

WS Directive

2.315 08/05/03

EAGLE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT

1. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for WS personnel regarding damage caused by eagles.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces ADC Directive 4.215 dated 03/26/93.

3. POLICY

WS will provide technical assistance to cooperators and the public by recommending animal husbandry practices and other methods as appropriate to help reduce predation by eagles. Eagles may also pose a human health and safety risk at airports. In these situations, WS will assist with obtaining the necessary permits for harassment or relocation.

Direct control assistance may be provided to cooperators when losses continue after suggested damage control techniques have failed to alleviate problems and where the potential for continued loss exists. WS personnel will secure all required Federal and State permits prior to conducting direct control activities involving eagle damage.

When capture and translocation of eagles becomes necessary, eagles will be captured in a manner which minimizes the risk of injury to the birds. The most common methods are net traps and padded-jaw foot-hold traps with weakened springs. Disposition of eagles will be determined through coordination with the appropriate FWS personnel. When eagle are to be relocated, they will be released into suitable locations provided by FWS. If FWS is unable to provide suitable release sites, WS will identify sites based on the following priority: 1) Federally-owned lands, 2) state-owned lands, and 3) private lands. Eagles will only be released in an area when the manager of the Federal or state property, or private property landowner of the release site is in full agreement and where further eagle conflicts are unlikely to occur. If the selected release site is in another state, the appropriate WS State Director and other authorities will be notified.

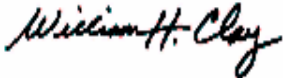
4. PERMITS

Permits (50 CFR 20.23) are required to capture, collect, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, or trap bald or golden eagles for

depredation control purposes. Authority to issue such permits rests with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Applications for permits and supporting information (as identified by 50 CFR 13.12(a) and 50 CFR 20.23) are submitted to the appropriate FWS Regional Office, Migratory Bird Permit Office. Concurrence of state wildlife management agencies and, where applicable, Federal land management agencies, must be obtained in advance of these activities in states where such programs are carried out.

5. REFERENCES

WS Directive 2.301, Migratory Bird Damage Management (07/28/03).
WS Directive 2.310, Endangered and Threatened Species (07/28/03).
Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (U.S.C. 668-668d), as amended.
Endangered Species Act of 1973 (U.S.C. 1531-1543), as amended.
Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (U.S.C. 703-712), as amended.
50 CFR Part 13 - General Permit Provisions.
50 CFR Part 22 - Eagle Permits.



Deputy Administrator