



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES for OCCUPIED BALD EAGLE NESTS in Pennsylvania

Zone 1 consists of the area within 330 feet of the nest that is essential to maintain in order to promote current and future nesting.

- 1) Avoid permanent habitat alterations that could jeopardize the future existence of the nesting bald eagles.
- 2) Potential roost trees and alternate nest trees should be identified and protected.
- 3) Avoid significant tree removal or commercial logging operations. Tree removal for safety issues or naturally fallen trees (wind/tornado/disease) may be approved for the period of August 2 to January 14.
- 4) Avoid off-road vehicle use, motorized watercraft, or non-motorized recreation (hiking, camping, etc.) within 330 feet of the nest from January 15 to August 1.
- 5) Avoid aerial or ground pesticide applications from January 15 to August 1.
- 6) Avoid aerial flyovers within 1,500 feet of the nest tree in all directions.
- 7) Avoid permanent habitat alterations that could jeopardize the existence of streams, lakes, or wetlands.
- 8) Avoid human activities (with the exception of monitoring and research) during the active nesting season (January 15 to August 1st).
- 9) Avoid blasting, fireworks, or other activities that produce extremely loud noises.

Zone 2 consists of the area from 330 feet to 660 feet from the nest that is essential to maintain in a natural condition to support the continued nesting of bald eagles. Some minor habitat disturbance activities may be permitted within this zone depending on the current level of disturbance that the birds are habituated to. For example, an existing road with consistent traffic and pedestrians currently exists in Zone 2 and that may indicate the birds are habituated to similar activities. This zone may be reduced if a direct line of sight prohibits the activity from being observed by the nesting eagles while on the nest.

- 1) Avoid permanent habitat alterations that could jeopardize the future existence of the nesting bald eagles.
- 2) Avoid significant tree removal or commercial logging operations from January 15 to August 1st. Tree removal can occur from August 2nd to January 14 provided a minimum of 50% canopy closure is maintained and a minimum 100 foot buffer is provided from the edge of all major streams, lakes, and wetlands.
- 3) Avoid aerial pesticide applications from January 15 to August 1st.
- 4) Potential roost trees and alternate nest trees should be identified and protected.
- 5) Limited and infrequent human activity of a low impact might be acceptable.
- 6) Avoid aerial flyovers within 1,500 feet of the nest tree in all directions.
- 7) Avoid blasting, fireworks, or other activities that produce extremely loud noises.

Zone 3 consists of the area from 660 feet to 1,000 feet from the nest tree that is important to minimize any substantial habitat changes. Generally this zone should be maintained in a natural habitat condition with minimal to no permanent fragmentation.

- 1) Timber harvest during the nesting season will be determined on a project-by-project basis within Zone 3. Timber harvest can occur from August 2nd to January 14.
- 2) Avoid aerial pesticide applications from January 15 to August 1st.
- 3) A limited amount of permanent habitat alterations may be approved based on a project-by-project review.
- 4) Potential roost trees and alternate nesting trees should be identified and protected.
- 5) Avoid aerial flyovers within 1,500 feet of the nest tree in all directions.
- 6) Avoid blasting, fireworks, or other activities that produce extremely loud noises.
- 7) Restricted habitat alterations based on site-specific review. Site-specific limitations on other activities within sight of eagle nests.

