

Jeff Humphrey/R2/FWS/DOI
07/26/2006 04:14 PM

To Mary Richardson/R2/FWS/DOI@FWS, Greg
Beatty/R2/FWS/DOI@FWS
cc
bcc
Subject Fw: eagles

MARY & GREG,

PLEASE LOOK OVER THIS RESPONSE TO KATE NOLAN'S (AZ REPUBLIC) QUESTIONS
BEFORE I SEND THEM TO HER.

Kate,

Sorry I was away when you were preparing the piece published 7/21/06.

Regarding your "upcoming story" questions:

90-day finding: Yes, we're preparing to publish a determination as to whether the petition to designate the Southwest population of bald eagles as an endangered distinct population segment. The court settlement date for delivery of the determination to the Federal Register is August 9. It should be published within a week of that date.

Reopening of the comment period: I assume you're referring to the comment period regarding proposed voluntary guidelines and regulatory definitions designed to help landowners and others understand how they can help bald eagles and avoid violating the Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act (especially should the bald eagle be taken off the threatened species list nationally). That extended comment period closed on June 19. A full news release on this is at:
<http://www.fws.gov/news/NewsReleases/showNews.cfm?newsId=4DD20826-BC5E-5443-E8057A5414C5176D>

Subspecies: We are not evaluating whether the Arizona/Southwest bald eagle is a subspecies, but whether the petitioners presented substantial information indicating it may be a listable distinct population segment (DPS). Subspecies vs. DPS are two very different evaluations. A subspecies determination is made by scientists based upon ecological and genetic studies and then accepted/rejected through scientific publication processes (not a regulatory or agency determination). DPS is based upon an Endangered Species Act policy that allows us to determine whether a discrete subset of a species or subspecies warrants protection.

I'm happy to discuss the background o this with you. However, under Federal rule making laws, I can't be specific until our determination is published in the Federal Register.

Jeff Humphrey
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----- Forwarded by Jeff Humphrey/R2/FWS/DOI on 07/26/2006 03:25 PM -----



kate.nolan@arizonarepublic.
com
07/19/2006 03:23 PM

To Jeff_Humphrey@fws.gov
cc
Subject eagles



Jeff,
I called your office and you were out. Got a couple of things to talk about.

I'm doing a story on AZ eagles' progress this breeding season. (This is a quick turn-around. Moving the story Thursday a.m.)
Jamie Driscoll reports three new nests and a 42 fledglings in 2006. Said it was a very good season.

Wondered if you could comment on what this may mean in the big picture:
--in terms of Arizona eagles' survival and growth
--in terms of current deliberations over whether to delist the bald eagle.

And for an upcoming story:
According to my notes, right about now you may be reporting on AZ eagles to the Washington office regarding the CBD/Audubon lawsuit.
Can you provide any kind of timetable for what happens next?
Also, can you talk with me about 1--the eagle situation regarding the reopened comment period, and 2--the suggestion that the AZ eagle is a subspecies?

Thanks. I'm trying to play catch up and thought you were the best person to help me out. Sorry.

Best regards,
Kate
602/444-6863