



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, Regions 1-12
Assistant Director, Ecological Services

From: Assistant Director for Migratory Birds

Subject: Eagle Surveys

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide a technical update to eagle nest survey protocols for eagle incidental permitting. The Service's 2013 Eagle Conservation Plan Guidance, Module 1—Land-based Wind Energy (ECPG), provides guidance to developers of wind energy facilities that may pose a risk to eagles regarding best practices for siting projects and compiling the data needed to apply for permits to authorize unavoidable incidental take of eagles. Appendix C of the ECPG addresses surveys, including nest surveys to determine the number and locations of occupied eagle nests in the vicinity of a proposed project. The Service's recommendation in Appendix C was, in the absence of available data on the spacing of occupied eagle nests, the appropriate boundary within which surveys should be flown is the project footprint and all area within 10 miles. The Service now has data to support reducing the surveyed area to the area within 2 miles of the project footprint.

Through this memorandum, the ECPG's 10-mile area recommendation is rescinded and replaced with the recommendation to conduct nest surveys in the area within 2 miles around the project footprint. This update is effective immediately and will reduce regulatory burden. Please ensure all appropriate staff receive a copy of this memorandum in a timely manner.

The information that is the basis for the 2-mile recommendation is described in the attached document.

Attachment