



Featured Species Habitat Management Guidance for Osprey

Latin Name: *Pandion haliaetus*

Scope: Southern Lower Peninsula

Rationale - *why we value the species and the problem for the species:*

The osprey is listed in Michigan as a SGCN and a species of special concern (DNR 2015). It is a readily observed raptor that is appreciated by many who spend time near the water. Ospreys are tolerant of people and people seem to tolerate them, making them a good species to encourage on the anthropogenic landscape. Historically, ospreys were thought to nest throughout Michigan, but indiscriminant shooting and contaminants extirpated the species from the southern third of the state (SLP). Since the 1960s, osprey populations have recovered well in the northern two-thirds of the state but not in the south. Although they are now spreading into the SLP, there are twice as many ospreys in the northern LP and 3 times as many in the Upper Peninsula (UP; Postupalsky 2011).

Habitat Need - *the cause & effect relationship between habitat and species and its primary limiting habitat need:*

Anthropogenic nest structures appear to be markedly less susceptible to nest predation. Artificial nest platforms have become the single most important means of managing for ospreys; in many areas, they depend upon man-made nest structures (Poole et. al. 2002).

Habitat Objectives - *the treatment or management to address the primary limiting habitat need:*

- 1) Identify suitable aquatic sites that have an adequate prey base, and are large enough to encompass multiple territories.
- 2) Provide adequate nest sites within the territories by erecting & maintaining artificial nest platforms as needed.

Priority Geographic Areas – *the specific geographic areas where we should focus management for the species:*

The 12 coastal counties (Allegan, Bay, Berrien, Huron, Macomb, Monroe, Muskegon, Ottawa, Sanilac, St. Clair, Tuscola, Van Buren, and Wayne), 5 interior counties (Barry, Cass, Jackson, Livingston, and Washtenaw) and the 13 WLD Project Areas, which identify osprey as a featured species.

Priority Landscapes – *the landscape, setting, or cover-type where we should focus management within the areas above:*

Great Lakes coastal marshes (Lake Erie, Michigan, Saginaw Bay, and St. Clair), inland lake clusters, and drowned river mouths (like the Grand, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, and St Joseph Rivers).

Population Goal - *the goal for the species, its habitat, or a stakeholder's actions:*

In order to confer population stability for osprey in SLP, the goal is 60 to 120 nesting pairs dispersed through the priority geographic areas.

Evaluation Method - *the monitoring method to measure progress towards the goal above:*

Propose annual monitoring for occupancy at nests or territories, and if resources allow, chick production. Review assessments every five years.

Incidental Species – *other species which may benefit from management for this species:*

None identified.

References - citation for documents referenced in this guidance:

- Poole, A.F., R.O. Bierregaard, and M.S. Martell. 2002. Osprey. *in* A. Poole, P. Stettenheim, and F. Gill, editors. The Birds of North America, No. 683. Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington, D.C.: The American Ornithologists' Union.
- Postupalsky, S. 2011. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). *In* Chartier, A.T., J.J. Baldy, and J.M. Brenneman, editors. The Second Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas. Kalamazoo Nature Center. Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA. Accessed online at: <www.mibirdatlas.org/Portals/12/MBA2010/OSPRaccount.pdf>.