



Featured Species Habitat Management Guidance for Peregrine Falcon

Latin Name: *Falco peregrinus*

Scope: Statewide

Rationale - *why we value the species and the problem for the species:*

The peregrine falcon is listed as an endangered species in Michigan (White et al. 2002; Michigan DNR 2015). It is a charismatic species that attracts attention wherever it is found. Peregrines have always been noted as a rare, local resident species along the Great Lakes (Wood 1943), but pesticide use reduced their numbers to just a few remaining birds in the 1960s. Pesticide restrictions and the hacking of fledglings from other areas in the mid-1980s started reversing this trend. Michigan peregrine numbers now probably exceed historical numbers. However, the loss of even a few birds represents a substantial portion of the population, and underscores the need for a continued increase in their numbers. Nest sites appear to be the primary limiting factor for population expansion.

Habitat Need - *the cause & effect relationship between habitat and species and its primary limiting habitat need:*

Cliffs have historically been the primary nest site for peregrines. However, since the mid-1980s, nest sites have included man-made structures that resemble natural cliffs (Frank 1994). High vantage points, secure nesting structures, and abundant prey appear to be key factors for nest site selection.

Habitat Objectives - *the treatment or management to address the primary limiting habitat need:*

- 1) Protect and preserve historical and current nest sites.
- 2) Identify potential nest sites with a high probability of use; explore additional restoration opportunities such as cooperative nest box placements with universities, utility companies, municipal governments, and private building management groups.
- 3) Erect and monitor nest boxes where appropriate.

Priority Geographic Areas - *the specific geographic areas where we should focus management for the species:*

The historical nest sites in the Huron Mountains, Pictured Rocks area, Isle Royale, the Fox Islands, and Mackinac Island; the recently active nest sites on man-made structures in the Detroit area, Ann Arbor, Mt. Clemens, Port Huron, Monroe, Lansing, Jackson, Grand Haven, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Port Sheldon, the Houghton-Hancock Lift-Bridge, and the Mackinac Bridge; although not yet productive, peregrine presence and nesting behavior has been reported in the Porcupine Mountains, Battle Creek, Kalamazoo, and East Lansing; and potential future nest sites in Alpena, Bay City, Ludington, Midland, Petoskey, Saginaw, and Traverse City.

Priority Landscapes - *the landscape, setting, or cover-type where we should focus management within the areas above:*

Priority areas include man-made structures along the Great Lakes coastal areas and major waterways.

Population Goal - *the goal for the species, its habitat, or a stakeholder's actions:*

50 active pairs of peregrine falcons in Michigan by 2020.

Evaluation Method - *the monitoring method to measure progress towards the goal above:*

Continue the annual cooperative peregrine falcon banding effort with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and encourage birders and local support groups to provide observation information regarding sightings and nesting activity.

Incidental Species - *other species which may benefit from management for this species:*

None identified.

References - *citation for documents referenced in this guidance:*

Frank, S. 1994. *City Peregrines; A Ten Year Saga of New York City Falcons*. Hancock House Publishers, Blaine. Washington, USA.

Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR). 2015. DNR online list of Frequently Asked Questions on the 2009 Revision of the State Endangered Species List.<http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12141-213610--,00.html>. Accessed 09 Sept. 2015.

White, C., N. Clum, T. Cade, W. Hunt. 2002. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). *The Birds of North America*, issue #660. March 24, 2006.

Wood, N. 1943. *The Birds of Michigan*. Museum of Zoology, No. 75. University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor.