



## Habitat for Osprey, Swainson's Hawk, Goshawk, Ferruginous Hawk and Great Blue Heron <sup>35b</sup> 😊

**Introduction:** The Forest Plan (page 2-75) provides standards and guidelines aimed at minimizing the disruption of habitat during critical nesting periods. Direction is also provided to minimize disturbance of key winter habitat. Species protected include: Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, Osprey, Swainson's Hawk, Goshawk, and Great-Blue Heron.

**Results:** No proposed projects had the potential to affect these species or were implemented near known nest sites in 2003. District records identified the presence of a heron rookery and a goshawk nest within the analysis area for the Upper Trout Creek aquatic habitat restoration project. A site visit was made to the rookery site, and no nests were observed. It was determined, after a change in project design, that the sites were far enough away from the activity area that no impacts to the nests would occur.

No projects were found to have the potential to affect these species.

**Recommended Action to be Taken:** No action required; continue monitoring projects for disruption of habitat during critical nesting period.

## Legacy Features <sup>40</sup> 😊

### **Introduction:**

Residual green trees and dead wood in harvested areas function as a bridge between past and future forests. Green trees serve several important functions: they are available for snag recruitment, contribute to multistoried canopies, and provide shade. They also provide for the continued survival of species such as lichens, fungi, insects and mollusks from one generation of trees to the next while providing habitat for birds and small mammals.

Dead and partially dead trees or snags are important to certain wildlife species. To provide suitable habitat, a snag needs to be at least 17 inches in diameter and 40 feet high. They serve as breeding areas, shelter, and a host to insects, which provide food for birds. Species dependent on snags include the pileated woodpecker and several other woodpecker species, red-breasted sapsucker, red-breasted nuthatch, and northern flicker.

Ecological studies are expanding our understanding of the role of down woody material in forest ecosystems. Down logs are important because of their role in mineral cycling, nutrient mobilization, and moisture retention. In addition, down logs provide structure and habitat suitable to many wildlife species.

### **Results:**

The **Greenhorn Commercial Thinning** sale was monitored on the Cowlitz Valley Ranger District. Objectives for snag density were met on this sale but the area fell short of the desired level of down wood. There are no specific standard



and guidelines for down wood and snags in thinning units except that the amount of down wood should reflect the timing in the stand development cycle. Both snags and down wood were created in 2002 with K-V funds. Numbers of created snags and down wood structures were based on K-V plan narratives. Unfortunately the down wood amount in the K-V narrative (120 linear feet/acre) is less than the EA mitigation measure, which calls for 240 linear feet/acre. The reason for this discrepancy is unknown. The EA objective of 2.6 snags per acre was met.

The Wicky Creek Shelter hazard tree removal, was monitored on Mount Adams District. There was a high density of dead and dying fir trees around the shelter. Because of the potential hazard posed by falling trees, it is not safe to leave snags within 100 to 150 feet of the shelter. It is likely that more of the remaining trees will have to be felled in the future as they will likely be killed by spruce budworm. In addition to the dead and dying fir trees near the shelter, there are several large ponderosa pine, western larch, and Douglas-fir trees near the shelter which appear healthy. There are many snags further away from the shelter providing an abundance of cavity excavator habitat.

Felled trees near the shelter will be removed by firewood cutters.

Felled trees near the shelter and outside of riparian reserves will be permitted to be removed by firewood cutters. With the decline in timber sales on the District, there is an unmet demand for fire wood cutting opportunities. Because of the spruce budworm mortality, the area in general has abundance of down wood habitat.



Mitch Wainwright photo

**Figure 3. – Dead trees around the Wicky Creek Shelter**



Mitch Wainwright photo

**Figure 4. – Felled hazard trees behind Wicky Creek shelter.**

**Evaluation:**

While the Forest Plan does not contain a numeric standard for down wood or snags in thinnings, the down wood objective established through the Greenhorn Thinning EA was not met. There appears to have been an error in the prepar

The down wood objective established through the Greenhorn Thinning EA was not met.



of the K-V Plan for the project which should have provided for the felling of sufficient additional trees to meet the down wood objective.

Safety takes precedence over standards and guidelines for snag retention. In situations where dead trees pose a risk to life and property, the hazard will be eliminated. In the case of the Wicky Creek Shelter, we conclude the decision to allow firewood cutting of the felled trees was appropriate since there is an abundance of down-wood habitat in the area and the site is heavily used by recreationists and in close proximity to a road.

**Survey and Manage** <sup>44</sup> 

**Introduction:** The Northwest Forest Plan (1994) provides for surveys for over 300 rare and /or isolated plant and animal species. These species are grouped in six categories based on relative rarity, ability to reasonably locate occupied sites and level of information known about the species (see Table 5).

**Table 5. - Survey Categories**

<b>Relative Rarity</b>	<b>Pre-Disturbance Surveys: Practical</b>	<b>Pre-Disturbance Surveys: Not Practical</b>	<b>Status Undetermined</b>
<b>Rare</b>	<b>Category A:</b> Manage All Known Sites Pre-Disturbance Surveys Strategic Surveys	<b>Category B:</b> Manage All Known Sites  Strategic Surveys	<b>Category E:</b> Manage All Known Sites  Strategic Surveys
<b>Uncommon</b>	<b>Category C:</b> Manage High-Priority Sites Pre-Disturbance Surveys Strategic Surveys	<b>Category D:</b> Manage High-Priority Sites  Strategic Surveys	<b>Category F:</b>  Strategic Surveys



## Flora

Currently, surveys before ground-disturbing activities are required for the following botanical and fungi species:

<i>Bridgeoporus nobilissimus</i>	<i>Schistostega pennata</i>
<i>Tetraphis genciulata</i> ;	<i>Loabaria linita</i>
<i>Hypogymnia duplicata</i>	<i>Pseudocyphellaria rainierensis</i> ;
<i>Botrychium montanum</i>	<i>Coptis asplenifolia</i>
<i>C. trifolia</i>	<i>Corydalis aquae-gelidae</i>
<i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>	<i>C. montanum</i>
<i>Eucephalus vialis</i>	<i>Galium kamtschaticum</i>
<i>Platantera orbiculata</i> var. <i>orbiculata</i>	<i>Leptogium burnetiae</i> var. <i>hirsutum</i>
<i>L. rivale</i>	<i>Niebla cephalota</i>
<i>Platismatia lacunosa</i>	<i>Ramalina thrausta</i>
<i>Teolschistes flavicans</i>	

In 2003 the following number of sites were located for each species during pre-disturbance surveys:

- 6 *Tetraphis geniculata* (moss)
- 2 *Platismatia lacunosa* (lichen)
- 20 *Corydalis aquae-gelidae* (vascular plant)

**Fauna** - Surveys for Larch Mountain salamander (*Plethodon larselli*) and Van Dyke's salamander (*Plethodon vandykei*), and for several mollusk species were conducted on the Forest in FY 2003.

3 amphibian sites and 248 mollusk sites were located.

Table 6 displays the number of acres of completed surveys for each group, and the number of new sites by species for both complete and incomplete surveys.




**Table 6. - FY 2001 Survey and Manage Results for Fauna**

	CV acres surveyed	CV new sites	MSH acres surveyed	MSH new sites	MTA acres surveyed	MTA new sites	Total Acres and Sites
<b>Great Gray Owl</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Amphibians</b>	25		1,539		2,572		4,136
<i>Plethodon larselli</i>		0		3		0	3
<i>Plethodon vandykei</i>		0		0		0	0
<b>Mollusks</b>	25		1,539		3,298		4,862
<i>Cryptomastix devia</i>		3				0	3
<i>Hemphillia glandulosa</i>		0				4	4
<i>Hemphillia malonei</i>		0		217		24	241

**Recommended Action To Be Taken:**

Continued specialized training for individuals conducting these surveys.

**Grazing** <sup>45</sup> 

**Introduction - Grazing:** The grazing of cattle, horses, and sheep are among the historical uses on national forest system lands. Records from 1890 indicate over 100,000 sheep and 1,500 cattle grazed on the Forest. On an average year 716 cattle and 1,150 sheep are permitted on approximately 200,000 acres of the Gifford Pinchot National Forest.

Allotment management plans are current, and periodic evaluations of the allotment sites are performed. Cattle allotment management plans are reviewed every ten years; the sheep allotment management plan is reviewed an every five years. Every year, for each allotment, an annual operating plan is developed by the permittees and the Forest Service. Through our evaluations, we ensure that the Forest Plan standards are met. Forest Plan consistency is ensured by inspecting the sites prior to dispersal of livestock, and monitoring of the livestock to ensure proper utilization of resources, distribution of livestock, and maintenance of ecosystem health. Range improvements, such as maintenance of fences, cattle guards, and water lines, have been performed cooperatively by the permittees and the Forest Service.

Our monitoring utilizes photo plots of vegetation that aid in determining the condition and trends within certain sites over time. When grazing in or near riparian zones we ensure that the objectives for the Aquatic Conservation Strategy are fulfilled, including but not limited to water quality, stability of streams and