



For immediate release
May 22, 2019

New local Wildlife Habitat Area to benefit Northern Goshawks

(Clayton Falls Watershed) A new 182.5 hectare Wildlife Habitat Area (WHA) for Northern Goshawks has been established within the Bella Coola Community Forest by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development.

The Northern Goshawk *laingi* subspecies, found in B.C.'s coastal area, is a conservation concern due to habitat loss as a result of human actions, including forestry and other development. WHAs limit human activities and are part of the broader Implementation Plan for the Recovery of Northern Goshawks, led by the Province.

The new WHA in the Clayton Falls Watershed is one of seven recently established for Northern Goshawks on B.C.'s west coast, covering 1,365 hectares. They are the first new Northern Goshawk WHAs established in the region for more than a decade.

The opportunity for a WHA was first identified by Artemis Wildlife Consultants and Kingbird Biological Consultants. They led a survey, funded by the Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program (FWCP), that found a family of goshawks, and their nest, in the Clayton Falls watershed. The ministry gathered more data and worked with the BC Conservation Foundation and local stakeholders to create the WHA.

"We could not have implemented the WHA without the collaboration and support of Bella Coola Community Forest's general manager, Hans Granander," said Ministry ecosystem biologist Darryn McConkey. "He recognized the value and importance of conserving goshawk habitat."

"Our Coastal Region Board focuses on funding projects that lead to on-the-ground conservation efforts, so it's satisfying to see this particular goshawk WHA become established," says FWCP Coastal Region Manager Julie Fournier.

The FWCP is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations and public stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams.

In 2019–2020 the FWCP approved approximately \$1.9 million for 33 fish and wildlife project projects in its coastal region. BC Hydro voluntarily provides funding to the FWCP's coastal region in recognition of the impacts of BC Hydro dams on fish and wildlife. For more information, visit fwcp.ca.

-30-

For More Information

Angus Glass, FWCP Communications
Tel: 250-352-1300 Email: angus.glass@bchydro.com

The Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program is a partnership between BC Hydro, the Province of B.C., Fisheries and Oceans Canada, First Nations and Public Stakeholders to conserve and enhance fish and wildlife in watersheds impacted by BC Hydro dams.