



Fact Sheet

Bald eagle management plan

Updated: 05/27/09

- The bald eagle is a success story in the United States, but particularly in Florida. Surveys found only 88 active nests in Florida when monitoring began in 1973. In 2007 there were more than 1,100 nests documented – a 300-percent increase – in Florida.
- As a result, the bald eagle was removed from the state threatened species list when the management plan and new eagle rule, developed with public input, was approved by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) in April 2008. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) removed the bald eagle from the federal endangered and threatened list in 2007.
- The management plan serves as a conservation blueprint for the species and was developed with input from government, stakeholder and public partners. Some important guidelines apply regarding active or alternate bald eagle nests.
 - No FWC Eagle Disturbance Permits will be issued for activities within 330 feet of an active bald eagle nest during the nesting season, Oct. 1 to May 15, or whenever eagles are present at the nest site.
 - Outside of the nesting season, an FWC Eagle Disturbance Permit can be used for projects up to 100 feet from the nest. The FWC will not permit any activity within 100 feet of a nest any time of the year, except for nests built on artificial structures or when similar scope may allow construction activities to occur closer than 100 feet.
 - A FWC Nest Removal Permit will be issued only in the case of a human and/or eagle health or safety issue.
 - Any land-altering activity within 660 feet of an active or alternate bald eagle nest that cannot be undertaken consistent with FWC eagle management activities may involve obtaining a FWC Eagle Permit. Activities beyond 660 feet do not ever require an FWC Eagle Permit. When construction activities are planned inside the recommended buffer zone of an active or alternate bald eagle nest, then issuance of the FWC Eagle Permit will require conservation measures as follows:

- For activities between 330 and 660 feet, one conservation measure is sufficient.
 - For activities within 330 feet of a nest, two conservation measures should be included with the application, and one of the two measures should be a \$35,000 contribution to the Bald Eagle Management Fund.
- Permits will be issued if they further the management plan goal and objectives.
 - No permit will be required for activities that follow the FWC Eagle Management Guidelines as described in the management plan.
 - For projects with a buffer between 330 and 660 feet from an eagle nest that do not follow the guidelines and obtain a FWC Eagle Permit one conservation measure is sufficient:
 - Contribute \$35,000 to the Bald Eagle Management Fund to support bald eagle monitoring and research.
 - Provide a financial assurance (such as a surety bond) in the amount of \$50,000. Letters of credit are not being accepted at this time.
 - Grant a conservation easement over the 330-foot buffer zone of an active or alternate bald eagle nest within the same or an adjacent county, or within the same core nesting area. When the buffer is only partially owned by the applicant, contribute an onsite easement over the portion of the 330-foot buffer zone to which the applicant holds title.
 - Grant a conservation easement over suitable bald eagle nesting habitat (see the next bullet below) onsite or offsite.
 - Propose an alternate conservation measure that advances the goal of the management plan based upon the particular facts and circumstances presented by the applicant.
 - For projects with a buffer of 330 feet or less, two conservation measures should be included with the application, and one of the two measures should be a \$35,000 contribution.
 - Minimization measure may also be required for projects that are within 660 feet of an eagle's nest. Some examples include (there are a total of nine):
 - Implement the Bald Eagle Monitoring Guidelines (USFWS 2007) for all site work or exterior construction activities. Avoid exterior construction activities within 330 feet of the nest during the nesting season.
 - Create, enhance or expand the visual vegetative buffer between construction activities and the nest by planting appropriate native pines or hardwoods.

- The bald eagle will remain protected by the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the state bald eagle rule. The bald eagle management plan ensures continued protection in Florida. In the plan, the FWC committed to work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to establish a permitting process that potentially eliminates the need for a permit from each agency.
- Go to http://myfwc.com/docs/WildlifeHabitats/Eagle_Plan_April_2008.pdf for more information on the management plan.

PCB/HSC