

GOLDEN EAGLE HABITAT MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES
ONTARIO MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Introduction

The Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*) is an endangered species in Ontario. The species and its habitat are protected by Ontario's *Endangered Species Act, R.S.O. 1980*.

The Golden Eagle is extremely sensitive to disturbance during the breeding season. Adult eagles usually leave the nest when disturbed. Such departures can cause chilling, overheating or desiccation of eggs or young, missed feedings, or predation on eggs or young. Chronic disturbance may cause complete desertion of the nests. As with Bald Eagles, Golden Eagle tolerance of human presence is highly variable.

In forested areas, nesting territories of golden eagles usually contain large openings such as burns, bogs, marshes, and meadows. Golden eagles feed primarily on small mammals, particularly lagomorphs, and on carrion. Although nests are located on cliff ledges, nests on trees are common in some regions.

Guidelines

The restrictions and scheduling of activities within the buffer zones outlined in the Bald Eagle Habitat Management Guidelines (Wildlife Branch, Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, June 1987) apply to the Golden Eagle, with the following exception:

Beyond the 100-meter buffer zone around the nest site, large clearings are advantageous. However, site preparation and logging operations must not take place during the critical periods as outlined for the Bald Eagle.

Managers should discourage the use of poison baits if Golden Eagles nest or are seen in the vicinity.

References

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