



Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Regulations

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Bird Mitigation Approaches

- Prioritize appropriate siting; avoid areas with unacceptable levels of impact, and incentivize low-risk areas
- Landscape planning to identify avoidance, high and low-risk areas
- Required use of best practices that reduce bird mortality
- Prioritize conservation of affected species and habitats
- Compensatory mitigation based on intensity and extent of impact

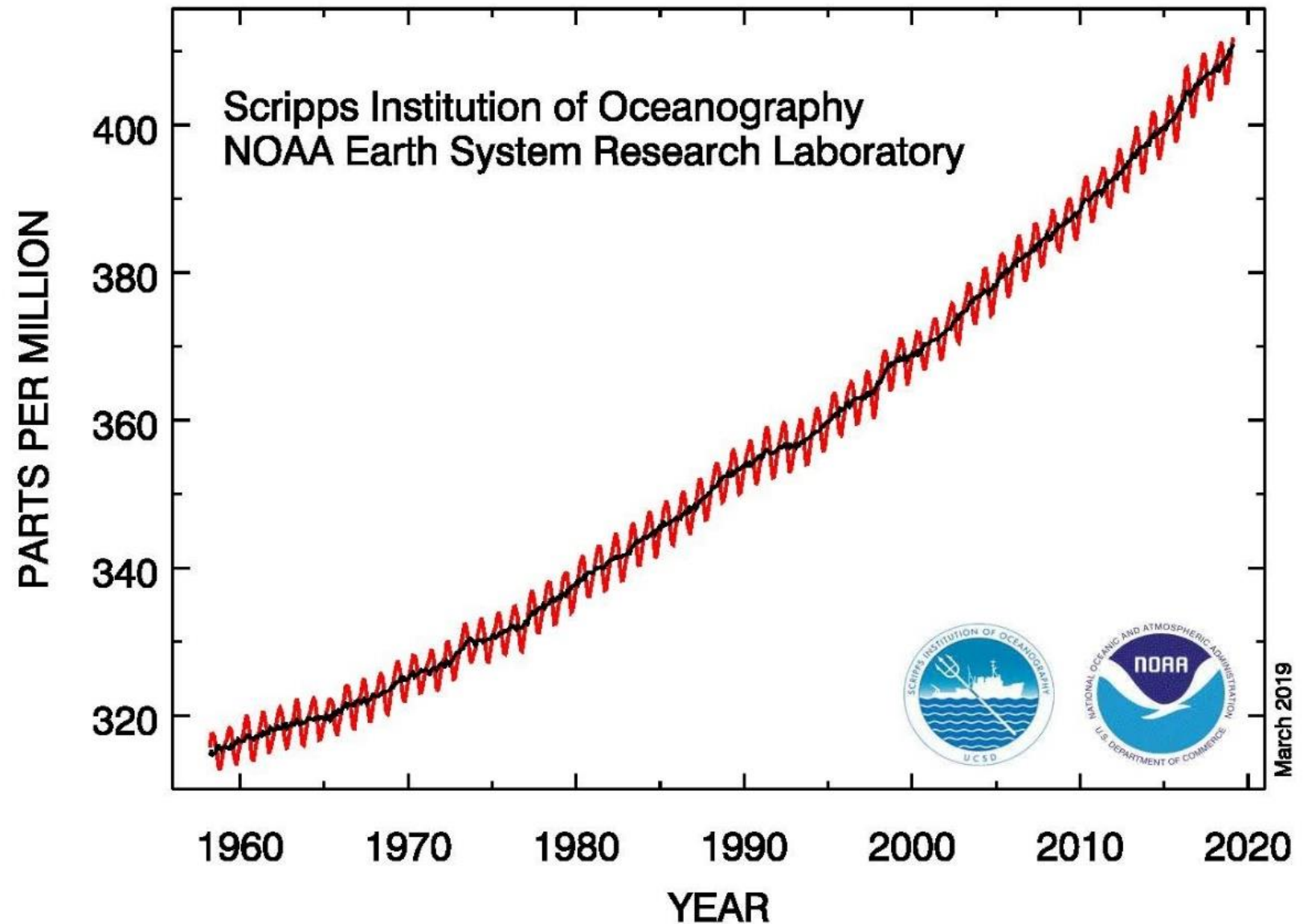


Net Population Change: *1970-2017*



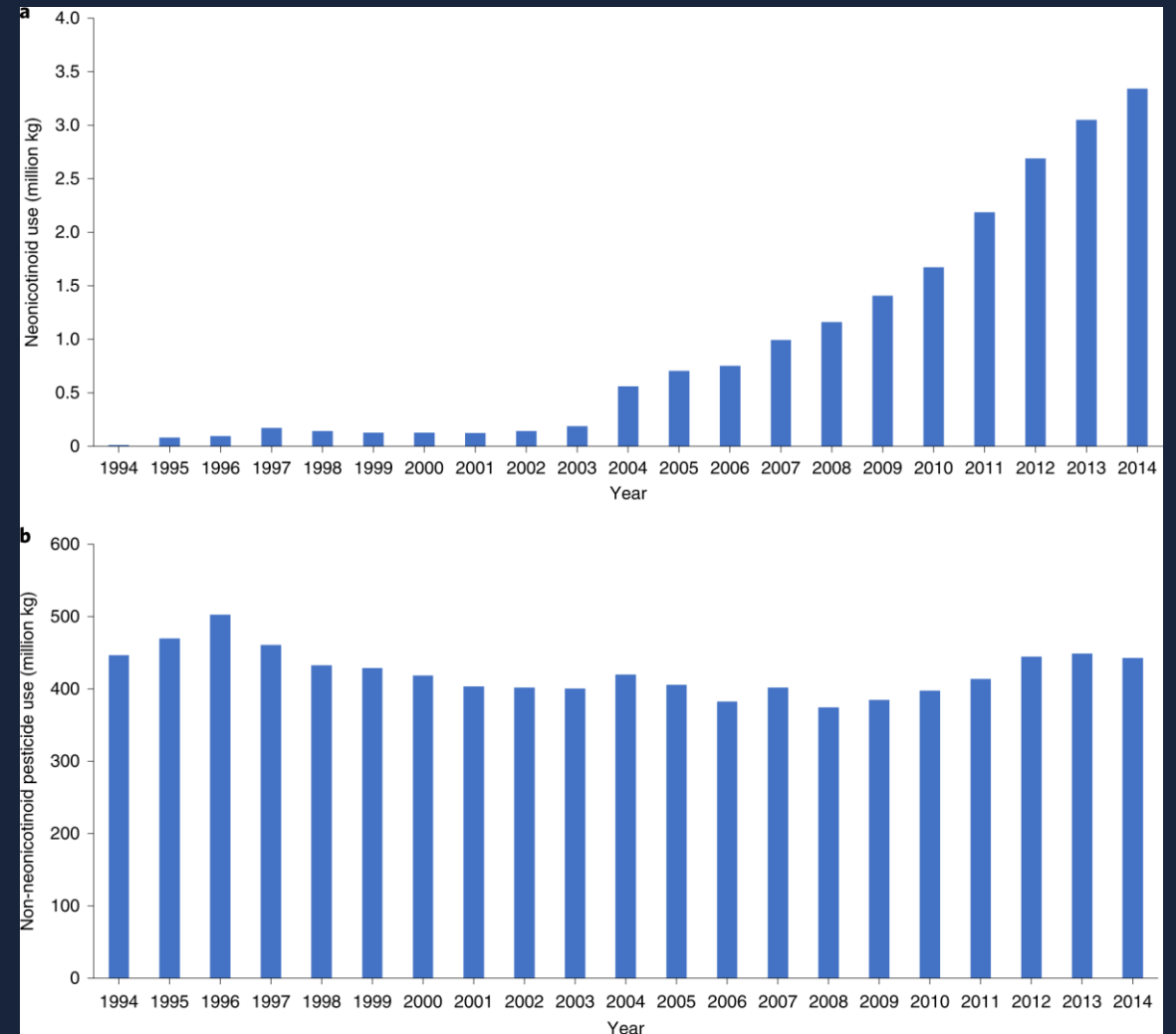
- *Net Population Loss of 2.9 billion birds since 1970*
- 29% Loss of Abundance across N. American Avifauna

Atmospheric CO₂ at Mauna Loa Observatory



67 Million Birds Lost to Pesticides Every Year

- Agricultural pesticides
 - Seed treatments
 - Sprays
 - Soil Drenching
- Private Use Pesticides
 - Gardens
 - Lawns
 - Golf courses



Use of Neonicotinoid and
other pesticides: 1994-2014,
Li et al. (2020)



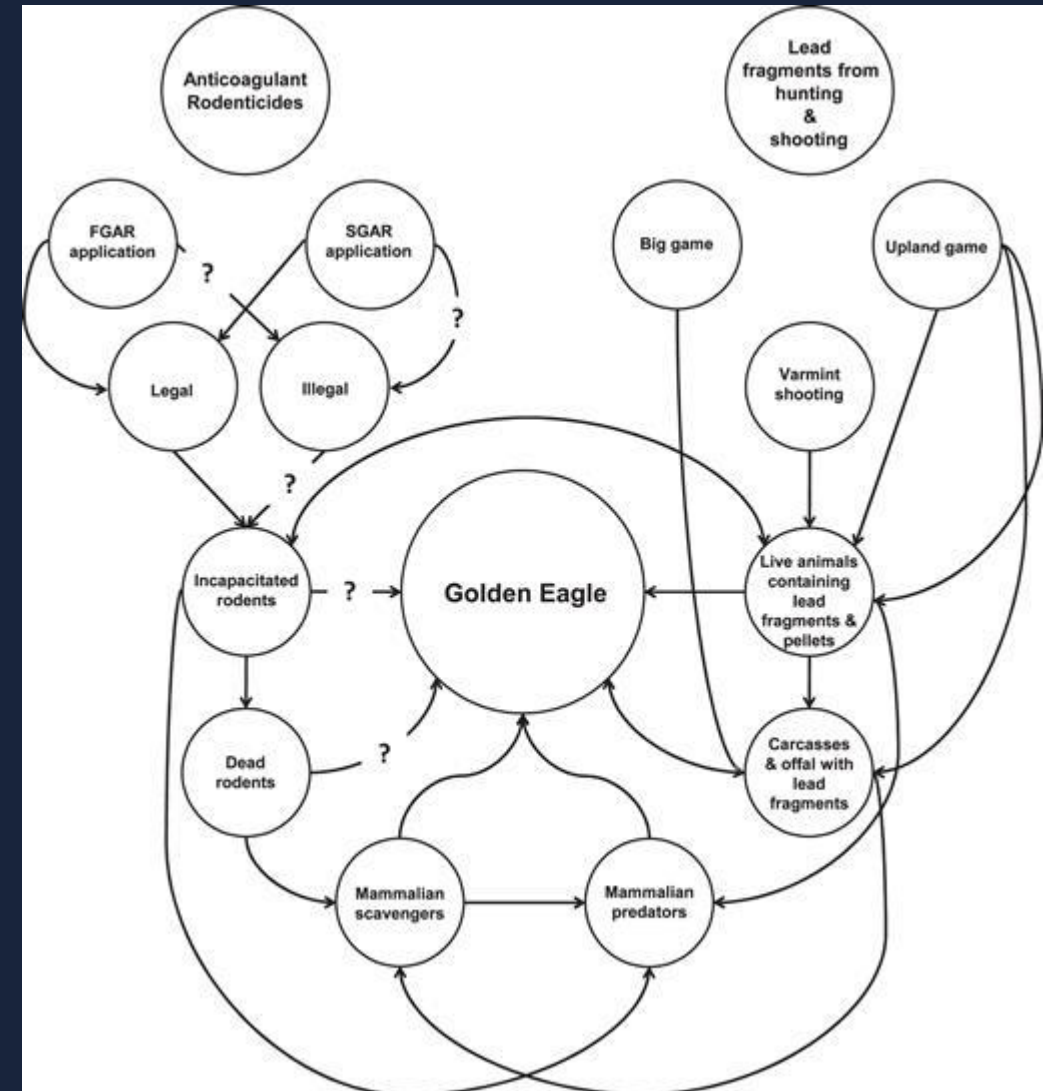
Pesticides and National Wildlife Refuges

- 10 Million Acres of National Wildlife Refuges may use conventional pesticides
- 2014 Directive to phase out pesticides on Refuges was rescinded
- Refuges are strongholds for migratory birds and endangered species



Pesticidal Effects on Golden Eagles

- Sublethal effects from DDT Metabolites on nestlings and adults
 - Watson & Davies (2017)
- Acute and chronic effects from rodenticides
 - Found in 82% of Eagles (Niedringhaus et al., 2021)



Lead Harming Eagles

- Population level effects
 - Chronic: 272 Bald, 307 Golden
 - Acute: 174 Bald, 186 Golden
- Impairs long-term recovery
- Lead found in dead and LIVE eagles
- Correlated with hunting
- Population Growth Suppression
 - 3.8% in Bald Eagles
 - 0.8% in Golden Eagles

Slabe et al., Science 375, 779–782 (2022)



The Raptor Center, University of MN

Direct Impacts on Chicks

- Study on 258 Nestlings
- 26% were clinically poisoned by lead
- Growth rates were tempered by lead
- Pb concentrations were highest in proximity to farmland where rodents and coyotes were shot
- Lead ammunition responsible for 89% of non-baseline lead poisoning



Herring et al. (2019). The lead (Pb) lining of agriculture-related subsidies: enhanced Golden Eagle growth rates tempered by PB exposure. *Ecosphere*, 11(1).

Past Federal Actions to Ban Lead

- 1991 - Ban on lead ammunition in waterfowl hunting
- 2009 – Lead ammunition and lead sinkers banned in National Parks
- 2017 (January) – Directive to phase out lead from National Wildlife Refuges
- 2017 (March) – Directive revoked



Long-Term Impacts

- Global decline in biodiversity
- Eagles are not recovering in the same environmental landscapes
 - Less productive environment
 - Less habitat
 - Fewer food sources
 - More threats



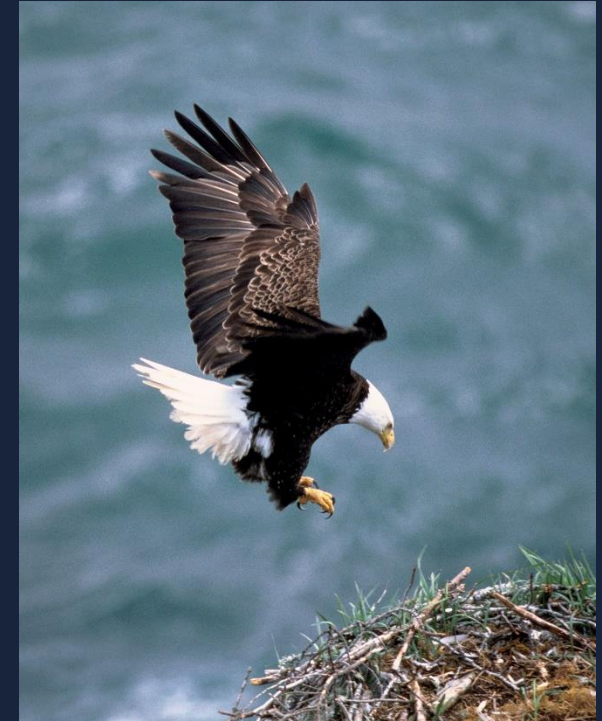
Power Line Best Practices & General Permit

A Standards and Guidelines Approach

- Guidelines = the APLIC Guidelines
- Standards

Electrocutions - Line height and width distance (60" and 40") for new construction and retrofits which have no deadline, and would be eligible for climate/conservation/mitigation funding

High Risk Collision Areas: The standard would be a process requirement to determine if areas are high or low risk. High risk areas required to apply available measures from the guidelines to reduce collisions



Wind Energy Permitting

1. Appropriate siting – avoid high risk areas
2. Land-based Wind Energy Guidelines (WEG)
3. Address findings of the AFWA Wind Siting Survey i.e. consistency
4. Create minimal administrative burden for the agency and industry

USFWS. 2012. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service land-based wind energy guidelines.

Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. 2019. State fish and wildlife agency wind siting survey final report.

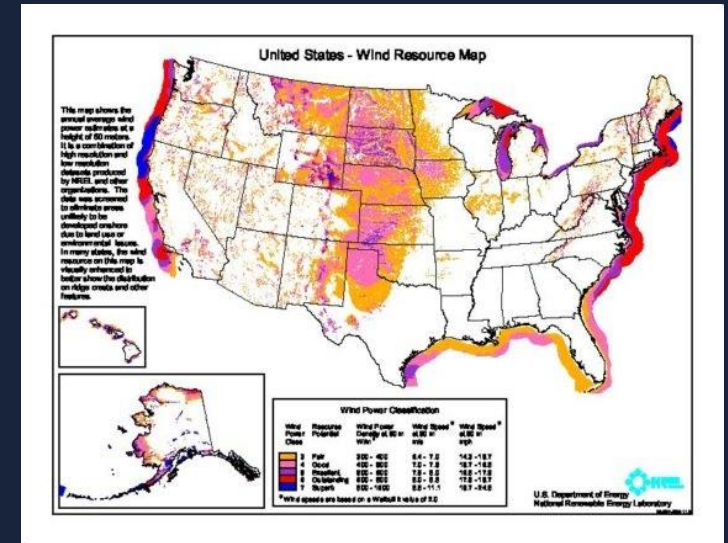


Adult Golden Eagle - Photo Larry Ridenhour

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Additional Recommendations

- Required Permits and Fees
- Exclusion Zones
- Public Lands – Net Conservation Benefit Standard
- Mapping of Low Risk Areas
- Public Involvement – Currently Lacking
- Added Conservation for Golden Eagles
 - Restrictions on Lead and Pesticide Use





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