

August 6, 2008

Todd Wees
JMA Ventures, LLC
PO Box 3938
Truckee, CA 96160

RE: Protocol Northern Goshawk Surveys - Homewood Ski Resort

Dear Mr. Wees:

This letter reports the results of Wildlife Resource Consultants' survey of the Homewood Ski Resort for northern goshawks (*Accipiter gentilis*). The Homewood Ski Resort project area is situated in Placer County, California, in Township 14 north, Range 16 east, sections 1, 2, 11, and 12.

Northern goshawks are listed as a species of concern by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and are designated a sensitive species by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and a Species of Special Interest by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA). Potential northern goshawk habitat was surveyed using the *9 August 2000 Survey Methodology for Northern Goshawks in the Pacific Southwest Region, U.S. Forest Service*. Two site visits are required per survey year. The broadcast acoustic surveys were conducted June 24 and 25, July 30, and August 3, 2008. The 2008 survey utilized the same survey point locations as the 2007 survey. Sixty-one call stations were established so that all suitable habitat was within 150 meters of a calling station (see Figure 1).

No northern goshawks were detected during the surveys. This survey concludes the second year of a two-year, broadcast acoustic protocol survey for northern goshawks. As stated in the 2007 report:

The likelihood of goshawks nesting in the Homewood Ski Resort project area is considered low. Goshawks begin courtship activities in February, when the ski resort is open and busy with skiers. This species is highly susceptible to human disturbance, especially during courtship and nest building, and they are known to abandon nest areas following human intrusion. Moreover, the project area habitat does not contain preferred nesting habitat characteristics as it is primarily second-growth trees dissected by numerous ski runs. There are some patches of habitat that receive less human disturbance and that contain larger diameter trees (e.g., south portion Quail Lake). Such locations are the most likely sites for a goshawk nest territory. The USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU) does not have any records of goshawks nesting within one mile of the Homewood Ski Resort nor does the agency have any records of goshawks nesting in any other Lake Tahoe basin ski resorts (e.g., Heavenly).

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Sue Fox
Principal Biologist
Wildlife Resource Consultants