

Thursday, July 23, 2026

The Honourable Ravi Parmar (FOR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Minister of Forests

Parliament Buildings

Victoria, BC V8V 1X4

cc:

The Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia (premier@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
(WLRS.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

The Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert, Minister of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation
(IRR.Minister@gov.bc.ca)

Deputy Minister of Forests, Makenzie Leine (Makenzie.Leine@gov.bc.ca)

**Re: Strengthening Landscape-Level Protection for the American Goshawk
(*Ts'ek*) in Northwest British Columbia**

Dear Minister Parmar,

On behalf of BC Nature, a provincial federation representing 64 naturalist clubs and more than 7,000 members across British Columbia, we are writing to express our support for strengthening landscape-level habitat protection for the American Goshawk (*Ts'ek*) in the Skeena Natural Resource Region and Haida Gwaii through the Province's Forest Landscape Planning process.

BC Nature recently reviewed a petition submitted by the Gitsegukla Huwilp of the Gitksan Nation together with the available scientific literature concerning the conservation status and habitat requirements of the American Goshawk. While BC Nature has not independently evaluated every recommendation contained in the petition, we share the concern that continued fragmentation of mature and old-growth forests is contributing to the decline of this important forest species.

Research and long-term monitoring indicate that occupancy of known American Goshawk breeding territories in west-central British Columbia declined by 64 percent between 1998 and 2007, from 72 percent to 26 percent. More recent monitoring suggests occupancy remains low in many parts of the region. These findings indicate that current approaches have not been sufficient to maintain the large, connected forest landscapes that breeding goshawks require.

The American Goshawk is more than a single species of conservation concern. It depends on extensive, intact mature and old-growth forests that also provide clean water, store carbon, support biodiversity, and sustain ecosystem resilience. Protecting habitat for the goshawk helps conserve the broader forest ecosystems upon which many wildlife species, Indigenous communities, and British Columbians depend.

BC Nature recognizes that the Province is implementing Forest Landscape Plans as a new approach to forest management. We believe this presents an important opportunity to strengthen landscape-level habitat protection for species that require large, connected forests. We therefore encourage the Province to:

- recognize the American Goshawk as Regionally Important Wildlife if supported through the Province's established scientific assessment process;
- incorporate clear, measurable habitat objectives for the species into Forest Landscape Plans for the Skeena Natural Resource Region and Haida Gwaii;
- continue to work collaboratively with affected First Nations in developing and implementing those plans; and
- ensure that future decisions affecting American Goshawk habitat are informed by the best available science.

BC Nature is not taking a position on the petition's request to change the BC Conservation Data Centre listing of the American Goshawk from Blue-listed to Red-listed. We recognize that such decisions require specialized scientific assessment, and we encourage the Province to ensure that any current or future status review is transparent, scientifically rigorous, and based on the best available evidence.

We appreciate the Province's ongoing efforts to modernize forest management in British Columbia. Conserving the large, connected forests required by the American Goshawk will benefit not only this species, but also the many ecological, cultural, and public values that healthy forest ecosystems provide.

To provide additional context, BC Nature has enclosed a backgrounder summarizing the available scientific information on the American Goshawk, the conservation concerns raised by the Gitsegukla Huwilp, and the rationale for strengthening landscape-level habitat protection. We hope it will be helpful as the Province considers this issue.

Thank you for your consideration. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harold Sellers".

Harold Sellers
President
BC Nature

Reference Included: BC Nature Backgrounder American Goshawk