

# Pacific Flyway Council (PFC)

<http://pacificflyway.gov/>

- Pacific, Central, Mississippi, and Atlantic flyways
- Pacific Flyway includes: Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and those portions of Colorado, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming west of the Continental Divide.

# Pacific Flyway Council

- Cooperation among public wildlife agencies for the purpose of protecting and conserving migratory birds in western North America.
- Council - director or an appointee from the public wildlife agency -Each flyway has its own council
- Annual process of setting migratory bird policy and regulations within the U.S. - contribute to migratory bird research and management throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

# Nongame Technical Committee (NTC)

- Pacific Flyway Council (PFC) has both a game and nongame migratory bird technical committee that provides biological advice to the council.
- The technical committees are each composed of one biologist from the public wildlife agency
- USFWS participates

# Notes from the Nongame Technical Committee (NTC)



## **CA/NV GOEA Work Group Meeting:**

- NTC representation on Eagle Technical Assessment Team - ETAT
- Potential flyway monitoring proposal (Occupancy Monitoring Protocol)
- Standardized terminology and protocols across flyway
- Review of upcoming regulations
- Prioritizing eagle research needs across flyway

# NTC representation on ETAT

- USFWS Eagle Technical Assessment Team
- 2011 Council approved member of NTC to ETAT (AZ)
- ETAT focus (eagles)
  - inactive nest, buffer zones
  - predictive models, assessing roost disturbance
  - revision of the 2009 Bald GOEA Act
  - finalization of 30 Year Programmatic Take Permit
  - assessing disturbance to roost
  - defining low risk projects, etc

# Future efforts - Flyway (NTC)

- **Development of a Golden Eagle Occupancy Monitoring Protocol**
  - Purpose to provide standard method for agencies/interested parties to conduct nest searches and breeding surveys across states
  - Long term desired goal – conduct systematic nest monitoring across the flyway among all of the states

# Future efforts - Flyway (NTC)

- **Standardized Terminology and Protocols Across the Flyway**
  - Raptor terminology (breeding) has varied among all of the states historically
  - Variations complicate comparisons
  - Standard terminology reduce confusion and allow easier comparison of data
  - To Date: Seven states have provided inputs, draft GOEA Terminology Document
  - Focus and refine document – NTC GOEA Subgroup (AZ lead, CA, NV, MT)
  - Also GOEA Research Subgroup (CA/NV)

# Review of Upcoming Regulations

- **Bald and Golden Eagle Act is Under Revision**
- **Federal Register Notice in Future**
- **NTC will comment to the revision**

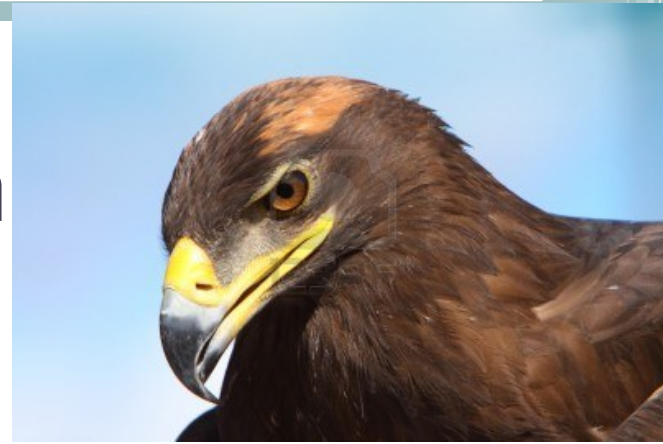




# Prioritizing eagle research and monitoring needs

- **USGS has a list of research needs relative to eagles via the ETAT**
  - **NTC Flyway Research/Monitoring Needs**
    - Research on the impacts of lead exposure on raptor populations.
    - A determination of the importance of migration corridors through each state.
    - A determination of the status and trend of golden eagle prey populations across different types of western habitats.
    - Determination of the importance of breeding, migrating, and wintering habitats for golden eagles.
    - A simple mechanism to document and assess problem powerlines for potential mitigation retrofits.

# Prioritizing eagle research monitoring needs



- **Continued**

- **NTC Flyway Research/Monitoring Needs**

- Research into standardized post-construction monitoring to quantify impacts to eagles (mortality and other nonlethal disturbance).
    - A low-cost monitoring strategy for the development of population estimates, occupancy and productivity information, and evaluation of population trends at a local and regional scale.
    - A golden eagle buffer-zone policy similar to the Bald Eagle Management Guidelines in order to avoid incidental take of bald and golden eagles.
    - Handout