

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Agency Information Collection Activities; Eagle Permits

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Agency Information Collection Activities; Eagle Permits

Document: FWS-HQ-MB-2023-0009-0004
Comment from Royce, Kelsey

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General Comment

Please extend the comment period for 60 days so that more information may be gathered by this agency in order to hear from people dealing with the affected eagle species. For, as eagles are displaced by construction for transmission/power lines, this agency compounds the problems of an already stressed population of Bald Eagles in the region where I live.

Here in Oklahoma, a fervor for development coupled with disaster relief and infrastructure funding has culminated in an escalation of projects which displace eagles and severely impact the quality of their habitat. It isn't a stretch to understand that displaced and stressed Eagles prey on whatever they can get and what they can get is not good.

Tulsa, OK is a case in point: aided by the City's expedited permitting process, contractors and energy/power distributors push projects through at light-speed while members of the public are left in the dark as to how our communities are to be affected by these proposed projects. It goes without saying that many of us consider the Bald Eagles who nest in our communities to be our neighbors. Their presence is a point of pride!

When the public is shut out of giving input by way of long-term general permitting and our Bald Eagle neighbors are forced out of their nests, it belies something deeper; it signifies the displacement of democracy. Please exercise the necessary duty of care warranted so that we who are affected may give public input, so that more information may be gathered, and that the crisis facing bald Eagles may be addressed by extending the comment period for 60 days.

For two recent local news reports about the challenges faced by Bald Eagles in Oklahoma see the following:

(Wild Heart Ranch mourns bald eagle who passed shortly after second rescue

<https://ktul.com/amp/news/local/wild-heart-ranch-mourns-bald-eagle-who-passed-shortly-after-second-rescue>

Oklahoma's bald eagles are dying https://www.fox23.com/news/oklahoma-s-bald-eagles-are-dying-experts-say-lead-poisoning-is-killing-them/article_a2db3f64-e80a-540a-be0f-89238b3886c1.html)