

Northern Goshawk

Accipiter gentilis



Photo by Bob Goodman

Conservation Profile

Priority Status	Conservation Target
Reasons for Priority Status	Dependence on limited, threatened habitat in Nevada Small population size
Other Rankings	Continental PIF: None Audubon Watchlist: None Natural Heritage: S2 USFWS: Migratory Bird BLM: Sensitive Species NDOW: Conservation Priority
Trends	Historical: Unknown in West Recent: Relatively stable in NV [p3]; poorly quantified in surrounding region [p1, i1]
Population Size Estimates	Nevada: 40 [p5] to 600 [p3]; larger figure more likely [EO] Global: 580,000 [p5] Percent of Global: ≤ 1 %
Population Objective	TBD
Monitoring Coverage	Source: USFS, NDOW raptor surveys Coverage and Adequacy: Excellent
Key Conservation Areas	TBD

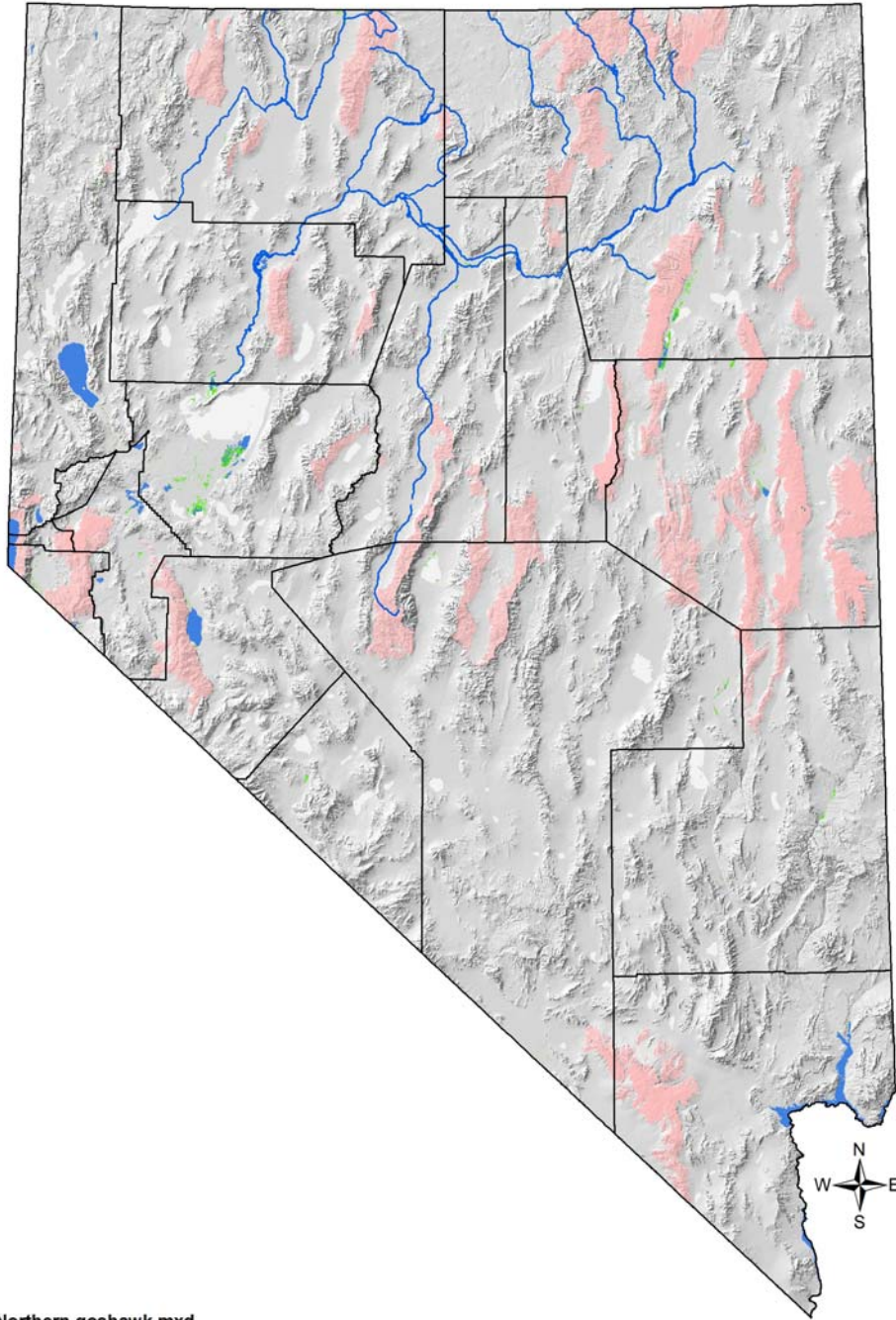
Habitat Use Profile

Main Habitats Used in Nevada	Aspen Coniferous Forest Pinyon-Juniper
Key Habitat Use Parameters	Most often nest in mature aspen stands with canopy closure ≥ 60% [p1] Also documented nesting in Coniferous Forest in Carson Range, and Pinyon-Juniper in central Nevada Multi-storied stands with snags and decaying matter more likely to be inhabited [p1, Reynolds et al 1992] Usually nests close to surface water [p1] Foraging habitat diverse, ranging from forest / woodland to open shrublands Winter habitat not well characterized, but usually close to breeding territories [EO]
Minimum Patch Size	Home range (including foraging areas) 570 – 3,500 ha [p1], but often nest in small aspen stands (at least as small as 0.8 ha) in Nevada [p1, p2]

Natural History Profile

Seasonal Presence in Nevada	Year-round
Known Breeding Dates in Nevada	Early April – August [p1, s4]
Nesting Habits	Places nest in sturdy branches of large trees, usually below canopy level [p1, Shuford and Gardali 2008] Typically alternate between several nest trees within a stand over successive years [p1]
Food Requirements	Large birds and small-to-medium sized mammals such as squirrels [p1]

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File: Northern goshawk.mxd

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Temporary Map Key

Pink: Breeding range

Hot pink / magenta: For some birds, breeding data was limited, and was supplemented by extrapolation to include likely breeding range. In these cases, hot pink represents known breeding range, and lighter pink the extrapolated breeding range.

Blue: Winter range

Yellow: Important migration stopover areas

Purple: Year-round range

Green: In some maps, wetlands mapped by SWReGAP are shown in green for interpretational purposes

Dot symbols: In cases where breeding records were isolated or very restricted in extent, they are represented by a pink dot symbol rather than a shaded area.

Arrows: Major migration routes. These are shown only for birds for which there are migration-associated conservation issues.

OVERVIEW

Although Northern Goshawks have no special regional or continental conservation status, they are a conservation priority in Nevada because they require a limited and threatened habitat type, Aspen woodlands. This habitat association contrasts with the more typical association with Coniferous Forest in other parts of the western U.S. (although goshawks do nest in conifers in the Carson Range). Although it is known that goshawks in Nevada prefer more mature aspen stands, current information regarding the ideal level of understory cover is somewhat contradictory and needs to be clarified. Winter habitat use is also poorly understood [p3]. Although goshawk numbers in Nevada appear to be relatively stable, Nevada's aspen stands are at significant risk of decline and loss, and therefore a generalized strategy to promote the health and persistence of aspen stands within the state is likely the most effective strategy toward the continued presence of Northern Goshawks. [Discuss Sierra Nevada Framework, forest management planning, goshawk occupancy monitoring here?]

ABUNDANCE AND OCCUPANCY BY HABITAT

- NBC data

		% Transects Occupied (Great Basin)	% Transects Occupied (Mojave)
Aspen		0.06 (1/18)	0
Coniferous Forest		0	0.25 (1/4)
Montane Riparian		0.02 (2/88)	0
Montane Shrublands		0.11 (1/9)	0
Mt. Mahogany		0.11 (1/9)	n/a

- In Nevada, usually single pair per aspen patch. Usually < 5 pairs / 100 km² [p1]

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NEVADA-SPECIFIC STUDIES AND ANALYSES

- TBD

MAIN THREATS AND CHALLENGES

- Loss of mature aspen stands through:
 - Heavy livestock grazing
 - Altered fire regime
 - Tree pathogens, and Aspen Decline syndrome

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

Proscribed Strategies

- For Sierra Nevada area, adhere to management standards and guidelines in Sierra Nevada Framework

Habitat Strategies

- General Aspen conservation strategy, with emphasis on promoting stand regeneration by:
 - Protecting from chronic, heavy livestock grazing
 - Allowing regenerating burns to occur in selected areas

Research, Planning, and Monitoring

- Broaden monitoring to better detect declines and use of atypical nesting habitats
- Study of winter habitat requirements

Other

- [group mentioned West Nile and falconry; clarification needed]

OTHER PRIORITY SPECIES WITH SIMILAR CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

- TBD

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FURTHER READING

- Reynolds et al 1992
- Bechard et al 2006
- Younk and Bechard 1994

Temporary codes for standard references

[p1] Birds of N. America account for this species
[p2] NV Bird Conservation Plan ver. 1 (Neel 1999)
[p3] NV Wildlife Action Plan
[p4] Nevada Breeding Bird Atlas
[p5] PIF N. American Landbird Conservation Plan (Rich et al 2004) (NOTE:
[p6] Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan (Oring et al 2003)
[p7] Pacific Flyway reports
[p8] Shrubsteppe Landscapes in Jeopardy (Dobkin and Sauder 2004)
[p9] Birds in a Sagebrush Sea (Paige and Ritter 1999)
[s1] NBC-based population size estimates
[s2, s3] NBC-based habitat relationship analysis
[s4] Breeding Bird Atlas breeding phenology data
[i1] BBS trends analysis (Sauer et al 2005)
[i2] NV Upland Game Management Plan (Espinosa et al in prep.)
[i3] Western Quail Management Plan (Zornes et al 2008)
[i4] NDOW Shorebird and Waterbird monitoring data (Neel)
[i5] Brad Andres IMJV Shorebird / Waterbird data set
[i6] GBBO Technical Report 08-01 (2008)
[EO] Expert opinion from NVPIF group members
[IWWCP] Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan
[NAWCP] North American Waterbird Conservation Plan
[LBCUSACP] Long-billed Curlew Status Assessment and Conservation Plan
[USSCP] U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan
[WHSRN] Western Hemispheric Shorebird Regional Network