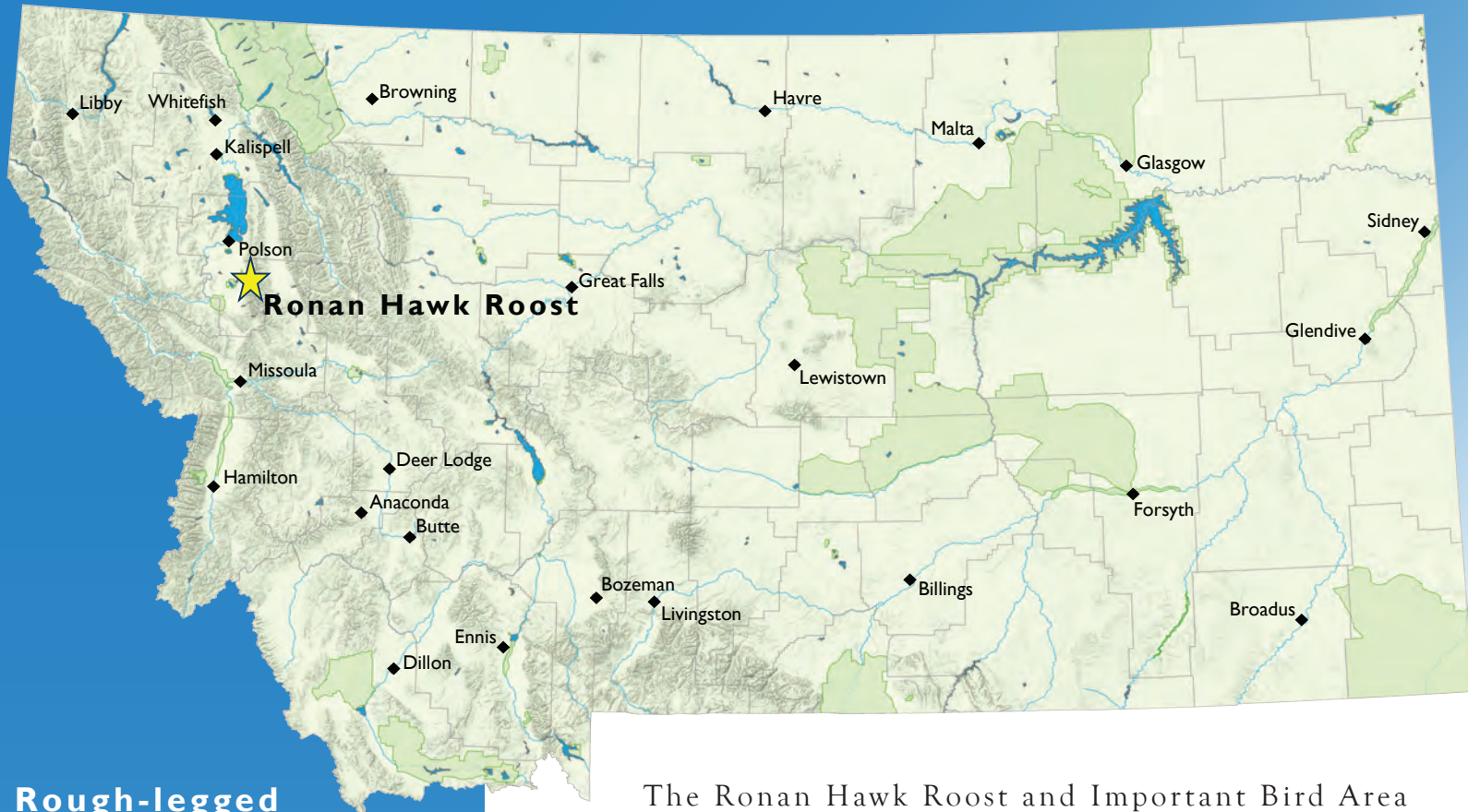


Ronan Hawk Roost IBA

Important Bird Areas are sites that provide essential habitat for threatened, unique, or particularly abundant species, during breeding, migration, or winter seasons.



**Rough-legged
Hawks** rely on
habitats within this
IBA.

The Ronan Hawk Roost and Important Bird Area (<200 hectares) encompasses the core use area of the largest known communal roosting site of wintering Rough-legged Hawks in the world. The roost is located on private land within the Flathead Indian Reservation and is a stand of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and western larch, nestled in the Mission Mountain foothills. Rough-legged Hawks are attracted to the valley's large number and accessibility of voles throughout the winter. Some years over 300 hawks roost nightly, fanning out in the morning to hunt in surrounding farmlands and pasture. Rough-legged hawks are not the only raptor drawn to the valley in winter; Red-tailed Hawk, Bald and Golden Eagle, and Short-eared Owl are also common. This unique location was discovered and studied by the University of Montana during the 90's. Visitation to the IBA is not encouraged since the site is privately owned, but raptors can be seen regularly throughout the valley.



**Ronan
Hawk Roost**
*Important
Bird Area*



Notable bird species
associated with the valley
and IBA

- > Rough-legged Hawk
- > Red-tailed Hawk (above)
- > Ferruginous Hawk
- > Bald Eagle
- > Golden Eagle
- > Short-eared Owl

Coordinated by BirdLife International, the Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is a global initiative aimed at identifying and conserving the most important places for birds. The IBA Program's foundation is an emphasis on science-based identification, assessment, and conservation of birds and the habitats needed to survive. IBAs rely on local stewardship and focus on engaging individuals, private landowners, local communities, businesses, partner organizations, and government agencies in site conservation. Important Bird Area designation does not confer legal or regulatory status to a site. Instead, participation in conservation is voluntary on the part of landowners and land managers. IBA boundaries serve as an initial spatial guide and help identify areas that warrant prioritization for protection and conservation actions.

You can help with the conservation of this IBA by submitting your raptor observations from throughout the valley through Montana Natural Heritage Program or at ebird.org, an online bird sighting database.

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