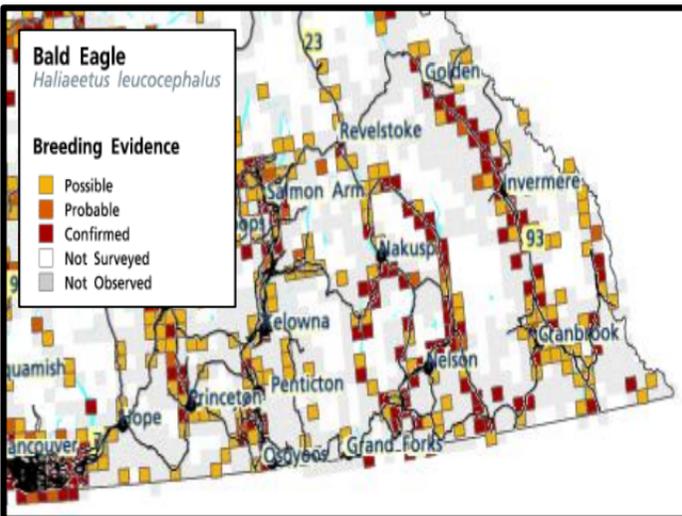


## Bald Eagle

*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

### Breeding Evidence

- Possible
- Probable
- Confirmed
- Not Surveyed
- Not Observed



# A NEST OF A BALD EAGLE

## Definition

A nest and its supporting structure that either (1) is currently occupied by a bald eagle to hold its eggs or offspring, or (2) is habitually occupied and still capable of holding eggs or offspring of a bald eagle.

## Location

- Primarily in coniferous forest within 100 m of water but can be up to 2 km from a waterbody
- Usually in the top third of a large tree against trunk, on a large forked branch, or stem crotch

## Features

- Made of large sticks and branches
- Relatively cup-shaped platforms with flat tops
- Evidence of use at base of tree (e.g. feces, prey remains, feathers)
- Size:
  - Diameter: 1.0-3.5 m
  - Depth: 0.5-2.5 m

## Other

- Strong fidelity to nests; used year after year
- Yellow-listed in British Columbia and designated as Not at Risk by COSEWIC

## Sensitive Timing

Courtship	Eggs Present	Young Present
Jan 1 – Feb 1	Feb 1 – Jun 30	Apr 1 – Aug 31



Photos: Jared Hobbs

## Similar features to a Bald Eagle's nest

### Osprey nests - how to distinguish:

- Osprey nests are smaller, and often are at the very top of the tree
- Osprey nests often contain other material such as grasses, sod, plastic bags, and other man-made materials

### Great blue heron nests - how to distinguish:

- Great blue heron nests are less robust ('flimsy'), smaller and shallower
- Multiple heron nests can be found in the same area (rookery) whereas eagle nests are solitary
- May regurgitate food leaving dark gray wash with greasy-look at base of tree

Habitat	BEC
Interior Douglas-fir	IDF
Interior Cedar – Hemlock	ICH
Montane Spruce	MS
Engelmann Spruce – Subalpine Fir	ESSF
Ponderosa Pine	PP

## Information to Consider

- Sensitive Timing:** January 1 – August 31
- Increase buffer, or delay activities, if a nest is active and the bird constantly flushes away when using minimum buffers.
- Consider the sight lines between the activity and the nest; in more open forests or terrain, a larger buffer may be required for these visually acute species.
- During breeding season, consider adding a “quiet” buffer of an extra 100 m to the no disturbance buffer in which no unusual or sudden loud activities will occur (e.g., blasting, tree felling, chain saws, trucking, etc.).

Recommended disturbance buffers around a Bald Eagle's, nest depending on existing disturbance and disturbance level of the proposed activity.

		Existing Exposure to Disturbance			
		NIL Isolated site, little or no prior access	LOW Undeveloped area with occasional human use	MODERATE Near secondary logging road or minor recreation site	HIGH Near primary road, major recreation site or human development
Disturbance Level of Proposed Activity	LOW Activities on foot. Small group, visual screening present. Livestock attractants. Examples: layout, cruising reconnaissance.	100-200m	1.5 x tree length	1.5 x tree length	1.5 x tree length
	MODERATE Light mechanized activities. Larger group/duration, no visual screening. Examples: spacing, planting, fence construction.	200-500m	100-200m	100-200m	1.5 x tree length
	HIGH Mechanized activities Examples: road construction, falling and yarding , landing sites.	200-500m	200-500m	200-500m	100-200m
	VERY HIGH Blasting, helicopter logging.	1000m +	1000m +	1000m +	1000m +