



The Western Section of The Wildlife Society and Wildlife Research Institute

Western Raptor Symposium
February 8-9, 2011
Riverside, California



Symposium
Sponsors



February 9 – 08:35-08:55 am Session: Raptor Management and Monitoring

The Importance of Winter Ecology in the Conservation and Management of the Golden Eagle

Erica H. Craig, Aquila Environmental, P.O. Box 81291, Fairbanks, AK, 99708; (907) 457-2569; aquila_environmental@acsalaska.net; Tim H. Craig; US Fish and Wildlife Service, Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge, Fairbanks, AK 99701; Mark R. Fuller, US Geological Survey, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center, Boise, ID 83706; Huettmann Falk, EWHALE lab, Institute of Arctic Biology, Biology & Wildlife Department, University of Alaska-Fairbanks, Fairbanks AK 99775

A better understanding of golden eagle demographics is a high priority for the USF&WS in order to properly assign 'eagle take' permits. As a result, there has been an increase in research focusing on population structure, nest sites, and habitat needs of resident eagles. While this information is important, we use data from a 9-year study of wintering golden eagles in southeastern Idaho to propose that understanding winter ecology, particularly of migrants, is especially vital for conservation and management of the species. We present GIS models based on satellite telemetry data, to accurately predict the distribution of eagles in one winter, based on a model built from locations of the same individuals the previous winter. These models, and our recapture data, indicate that some golden eagles, including migrants, not only show fidelity to the same general wintering areas every year, but that they hunt the same specific locations year after year. Wintering sites such as our study area, support not only resident, but also migrant eagles from a much larger geographic region. Therefore, impacts to local wintering areas can affect golden eagle populations at a much bigger scale and need to be considered in development of adaptive management strategies.

The authors and institutions that have provided the following presentations are happy to share their information, data, and opinions. However, these are not, necessarily, peer-reviewed presentations and the potential to take something out of context also exists. In order to avoid that, you are requested to contact the respective lead author(s) before using specific information contained in any of the following papers. Once you have done that, the proper citation is: '[Author(s). Date. Title.] Presented at the Western Raptor Symposium. Jeffrey L. Lincer and David Bittner (Co-Chairs). Hosted by Wildlife Research Institute and The Wildlife Society, Western Section. Riverside Convention center, Riverside, California, USA. February 8-9, 2011