



The Bald Eagle's Road to Recovery

1940

Congress passes the Bald Eagle Protection Act, making it illegal to kill, harass, possess (without a permit) or sell bald eagles, including their parts, nests or eggs.

1967

Bald Eagles in the lower 48 states listed as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Preservation Act (precursor to the Endangered Species Act).

1978

Bald Eagles listed as endangered in 43 of the lower 48 states except in Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, and Washington where they were listed as threatened.

1982-1990

Regional recovery teams develop recovery plans to outline the tasks and actions necessary to recover populations.

1999

USFWS proposes to remove the species from the list of threatened and endangered species and proposes a draft post-delisting monitoring plan.

2006

USFWS re-opens the public comment period on delisting proposal, proposes management guidelines and definition of "disturb" under Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act to ensure continued eagle conservation.

2008

Post-delisting monitoring plan finalized. First monitoring period conducted in the Fall of 2008 through the Winter of 2009.

2013/14

First post-delisting monitoring survey and assessment dates.

1963

Only 417 nesting pairs of bald eagles remain in the wild in the lower 48 states.

1973

Bald Eagle protection continued under the Endangered Species Act.

1981

Population slowly increases to 1,188 breeding pairs.

1995

Population grows to an estimated 4,500 breeding pairs and recovers to the point they could be upgraded from a status of endangered to threatened.

2000

More than 6,400 pairs of bald eagles are breeding in the lower 48 states. USFWS holds a Bald Eagle monitoring workshop with the states.

2007

Delisting finalized and eagle management continues under Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Revised monitoring plan made available for public comment.

2007

Bald eagles reach their largest population since post World War II with 9,789 breeding pairs.

