

NRCS Farm Conservation Plan, 2022

Partners: Jarod Seaman, NRCS

Kathy Bridges & Ken Dunder, Santiam Valley Ranch, LLC

Project: Raptor Perches and Raptor Nesting Boxes

Project Goals & Budget

Structures for Wildlife, 649 OR, Contract # 740436210UZ

Install artificial perching structure where suitable natural perch sites are not currently available because of land management activities or catastrophic fire. The structure is designed and installed to provide for protected resting, roosting, eating and to encourage hunting by raptors and owls.

Approval date: 4/23/2021

Budget: \$376 per perch site, 3 authorized = \$1,128

Structures for Wildlife, 649 OR, Contract # 740436210UZ

Improve habitat for nesting of beneficial predatory species: Barn Owl, Screech Owl/Kestrels.

Approval date: 4/23/2021

Budget: \$298 per nesting site, 6 authorized = \$1,788

Completion Date: March 6, 2022

[Location of raptor perches and raptor nesting boxes are presented on map on page 6.](#)

Raptor Perches: Three raptor perches were installed on property lying outside the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Advice from Salem Audubon Society noted that raptors will perch and watch grassland nesting birds with goals to harvest eggs, chicks and small birds. With this advice, the raptor perches were not placed next to the WRP areas.

One of the goals for Santiam Valley Ranch is to be able to move the raptor perches (to better locations, to avoid interference with machinery or livestock, to allow for changing fence lines, addressing alternative use of the landscape in the future, etc.).

Raptor perches were installed on February 6 and 12, 2022. It took three people to install the perches.

Equipment used:

Pipe: Pipe was purchased from Ferguson Enterprises. The pipe is schedule 40 galvanized 1" pipe at 21' lengths with top and bottom caps. The galvanized pipe was installed on secure fence posts with attachments about 6" above the surface of the ground and again at around 5' on the fence post. Latching mechanisms are Kindorf bracket 1 5/8" steel strut and rigid 1" pipe clamps.

Perches: Raptor perches were purchased from Amador Barn Owl Box Company. Raptor perches are made of redwood and were attached to the pipe using U-bolts and stainless steel nylon locking nuts. One perch had one perch site and two raptor perches had two redwood perches perpendicular from each other and located 3' apart vertically.



Raptor perch in front yard mounted to grape trellis.



Mounting mechanism to mount pipe to fence post.



Mounting mechanism to mount raptor perches onto the pipe using U-bolts with stainless steel nylon locking nuts.



Mounted perches onto pipe. Carried 21' pipe to field on tractor. Installed raptor perches at three locations:

- * grape trellis in front yard,*
- * corner post between three pastures,*
- * corner post under wind turbine facing south pasture.*



Raptor Nesting Boxes: Six nesting boxes were installed on non-WRP property. Four were for screech owls/kestrels; two were for barn owls. Screech owls/kestrels boxes were installed at approximately 15-20' in height attached to trees and facing east. The barn owl nesting boxes were attached inside two farm structures facing east and northeast. GPS locations were taken on the location of each box. Nesting boxes were installed January 3, February 6 and March 6, 2022. Three people were required to install the screech owl/kestrel nesting boxes using a 24' ladder and tractor; two people were required to install the barn owl boxes.

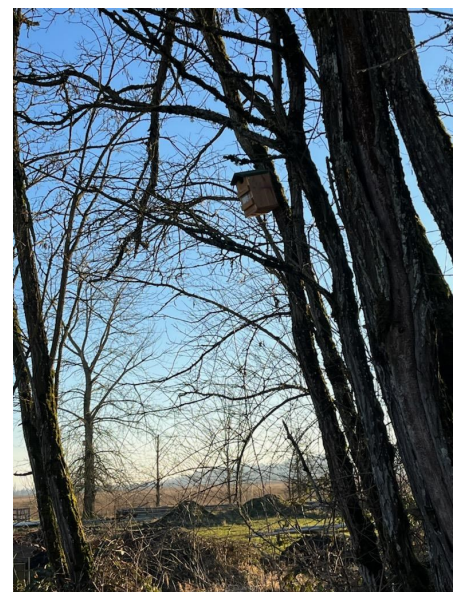
Barn Owl nesting boxes were installed on a compost building and in the horse barn facing NE and E. The floors of the boxes were filled with 4-6" of wheat straw (compost) and 4-6" of pine shavings (horse barn).



Nesting box 1. Barn owl nesting box installed on compost building facing NE. Note interior infrastructure supporting barn owl box. Nesting box made by Barn Owl Co.

Nesting box 2. Barn owl nesting box installed near ceiling located above a small room located in the horse barn. Nesting box made by Salem Audubon Society.

Screech Owl/Kestrel nesting boxes were purchased from Songbird Essentials and placed on four locations on non-WRP property. All face E and NE. The floors of the nesting boxes were filled with 4-6" of pine chips.



*Nesting Box 3: Mounted on hybrid poplar at approximately 20' high.
GPS: 44.784513, -122.930392*

*Nesting Box 4: Mounted on locust tree at approximately 15-18' high.
GPS: 44.784632, -122.930358*



*Nesting box 5. Mounted on cottonwood at 20' high.
GPS: 44.786212, -122.930374*



*Nesting box 6. Mounted on mulberry tree at 15-18' high.
GPS: 44.784804, -122.935100*

In addition to the Farm Conservation Plan, Santiam Valley Ranch, LLC are installing an additional 3 raptor perches, 3 screech owl/kestrel nesting boxes and 2 barn owl boxes. Santiam Valley Ranch wanted to install the nesting boxes in February since the owners have observed barn owl pairs and other raptor pairs. Salem Audubon was hired to build the screech owl/kestrel and barn owl nesting boxes but they did not arrive until early March. As a result, Santiam Valley Ranch purchased additional nesting boxes in November and January and to make sure the nesting boxes were available for nesting raptors by February.

Raptor Perches and Raptor Nesting Boxes

Approval Date: 4/23/2021

Completion Date: 3/6/2022

Total NRCS Budget: \$2,916

Submitted to Jarod Seaman, NRCS on March 7, 2022

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Location of placement of raptor nesting boxes and raptor perches.

Blue: Screech owl/kestrel nesting boxes. Red: Barn owl nesting boxes. Orange: Raptor perches

