



Best Management Practices for Construction and Development Projects Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

Common name • Peregrine Falcon
Scientific name • *Falco peregrinus*
Federal status • None
State status • Endangered

Purpose and Use

The information in this document is to be used to help avoid and minimize species impacts due to construction practices. It is not intended to be used as a guide to manage habitat for a given species. If that is the goal, please contact the Department of Conservation for habitat management information. Because every project and location differs, following the recommendations within this document does not ensure that impacts will not occur to the species and additional information might be required in certain instances. Following the recommendations within this document does not complete Endangered Species Act consultation that may be necessary for species listed under the federal Endangered Species Act; please contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more information.

Ecology

Peregrine Falcons are found on every continent except Antarctica. They breed in the arctic tundra through Europe and North America, and south into Africa, South America, the Pacific Islands and Australia. During the winter, North American Peregrine Falcons migrate from breeding grounds in the north to as far south as the tip of South America. Peregrine Falcons inhabit open areas usually associated with high cliffs and bluffs over rivers and coasts. In Missouri, these Falcons are observed most often during spring and fall migration, especially in areas with high concentrations of shorebirds and waterfowl. Currently, the only known nesting pairs are using buildings, bridges or power plants near Kansas City and St. Louis. Adults lay two to six eggs per clutch. Eggs are incubated for 30-32 days, and young fly from the nest after about five to six weeks. Peregrine Falcons mostly prey on birds, but they will also eat amphibians, insects and mammals.

Reasons for Decline

In the eastern United States, declines of Peregrine Falcons began in the 1940s when environmental contaminants were introduced. By 1970, Peregrine Falcon numbers had decreased to the point that there were no known nesting pairs in the eastern United States. Contaminants such as the pesticide DDT built up in the fatty tissue of the birds that preyed on contaminated insects, and this caused the birds to lay

thin-shelled eggs that often broke under the incubating parent before chicks hatched. Once DDT was banned in 1972, Peregrine Falcon populations began to increase with the help of captive rearing and release programs. Current threats to the populations include human disturbance of nesting birds, alteration of nesting and wintering habitat, and continued use of environmental contaminants.

Specific Recommendations

While many Peregrine Falcons have begun nesting on tall buildings and power plant exhaust towers in urban areas throughout the United States, it is important to maintain natural open areas, especially near streams and rivers, for these birds. It is hoped that eventually natural cliff nesting pairs will occur again.

- Project activities should not occur within approximately 5,000 feet of areas where Peregrine Falcons are nesting or rearing young (April 15 - July 15).
- Dispose of chemicals, toxic waste, garbage and waste water from trucks in areas designated for such wastes. These sites should be away from streams and other bodies of water.
- Avoid use of pesticides and other contaminants whenever possible, as Peregrine Falcons will act as natural predators of many unwanted insects.

General Recommendations

If your project involves the use of Federal Highway Administration transportation funds, these recommendations may not fulfill all contract requirements. Please contact the Missouri Department of Transportation at 573-526-4778 or www.modot.mo.gov/ehp/index.htm for additional information on recommendations.

Information Contacts

For further information regarding species or regulations for development contact:

For species information:

[Missouri Department of Conservation](http://www.modot.mo.gov/ehp/index.htm)
Resource Science Division
P.O. Box 180
2901 W. Truman Blvd
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0180
Telephone: 573/751-4115

For species information and Endangered Species Act Coordination:

[U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)
Ecological Services
101 Park Deville Drive, Suite A
Columbia, MO 65203-0007
Telephone: 573/234-2132

For Clean Water Act Coordination:

[Missouri Department of Natural Resources](#)
Water Protection Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0176
Telephone: 573/751-1300, 800/361-4827

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)
Regulatory Branch
700 Federal Building
Kansas City, MO 64106-2896
Telephone: 816/983-3990

[U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
Water, Wetlands, and Pesticides Division
901 North 5th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Telephone: 913/551-7307

Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from state and federal agencies, contractors and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with these Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal laws such as the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act, and state or local laws need to be considered for construction and development projects, and require permits and/or consultation with the appropriate agency. Following the recommendations provided in this document will help reduce and avoid project impacts to the species, but impacts may still occur. Please contact the appropriate agency for further coordination and to complete compliance requirements.