



**Golden Eagle Meeting**  
**June 21, 2012**  
**Meeting Notes**

- Amedee Brickey, FWS Deputy Division Chief for Migratory Birds and Habitat, provided an [introductory presentation](#) on golden eagle regulation. All permittees are required to avoid and minimize potential take to the degree practicable and the programmatic permit standard is *maximum degree technically achievable* - any take that occurs is unavoidable. There is a no net loss policy states unavoidable mortality caused by the permitted activities must be offset by compensatory mitigation that reduces another, ongoing form of mortality by an equal or greater amount. Examples of conservation actions include establishing nest site buffers and retrofitting power lines. Eagle take can be permitted under Section 10 of the ESA if there is a habitat conservation plan.
- Pacific Gas and Electric is taking voluntary conservation actions under an *above and beyond* plan by retrofitting older utility lines. Using an adaptive management strategy, steps are being taken to reduce take from wind energy development. There should be four-mile buffer around eagle nest sites for wind energy. A risk model with morality estimates has been developed for “power tower” technology.
- Eagle Act permit coverage for renewable energy development is still being discussed but there are three options:
  - Continue to issue permits on a project by project basis
  - Permit take under the DRECP
  - Issue permits to agencies who will be permitting renewable energy projectsSince the June golden eagle meeting, REAT decided to permit take under the DRECP.
- The California/Nevada Golden Eagle Workgroup meets regularly to coordinate eagle issue across the two states. The group’s agenda focuses on surveys and research.
- BLM is conducting helicopter surveys on its land across the entire Desert District. Additionally, BLM and MCAGCC are coordinating surveys. BLM has identified about 150 territories in the desert. Areas that lack recent surveys are China Lake, Fort Irwin, and Death Valley (Death Valley through older surveys identified eagle in the Panamints).
- USGS is putting together an eagle database for Nevada and Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office is putting together a database for California. Attempts by the Coordinators to establish a common California-Nevada database at MDEP failed primarily due to FOIA and data sharing concerns

- It was decided that between the DRECP and the CA/NV Workgroup that any golden eagle coordination from DMG could be redundant. There may be a need to use the DMG to coordinate desert surveys if they occur in the future. The Coordinators will remain engaged with the CA/NV Workgroup to share information with the DMG.

**Meeting Attendees**

Amedee Brickey, FWS

Andy Silva, San Bernardino County

Carl Benz, FWS

Chris Eberly

Debra Hughson, NPS

Fon Duke, DMG

Jody Fraser, FWS

Larry LaPre, BLM

Lenore Lamb, BIA

Matt Slowik, San Bernardino County

Neil Darby, NPS

Russell Scofield, DMG

Tom Mull, EAFB