



Reference: 285922

August 10, 2026

VIA EMAIL: mstone@bcnature.ca

Harold Sellers, President
BC Nature
1620 Mt. Seymour Road
North Vancouver, BC
V7G 2R9

Dear Harold Sellers:

Thank you for your letter of July 23, 2026, regarding strengthening landscape level protection for the American goshawk in Northwest British Columbia through the Forest Landscape Planning process.

Forest Landscape Plans (FLPs) are strategic, landscape-level frameworks that guide forest management by establishing clear outcomes for forest resource values within specified areas.

FLPs are intended to be completed in partnership with First Nations and in collaboration with forest licensees. Engagement takes place at various milestones of the planning process to gather input from interested groups, local communities and the public.

Two FLP planning processes – the Lakes Resiliency Project and the Bulkley Morice Forest Landscape Plan – are currently taking place in the Skeena Region.

The Lakes Resiliency Project is in Phase 3: Plan Development, with a draft plan released and available for public review: [Lakes Resiliency Project - Forest Landscape Planning Pilot Project - Project Documents - Planning in Partnership](#).

Enclosed as an appendix to this letter are the draft strategy, planning guidelines, and best management practices for northern goshawk excerpted from the Lakes Resiliency Project draft FLP, which describes the outcome of maintaining sufficient and appropriate high-quality habitat within suitable breeding and forage zones for a viable goshawk population. Note the public engagement period was open from May 28 to July 31, 2026, on the draft FLP and associated documents.

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Harold Sellers, President

Adjacent to the Lakes project is the Bulkley Morice FLP, which is in Phase 2: Values Identification and Assessment. Public engagement has taken place on the values selected for this project and the Public Engagement: What We Heard Report of this engagement is available online: [Bulkley-Morice Forest Landscape Planning Project - Project Comments - Planning in Partnership](#).

BC Nature's letter will be passed along to the Bulkley Morice FLP Planning Table for consideration when the project moves into Phase 3: Plan Development.

Again, thank you for writing to share your concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mike Hykaway
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Honourable David Eby, Premier of British Columbia
Honourable Randene Neill, Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship
Honourable Spencer Chandra Herbert, Minister of Indigenous Relations
and Reconciliation
Makenzie Leine, Deputy Minister of Forests

Appendix
Lakes Resiliency Project Draft FLP Excerpt

Strategy 19 Northern Goshawk Breeding and Forage

Objective(s)	Maintain sufficient and appropriate high-quality habitat within suitable breeding and forage zones for a viable Goshawk population.
Outcome(s)	Outcome 19 Over the FLP term, new cutblocks located within core breeding and buffer areas (Figure 21): a) have had a Northern Goshawk occupancy survey completed by a QEP, and b) where this survey identifies an active nest(s), management measures are undertaken according to PG 22. This outcome is calculated as the proportion of cutblock area where Northern Goshawk occupancy is assessed, for all cutblocks located within core and breeding buffer areas – 1km from suitable (active or predicted) nest locations.
Planning Guideline(s)	PG 22 Prior to commencing a primary forestry activity within Northern Goshawk core breeding and buffer areas (Figure 21), the holder of a FOP will: provide results of a Northern Goshawk occupancy survey undertaken by a QEP during nestling and post-fledgling season, this occupancy survey is not required if a wildfire has burned the core breeding or core buffer areas by more than 70% or 50% respectively, at high severity, if an active nest is found, ensure that each <u>Northern Goshawk Suitable Habitat Area</u> is managed under a regime that considers the following: Coarse woody debris (CWD) Snags and live retention (mature perch trees for hunting) Habitat and food sources for forage species if an active nest is found during operations, stop work and follow recommendations from a QEP that considers the regime specified in c) (see BMP 8 - Northern Goshawk).

	Stuart-Smith et al. note goshawk occupancy is best determined during the nestling (June 1–30) and post-fledging periods (July 1–August 15). Our region may have started slightly earlier (~May 25) and not gone as late into August in some years and that would have been on the advice of local goshawk experts. As per Ray et al., 2014 and Reynolds et al., 2017, a territory is considered abandoned if: >70% of the Core Breeding Area burns at high severity, or >50% of the Core Buffer burns at high severity. Related planning guideline(s) include: PG 1 – Lakes Biodiversity Matrix PG 9 – Maintenance of Interim Recovery Areas
Best Management Practices	BMP 8 - Northern Goshawk This BMP describes key aspects and local experience associated with managing habitat for goshawk, including: Map of Suitable Goshawk Management Zones for active and predicted goshawk territories – including core nest areas, breeding-area buffers, and foraging zones. Develop a process to access, update, and maintain local digital spatial data associated with strategies and monitoring components of this FLP. Maintain at least 80% of each breeding area buffer (see map) >80 years old, utilizing selection harvest silvicultural systems that retain at least 60% of the stems. Maintain at least 50% of each foraging zone (see map) >80 years old, utilizing selection harvest silvicultural systems that retain at least 60% of the stems.
Definitions <i>Suitable Goshawk Management Zones - Areas within an active or predicted goshawk territory—such as core nest areas, breeding-area buffers, and foraging zones—that are managed to retain forest structure and habitat attributes needed for nesting, prey availability, and long-term territory occupancy. These zones specify retention levels and allowable disturbance, guiding forestry activities to maintain functioning goshawk habitat.</i> <i>Active Nest – A nest that is occupied by a bird, its egg, or its young. It is legally protected under both the BC Wildlife Act and the federal Migratory Birds Convention Act.</i>	

Primary Forestry Activities - Activities legally defined under the FPPR as timber harvesting, silviculture treatments, and road construction, maintenance, or deactivation. These are the core on-the-ground operations that directly modify forest stands and access infrastructure.

QEP (Qualified Environmental Professional) – An applied scientist or technologist who holds a professional designation, is in good standing with a BC professional organization, and has the expertise to perform assessments in their area of practice.

Associated Tasks for Intra-FLP workplan:

Identify past cutblocks located within core breeding and buffer areas (Figure 21) (i.e., excluded from future assessments under the outcome).

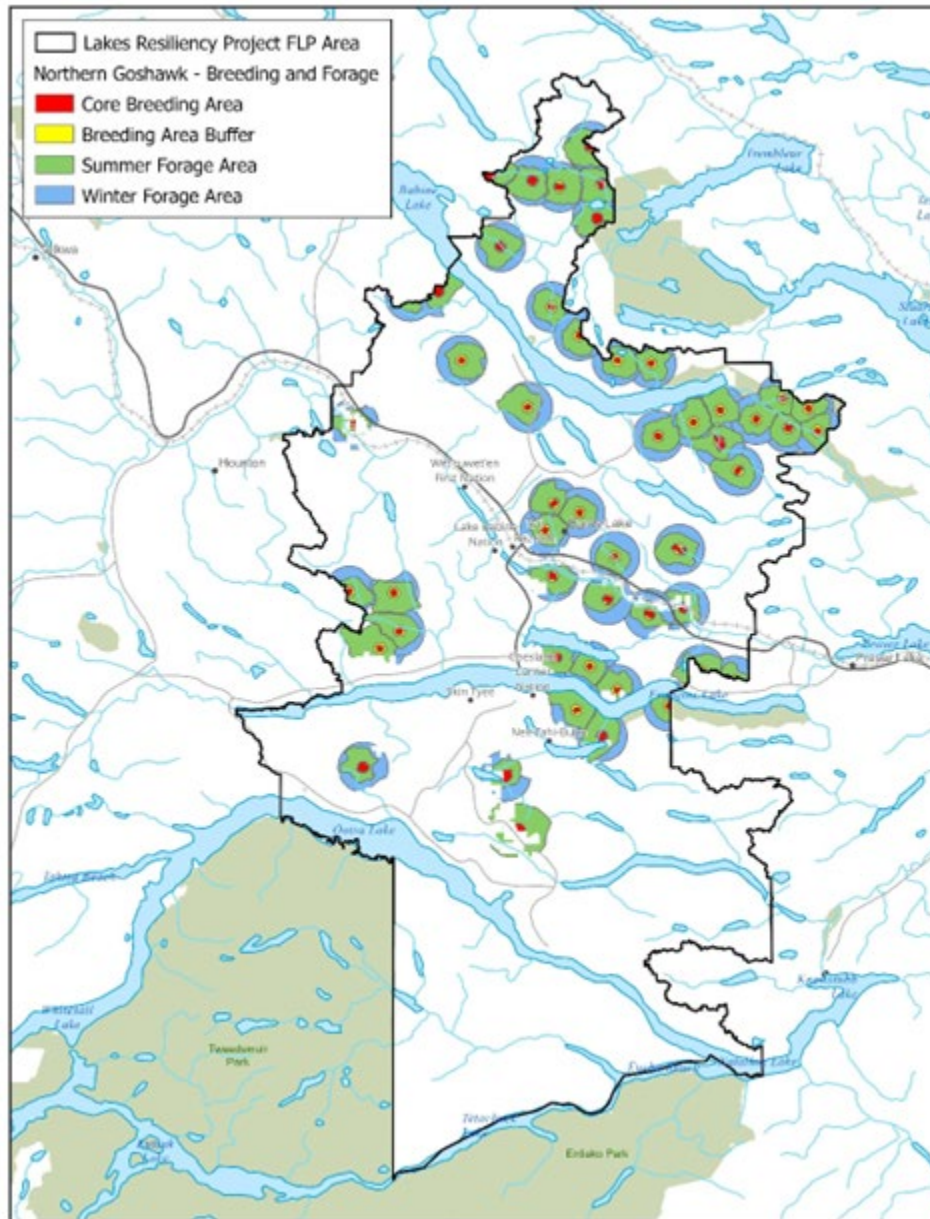


Figure 21 *Suitable Goshawk Management Areas*