

RC030

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PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry. Modify the allocation provisions for nonresident falconry permits.

I am in support of Proposal 92-5

A harvest of any animal should be based on science not politics. The species of animals currently harvested in Alaska is consistent with this principle with few exceptions.

The following are facts related to the raptor take by falconers:

1. Falconers only take juvenile (1st year) raptors because they have a 50-70% mortality in the wild. Thus the survival of the individual bird taken is improved.
2. A raptor taken while in the nest(eyas) improves the survival of the other siblings that remain in the nest.
3. USFWS studied raptor harvest by all falconers nationally over several years and found that there was **zero impact by falconry take on raptor populations.**
4. The raptors utilized in falconry are non threatened and non endangered species and are classified as species of least concern by the IUCN red list and Birdlife international.
5. Peregrine falcons in particular, were removed from the endangered species list in 1999(17 years ago) and the IUCN states:
 - This species has undergone a large and statistically significant increase over the last 40 years in North America (2,600% increase over 40 years, equating to a 127% increase per decade; data from Breeding Bird Survey and/or Christmas Bird Count: Butcher and Niven 2007). Note, however, that these surveys cover less than 50% of the species's range in North America”

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