U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Endangered Species Fact Sheet

Bald Eagle

Monitoring if Delisted

All protections provided under the Endangered Species Act (Act) would be removed, if the bald eagle is delisted. However, section 4(g)(1) of the Act requires that the Secretary of Interior "implement a system in cooperation with the States to monitor effectively for not less than five years the status of all species which have recovered." This provision mandates a monitoring program for five years after delisting. The purpose of the monitoring program is to document bald eagle population numbers and range and numbers of young fledged as indicators of population health. If, during this monitoring period, these indicators show that there is a problem with our bald eagle population, the species could be relisted under the Act.

Since the bald eagle was fully listed under the Act in 1978, nesting and productivity have been monitored throughout the lower 48 states. This effort has produced an excellent data set and forms the basis of this delisting proposal. If the historic population monitoring effort is continued following bald eagle delisting, we believe that monitoring for contaminants may be the only additional effort needed.

In preparation of this rule, we requested each state to indicate its intentions regarding post-delisting monitoring should this rule become final. More than 80% of all states in the lower 48 intend to continue the same monitoring effort for at least five years post-delisting. Many of our federal partners have also indicated a willingness to continue bald eagle monitoring for a minimum of five years, as required under the Endangered Species Act. The monitoring will be the same as it has been through the time the bald eagle has been listed following the guidelines set forth in the recovery plans.

At the end of 5 years post-delisting, we will compile the data set for the lower 48 states, assess the results and make this information available to the public. Throughout this process, we will evaluate factors which may trigger consideration for relisting. We will also consult with states and partners to assess future monitoring needs which may include consideration of national or regional monitoring protocols.



AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO