

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Eagle Study for Realistic Ordnance Delivery Range

Type of Project: Research

Project Discipline: Natural

Funding Agency: Department of Defense

Other Partners/Cooperators: Colorado State University

Effective Dates: 9/30/2013 - 12/31/2016

Funding Amount: \$143,300

Investigators and Agency Representative:

Agency:

Investigator: Cal Bagley, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO; (970)491-3324; Calvin.Bagley@ColoState.EDU

Project Abstract: The current ranges and restricted airspace of the Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) are not capable of supporting realistic training with modern and emerging aircraft and ordnance. The military proposes to establish a more realistic air and ground training environment. One action ready for development is the Realistic Live Ordnance Delivery (RLOD) Range. A definitive footprint of the area has yet to be established pending impact assessments for each alternative on various resources.

One protected resource is Bald and Golden Eagles under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA). Impacts to eagles cannot be assessed without first documenting species use and occupancy of the proposed area and habitat. Both Bald and Golden Eagle nests have been found within the proposed area on FWA lands. However species occupancy and density changes annually and potential impacts from military training are unknown.

This project is designed to locate Bald and Golden Eagle area of use within the possible RLOD project area. Current mitigation measures for the RLOD include consultation with USFWS with regard to compliance with BGEPA and to conduct Bald and Golden Eagle nest surveys in areas where airspace modification may occur and over previously unsurveyed or undersurveyed areas.

Completing this study will not only provide information on the baseline circumstances for evaluation of siting but could be the basis for permit applications and foundation for permit conditions (if necessary), but also assist planners to conduct informed impact analyses and mitigation during the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Outcomes with completion dates: 12/31/2016

Keywords: Bald Eagles, Golden Eagles, surveys, habitat use, Fort Wainwright, Alaska, Colorado State University, Center for Environmental Management of Military Lands