

## Project Highlight – SD State Wildlife Grant

**Project Type** Species reintroduction

**Title** Peregrine falcon reintroduction in South Dakota

**In a nutshell** This state endangered species was a rare, historical nester in western South Dakota. This project was completed to encourage nesting by peregrine falcons in Rapid City or the surrounding Black Hills.

### Relevant Species of Greatest Conservation Need

- peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*)

**Relevant Habitats** urban and natural peregrine nesting areas of the Black Hills

**Cooperators** Birds of Prey Northwest, Black Hills Power, Assurant Insurance Company, Radisson Rapid City Hotel

### Purpose

- Reintroduce 15-20 captive-reared peregrine falcons per year in an urban setting in South Dakota to facilitate the return of adult peregrine falcons to establish breeding territories in the vicinity of the reintroduction area.

**Timeframe** July 2010 – September 2013

**Location** Rapid City, South Dakota

### Summary or Important Findings

- Janie Fink of Birds of Prey Northwest served as hack site coordinator.
- A total of 57 peregrines approximately 35 days old of the *anatum* subspecies were released in 2011, 2012 and 2013 atop buildings in downtown Rapid City. Each bird was fitted with a USGS leg band and a numbered color (red) leg band. Temporary wing paint allowed monitoring in the immediate release area.
- A bird released in 2012 appeared to overwinter in the area, returning to the release site in 2013. A second unbanded bird also visited the release site in 2013.
- A nest box has been available atop one of the release buildings since 2014 to encourage peregrine nesting.
- SDGFP continues to monitor the area for nesting attempts and periodically solicits sightings of color-banded peregrines.

**Best contact person** Eileen Dowd Stukel, SDGFP

### More Information

Dowd Stukel, E. 2013. Peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) reintroduction in South Dakota. Final Report by SDGFP, Project T-10-R-1, Amendment #5.