

(39) CONSERVATION AND MONITORING OF QUEEN CHARLOTTE GOSHAWKS IN SOUTHEAST ALASKA

KIMBERLY TITUS^{1*}, CRAIG FLATTEN², RICHARD LOWELL¹, AND STEPHEN LEWIS¹

¹ ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, PO Box 240020, Douglas, AK 99824,
kim_titus@fishgame.state.ak.us

² ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, 2030 Sea Level Drive, Suite 205, Ketchikan, AK 99901

The 1997 Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) has a number of conservation measures designed to ensure that northern goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis laingi*) remain viable and well distributed on the forest. Some examples of these measures include an old-growth reserve system, protection of nest sites, and protection of riparian forest habitats. With the US Forest Service, we began field studies in 1991 to understand the natural history of this bird in a coastal temperate rainforest by locating and monitoring goshawk nesting areas. Combining nest area monitoring with the long-term tracking of adult goshawks, we are able to assess the efficacy of monitoring. Median multi-year home range estimates were larger than initially thought, suggesting that the size of large old growth reserves would not accommodate the number of birds suggested in TLMP. Breeding dispersal of female goshawks indicated an annual divorce rate of up to 36%, presenting significant difficulties in meeting some of the monitoring requirements discussed in TLMP. Finally, long-term protection for nest sites in areas available for timber harvest will present management challenges. Despite these issues, we believe that the current conservation and management approaches in TLMP will ensure that Queen Charlotte goshawks do not need listing under the Endangered Species Act.

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