

GOSHAWK AND MARBLED MURRELET UPDATE

November 8, 2018



Western Forest Products Inc.
DEFINING A HIGHER STANDARD™



Outline



- Goshawk Management
 - Forest Practices Board Special Investigation
 - Highlights of WFP management
- Marbled Murrelet
 - Land Use Objectives Regulation Order
 - Case Studies

Forest Practices Board Special Investigation Overview



- Objective:
 1. Assess if legislation is adequate for maintaining species at risk habitat
 2. Evaluate legal and voluntary measures to maintain suitable habitat for goshawk and prey on the coast and in the interior

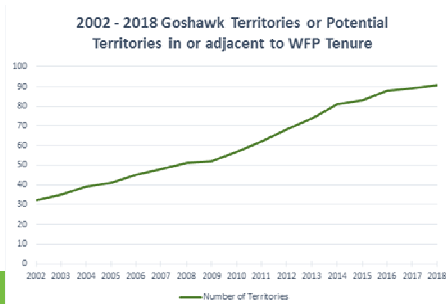
- Approach
 1. Review regulated forest practices within FRPA's species at risk process
 2. Review voluntary practices
 3. Assessment of success of legal and voluntary practices to maintain habitat and functional breeding areas

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WFP Goshawk Management



- 1994: 1st nest (Port Alberni – 2000)
- Nest reserves increased overtime.
- 1st Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) package submitted by Industry and approved (based on industry research project)
- 68 confirmed territories + 23 possible on or within 800m of WFP tenure (14 Port Alberni)



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WFP Goshawk Management



- WFP Goshawk Management Standard
 - Applies to all tenures
 - Training
 - Planners
 - Forest Workers
 - Standard Operating Procedures
 - Nest search in blocks within 800m of a known nest
 - Timing restrictions
 - WFP Leave Area/WHA

Wildlife Field Card WFP


Northern Goshawk - laingi subspecies

The Coastal Northern Goshawk is classified as a species at risk and conservation measures must be taken when it is encountered.

1. The bird.

- Crow to Raven size
- The adult bird has blue-grey back and pale grey/white belly
- The juvenile bird is brown & white
- White eye-brow strip
- Long rounded tail with dark and light alternating bands
- Short, rounded wings

It is a secretive forest hawk – the only one that will be seen flying within the forest canopy.




Timberlands • September 2012

Wildlife Field Card WFP

Northern Goshawk - laingi subspecies

2. What to look for:

- A nest in the form of a large stick structure (about 1 m in diameter) on the lower branches of trees.
- Adult or juvenile calling (alarm or begging call) (Sounds like a seagull in the forest)
- A hawk under the forest canopy calling repeatedly or swooping, diving or flying around the area.
- They remain piles of feathers and bones, regurgitated pellets or area of whitewash splatters in the forest, Goshawk feathers.



3. What to do when encountered:

- Stop working, shut down equipment immediately and vacate the area.
- Report the finding immediately to the Planning Department for further instructions.

Timberlands • September 2012

WFP Goshawk Management



Monitoring and Inventory

- Initiated 2002 on some tenures
- Represents significant Corporate Investment (no external funding)
- WHA Effectiveness Monitoring
 - on hold due to lack of clarity around # years required to be surveyed
- Block Assessments
- Inventory based on a clue, e.g., feather
- Habitat

WFP Survey Effort	# Days
2011	59
2012	104
2013	125
2014	126
2015	130
2016	78
2017	74

Note: days do not include trained field staff and planning consultants who survey daily as part of their daily job.

WFP Goshawk Management



Learnings

- Training is essential: Most nests found by industry
- Not old growth dependent: ~50% of nests in second growth (Port Alberni – ~70% in 2nd growth)
- Breeding Area shifts: up to 2 km; sometimes different habitats
- Need flexible management not static reserves (landscape strategies)
- Need to better understand forage habitat and distribution.
 - Research proposed by industry and National Council of Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI)



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WFP Goshawk Management



Beneficial Management Practices

- Regional Level
 - Over 6,000,000 ha in Parks and Protected Areas and Biodiversity, Mining and Tourism Areas on Coastal BC
- Landscape Level
 - ~575,000 ha of old or being grown to old in non-contributing forest on WFP tenure (Vancouver Island and South Coast)
 - Landscape level reserves
 - Great Bear Rainforest Ecosystem-based Management
 - Special Management Zones
 - Harvest profile (habitat supply and prey availability)
 - Rare ecosystems

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WFP Goshawk Management



Beneficial Management Practices

- Stand-level (benefits prey)
 - Wildlife Tree Retention Area
 - Retention Silvicultural System
 - Riparian Management Areas
 - Big Tree Retention



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WFP Goshawk Management



Genetics Study

- BC-Coast forest Products Association-University of British Columbia partnership
- Key question: what is the range of Northern Goshawk *laingi*?
- Matching funding through Genome BC
- Results expected to be released in ~2 weeks

Future Range Map

- If status/range map changes: WFP will still be managing goshawks on the landscape + stand and landscape level reserves.



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Questions

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Marbled Murrelet Update

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BC Implementation Plans

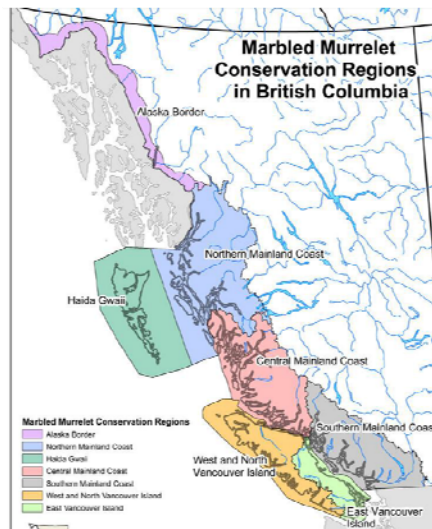


- BC's response to Federal Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategies
- BC Plans for Marbled Murrelet and Goshawk released in February 2018
- Goals
 - Maximize conservation benefit and probability of achieving recovery goals
 - Maximize likelihood of achieving Federal SARA expectations
 - Minimize socio-economic impacts



Northern Goshawk
Photo: John Deal

Marbled Murrelet: Conservation Regions



Marbled Murrelet



- 70% of the 2002 nesting habitat (Coast-wide) – crown land only
 - West and North Vancouver Island: 68%
 - East Vancouver Island: 90%
 - South Coast: 85%
 - North Coast: surplus habitat

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Marbled Murrelet



- Land Use Objectives Regulation Order
 - No impact cap
 - 100% East Vancouver Island
 - Great Central, Ash, small portions of China, Corrigan
 - Map 80% (WHA's, Old Growth Management Areas (OGMAs) and Parks); 20% unmapped (West and North VI and South Coast only)
 - Spatial WHAs and Priority OGMAs established by December 2020
 - 55% of the 80% must be >20 ha with forest interior conditions (West and North Vancouver Island)
 - Timing of Order: within a year
 - Reclassification of habitat in priority areas
 - Update Analysis and Minimum Habitat Thresholds (targets)
 - Consultation

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Marbled Murrelet Case Studies



- Marbled Murrelet Land Use Objectives Regulation Order will trigger a major redesign of draft and legal OGMA's
 - Need to re-evaluate values
 - Harvestable area with only a representation value may be replaced with suitable Marbled Murrelet habitat.
- WFP has two active case studies
 - Tahsis and Tlupana Landscape Units (Gold River)
 - Goals
 - Impacts of the Implementation Plan
 - Feasibility of the targets

MAMU Order will trigger a major OGMA revision

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Current Uncertainty



- Land Use Objectives Regulation Order timing and wording
- Revised target date for reserve redesign
- First Nation and Community Engagement Strategies
- Impact to operation and community – BC completed a socio-economic analysis

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Questions

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