

Wildlife Services Directive

2.315

September 18, 2014

EAGLE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT

1. PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for Wildlife Services (WS) personnel regarding management of damage caused by eagles.

2. REPLACEMENT HIGHLIGHTS

This directive replaces WS Directive 4.215 dated 08/05/03.

3. AUTHORITY

Authority to promulgate a policy addressing eagle damage is pursuant to The Act of March 2, 1931 (7 USC 426-426b, as amended).

4. POLICY

WS will provide assistance to cooperators and the public through technical and direct management assistance as appropriate to help resolve conflicts to protect property, eagles, and human health and safety.

5. IMPLEMENTATION

a. WS may provide assistance with the management of bald and golden eagles in situations where eagles may pose a hazard to human health and safety, aviation, property, livestock, and natural resources, including a danger to themselves. Eagle activity and nests on or near airports, power transmission facilities, and military training facilities may pose an inherent risk of death or injury to people and the eagles themselves. It is in the common public interest to discourage eagles from using these critical areas. In these situations, WS may assist cooperators in developing a mitigation plan, obtaining the necessary state and federal permits for purposeful take of eagles (i.e., harassment, relocation, nest removal), and/or conducting management and monitoring activities.

b. Technical and direct management assistance (e.g., non-lethal hazing, nest removal) may be provided to cooperators when property losses continue after recommended damage management techniques have failed to alleviate problems and where the potential for continued loss exists.

c. WS personnel will secure all required federal and state permits prior to conducting direct management activities involving eagle damage.

d. When capture and translocation of eagles becomes necessary, eagles will be handled in a manner which minimizes the risk of injury to the eagle.

e. WS employees are authorized to capture injured eagles or collect eagle carcasses and transfer custody to licensed wildlife rehabilitators or state or federal wildlife agencies when permitted and appropriate.

f. Disposition of eagles will be determined through permit requirements and coordination with the appropriate U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) personnel.

g. When eagles are to be relocated, the FWS and/or state wildlife agency will be consulted to assist in identifying suitable locations while taking into consideration local eagle densities. Eagles will only be released into an area when the manager or landowner of the release site is in full agreement. Eagles will be released where further eagle conflicts are unlikely to occur.

h. If the selected release site is in another state, the appropriate WS State Director and other appropriate authorities will be consulted in advance.

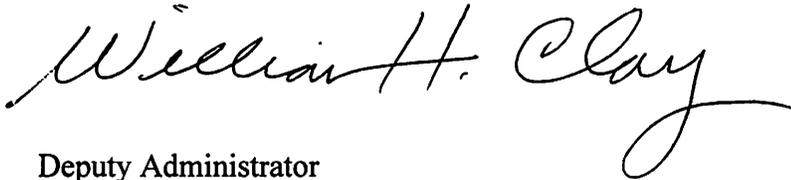
6. PERMITS

1) Federal permits (50 CFR 22.21, 50 CFR 22.23, 50 CFR 22.27) are required to capture, collect, harass, pursue, hunt, shoot, or trap bald or golden eagles or remove eagle nests for depredation control purposes. Authority to issue such permits rests with the FWS. State permits might be required, and if so, must be obtained from the appropriate state wildlife agency.

2) Applications for permits and supporting information (as identified by 50 CFR 13.12(a) and 50 CFR 22.23) 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.

7. REFERENCES

- a. WS Directive 2.301, Migratory Bird Damage Management (05/05/2006).
- b. Bald Eagle Protection Act of 1940 (U.S.C. 668-668d), as amended.
- c. Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 (U.S.C. 703-712), as amended.
- d. 50 CFR Part 13 – General Permit Provisions.
- e. 50 CFR Part 22 – Eagle Permits.

Handwritten signature of William H. Clay in cursive script.

Deputy Administrator