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Summary of the Proposed Management Plan for the **PEREGRINE FALCON IN CANADA**

As part of its commitment to the protection of species at risk, the Government of Canada proclaimed the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) in 2003. A management plan must be developed for each species listed as *Special Concern* to conserve the species and their habitat.

Status

The Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* (hereafter Peregrine Falcon) has been down-listed to **Species of Special Concern** under the *Species at Risk Act* due to increases in population size since the 1970s.



Breeding range of the Peregrine Falcon *anatum/tundrius* in North America
© modified from White et al. (2002), Chikoski and Nyman (2011), Tremblay et al. (2012),
Government of the Northwest Territories (2014), R. Mulder, pers. comm. (2014).



Peregrine Falcon © Raymond Ladurantaye

Description and Distribution

The Peregrine Falcon is a medium-to-large falcon with long, pointed wings. Adults have bluish-grey or darker upper parts, a black wedge extending down from the eyes, and white, grey or buff-coloured underparts. Sexes are distinguishable by size, with females being 15-20% larger and 40-50% heavier than males.

Over 60% of the North American breeding range of the Peregrine Falcon lies in Canada, occurring in all provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island. Peregrine Falcons breed in a wide range of habitats, from Arctic tundra to coastal islands, as well as major urban centres. Peregrine Falcons generally nest on cliff ledges or crevices, but they are highly adaptable in nest site selection.

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Threats

The main threats to the Peregrine Falcon are:

- the use of organochlorine pesticides (especially DDT)
- the use of toxic chemical products (PBDEs, pesticides and heavy metals)

Additional low level threats which have been known to adversely affect Peregrine Falcon populations include:

- legal harvesting of falcons for use in falconry
- poaching of eggs and chicks, and illegal shooting
- disturbance or damage caused by:
 - recreational activities (e.g. rock climbing, hiking, bird watching, all-terrain vehicle use)
 - the exploration and development of natural resources (e.g. mining, forestry and wind energy)
 - the construction, renovation, and maintenance of infrastructure (e.g. bridges or buildings used as nesting sites)
- collisions with infrastructure (building windows or wires), or transportation (vehicles or aircraft)
- climate change resulting in extreme weather events that directly affect chicks (e.g. heavy rainfall) and adults during fall migration.

The Management Plan

The objective of this management plan is for the Peregrine Falcon population to be self-sustaining throughout its Canadian range within 10 years of the publication of the final version of this management plan.

In general, Peregrine Falcon populations have made a remarkable recovery in the last two decades because of the ban on DDT and the success of reintroduction programs.

What will be done?

A number of recovery activities have been carried out in all provinces and territories since the late 1970s, when assessment of this species began. The main areas of work have been in (1) Monitoring and Evaluation and (2) Conservation and Management. Several activities are still underway.

To meet the management objective, the conservation measures will be organized according to the following five general strategies:

- Reduce threats and assess their relative impacts.
- Conserve nesting sites.
- Improve the state of knowledge on northern populations of the species in Canada.
- Engage northern communities in conservation activities.
- Regularly assess the Canadian population trend and its productivity.

Measuring Progress

Success in implementing this management plan will be measured against the following performance indicators:

- By 2025, the entire Peregrine Falcon population will continue to grow and its range will be maintained.
- By 2025, known Peregrine Falcon nesting sites will continue to be occupied on a regular basis.

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You can also visit the following website for more information:
SARA Public Registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca)

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