



Regulations to the take of young Peregrine Falcons for falconry purposes

Level of Take¹:

The level of take will be no more than 11 young peregrines total during the take season of 2022 and 2023. A quota of 5 birds will be the target for resident take each year and a permit for 1 bird total will be given to a nonresident applicant during the take period. If the resident quota is exceeded during year 1 the quota in year 2 will be reduced accordingly.

Any over-harvest of the total 10 bird quota would be assessed in the subsequent years regulations process. A falconer who accidentally takes a peregrine after the quota has been met must immediately notify a Fish, Wildlife and Parks employee within the Region where the bird was captured. Release of any fledged bird taken after the quota has been met may be required depending on the circumstances of take, age and independence of the bird, and location of take.

¹If using the 5% allocation authorized under federal guidelines, the most recent 3-year intensive survey effort (2006-2009-2012) will be used to establish that allowable level of take. No take will be authorized if the number of documented active nests falls below 50 as indicated by the 3-year survey protocol.

Regulations Governing Take:

1. Licensed Montana resident and nonresident general or master falconers are the only falconers allowed to attempt take of peregrines.
2. Take by nonresidents is limited to one peregrine total during the 2022-2023 period through a permit system similar to the permit system for nonresident take of other falconry species.
3. A successful falconer that takes a peregrine may not attempt take during the following two years.
4. Season dates are June 1 to August 31.
5. Young may not be removed from their aeries before they are five days of age.
6. To avoid premature fledging of nestlings, aeries should not be entered when young are 28 days of age or more.
7. At least one nestling must be left in each aerie prior to fledging.
8. A fledgling may be trapped in the vicinity of the aerie.
9. Successful take must be reported to MFWP within 5 days by calling the Enforcement line at 406-444-2452 and by submitting a MT 3-186 form via mail.
10. Each falconer who takes a young peregrine from the wild must report the sex and legal description (T R ¼ ¼ S) or GPS coordinates (e.g. UTM, decimal degrees) of the nest location of each bird to FWP (nearest regional headquarters) and to the USFWS within

five days of take of the bird with the Montana 3-186 form. A photo of the nesting cliff will need to be provided to FWP.

11. A falconer who takes a young peregrine from the wild must band it with a permanent, non-reusable, numbered Fish and Wildlife Service band (provided with the permit) and must present the banded bird for inspection by FWP personnel within 5 days of capture.
12. Birds taken may only be transferred between currently licensed Montana raptor permit holders and may not be transferred out of state without FWP approval.
13. The following nests will be prohibited from take due to high value wildlife viewing opportunities, ongoing agency-approved research efforts, or to meet other management objectives.
 - Blodgett and Painted Rock aeries in the Bitterroot
 - Johnsrud aerie on the Blackfoot River
 - Frenchtown aerie on the Clark Fork River
 - Woods Bay aerie near Flathead Lake
 - Coulter (or Meriwether) aerie on the Missouri River
 - Sacrifice Cliff aerie on the Yellowstone River near Billings
 - Headwaters Aerie near Three Forks
 - Bonner/Blackfoot River aerie just north of the town of Bonner, near Milltown State Park.

Falconers requiring more precise location information should contact FWP.

14. Take is no longer prohibited from aeries in eastern Montana.
15. For regulations on tribal lands, national parks or federal wildlife refuges, please contact the appropriate tribal government or federal agency.
16. The sale, barter or exchange of birds from the wild is prohibited.