

## **Golden Eagle**

### *Standard Avoidance and Minimization Measures*

The Conservation Branch of the Garrison Environmental Division will determine if golden eagles could be affected by the activity. Additional surveys may be required to determine breeding status or the location of active nests in proximity to a specific project. The following standard measures will be implemented in order to avoid or minimize the likelihood of taking golden eagles from disturbance, injury, or death.

If these standard measures and buffers cannot be met without compromising the proposed action, or if take could still occur when these standard measures are implemented, then WSMR will discuss with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine if a) a shorter buffer distance can be used for a specific activity, b) if there are other practicable measures that would reduce the possibility of take, or c) if take permit is required.

- For ground-based activities, 800 m (1/2 mi; 2,600 ft) buffer zones will be implemented around any active eagle nest (with eggs, nestlings, or dependent fledglings nearby) during the nesting season (February through July). If it is not known if there is an active nest, or which nest is active, additional surveys will be required or buffer zones will be implemented around all eagle nests (active or inactive) that could be affected by the project. This includes drone operations.
- For jet aircraft activities, 400 m (1/4 mi; 1300 ft) buffer zones will be implemented around any active eagle nest (with eggs, nestlings, or dependent fledglings nearby) during the nesting season (February through July). If it is not known if there is an active nest or which nest is active, additional surveys will be required or buffer zones will be implemented around all eagle nests (active or inactive) that could be affected by these activities.
- For helicopter activities, 200 m (1/8 mi; 600 ft) buffer zones will be implemented around any active eagle nest (with eggs, nestlings, or dependent fledglings nearby) during the nesting season (February through July). If it is not known if there is an active nest or which nest is active, additional surveys will be required or buffer zones will be implemented around all eagle nests (active or inactive) that could be affected by these activities.
- All eagle nests (active or inactive) are protected year-round, therefore targets will not be placed within 1/2 mile of any eagle nest unless a target is for an activity (such as a non-hazardous laser) that could not modify or destroy an eagle nest. This distance may be reduced to 1/4 mile for guided systems where the operators are confident of accuracy.
- Eagle monitoring will be conducted by The Peregrine Fund using methods that avoid or minimize disturbance to eagles.
- The Garrison Environmental Division will provide information to WSMR personnel and contractors working in eagle habitat about golden eagles in order to reduce potential to disturb eagles or their nests.

### *Golden Eagle Mitigation Measures*

The following measures are currently being implemented at WSMR:

- Retrofitting of power poles to prevent eagle electrocutions (2014 APP).
- New construction of power poles is raptor-safe (2014 APP).
- Road warning signs to reduce vehicle collisions with eagles.
- Distribute information to hunters on the use of lead vs. non-lead ammunition.

The following are potential measures that can be implemented at WSMR in the future:

- Additional retrofitting of power poles and new construction that is raptor-safe.
- Maintenance and replacement of raptor-safe coverings on power poles.
- Replace/maintain road warning signs to reduce vehicle collisions with eagles.
- Removal of road-killed animals from roadways where eagles may be struck by vehicles.