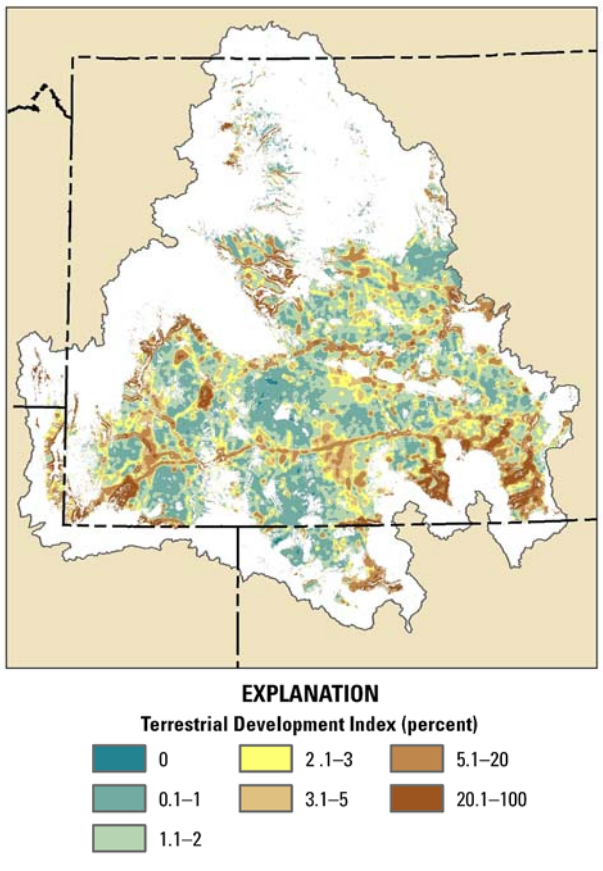
Ferruginous Hawk

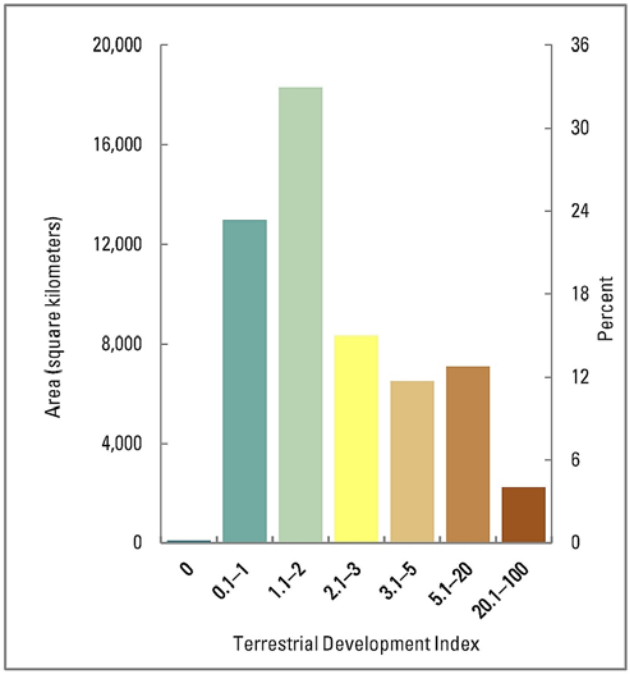
Photo credit: Brett Billings, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

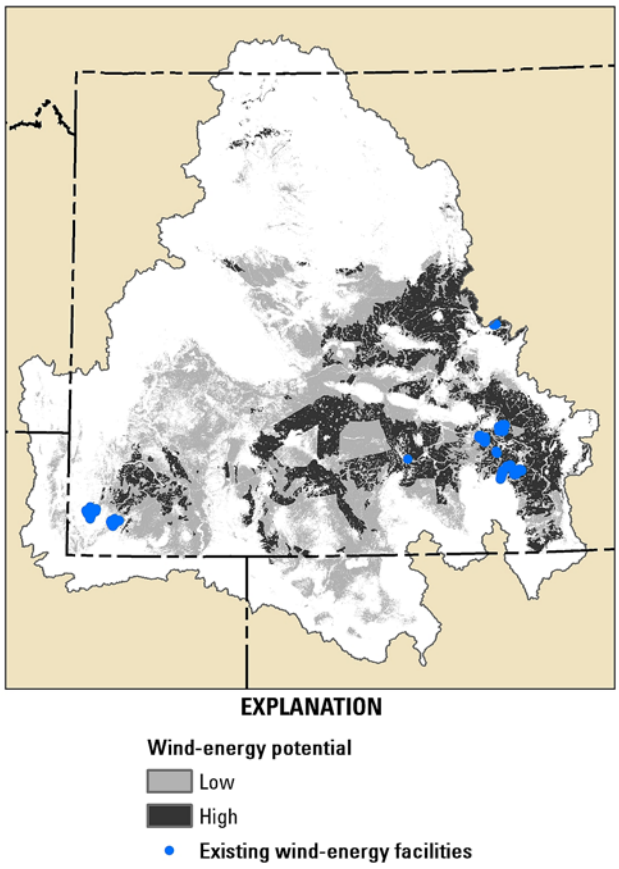
Management Questions

- Where is baseline ferruginous hawk habitat, and what is the total area?
- Where does development pose the greatest threat to baseline ferruginous hawk habitat, and where are the relatively undeveloped areas? (Left map below)
- How has development fragmented baseline ferruginous hawk habitat, and where are the large, relatively undeveloped patches?
- How has development affected structural connectivity of ferruginous hawk habitat relative to baseline conditions?
- Where are potential barriers and corridors that may affect animal movements among relatively undeveloped habitat patches?
- Where are existing wind-energy facilities, and where are areas with high wind-energy potential in baseline ferruginous hawk habitat? (Top left map following page)
- Where have recent fires occurred in baseline ferruginous hawk habitat, and what is the total area burned per year?
- How does risk from development vary by land ownership or jurisdiction for ferruginous hawk habitat?
- Where are the townships with the greatest landscape-level ecological values? (Top right map following page)
- Where are the townships with the greatest landscape-level risks? (Center right map following page)
- Where are the townships with the greatest conservation potential? (Bottom right map following page)



Terrestrial Development Index scores for baseline ferruginous hawk habitat in the Wyoming Basin Rapid Ecoregional Assessment project area.

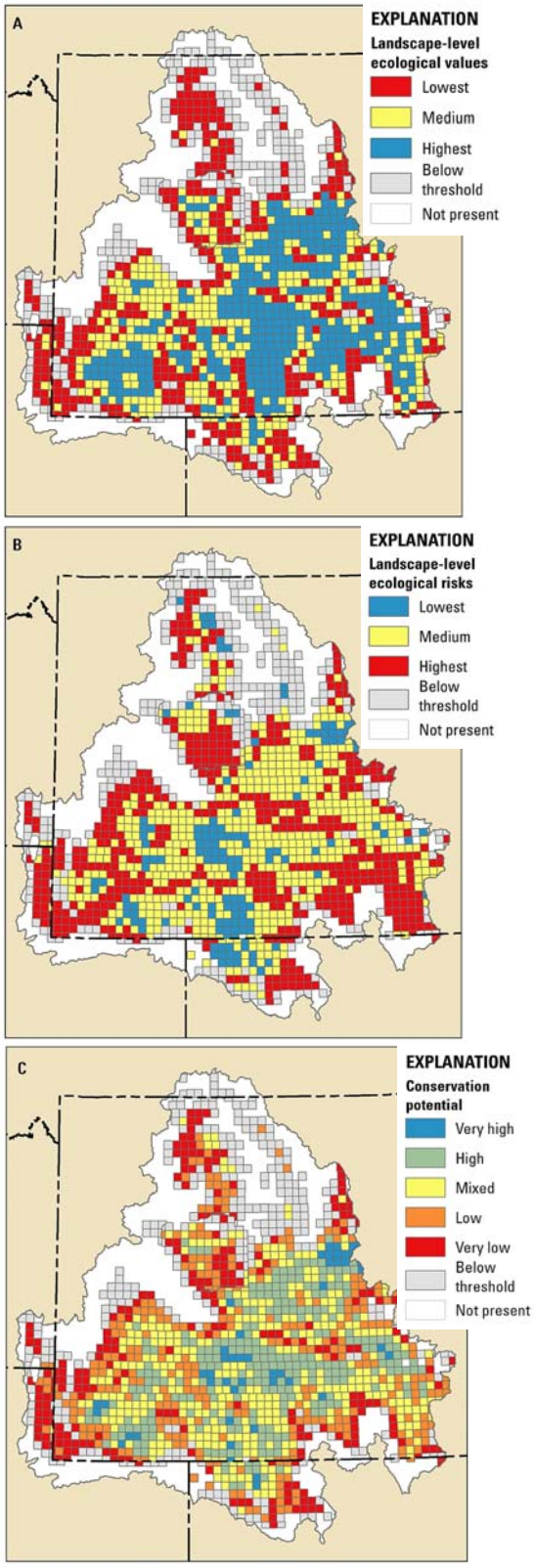




Potential for wind-energy development and existing wind-energy facilities within baseline ferruginous hawk habitat in the Wyoming Basin Rapid Ecoregional assessment project area.

Summary

Ferruginous hawk habitat is widely distributed throughout much of central and southern Wyoming and adjacent areas of Idaho, Utah, and Colorado. Agricultural conversion, roads, and energy development have cumulatively led to habitat loss, increased fragmentation, and decreased structural connectivity of ferruginous hawk habitat. Ferruginous hawks, however, may respond differently to different types of development. They are more sensitive to disturbance at their nest sites than other buteos; therefore development that results in high levels of human activity may lead to reduced nesting productivity. In addition, ferruginous hawks are vulnerable to mortality from wind turbines and 29 percent of their habitat within the Basin occurs in regions with high wind-development potential. The majority of the ferruginous hawk habitat in the Basin is managed by the Bureau of Land Management.



(*A*) Landscape-level ecological values, (*B*) ecological risks, and (*C*) conservation potential of ferruginous hawk habitat summarized by township.