

Nature of the Research Project

An operational wind farm in Northern Montana is situated near nesting areas of Golden Eagles. There is a strong moral and regulatory urgency to institute methods to increase awareness of the eagles' movements for the purpose of developing methods and procedures for reducing the risk of bird injury or death caused by contact with operating wind turbines. It is especially important to start operating as quickly as possible as the upcoming seasonal changes will affect bird behavior that should not be missed when developing risk mitigation techniques. Golden Eagles are protected by the International Migratory Bird Treaty and by US legislation that specifically identifies eagles for protection. The US is a signatory to the treaty and is obligated to protect eagles.