

Ferruginous Hawk Recovery Plan

Summary of Public Response

On December 2, 2018 the draft *Alberta Ferruginous Hawk Recovery Plan* was posted online and the public was invited to participate in a survey. The survey closed February 28, 2019.

The online survey had 159 visitors and 33 submissions. We would like to thank all the people that provided their input. It was very useful in developing the final *Alberta Ferruginous Hawk Recovery Plan*.

A summary of what we heard and how it was used to redraft the plan is provided the table below.

What We Asked	What We Heard	What We did
<p>Have the primary threats to the ferruginous hawk been adequately identified and assessed?</p>	<p>29 of 33 respondents (88%) agreed, whereas three (9.1%) were unsure and one (3.0%) disagreed.</p> <p>One participant wanted additional wording regarding wind farms and steps to address wind turbine mortality.</p>	<p>Wind is generally dealt with in the general industrial section. Added a statement specifically mentioning wind in section 6.1.</p>
<p>Do you think that the recovery goals and associated objectives are appropriate?</p>	<p>28 of 33 respondents (85%) agreed, whereas five (15%) were unsure and none (0%) disagreed.</p> <p>One comment that the proposed recovery strategies are broad and inclusive, but they would like to see issues around pesticides, insecticides, and other pest control methods often used in the hawk's preferred habitats addressed.</p>	<p>Actions were intentionally left broad in some cases to allow for flexible application based on the specific needs of the species. Made small changes to action 6.4.3.1 to address concerns on chemical control of rodents.</p>
<p>Do you think that the proposed recovery actions are adequate and will help address the threats to the ferruginous hawk?</p>	<p>21 of 33 respondents (61.8%) agreed, whereas 8 (23.5%) were unsure and 5 (14.7%) disagreed.</p> <p>One noted that limiting impacts of other predators was unnecessary, and that the focus should be on habitat restoration.</p>	<p>Habitat maintenance and restoration are the focus of the majority of actions in the plan. Minimizing artificial increase of predators is an additional action that would be implemented in places where necessary (i.e., where human influence has changed the predator type or density in the area). No changes were made to the Plan here.</p>

What We Asked	What We Heard	What We did
<p>Please provide any additional comments on the draft ferruginous hawk recovery plan.</p>	<p>As part of prey management, the Plan should address landholder attitudes for ground squirrels (i.e., determine tolerance and how to improve tolerance levels).</p> <p>One comment suggested that the elimination of lead shot and rodenticides around nests would be beneficial to their conservation.</p> <p>One respondent was concerned about bird banders handling the hawks.</p> <p>Eight additional comments were received. Two indicated support for increased funding for recovery actions and enforcement of protection. Another suggested maximizing penalties for endangering hawks. One comment stressed the importance of inter-jurisdictional cooperation on ferruginous hawk conservation, and another mentioned the importance of flexibility with recovery planning as conditions change (e.g. through climate change). The remaining comments were general comments.</p>	<p>Made change to action 6.4.3.3 identifying the need to define a socially acceptable density of ground squirrels if possible. This is not the purpose of the Plan but possible could help with it's deliver in the future.</p> <p>Made changes to address the chemical control of rodents.</p> <p>AEP has strict protocols and a permitting system in place to minimize stress on ferruginous hawks during research activities. AEP also has an Animal Care Committee to deal with such issues.</p> <p>No disagreement with any comments, but no changes to Plan suggested or required.</p>