

## APPENDIX T

### BALD EAGLE PROJECT SCREENING ELEMENTS AND DETERMINATIONS

The bald eagle screen includes definitions and flowcharts to assist in the effects determination. If, according to the flowcharts, the project arrives at an NLAA determination, then the project qualifies for the programmatic concurrence. If the project arrives at 'Standard Consultation' then the aforementioned procedures must be followed.

All attempts were made to adhere to and be compatible with the guidance found in the Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan (July 1994). Please refer to the Montana Bald Eagle Management Plan for further, more detailed, information. For a proposed activity in or near bald eagle breeding habitat, take it through each of the screens that refers to the location in which the project will occur (e.g. Zone I, etc.). Read each separate section if it is within the area of zone affected.

#### Definitions:

**Zone I**-Nest Site Area, 1/4 mi (400 m) radius of all nest sites in the breeding area that have been active within 5 years or until an active nest is located. When an active nest is located, Zone I applies only to the active nest (MBEMP p.23). Zone maps may be modified if sufficient information on the bald eagles using them exists.

**Zone II**-Primary Use Area, includes the area 1/4 mi (400 m) to 1/2 mi (800 m) from all nest sites in the breeding area that have been active within 5 years or until an activities nest is located. When an active nest is located, Zone II applies only to the active nest (*Id.*p.23).

**Zone III**-Home Range, represents most of a home range used by eagles during the nesting season. It usually includes all suitable foraging habitat within 2.5 mi (4 km) of all nest sites in the breeding area that have been active within 5 years (*Id.* p.24).

**Foraging Habitat**-includes foraging habitat outside of Zones I, II and III where resident breeding birds may forage. This is essential for the entire population, not just resident breeding eagles. Includes lakes, rivers, wetlands and meadows (*Id.* p.24).

**Human Activity**-examples of low intensity such as dispersed recreation; high intensity is heavy equipment use, blasting, logging, or concentrated recreation (*Id.* p.24).

**Development**-development that may increase human activity levels or negatively impact bald eagle habitat (*Id.* p. 24 refers to permanent development)

**Nesting Season** (dates)-as early as Feb. 1 and as late as Aug. 15 in MT (*Id.* p.22); nest specific information will firm up the dates for that nest/pair

**Postfledging**-birds leave the nest area, generally in Aug. in MT

**Habitat alteration**-that which may negatively affect bald eagles include, but are not limited to, timber harvest, prescribed fire, power line construction, pesticide use, land clearing, stream channeling, levee or dam construction or wetland drainage (*Id.*p.23).

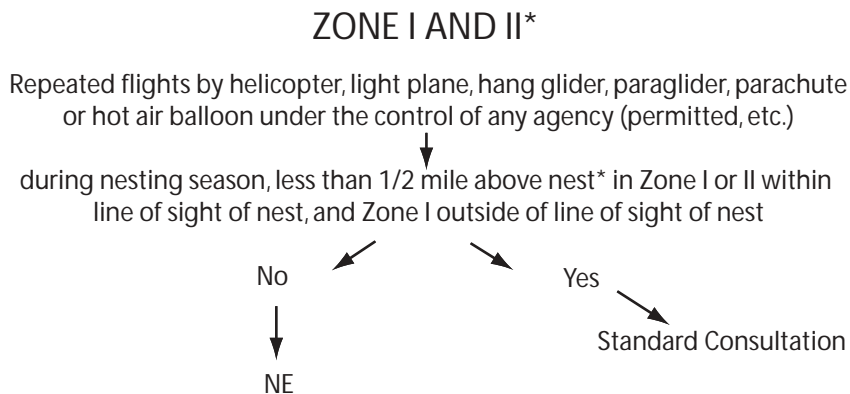
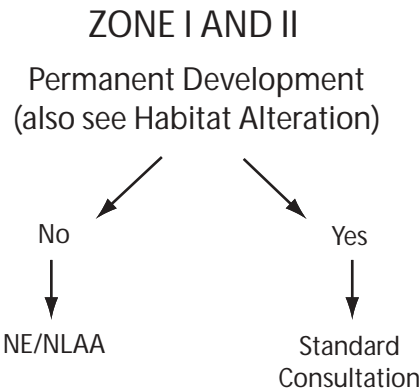
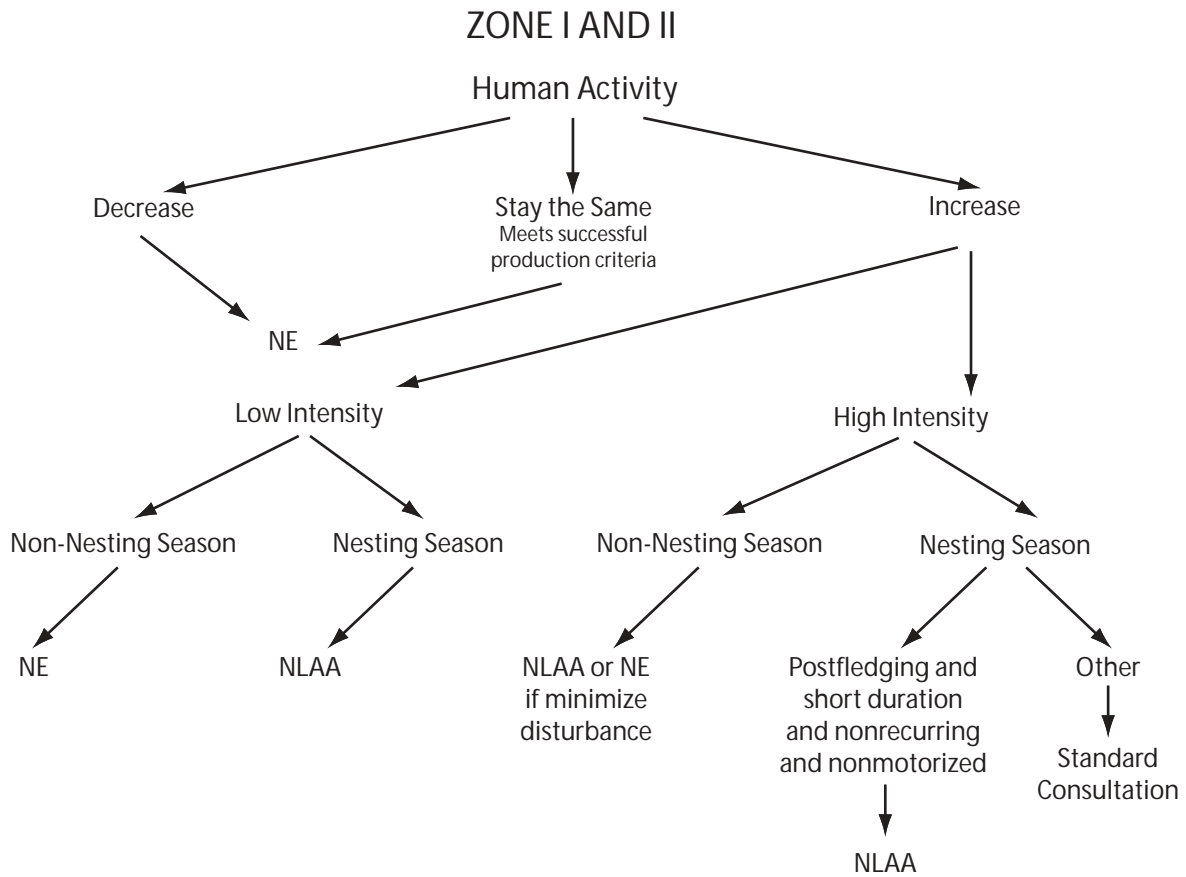
**Nesting and feeding habitat characteristics**-see MBEMP p. 27-28

**Structures**-example of a structure hazardous to bald eagles is overhead utility lines (*Id.* p.24)

**Disturbance**-any human elicited response that induces a behavioral or physiological change in a bald eagle contradictory to those that facilitate survival and reproduction. Disturbance may include elevated heart or respiratory rate, flushing from a perch or events that cause a bald eagle to avoid an area or nest site (*Id.* p. 48).

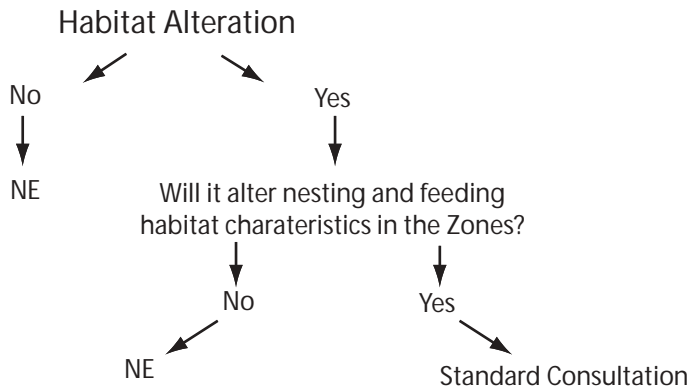
**Key use areas**-Parts of Zone III most used by bald eagles

**Successful Production Criteria**-60% nest success and has fledged 3 or more young during the preceding 5 years (*Id.* p. 23)



\*not from MT BEMP, from Pacific Bald Eagle Recovery Plan, p. 53 (pers. comm. Eric Greenquist to Carole Jorgensen)

### ZONE I, II AND III



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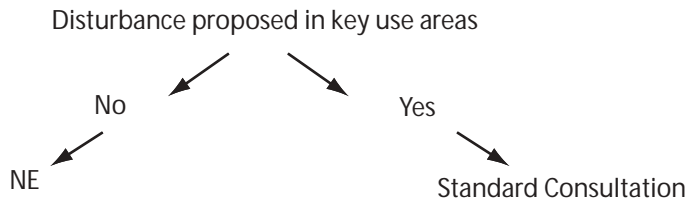
### ZONE II and III and Foraging Areas

Structures proposed that pose no risk to bald eagles or their prey



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### ZONE III



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### FORAGING AREAS

