Protecting Northern Goshawk Nests West of the Cascades

Date: August, 1999
Application: All west-side forested ecosystems covered by the Habitat Conservation Plan, including the Olympic Experimental State Forest that are within designated northern spotted owl nesting, roosting, and foraging management areas.

DISCUSSION

One of the department's overall objectives is to contribute to the demographic support of populations of unlisted species with large home ranges on federal reserves, and to facilitate the dispersal of these wide-ranging species among federal reserves. This procedure describes the management strategies for activities that are next to or around a known northern goshawk nest.

The northern goshawk is an unlisted species of concern. The department's intent is to protect the goshawk's nesting habitat by minimizing disturbance of that nesting habitat. The protection will be achieved through implementing the spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and riparian conservation strategies and by providing additional protection to known goshawk nest sites.

The protection strategies for protecting the spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and riparian areas, as well as the landscape's habitat objectives are expected to provide the measures needed to protect the goshawks nesting habitat. However, this procedure identifies additional protection requirements for known active northern goshawk nest sites.

Prior to full Habitat Conservation Plan implementation, comply with this procedure to ensure known northern goshawk nest sites are protected.

Action

(1) Determine if a northern goshawk nest occurs within 0.55 mile of a proposed management activity.

(2) Obtain the assistance of a region or division wildlife biologist to determine if a northern goshawk nest, occurring within 0.55 mile of the proposed management activity, is active (i.e., is in use or was used in the most recent breeding season).

(a) If the nest is inactive, search the area for an alternate nest. Goshawks use several nests within their territory, usually within one mile of each other.

(b) If the nest is active, restrict any portion of the proposed management activity that within 0.55 mile of the active nest between April 1 and August 31. Restricted activities include, but are not limited to, tree removal, herbicide application, broadcast burning, and road construction.

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