

ENDANGERED EAGLES



How were bald eagles endangered?

- Bald eagles were the first animals declared endangered under what would become the endangered species act.



What caused the eagles to become endangered ?

- Here is what made the eagle population decline in the first place. When humans began moving into their territory in the 1800's, humans hunted and fished causing less food for the eagles. People began cutting down forests to build houses and farms. Because of that some eagles began dying off due to lack of food and a shrinking habitat. Around the 1940's there was a sharp decline in the eagle population due to farmers using pesticides like DDT. This harmful pesticide was passed to animals like mice and other small animals when they would eat the plants that were treated and when the mice were hunted and eaten by the eagles they would ingest the poison. DDT caused sterility and death in eagles .

Another reason the eagles were endangered .

- Another cause for the decline in the population of eagles were that power lines were placed too close together on high tension wire poles and when the eagles would land or try to take off, their wings would touch both wires at the same time and electrocute the birds. This became a big problem. When, in the 1960's, eagles had been placed on the endangered species list, things were done to preserve the eagles.

How were they saved from the endangered list?

- The recovery has been so completed that the bald eagles were among the first animals to be upgraded from the endangered to threatened.



The recovery of the bald eagles.

- Bald eagles were first listed as endangered in 1967. After hunting poisoning and wide spread use of DDT reduced the number of bald eagles to 417 breeding pairs in the continental U.S. eagles status was changed from endangered to threatened in 1995 today there are bald eagles in Alaska and all of the lower 48 states and 10,000 breeding pairs nation wide.



Eagles delisting.

- "Today I am proud to announce: the eagle has returned," said Secretary Kempton. "In 1963, the lower 48 states were home to barely 400 nesting pairs of bald eagles. Today, after decades of conservation effort, they are home to some 10,000 nesting pairs, a 25-fold increase in the last 40 years. Based on its dramatic recovery, it is my honor to announce the Department of the Interior's decision to remove the American Bald Eagle from the Endangered Species List."

How long were bald eagles on the endangered list ?

- Two hundred and twenty-five years ago—on June 20, 1782—the bald eagle became an American icon when the Second Continental Congress decided to use its image on The Great Seal.



Bald eagles off the endangered list.

- In a national effort to save the iconic bird, the federal government banned the use of DDT in 1972 and placed the bald eagle under protection of the Endangered Species Act, which allowed the government to protect bald eagle habitat.

Bald eagles protected.

- "After years of careful study, public comment and planning, the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are confident in the future security of the American bald eagle," Kempthorne said in announcing the delisting decision in Washington. "From this point forward, we will work to ensure that the eagle never again needs the protection of the Endangered Species Act."