

Phillips, R.L., T.P. McEaney, and A.E. Beske. 1984. Population Densities of Breeding Golden Eagles in Wyoming. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 12:269-273.

Development of energy resources may impact resident populations of golden eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) in Wyoming. Much of the habitat used by nesting eagles is overlaid with deposits of coal, uranium, oil, and natural gas. In most cases, recovery of these resources alters or disturbs both the nesting and hunting habitats of this species. A few ecological studies have been conducted on local populations of golden eagles in Wyoming (Schmalzried 1976; M. A. Jenkins and L. D. Crowley, unpubl. rep., U.S. Dep. Inter., Fish and Wildl. Serv., Denver, Colo., 1978; Lockhart et al., unpubl. rep., U.S. Dep. Inter., Fish and Wildl. Serv., Denver, Colo., 1978; Phillips and Beske 1984). Surveys of golden eagle populations in the western United States during the period 1973-1978 showed that over 26,000 birds winter in Wyoming (E. L. Boeker et al., unpubl. rep., U.S. Dep. Inter., Fish and Wildl. Serv., Denver, Colo., 1978), or approximately 33.8 eagles/259 km², the highest reported winter density in the western United States. Undoubtedly, many birds seen in winter are migrants from areas outside Wyoming. This paper reports on the statewide abundance and distribution of breeding golden eagles in Wyoming based on population surveys conducted over a 7-year period.