

Washington State Species and Communities of Special Concern

information for family forest owners

As a good land steward, it is important to be aware of plant and animal species of special concern that may occur on your lands, and how forest management activities may affect these species. The Washington State Implementation Committee (WA SIC) for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) is pleased to provide a series of factsheets on species of special concern that may occur on forested lands within Washington State. Each species factsheet includes a description of the species, habitat, range, and information on known threats to populations in Washington.



*Photo of American Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum)
By Kelly McAllister/ Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife*

State Range Image Not Currently Available

Species: American Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus anatum*)

Group: Bird

Natural Heritage Rank: G4, S1

Legal Status: State Sensitive

General Description

This species is a medium-sized bird of prey. Adults are 16 inches in length and have a wingspan of 41 inches. Adults are slate gray with a light-colored abdomen that is spotted or barred with black. These falcons have a dark head with a light throat and dark “mustache” below the eyes. This species nests in spring on cliffs. Their diet is birds of all sizes. These falcons are famous for the speeds they reach when diving to capture prey.

Habitat

This species lives in cliffs, usually near to a waterbody.

Range in Washington

This subspecies is the primary subspecies that occurs in Washington. Populations are growing and they are currently found in cliff habitat in many locations in Washington, especially west of the Cascade crest.

Threats

Historically, the primary threat to this species was eggshell thinning from DDT in the food-chain. With the ban of DDT, populations are now recovering.

The information provided in this sheet has been compiled by the Washington SFI Implementation Committee. This species is one example of many that depend on family forest owners in Washington State for protection. To view other accounts, visit www.wdfw.wa.org or www.dnr.wa.gov/nhp, or www.natureserve.org.

