

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Eagle Updates



Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance Module 1 – Land-based Wind Energy Version 2



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Migratory Bird Management

April 2013



- Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance, Module 1 – Land-based Wind Energy Version-2
- Released April 2013



Changes in the Regulations



Final “Duration Rule” - Published December 9, 2013

- extends the maximum term for programmatic permits from 5 to 30 years
- allows programmatic permits to be transferable to new project owners
- increased permit fees
 - ✦ \$36,000 for processing programmatic permit application
 - ✦ \$2,600 administration fee for each 5-year review



Additional Rule Changes?



There may be additional changes to the Permit Rule

- April 2012, the Service issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing to revise Eagle Act permit regulations (50 CFR 22.26 and 22.27)
- stakeholders and the public identified issues that may be improved by regulatory revisions

Additional Rule Changes?



FWS solicited public comments about the permit program concerning

- How the Eagle Act's language regarding preservation of eagles should be interpreted and applied;
- The level of impacts that trigger compensatory mitigation;
- Issuance criteria for programmatic permits; and
- Possible mechanisms for streamlining permits

Additional Rule Changes?



We will solicit additional public input on changes to the 2009 permit regulations

- additional NEPA analysis will be conducted
- series of public scoping meetings in 2014



Eagle Take permits updates CA & NV

Shiloh IV Wind Project

- Estimated take of 5 eagles over 5 years
- Public comment period closed on Draft EA
- Permit decision expected in spring of 2014



Eagle Take permits updates CA & NV

Alta East Wind Project

- Draft EA under development
- Out for public comment 2014
- 5 year permit

PG&E O&M

Applied for 30 yr
permit under new regs



Announcements



- **Eagle Biologist Position: GS 9/11, Term, Full-time, Cheyenne WY.**
 - Will be part of a western-wide eagle team to develop and prioritize conservation strategies, and work on other eagle-related issues
 - ✦ USA Jobs #: R6-14-1028266-D

- **Bald and Golden Eagle Workshop**
 - Hosted by The Wildlife Society's Sacramento-Shasta Chapter
 - ✦ Natural History, Legal Protections, Threats, Permitting
 - ✦ Coming later this year

Introductions



Jessi Brown

- Working under an agreement for USFWS
- Works out of the USFWS Office in Reno, NV

Brian Woodbridge

- USFWS lead for the Western Golden Eagle Conservation Team (more later)
- works out of the USFWS Office in Yreka, CA

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) Updates



- **DRECP - Status**

- Large-scale (22.5 million acre) conservation plan to address renewable energy development and permitting in the CA Mohave Desert
- DRECP and Draft EIS expected to be out for public comment in late-spring/early-summer 2014
- Proposes permitting take of golden eagles under both Federal and State laws
- proposal includes designation of conserved areas, development areas, conservation management actions, monitoring and adaptive management

Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan Updates



- **Monitoring Golden Eagles under the DRECP**
 - CEC funding provided to USGS
 - Purpose: determine the objectives for golden eagle surveying and monitoring standardized protocol in the DRECP
 - Multiple state and federal regulatory agencies with differing needs & regulations
 - Two-day meeting held in November 2013
 - Monitoring plan – not in time for public draft DRECP