

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

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Docket: FWS-HQ-MB-2022-0023

Regulatory Authorizations for Migratory Bird and Eagle Possession by the General Public, Educators, and Government Agencies

Comment On: FWS-HQ-MB-2022-0023-0001

Regulatory Authorizations for Migratory Bird and Eagle Possession by the General Public, Educators, and Government Agencies

Document: FWS-HQ-MB-2022-0023-0008

Comment from Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife

Submitter Information

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Government Agency Type: State

Government Agency: Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife

General Comment

See attached file(s)

Attachments

ODWMigBirdPossessionRuleCommentsFinal



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DeWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Kendra S. Wecker, Chief

Division of Wildlife

2045 Morse Rd, Building G

Columbus, Ohio 43229

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July 31, 2023

Jerome Ford
Assistant Director
Division of Migratory Birds
US Fish and Wildlife Service
5275 Leesburg Pike, MS-MB
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

Dear Assistant Director Ford,

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Wildlife is Ohio’s state wildlife agency responsible for conserving and improving fish and wildlife resources and their habitats for sustainable use and appreciation by all. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Proposed Rule regarding changes to Regulatory Authorizations for Migratory Bird and Eagle Possession by the General Public, Educators, and Government Agencies under Announcement FWS-HQ-MB-2022-0023-0001.

We would like to comment on the following headings:

For General Public – Salvage Authorization:

- Thank you for the proposed changes to make handling bald eagles for shipping to the National Eagle Repository more flexible. However, the National Eagle Repository continues to be understaffed, thus making it challenging for pre-paid shipping labels and free boxes to be provided; in addition, shipping continues to get more expensive. Please provide additional details of the plan to make the process more efficient and easy for agencies and the general public to participate in this effort to provide eagle remains to our Native American people.
- Please clarify how you will determine that an eagle is “not suitable for Native American distribution”. Please clarify whether or not this will be determined before an eagle is shipped.
- We appreciate the change that there will now be some, albeit limited, opportunity for salvaged eagles to be retained for educational exhibits, but please clarify whether or not this refers to whole bird as well as parts (e.g., feathers, talons, etc.).

Natural Resource Agency Employees Authorization:

- We appreciate this common sense approach to dealing with this as a regulatory authorization as opposed to a special permit.



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

MIKE DEWINE, GOVERNOR

MARY MERTZ, DIRECTOR

Airborne Hunting Act (AHA) Regulations:

- We appreciate the common sense approach to changes to the AHA given the advancements in drone technology. However, please clarify that the use of UAS's for migratory bird harassment would be legal while the use of UAS's under the rule still does not allow for "take" of the migratory bird (e.g., kill the bird or contribute to the loss of a nest or young).

Thank you again for your opportunity to provide comments and your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendra S. Wecker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Kendra S. Wecker
Chief