

PROPOSAL 108

5 AAC 92.037. Permits for falconry.

Increase opportunity for nonresident take for certain eyas raptors for falconry as follows:

5 AAC 92.037 (g)(5)(7)(8). Taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident, conditions:

Alaska Falconers Association (AFA) is requesting that the Board of Game allow additional opportunity for nonresident falconers to take eyas Northern Goshawks statewide and eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcons from Units 1 - 4. AFA is submitting this proposal at the request of nonresident and Alaska resident falconers to allow additional nonresident opportunity to take these two species.

Current regulation, 5 AAC 92.037(g)(5), up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a raptor for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department;

Current regulation. 5 AAC 92.037(g)(7); "take is limited to one passage, hatching-year, raptor; "

Current regulation, 5 AAC 92.037(g)(8): The annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from August 15 – October 31;

The new regulations would read:

5 AAC 92.037(g)(5), up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing a passage raptor for falconry; up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing an eyas Northern Goshawk for falconry statewide, and up to five permits for taking, transporting, or possessing an eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcon, from Units 1-4, for falconry by a nonresident shall be issued annually by the department; applicants can only apply for one type of permit and must specify whether they are applying for a passage permit, an eyas Northern Goshawk permit, or an eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcon permit at the time of application.

5 AAC 92.037(g)(7): Take is limited to either one passage, hatching-year, raptor, one eyas Northern Goshawk statewide, or one eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcon from Units 1-4.

5AAC 92.037(g)(8): The annual nonresident season for acquiring a passage raptor is from August 15 – October 31; The annual nonresident season for acquiring an eyas Northern Goshawk statewide or an eyas Peale's Peregrine Falcon, (from Units 1-4), is from May 1 – July 20;

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide additional opportunity for nonresident falconers.

The AFA is asking the Board of Game to allow additional opportunity for nonresident falconers by allowing the take of certain eyas raptors. An eyas raptor is a bird that has hatched from the egg but has not fledged. At least one eyas raptor must be left in the nest per the current regulation pertaining to resident falconers. AFA requests that this regulation as it applies to resident falconers, also apply to nonresident falconers.

AFA is requesting that the Board of Game authorize “up to” five eyas Northern Goshawk permits statewide, and “up to five eyas Peale’s Peregrine Falcon permits from Units 1- 4, for nonresident falconers by drawing permit. Under 5 AAC 92.037(g)(8), the season dates for eyas Northern Goshawks, and eyas Peale’s Peregrine falcon take is recommended to be from May 1 - July 20. (These dates are based on published scientific data documenting average hatching dates and fledge dates for these two species across their range.)

Because of the concern for the wellbeing of Alaska’s Gyrfalcons and to eliminate any accidental take of eyas Gyrfalcons, Peale’s Peregrine Falcon take by permit would only apply to Units 1-4. According to both ADF&G and US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) raptor biologists, there is a small possibility that there are gyrfalcon nesting sites in Units 1-4. Most importantly, days old or weeks old Gyrfalcon chicks are difficult to tell apart from like aged Peregrine falcon chicks, except by the most experienced biologists and falconers. By restricting Peale’s Peregrine eyas take to these units, we would significantly reduce the potential that a Gyrfalcon eyrie would be targeted by mistake.

Raptor biologists report that Northern Goshawks are considered to have a healthy and stable population statewide and Peale’s Peregrine falcons maintain a healthy, low density, population in Units 1-4.

Saint Lazaria Island located in Sitka Sound is designated a Wilderness area by the USFWS. This island supports a highly researched and viewed seabird nesting population. The required landowner permission required by regulation to take an eyas raptor would not be granted by the USFWS for Saint Lazaria Island. AFA would request that this Island be closed in regulation for the taking of eyas Peale’s peregrine falcons.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Falconers Association (EG-F19-153)
