

Eagle Rule Revisions and Programmatic EIS



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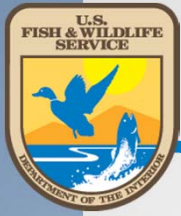
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Eagle Rule Revisions and PEIS

The Service is announcing release of 3 documents related to management of bald and golden eagles

- Status Report on bald and golden eagles
- Proposed revisions to the 2009 permit regulations for nonpurposeful take of eagles and take of eagle nests
- Draft Programmatic Environmental Assessment (DPEIS)



Status Report

“Bald and Golden Eagles: Status, trends, and estimation of sustainable take rates in the United States”

- Compilation of current research on the population status and trends of bald and golden eagles
- Serves as the biological basis for the proposed rule revisions and the preferred alternative in the DPEIS
- Estimates population sizes, productivity, and survival rates; cumulative effects to local area populations; and effects of unauthorized take of golden eagles
- Provides recommended take limits for both species

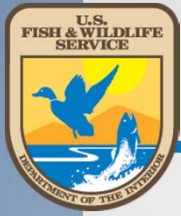
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Eagle Rule Revisions and PEIS

PEIS

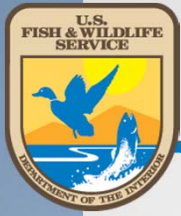
- When an agency is proposing to carry out a broad action, program, or policy.
- In addition to the cost to project developers, NEPA requirements for permitting individual projects resulted in substantial staff time and effort when processing eagle incidental take permit applications.
- This draft PEIS (DPEIS) programmatically analyzes the effects of eagle take within certain levels, allowing subsequent NEPA analyses to be more narrowly focused on activities at specific locations.



PEIS

PEIS

- Analyzes:
 - Proposed revisions to eagle permit regulations
 - Eagle management at different geographic scales (Eagle Management Units)
 - Different take levels for bald and golden eagles – including the effects of permitting up to those levels



Management Objectives

PEIS

- Two different levels of risk in EIS alternatives:
 - Liberal take levels: ~50:50 balance of risk of excessive take versus eagle protection
 - Conservative take levels: ~20:80 balance of risk in favor of eagle protection
- Permitting take of up to 5% of local area populations



Management Objectives

Eagle Management Units

- Proposing to use Flyways as EMUs
 - Bald Eagle: Flyways (Pacific flyway divided into three EMUs: Southwest, Mid-latitude, and Alaska)
 - Golden Eagle: Flyways (Mississippi and Atlantic flyways combined as one EMU)
- Ability to permit golden eagle take east of the 100th meridian



Management Objectives

Briefing on Management Objectives for Eagles

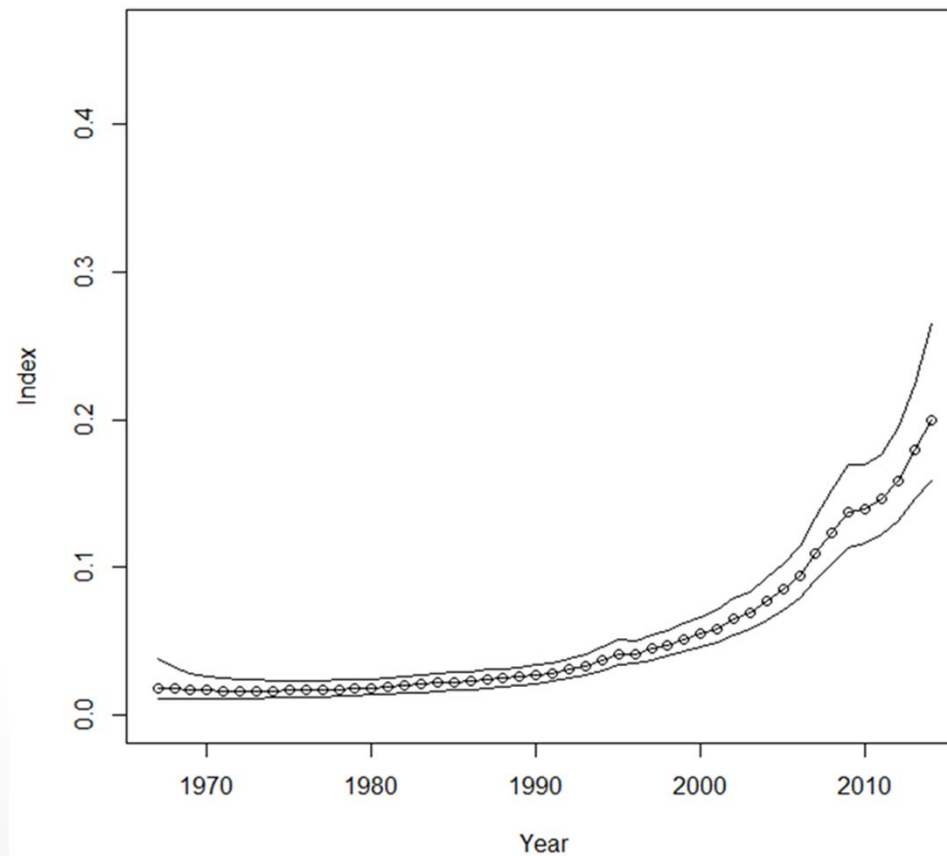
- Current management objectives for bald and golden eagles:
 - Maintain potential for stable or increasing breeding populations (2009 baseline)
 - 100 year timeframe
 - FWS regions as Eagle Management Units (EMUs) for bald eagles, BCRs for golden eagles



Management Objectives

Status of the Bald Eagle

Bald Eagle Populations - US BBS Results 1966-2013

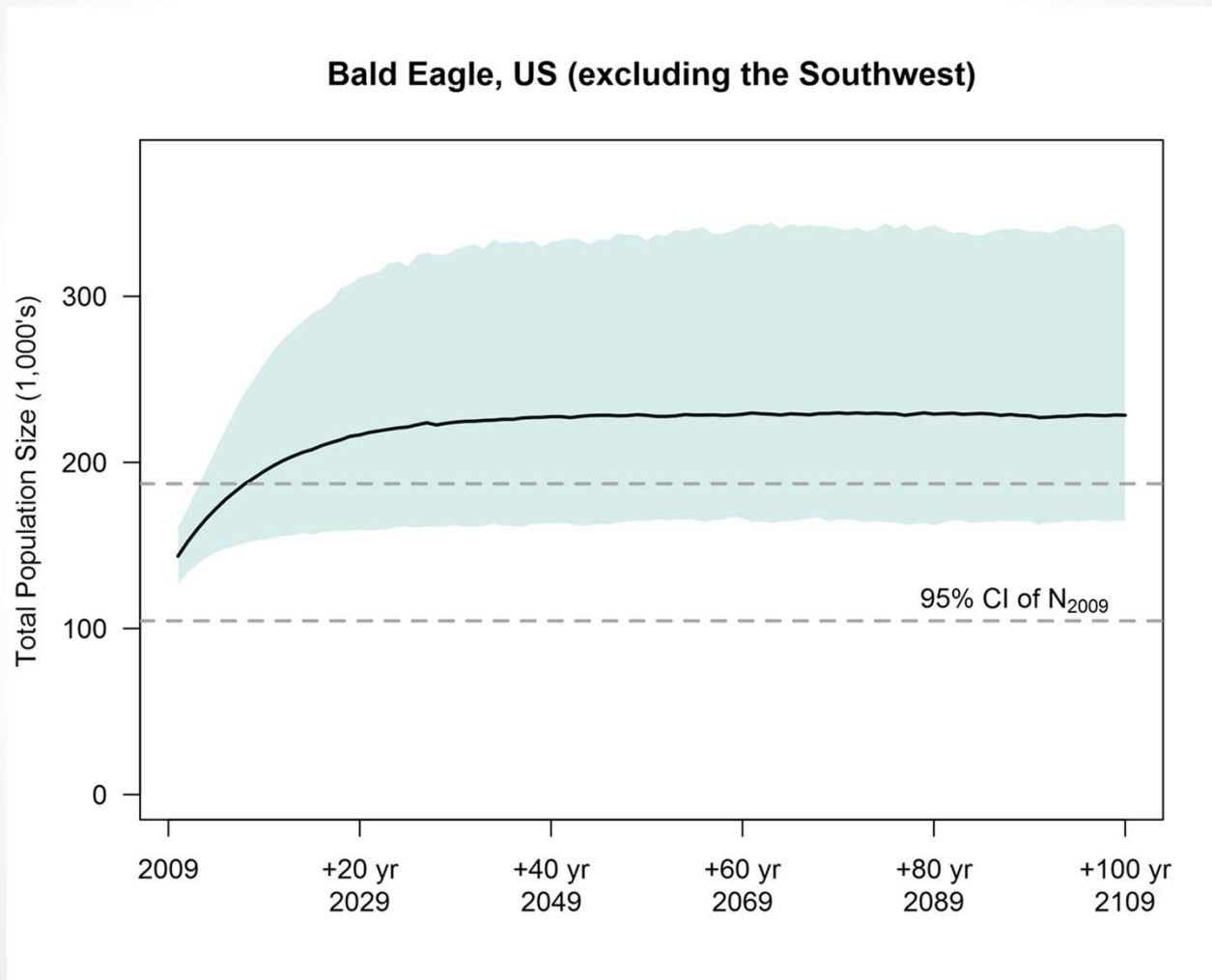


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Management Objectives

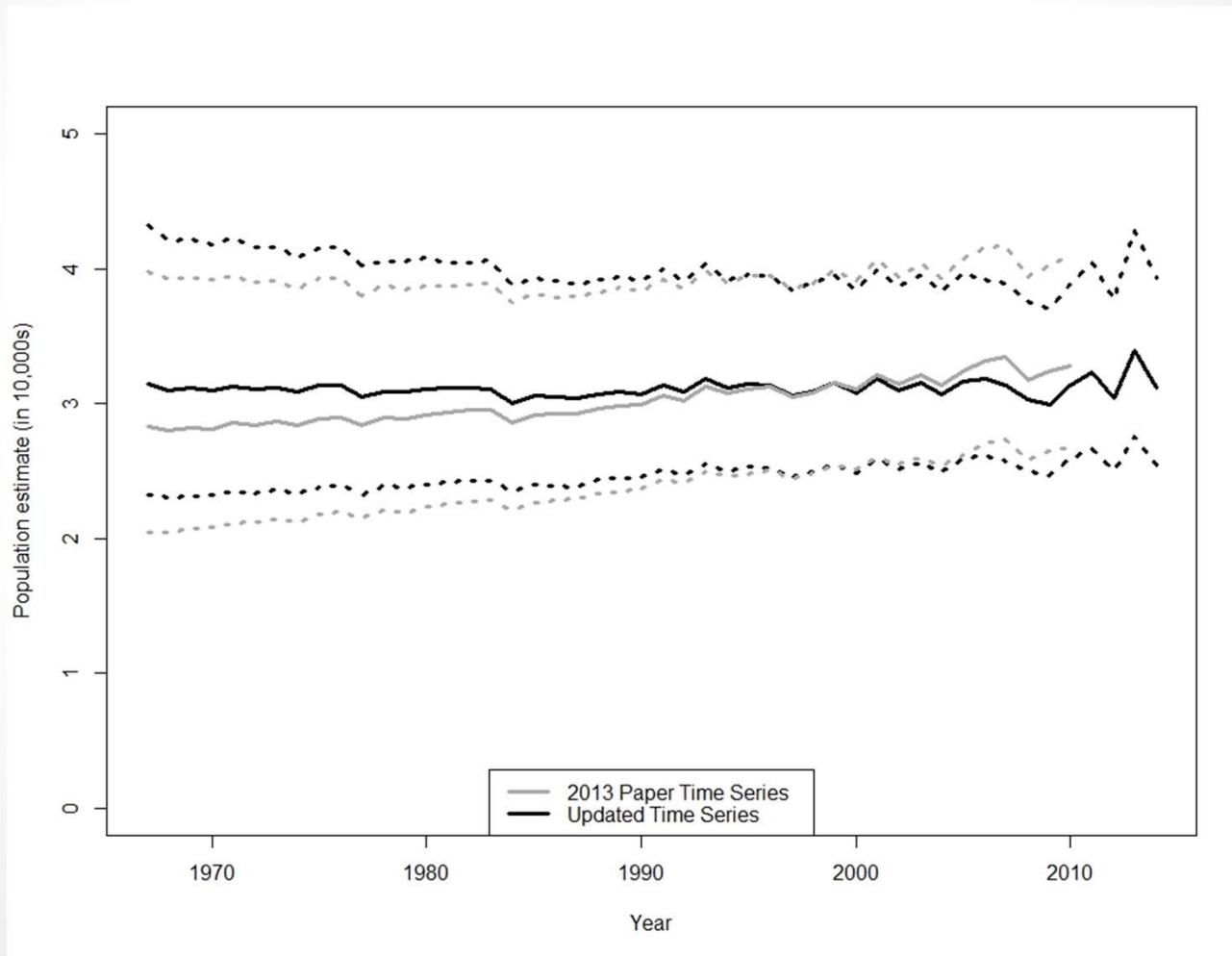
Status of the Bald Eagle





Management Objectives

Status of the Golden Eagle



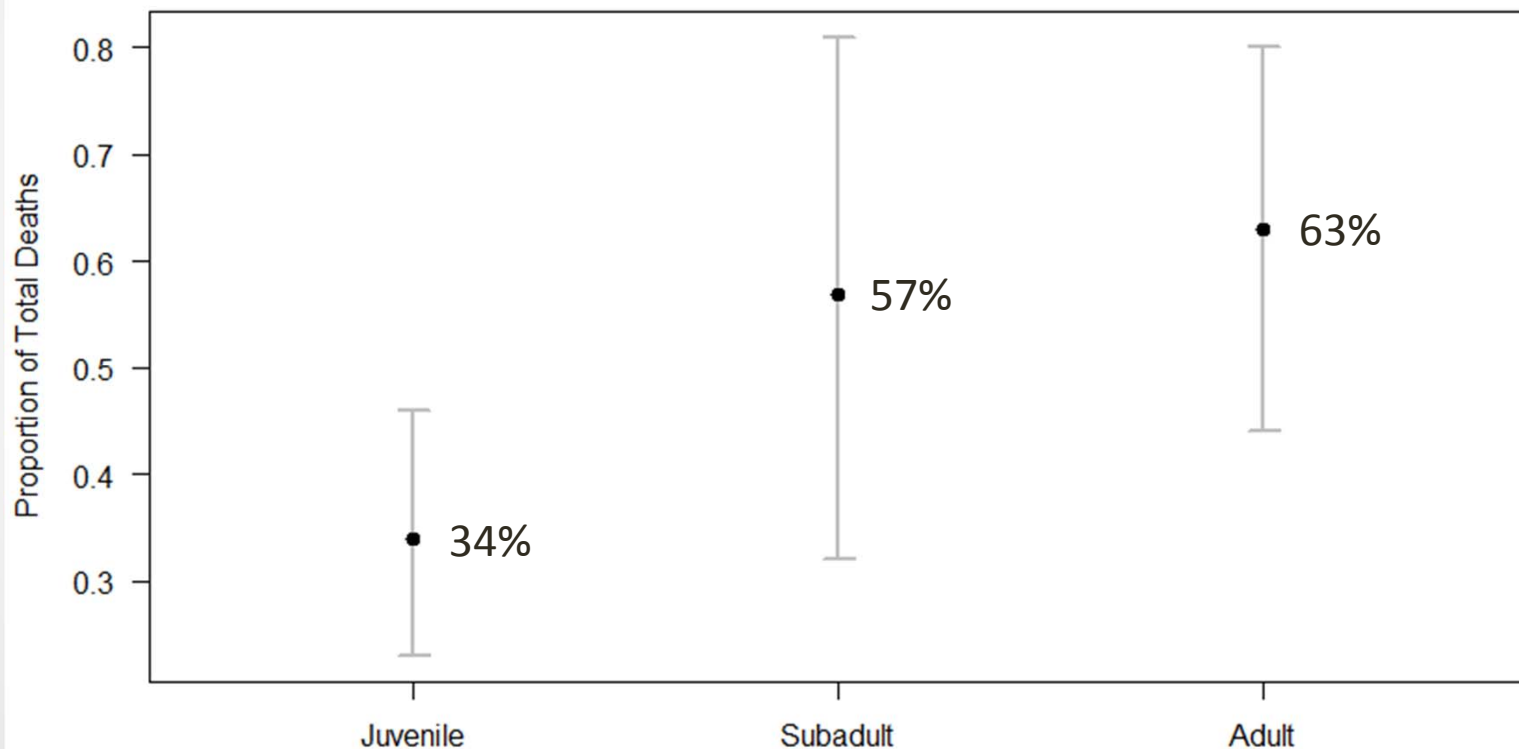
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Management Objectives

Status of the Golden Eagle

Proportion of Mortality Caused by Humans

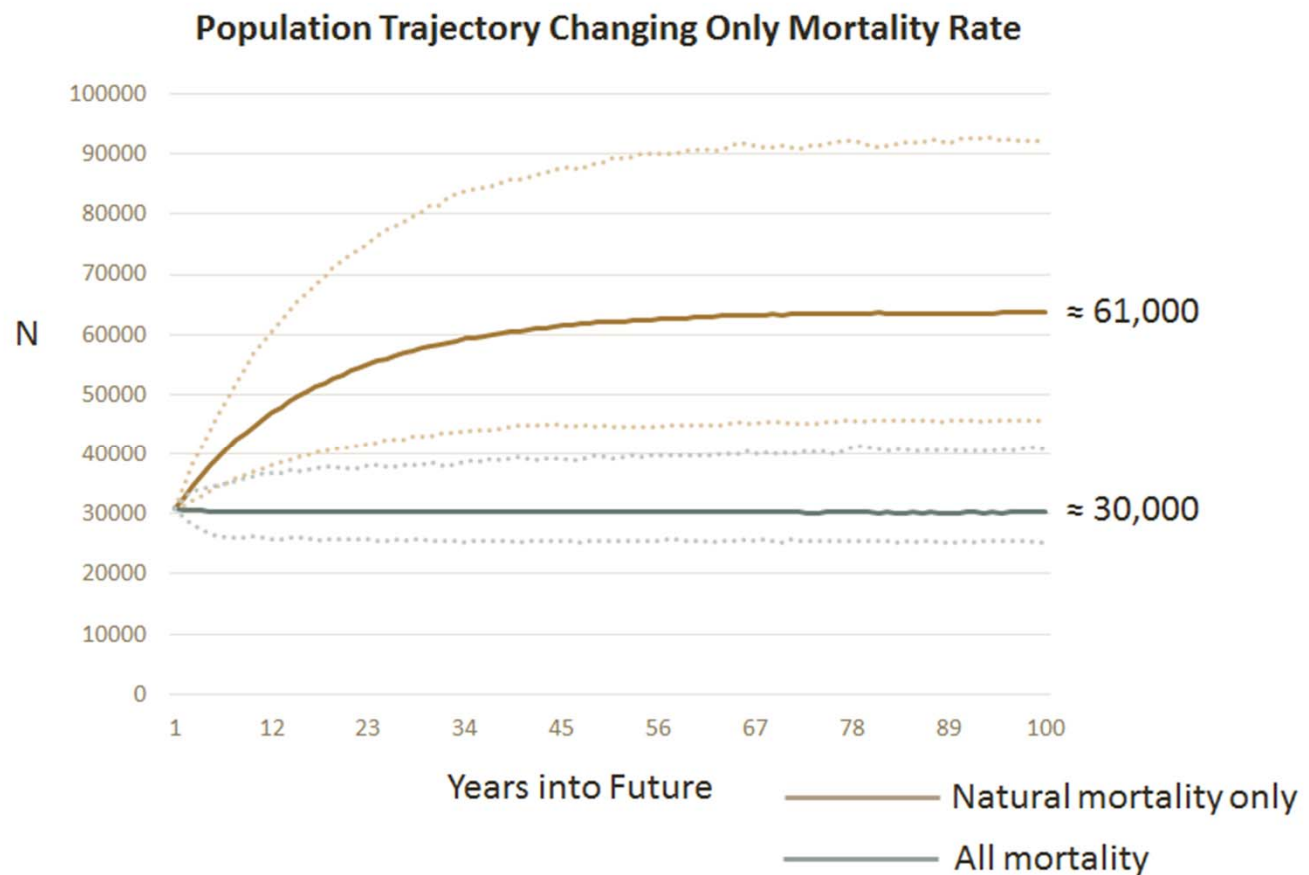




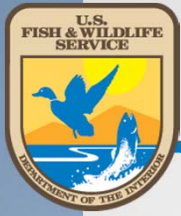
Management Objectives

Status of the Golden Eagle

Population Size With and Without Current Human Mortality



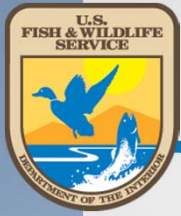
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Eagle Incidental Take Permits

Proposed Changes to Incidental Take Permit Regulations

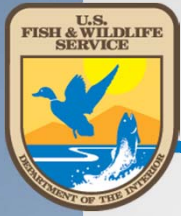
- Eagle Act Preservation Standard
- Maximum permit duration
- Criteria for issuing permits (“practicable” vs. “unavoidable”)
- Compensatory mitigation requirements
- Local Area Population cumulative effects analysis
- Data standards for permit applications



Proposed Rule Revisions

Additional Proposed Regulation Changes

- Minor revisions to 22.27 — Nest Take Permits
- Revisions to eagle permit application processing fees
- Minor revisions to 22.25, Golden Eagle Nest Take Permits for Resource Development and Recovery (for consistency with 22.27 — Nest Take Permits)
- New and revised definitions



Eagle Rule Revisions and PEIS

Public comments

- Federal Register publication – Friday, May 6, 2016
- 60-day comment period. Comments are due: Tuesday, July 5, 2016
- The proposed rule, DPEIS, and Status Report are available at:
 - <http://www.fws.gov/birds/management/managed-species/eagle-management.php>, and
 - *Regulations.gov* – Docket: FWS–R9–MB–2011–0094

Thank you!

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Program

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