Pleasant Breeding Area: 1999

Observation Period.—Observation dates ..... February 7 to May 12
Total monitoring days/hours ..... 69 days/711 hours
Dawn-to-Dusk hours ..... 403 hours

Eagle Identification.—Male ..... Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage
Female ..... Unbanded, adult plumage

Management Activities.—1. Maricopa County parks reinstated the seasonal closure around the active nest, 2. Maricopa County Parks and AGFD placed new closure signs at boat ramps, and roads entering the seasonal closure, 3. Maricopa County Parks marked closure boundaries with buoys, 4. Nestwatchers were stationed at the southern closure boundary on dawn-to-dusk days to educate recreationists on the closure and bald eagles, 4. Television crews broadcast the opening and closing dates of the closure.

Human Activity.—Nestwatchers recorded 479 human activities (Appendix H, Table 38). Aircraft (jets, helicopters, and ultra lights) represented 37 percent (n=178), fishermen 0.2 percent (n=1), and watercraft (boats and jet skis) 63 percent (n=300).

Seven activities elicited 75 significant responses by the breeding pair. The bald eagles were restless to 14 jets, 12 small planes, ten boats, six helicopters, five jet skis, two agency boats, and one ultra light. The breeding pair flushed in response to two jet skis, one boat, one agency boat, and one small plane. In addition, a small plane caused a left area response, and 19 responses were documented as "other" with no explanation offered.

Of the 8,513 watercraft that approached the southern buoy line, only 238 (3 percent) did not comply (agency boats omitted) (Appendix H, Table 39). Boats represented 88.2 percent (n=210), and 11.7 percent (n=28) jet skies. This is the best compliance since the closure was enacted in 1994 (Beatty et. al. 1995a, 1995b, 1997, 1998, 1999). Noncompliance has ranged as low as four percent in 1998 to 12 percent in 1997. Nestwatchers attribute this success to strict law enforcement, increased awareness, and recreationists regulating themselves.

Food Habits.—Nestwatchers observed 38 forage attempts (Appendix H, Table 40). The male was successful in 58 percent (18 of 31), the female 33 percent (2 of 6), and an unknown adult 100 percent (1 of 1). The most common forage item was fish (n=20), although birds (n=7) and unknown items (n=11) were captured.

The breeding pair delivered 72 prey items to the nest (Appendix H, Table 41). The male delivered 86 percent (n=62), the female 11 percent (n=8), and an unknown adult three percent (n=2). Sixty percent of those items (n=43) were fish, 22 percent (n=16) unknown, 13 percent (n=9) birds, four percent (n=3) mammals, and one percent (n=1) reptiles. No prey items were identified to species.

Pleasant Breeding Area: 2000

Observation Period.—Observation dates ..... February 5 to May 27
Total monitoring days/hours ..... 80 days/766 hours
Dawn-to-Dusk hours ..... 471 hours

Eagle Identification.—Male ..... Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage
Female ..... Unbanded, adult plumage

Management Activities.—1. Maricopa County parks reinstated the seasonal closure around the active nest, 2. Maricopa County Parks and AGFD placed new closure signs at boat ramps, and roads entering the seasonal closure, 3. Maricopa County Parks marked closure boundaries with buoys, 4. Nestwatchers were stationed at the southern closure boundary on dawn-to-dusk days to educate recreationists on the closure and bald eagles, 4. Television crews, and newspapers announced the opening and closing dates of the closure.

Human Activity.—Nestwatchers recorded 720 human activities (Appendix H, Table 42). Aircraft (planes, helicopters, jets, and ultra lights) represented 40 percent (n=285), and watercraft (boats and jet skis) 60 percent (n=435).

Seven activities elicited 25 significant responses from the breeding pair. Thirteen boats, four planes. three agency boats, two helicopters, one jet, one ultra light, and one water skier all caused a restless response.

Of the 7,711 watercraft that approach the southern buoy line, only 379 (5 percent) entered the closure (agency boats omitted) (Appendix H, Table 43). Boats represented 81.3 percent (n=308), and 18.7 percent (n=71) jet skies. This is consistent with the noncompliance percentages of previous years (Beatty et. al. 1995a, 1995b, 1997, 1998, 1999).

Food Habits.—Nestwatchers observed 12 forage attempts (Appendix H, Table 44). The male was successful in 100 percent (5 of 5), the female 40 percent (2 of 5), and an unknown adult 100 percent (2 of 2). The most common forage item was fish (n=10).

The breeding pair delivered 72 prey items to the nest. Seventy-one percent (n=51) were fish, three percent (n=2) birds, and 26 percent (n=19) unknown. The identity of the adults was not broken down to prey items. No prey items were identified to species.

Sheep Breeding Area: 1999

Observation Period.—Observation dates .....April 3 to May 31
Total monitoring days/hours.....46 days/461 hours

Eagle Identification.—Male.....Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage
Female ..... Green VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage

Management Activities.—None.

Human Activity.—Nestwatchers recorded 32 human activities (Appendix I, Table 45). Aircraft (planes, helicopters, and jets) represented 78 percent (n=25), and terrestrial activities 22 percent (n=7) of five different types.

Two activities elicited two significant responses from the breeding pair. A hiker and agency biologists caused the adults to flush on one occasion, each.

Food Habits.—Nestwatchers observed three forage attempts. All attempts were made by the male and 100 percent successful (3 of 3). The male pirated prey from red-tail hawks on two occasions, and captured a rabbit from the ground once.

The breeding pair delivered 52 prey items to the nest (Appendix H, Table 46). Fifty-two percent (n=27) were delivered by the male, the female 44 percent (n=23), and an unknown adult four percent (n=2). Forty percent (n=21) of the prey items were fish, ten percent (n=5) birds, 15 percent (n=8) mammals, and 35 percent (n=18) unknown. No prey items were identified to species.

Sheep Breeding Area: 2000

Observation Period.—Observation dates .....February 21 to May 6
Total monitoring days/hours.....55 days/695 hours

Eagle Identification.—Male.....Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage
Female ..... Green VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage

After falling from the nest on May 5, the Sheep nestling was taken to Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation for severe dehydration on May 6. Even though the nestling had been feed the day prior, extremely hot temperatures and a lack of shade in the nest tree probably caused the dehydration. The nestling died three days later in rehabilitation.

Management Activities.—None.

Human Activity.—Nestwatchers recorded 22 human activities (Appendix I, Table 47). Aircraft (planes, helicopters, and jets) represented 68 percent (n=15), and terrestrial activities 32 percent (n=7) of four different types.

One activity elicited a significant responses from the breeding pair. Agency biologists caused the adults to flush while banding the nestling.

Food Habits.— Although the nestwatchers observed no forage attempts, the breeding pair delivered 35 prey items to the nest (Appendix I, Table 48). Eighty percent (n=28) were delivered by the male,

Sheep Breeding Area: 1999

Observation Period.—Observation dates .....April 3 to May 31
Total monitoring days/hours.....46 days/461 hours

Eagle Identification.—Male.....Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage
Female ..... Green VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage

Management Activities.—None.

Human Activity.—Nestwatchers recorded 32 human activities (Appendix I, Table 45). Aircraft (planes, helicopters, and jets) represented 78 percent (n=25), and terrestrial activities 22 percent (n=7) of five different types.

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Food Habits.—Nestwatchers observed three forage attempts. All attempts were made by the male and 100 percent successful (3 of 3). The male pirated prey from red-tail hawks on two occasions, and captured a rabbit from the ground once.

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Sheep Breeding Area: 2000

Observation Period.—Observation dates .....February 21 to May 6
Total monitoring days/hours.....55 days/695 hours

Eagle Identification.—Male.....Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage
Female ..... Green VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage

After falling from the nest on May 5, the Sheep nestling was taken to Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation for severe dehydration on May 6. Even though the nestling had been feed the day prior, extremely hot temperatures and a lack of shade in the nest tree probably caused the dehydration. The nestling died three days later in rehabilitation.

Management Activities.—None.

Human Activity.—Nestwatchers recorded 22 human activities (Appendix I, Table 47). Aircraft (planes, helicopters, and jets) represented 68 percent (n=15), and terrestrial activities 32 percent (n=7) of four different types.

One activity elicited a significant responses from the breeding pair. Agency biologists caused the adults to flush while banding the nestling.

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and 20 percent (n=7) by the female. Fifty-seven percent (n=20) of the prey items were fish, nine percent (n=3) birds, six percent (n=2) mammals, and 29 percent (n=10) unknown. No prey items were identified to species.

Sycamore Breeding Area: 1999

Observation Period.—Observation dates .....February 6 to May 25
Total monitoring days/hours.....81 days/927 hours
Dawn-to-Dusk hours .....531 hours

Eagle Identification.—Male.....Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage
Female .....Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage

On May 20, one nestling was attempting to fly when the branch it was perched on broke. The nestling grabbed a lower branch and righted itself. However, the nestling had not eaten since its sibling fledged two days prior. On May 21, we captured and hydrated the nestling, placing it back into the nest.

Overnight the nestling had fallen out a second time. On May 23, we recaptured the nestling on the ground, fed, hydrated, and placed it back into the nest. The nestling fledged the next morning.

Management Activities.—1. The Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation continues to restrict non-tribal member use of the river area, 2. The Fort McDowell Police visited the ABENWP contractors on nearly a daily basis, 3. ABENWP contractors were introduced to the Fort McDowell police in an orientation session held their first day in the field.

Human Activity.—Nestwatchers recorded 736 human activities (Appendix J, Table 49). Aircraft (planes, helicopters, and ultra lights) represented 76 percent (n=560), terrestrial activities 20 percent (n=146) of 13 different types, and watercraft (rafters and canoes/kayaks) four percent (n=30).

Fifteen activities elicited 63 significant responses from the breeding pair. The bald eagles were restless to seven drivers, four small planes, two researchers, one helicopter, one OHV, and one rafter. The breeding pair flushed in response to eight drivers, three OHV's, three dog catchers, two rafters, two researchers, and one each of the following: helicopter, horseback rider, police, canoe/kayak, miscellaneous recreationists, picnicker, hiker and swimmer. The adults left the area in response to four OHV's and one driver. In addition, 17 other responses were listed and varied in nature.

Nestwatchers recorded the number and type of aircraft below the recommended 2000 foot advisory. Of the 560 aircraft observed, small planes comprised of 68 percent (n=383), personal helicopters 18 percent (n=98), and apache helicopters 14 percent (n=76).

Food Habits.—Nestwatchers observed 14 forage attempts (Appendix J, Table 50). The male was successful in 57 percent (4 of 7), the female in 80 percent (4 of 5), and an unknown adult was unsuccessful twice. Most common forage item was fish (43 percent, n=6), although the adults were observed foraging for unknown prey (50 percent, n=7) and mammals (seven percent, n=1).

Pleasant Breeding Area: 1999

Observation Period.—Observation dates ..... February 7 to May 12
Total monitoring days/hours ..... 69 days/711 hours
Dawn-to-Dusk hours ..... 403 hours

Eagle Identification.—Male ..... Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage
Female ..... Unbanded, adult plumage

Management Activities.—1. Maricopa County parks reinstated the seasonal closure around the active nest, 2. Maricopa County Parks and AGFD placed new closure signs at boat ramps, and roads entering the seasonal closure, 3. Maricopa County Parks marked closure boundaries with buoys, 4. Nestwatchers were stationed at the southern closure boundary on dawn-to-dusk days to educate recreationists on the closure and bald eagles, 4. Television crews broadcast the opening and closing dates of the closure.

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Pleasant Breeding Area: 2000

Observation Period.—Observation dates ..... February 5 to May 27
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Sheep Breeding Area: 1999

Observation Period.—Observation dates .....April 3 to May 31
Total monitoring days/hours.....46 days/461 hours

Eagle Identification.—Male.....Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage
Female ..... Green VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage

Management Activities.—None.

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Sheep Breeding Area: 2000

Observation Period.—Observation dates .....February 21 to May 6
Total monitoring days/hours.....55 days/695 hours

Eagle Identification.—Male.....Blue VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage
Female ..... Green VID band left leg, USFWS band right leg, adult plumage

After falling from the nest on May 5, the Sheep nestling was taken to Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation for severe dehydration on May 6. Even though the nestling had been feed the day prior, extremely hot temperatures and a lack of shade in the nest tree probably caused the dehydration. The nestling died three days later in rehabilitation.

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Observation Period.—Observation dates .....February 6 to May 25
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