mountain Ranges, outside the BTNF (WGFD 2017).</p> <p>There are currently no estimates of relative abundance for the state of Wyoming. However, the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) relative abundance for Peregrine falcon is .01 for the Northern Rockies (Sauer et al. 2017). Thus, the species represents 1% of the proportion of species populations within the Northern Rockies region, suggesting a relatively low abundance for the BTNF as well.</p>	<p>Sauer, J. R., D. K. Niven, J. E. Hines, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr, K. L. Pardieck, J. E. Fallon, and W. A. Link. 2017. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2015. Version 2.07.2017 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.</p> <p>Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>).</p>
Population Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	While population trend data is lacking for the BTNF, the species is believed to be relatively common in the main part of its range. Following a decline in the 1940s to 1970s, the species now occupies nearly all of its historical range in Wyoming, and monitoring results indicate that the population of nesting Peregrine falcons is stable and well above recovery goals in Wyoming (WGFD 2017). North American Breeding Bird Survey data indicates a significant, long-term (1966–2015) increase in Peregrine falcon across Wyoming. However, over	<p>Sauer, J. R., D. K. Niven, J. E. Hines, D. J. Ziolkowski, Jr, K. L. Pardieck, J. E. Fallon, and W. A. Link. 2017. The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2015. Version 2.07.2017 USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.</p> <p>Wyoming Game and Fish Department.</p>

Species (Scientific and Common Name): <i>Falco peregrinus</i> [Peregrine falcon]		
Criteria	Rationale	Literature Citations
	the short term (2005–2015), no statistically significant trend was detected (Sauer et al. 2017). Similarly, no statistically significant trend for Peregrine falcon populations was concluded for the Northern Rockies region.	2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus</i>).
Habitat Trend on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	The presence of cliff habitat is likely the limiting factor for persistence of Peregrine falcons on the Forest. A vegetation assessment completed in 2012 for the BTNF determined that “Barren-Rock” – the preferred nesting habitat type of Peregrine falcons – encompasses only 2% of the BTNF. Peregrine falcon breeding habitat is uncommon across the BTNF, the habitat that does exist is likely to remain stable. Forest management activities that alter or impact this habitat type is not likely or common, and such cliff habitat is not easily altered in a way that nesting peregrine falcons would be negatively impacted.	Helmbrecht, D., M. Williamson, and D. Abendroth. 2012. Bridger-Teton National Forest Vegetation Condition Assessment.
Threats to the Species and its Habitat on the Bridger-Teton National Forest	<p><u>Natural</u> Drought and other climactic conditions, such as El Niño events, in western North America may be contributing to recent observations of reduced productivity (WGFD 2017). Occupancy rates typically remain at normal levels with dramatic weather patterns. However, fledging success can be impacted from inclement weather that is extreme and persistent during and shortly after the Peregrine falcon hatch in May (WGFD 2017).</p> <p><u>Human disturbance</u> Peregrine Falcons in remote areas may abandon nest sites in the presence of human activity (WGFD 2017). However, there is little evidence that disturbance is an important factor in nest loss or Peregrine falcon movements directly associated with activities on the BTNF.</p> <p><u>Historical Threats</u> Threats to Peregrine falcon populations from pesticide use, egg collection, and hunting was a major contributing factor in the 1950s up until the 1970s. Population declines where extreme and extirpation of the species was thought to be inevitable. However, with the ban of pesticides and protection of this species, populations have recovered and trends appear to be increasing in</p>	Wyoming Game and Fish Department. 2017. State Wildlife Action Plan. Boreal Owl (<i>Aegolius funereus</i>).

Species (Scientific and Common Name): <i>Falco peregrinus</i> [Peregrine falcon]		
Criteria	Rationale	Literature Citations
	many parts of the species range.	
<p>Summary and recommendations:</p> <p>Although the BTNF overlaps with a large portion of general Peregrine falcon habitat, there is little suitable breeding habitat on the forest. Documented breeding locations are isolated on the forest, and while current occupancy records suggest the species is rare, there is no evidence that populations are in decline. Peregrine falcons appear to be utilizing suitable habitat across the BTNF.</p> <p>Peregrine falcons are not particularly vulnerable to forest management activities on the BTNF. In general, habitat is expected to remain stable and management activities will likely remain a low risk to breeding habitat and breeding populations.</p> <p>Peregrine falcons are rare on the BTNF, but there is not a substantial concern for the species' capability to persist over the long-term within the planning unit at this time. With few identified threats to this species and the negligible role forest management on the BTNF has on this species', it is recommended that the Peregrine falcon is not a Species of Conservation Concern for the Bridger-Teton National Forest.</p> <p>Evaluator(s): Ashley Egan, Randall Griebel</p>		Date: June, 18 2018