

THREAT LEVEL

IDAHO FISH & GAME

Apparently Secure (S4):

Uncommon but not rare; some cause for long-term concern due to decline or other factors



WDFW PRIORITY HABITAT AND SPECIES PROGRAM

Species of Great Conservation Need



The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act



CALL TO ACTION

- ▶ Continue monitoring Bald Eagles
- ▶ Protect breeding habitat
- ▶ Protect winter habitats, nesting, and foraging sites



Bald Eagle

Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Photo Credit: wdfw.wa.gov

OVERVIEW

Bald eagles face risks due to climate change and human impacts on the environment. Warming temperatures will alter fire regimes, and prolonged droughts will reduce available water sources. Nests are often built in tall trees or on cliff sides, making them vulnerable to extreme events such as storms and high winds. Eagles also build nests near water, which may be polluted by mercury and pesticides, and drought may significantly lower water levels near nesting sites. The species has been delisted from the Endangered Species Act, but populations should continue to be monitored and habitats protected.

CONSERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

VULNERABILITY RANKING

CLIMATE

LOW-MODERATE

NON-CLIMATE

LOW-MODERATE

CONFIDENCE

MODERATE

Physiological, phenological, or ecological factors to consider when planning conservation projects:

- ▶ Populations are widespread and they are known to be opportunistic foragers
- ▶ Bald eagles are dependent on water sources and wetlands and are considered to be drought intolerant

Vulnerability Rankings Methodology

These priority species have been assessed for climate and non-climate vulnerability using a process adapted from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife's Methodology for ranking the Climate Change Vulnerability of Species. WDFW's approach includes rating each species' climate sensitivity and exposure. These two rankings are then averaged for a climate vulnerability ranking. The Tribe developed a non-climate vulnerability ranking to capture species' relative risk and adaptability to factors such as human-caused development, predator/prey relationships, or low population numbers. Confidence rankings were assessed based on the availability of scientific research.

KEY THREATS

Habitat Degradation & Loss

Bald eagles face threats such as habitat loss, human disturbance, and illegal hunting. These pressures can limit their range and impact migration patterns.

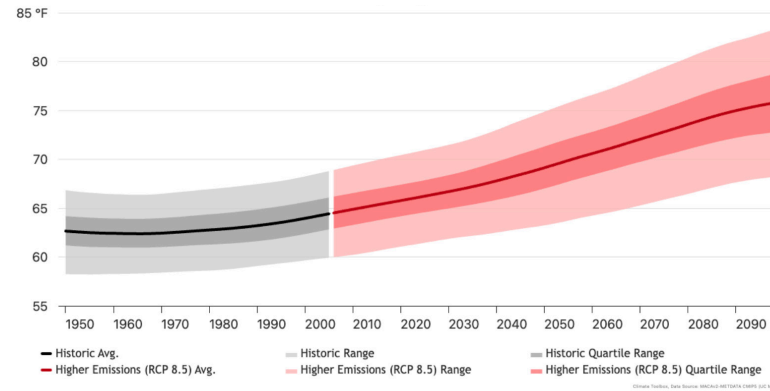
Climate Change

- ▶ Increasing temperatures will disrupt bald eagle migration patterns, and more frequent droughts will threaten important food sources.
- ▶ Extreme temperatures and increased wildfire risk can lead to habitat loss by decreasing canopy cover and destroying habitat that eagles use during migration.

Pesticides and Pollution

Eagles also face threats from pesticides, environmental contaminants, and bioaccumulated mercury that enters waterways and contaminates their primary food sources.

JUN-JUL-AUG MAX TEMPERATURE BOUNDARY COUNTY, ID



AVERAGE ANNUAL “EXTREME” FIRE DANGER DAYS

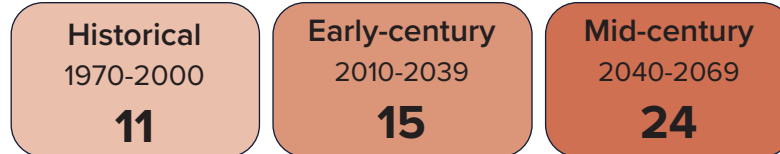
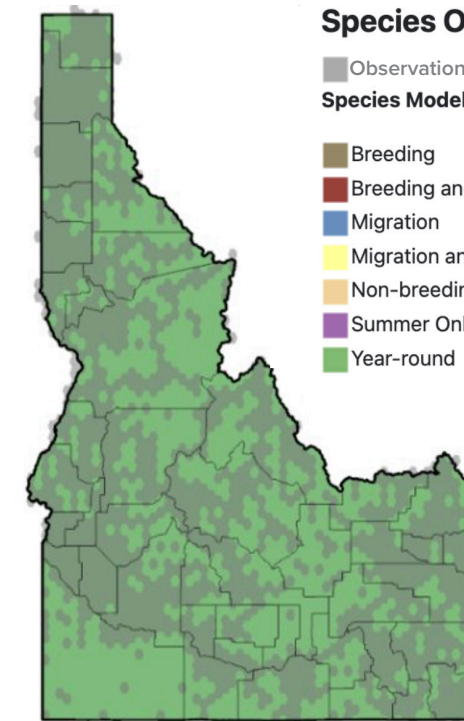


Photo Credit: Pexels

Species Occurrence

- Observations
- Species Modeled Range
 - Breeding
 - Breeding and Non-breeding
 - Migration
 - Migration and Breeding
 - Non-breeding
 - Summer Only
 - Year-round



Click map to learn more

Source: Idaho Fish & Game

REFERENCES

- “Bald Eagle.” Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/species/haliaeetus-leucocephalus.
- “Haliaeetus Leucocephalus (Bald Eagle) | Idaho Fish and Game Species Catalog.” Idaho.gov, idfg.idaho.gov/species/taxa/18587.
- “NatureServe Explorer 2.0.” Explorer.natureserve.org, explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.104470/Haliaeetus_leucocephalus. Accessed 14 May 2025.
- Wildfire chart: Source: Hegewisch, K.C., Abatzoglou, J.T., ‘Tribal Climate’ web tool. Climate Toolbox (<https://climatetoolbox.org/>) accessed Apr. 23 2025.
- Temperature chart: Hegewisch, K.C., Abatzoglou, J.T., ‘Future Time Series’ web tool. Climate Toolbox (<https://climatetoolbox.org/>) accessed on Mar. 18 2025.

PRIORITY AT-RISK SPECIES

KOOTENAI TRIBE OF IDAHO