

# Abstracts of Oral Presentations

remained viable and well-distributed across the Tongass. Under the old forest plan, interim management guidelines for goshawks and other components of the old-growth strategy were identified as being inadequate. In 1994, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was petitioned to list the Queen Charlotte Goshawk as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, further complicating forest management issues. An interagency goshawk conservation assessment was prepared in 1996 to provide the Forest Service with the best available science-based information for decision-making. Study results indicated that goshawks had large use areas (approx. home ranges: 142 km<sup>2</sup> for adult female nesting season,  $N = 17$ ) and that goshawks were selecting for old growth forest. Interpretation of results suggested that the probability of persistence of goshawks has declined over the past 50 years based on past and present forest management practices. The authors felt that a reserve system was an important but incomplete component of a long-term management strategy to maintain goshawks across the forest. Risk assessment panels were held during the forest plan revision in 1996 and 1997 to evaluate the likelihood that goshawk populations would remain viable and well distributed across the forest. Goshawk experts suggested that the reserve system should be combined with other approaches including extended timber rotations, management of the intervening forest matrix where timber harvest would occur, and extended riparian and beach buffers. The final Tongass forest plan contained elements of the science-based goshawk information base.

## Northern Goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*) and Forest Management on the Tongass National Forest, Alaska

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The Tongass National Forest (16.9 million acres or 68,000 km<sup>2</sup>) contains some of the largest remaining tracts of old-growth temperate coastal rainforest in the world. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the USDA Forest Service began cooperative studies of the Northern Goshawk in the early 1990s. By 1992, interim goshawk habitat management guidelines were issued for the Tongass National Forest and there was an attempt to develop a conservation strategy for maintaining habitats so that old-growth dependent wildlife



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