
Eagle Protection and Offset Program (EPOP)

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Collaboration

▶ Burns & McDonnell: Program Sponsor

- Administration of EPOP
- Risk Assessment and Retrofit Action Plan
- Annual reporting to USFWS and Infrastructure Sponsor

▶ NorthWestern Energy: Infrastructure Sponsor

- Participating electric utility
- Avian Protection Plan
- Implement Retrofit Action Plan



Eagle Incidental Take

Overview

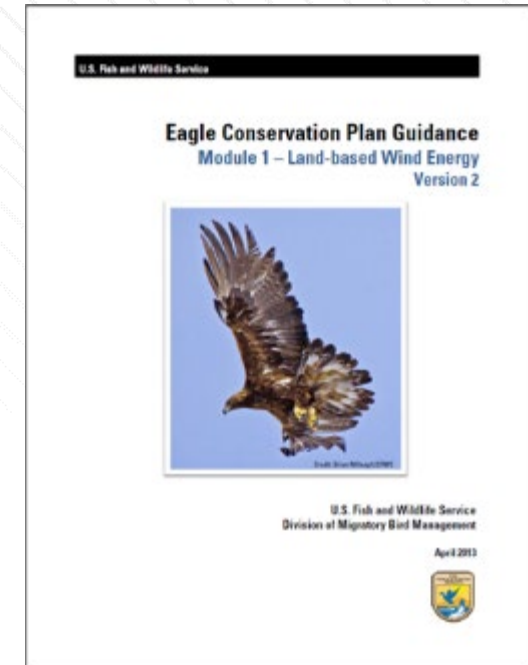
- ▶ Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
(16 U.S.C. 668–668d)
- ▶ Eagle Conservation Plan
- ▶ Issuance of Eagle Incidental Take Permit
- ▶ Permit conditions
 - Compensatory mitigation requirement



Compensatory Mitigation

Compensation Requirement for Take of Golden Eagles

- ▶ USFWS follows the mitigation hierarchy:
 - Avoid
 - Minimize
 - Compensate



“...Currently, the only offsetting mitigation measure the Service has enough information to confidently apply in this manner is retrofitting of power lines to reduce eagle electrocution...”

USFWS. 2016. Bald and golden eagles: population demographics and estimation of sustainable take in the United States, 2016 update. Division of Migratory Bird Management, Washington DC, USA.

Hazardous Pole Designs

Nonconformance with APLIC Recommendations



Short-term Solution

- ▶ Rated for 10-year life span
- ▶ Requires additional third-party monitoring and access
- ▶ Requires replacement



Long-term Solution

- ▶ Minimum 30-year life span
- ▶ No third-party monitoring required
- ▶ Reduces liability for Infrastructure Sponsor



Eagle Protection and Offset Program

EPOP Overview

- ▶ USFWS-supported
- ▶ Nation-wide approach
- ▶ Long-term fix = 30-year credit
- ▶ Streamlined solution
- ▶ Local collaboration

