



## IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

*March 2025 Commission Meeting*

*Agenda Item: Season Setting – Peregrine Falcon Take*

*(Action)*

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*Agenda Item No.: 5H*

*Bureau Chief Approval: SR*

### **Background:**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) delisted the peregrine falcon from the Endangered Species Act in 1999 and subsequently authorized take of nestling peregrines from the wild for use in falconry in 2004. In 2008 the USFWS allowed capture of recently fledged juvenile peregrines (known as hatch year or “passage” birds). Federal regulation governing falconry authorizes states to manage take of peregrines from the wild for falconry not to exceed 5% of annual production. In 2013 the Idaho Fish and Game Commission adopted regulations allowing take of peregrine falcons for falconry.

Seasons have been set for 3-year intervals since 2013, during which time Idaho falconers have taken 11 peregrines (capture limit of 2 birds per season). Only resident Idaho falconers that possess a Master Falconry Permit may apply for a peregrine capture permit. The Department annually receives fewer than 20 applications. Permittees are selected by random drawing. Other western states that currently allow peregrine take for falconry include Arizona, Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

### **Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:**

Idaho Code 36-104 (2) grants authority to the Commission to determine when an open season may be declared for take of wildlife. IDAPA 13.01.14 established rules governing falconry.

### **Public Involvement Process:**

The proposal for peregrine take for falconry was posted online for public comment from March 18-25. Input was also solicited directly from the Idaho Falconers Association.

### **Justification:**

Peregrine falcon surveys were conducted once every 3 years, through 2021, to inform take seasons. In 2021, 59 peregrine territories were surveyed; 38 were occupied and 39 chicks were produced. This level of production allowed for take of 2 peregrine falcons per year from 2022-2024-- no change from the previous three seasons.

### **Staff Recommendation:**

The Department’s recommendation is to allow regulated take seasons for 2025-2027 for wild-caught peregrine falcons to include two Peregrine Capture permits per year. One



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Permit would be a statewide permit (a nestling or recently-fledged juvenile peregrine) and one permit would be limited to nestling take only in Custer and Lemhi counties OR a recently fledged juvenile peregrine, statewide.

**Suggested Motion:**

I move the Commission adopt staff recommendations for the 2025-2027 seasons for take of peregrine falcons from the wild for falconry purposes.