



News Release

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Golden Eagle Found Dead in May Confirmed Shot

The carcass of a 2-year-old female Golden Eagle was found on May 17 in a field southeast of Dulce, New Mexico.

The eagle had been fitted with a satellite tracking device when it was a nestling on June 2, 2010 in western Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. The device allowed precise GPS location information to be recorded hourly and transmitted by satellite to researchers. The eagle was then tracked nearly 2 years as it moved back and forth between Rio Arriba County and adjoining parts of southern Colorado. More recently she was located southeast of Dulce in northern Rio Arriba County.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) personnel, using data received from the satellite, located and recovered the carcass from open rangeland about 8 miles southeast of Dulce. The carcass was sent to the FWS Forensics Laboratory in Ashland, Oregon for necropsy and the lab confirmed the eagle had died from a gunshot.

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c), enacted in 1940, prohibits anyone, without a permit issued by the Secretary of the Interior, from "taking" bald eagles or golden eagles, including their parts, nests, or eggs. The Act provides criminal penalties for persons who "take, possess, sell, purchase, barter, offer to sell, purchase or barter, transport, export or import, at any time or any manner, any bald or golden eagle, alive or dead, or any part, nest, or egg thereof." The Act defines "take" as "pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, molest or disturb."

A violation of the Act can result in a fine of \$100,000 (\$200,000 for organizations), imprisonment for one year, or both, for a first offense.

A reward of \$2,500 is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons involved in the shooting of this eagle. If you have any information you are asked to contact the FWS Office of Law Enforcement at (505) 248-7889.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit

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