

2015 Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award Nomination

Bureau of Land Management: Raptor Nest Inventory Survey (RINS)

Partners: Raptor Nest Inventory Survey (RINS)

The Raptor Inventory Nest Survey (RINS) is an all-volunteer organization concerned with birds of prey that nest throughout Utah. RINS focuses on habitat protection with particular emphasis on raptor species listed as sensitive, threatened or endangered. Volunteers are asked to locate all of the raptor nests within their assigned territories throughout the State of Utah including the counties of Box Elder, Tooele, Juab, Millard, Rich, Daggett, Uintah, Duchesne, Emery, Grand, San Juan, Weber, Morgan, Summit, Wasatch, Salt Lake, and Utah counties in Utah. They regularly check the nests' condition to see whether a raptor is using the nest, and to determine yearly productivity (how many young fledged from the nest). Observing and recording what types of human disturbance, vegetation, prey, and prey remains present at or near the nest site is also recommended. All raptor nests are protected under federal law, so the data collected by RINS volunteers provides current information regarding birds of prey and their nests. This aids in management decisions and protection, which ensures the nest sites and young are protected. RINS volunteers have discovered and documented over three hundred-ninety-three new nests. Many of these are active nests since the majority of raptors are nomadic following prey availability and structures to build nests on. RINS volunteers made 1,205 visits to various nest sites and documented 492 nests as active; 138 occupied; 10 as active, failed; 805 inactive; 394 historic nests gone; and 38 not located. RINS provides this important information to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The BLM then uses the information to determine the potential impacts of actions it is considering and any appropriate mitigation. RINS volunteers have also assisted the BLM by monitoring project sites before and during construction when asked by the BLM. This insures that the species are protected adequately. RINS data also help BLM better fulfill its regulatory requirements mandated by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Endangered Species Act and the BLM 6840 (Sensitive Species) and helps the BLM fulfill its mission of multiple use and sustained yield. RINS data assist the BLM in managing raptor species as well as all of the other resources. With programs like RINS, the BLM is achieving its goal to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Photo Credit: Robyn MacDuff, Director of RINS