

SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINIONS ABOUT ARIZONA'S BALD EAGLE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

James T. Driscoll, Bald Eagle Management Coordinator
Nongame Branch, Wildlife Management Division



Technical Report 183
Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program
Program Chief: Terry B. Johnson
Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4399

June 2001

CIVIL RIGHTS AND DIVERSITY COMPLIANCE

The Arizona Game and Fish Commission receives federal financial assistance in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration. Under Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to:

Arizona Game and Fish Department
Office of the Deputy Director, DOHQ
2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4399

and

The Office for Diversity and Civil Rights
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4040 North Fairfax Drive, Room 300
Arlington, Virginia 22203

AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT COMPLIANCE

The Arizona Game and Fish Department complies with all provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This document is available in alternative format by contacting the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Office of the Deputy Director at the address listed above or by calling (602) 789-3290 or TTY 1-800-367-8939.

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Driscoll, J.T. 2001. Survey of public opinions about Arizona's bald eagle management program. Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program Technical Report 183. Arizona Game and Fish Department, Phoenix, Arizona.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This survey was made possible by cooperation among many agencies and the public. I especially thank the members of the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee for their contributions to this survey and to Arizona's bald eagle management efforts. Mark Dahlberg's efforts on the survey that preceded this one were, of course, essential and laudable.

PROJECT FUNDING

Funding for this project was provided by: the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Heritage Fund; voluntary contributions to Arizona's Nongame Wildlife Checkoff; and Project W-95-M, under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson Act).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction..... 1

Methods..... 1

Results and Discussion..... 1

 Demographics 1

 Protection of the Species..... 3

 Seasonal Closures 5

 Education from ABENWP Contractors 5

 Personal Importance..... 6

 Funding 7

 Mass Media 7

 Additional Comments 7

Overview 10

Appendix A: Public Survey Questionnaire, 2000 - 2001 11

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Public survey respondent demographics, 2001 2

Table 2. Public survey results, 2001 3

SURVEY OF PUBLIC OPINIONS ABOUT ARIZONA'S BALD EAGLE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

JAMES T. DRISCOLL

INTRODUCTION

In 2000, the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) initiated a survey to assess public attitudes, knowledge, and important public relation issues in regard to the Arizona Bald Eagle Management Program (ABEMP). The survey was intended to supplement a survey performed by AGFD in May and June 1999, on the seasonal bald eagle closure at Lake Pleasant, and to identify broader public attitudes toward the species.

We continued the survey for the 2001 bald eagle breeding season. This report summarizes all survey forms returned in 2001, and integrates the results from 2000.

METHODS

The survey (Appendix A) consisted of 11 questions relating to the management practices of the ABEMP. We asked for public opinions regarding protection of the species after delisting, seasonal breeding area closures, the effectiveness of the public's contact with the Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program's (ABENWP) private contractors, the value of bald eagles, and basic demographic data.

In February 2001, we distributed survey forms to ABENWP contractors. They also received a briefing on the intent, and public distribution of the questionnaire. In most cases, nestwatchers surveyed the public directly, or the public filled out the survey form on site. A few individuals (n=5 for 2001, n=20 collectively) sent the form through the mail to the Bald Eagle Management Coordinator. Some individuals contacted were unwilling to spend the time to fill out the form, and therefore were not surveyed. Results and comments of each survey form were numbered, tallied, and placed into a Microsoft[®] Access database. We then tallied the results for this report.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2001, we received 165 responses (Table 1.). Of those surveyed, 76 (46%) were male respondents, 86 (52%) female, and three (2%) did not answer. The age distribution was as follows: 9 (5%) were 0 to 20 years old, 26 (16%) were 21 to 40, 59 (36%) were 41 to 60, 66 (40%) were 61 to 80, 3 (2%) were 80 to 99, and 2 (1%) specified no age. Arizona residents were 72 (44%) of those surveyed, all residing in the metropolitan Phoenix area (33 [46%] were from the towns of Tonto Verde and Rio Verde). Other visitors surveyed include 89 (54%) from other states as far away as Maine and Washington. Four (2%) respondents did not answer the question.

| Table 1. Public survey respondent demographics, 2001. | | | | | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Demographics | | 2001 | | Total | |
| | | Number of Respondents | Percent of all Respondents | Number of Respondents | Percent of all Respondents |
| Gender | Male | 76 | 46% | 143 | 48% |
| | Female | 86 | 52% | 151 | 50% |
| | No Response | 3 | 2% | 6 | 2% |
| Age | 0 – 20 | 9 | 5% | 13 | 4% |
| | 21 – 40 | 26 | 16% | 49 | 16% |
| | 41 – 60 | 59 | 36% | 116 | 39% |
| | 61 – 80 | 66 | 40% | 102 | 34% |
| | 81+ | 3 | 2% | 14 | 5% |
| | No Response | 2 | 1% | 6 | 2% |
| Residency | Arizona | 72 | 44% | 157 | 52% |
| | (Phoenix Area) | (72) | (100%) | (153) | (97%) |
| | Non-Resident | 89 | 54% | 136 | 45% |
| | No Response | 4 | 2% | 7 | 2% |

Collectively, we received 300 responses, of which 143 (48%) were male, 151 (50%) female, and six (2%) did not answer. Thirteen (4%) were 0 to 20 years old, 49 (16%) were 21 to 40, 116 (39%) were 41 to 60, 102 (34%) were 61 to 80, 14 (5%) were 80 to 99, and 6 (2%) specified no age. Arizona residents were 157 (52%) of those responding, with 153 (97%) residing in the metropolitan Phoenix area (74 [48%] were from the towns of Tonto Verde and Rio Verde), 136 (45%) were from other states, and 7 (2%) did not answer.

Each person surveyed in 2001 was asked, "Why did you visit this area today." The majority, 84 (69%), were there to visit the ABENWP contractors, view and educate their children on bald eagles, or visit relatives (all near the Box Bar breeding area). The remaining 37 (31%) were bird watching, just in the area, recreating, sightseeing, watching wildlife, or working. Forty-four individuals did not answer the question.

Over both years, 164 (74%) participants were there to visit the ABENWP contractors, attend the weekly cookout, view and educate their children on bald eagles, visiting relatives (all near the Box Bar breeding area). The remaining 55 (26%) were bird watching, just in the area, eating lunch, recreating, sightseeing, taking pictures, watching wildlife, or working. Seventy-seven individuals did not answer the question.

Similar to 2000, a high percentage of those surveyed in 2001 were from the Box Bar breeding area. At this site, the ABENWP has an educational area where the public can view the nest, and pick up brochures on Arizona bald eagles. Other survey sites do not have this type of area. The ABENWP contractors normally contact the public after they are in a closure or disturbing the breeding attempt, which can lead to varied responses to the survey questions.

In addition, the Box Bar breeding area is within two miles of Rio Verde and Tonto Verde, two semi-retirement towns. Non-residents visiting relatives in these two towns probably contributed

to the higher percentage of out-of-state visitors than occurred in most breeding areas. Since some of the questions pertain to actions that could affect Arizona residents more than non-residents, we separated the responses.

PROTECTION OF THE SPECIES

All 165 respondents answered the question; “Do you think the bald eagle in Arizona should be protected once removed from the Endangered Species List.” Of those surveyed, 156 (95%) said yes, 5 (3%) said it would depend, and 4 (2%) said no (Table 2.). For Arizona residents, 69 (96%) said yes, 2 (3%) said no, and 1 (1%) said it would depend.

Out of all 300 respondents, 283 (94%) said yes, 9 (3%) said it would depend, and 8 (3%) said no. Separating out Arizona residents, 148 (94%) said yes, 5 (3%) said no, and 4 (2%) said it would depend.

| Question | Respondents | Response | 2001 | | Total | |
|---|-------------------|----------|------|------|-------|------|
| | | | N | % | N | % |
| Do you think the bald eagle in Arizona should be protected once removed from the Endangered Species List? | All | Yes | 156 | 95% | 283 | 94% |
| | | No | 4 | 2% | 8 | 3% |
| | | Depends | 5 | 3% | 9 | 3% |
| | | Total | 165 | 100% | 300 | 100% |
| | Arizona Residents | Yes | 69 | 96% | 148 | 94% |
| | | No | 2 | 3% | 5 | 3% |
| | | Depends | 1 | 1% | 4 | 2% |
| | | Total | 72 | 100 | 157 | 99% |
| Would your answer to the first question change if you knew Arizona had an isolated population of 36 breeding pairs? | All | Yes | 14 | 9% | 20 | 7% |
| | | No | 140 | 90% | 262 | 91% |
| | | Depends | 2 | 1% | 7 | 2% |
| | | Total | 156 | 100% | 289 | 100% |
| | Arizona Residents | Yes | 5 | 7% | 6 | 4% |
| | | No | 61 | 91% | 142 | 94% |
| | | Depends | 1 | 1% | 3 | 2% |
| | | Total | 67 | 99% | 151 | 100% |
| Do you agree with the seasonal closing of high recreational areas to reduce disturbance to breeding bald eagles? | All | Yes | 141 | 87% | 252 | 85% |
| | | No | 4 | 2% | 11 | 4% |
| | | Depends | 17 | 10% | 33 | 11% |
| | | Total | 162 | 99% | 296 | 100% |
| | Arizona Residents | Yes | 65 | 92% | 135 | 86% |
| | | No | 1 | 1% | 6 | 4% |
| | | Depends | 5 | 7% | 15 | 10% |
| | | Total | 71 | 100% | 156 | 100% |
| Were you provided enough information on Arizona Breeding Bald Eagles through your contact with the Nestwatchers? | All | Yes | 155 | 97% | 276 | 97% |
| | | No | 5 | 3% | 10 | 3% |
| | | Total | 160 | 100% | 286 | 100% |

| Table 2 (continued). | | | | | | |
|--|-------------------|----------|------|------|-------|------|
| Question | Respondents | Response | 2001 | | Total | |
| | | | N | % | N | % |
| Before meeting the Nestwatchers, how would you rate your understanding of Bald Eagle Management in Arizona? | All | 1 | 86 | 52% | 148 | 50% |
| | | 2 | 35 | 21% | 69 | 23% |
| | | 3 | 30 | 18% | 48 | 16% |
| | | 4 | 7 | 4% | 15 | 5% |
| | | 5 | 6 | 4% | 17 | 6% |
| | | Total | 164 | 99% | 297 | 100% |
| | Arizona Residents | 1 | 25 | 35% | 59 | 38% |
| | | 2 | 15 | 21% | 37 | 24% |
| | | 3 | 21 | 29% | 37 | 24% |
| | | 4 | 6 | 8% | 11 | 7% |
| | | 5 | 5 | 7% | 12 | 8% |
| Total | 72 | 100% | 156 | 101% | | |
| After meeting the Nestwatchers? | All | 1 | 1 | 1% | 8 | 3% |
| | | 2 | 7 | 4% | 12 | 4% |
| | | 3 | 30 | 19% | 43 | 15% |
| | | 4 | 41 | 26% | 81 | 28% |
| | | 5 | 78 | 50% | 142 | 50% |
| | | Total | 157 | 100% | 286 | 100% |
| | Arizona Residents | 1 | 0 | 0% | 6 | 4% |
| | | 2 | 4 | 6% | 6 | 4% |
| | | 3 | 9 | 13% | 13 | 9% |
| | | 4 | 11 | 16% | 38 | 25% |
| | | 5 | 43 | 64% | 86 | 58% |
| Total | 67 | 99% | 149 | 100% | | |
| Is observing bald eagles in the wild important to your recreation experience? | All | Yes | 138 | 85% | 258 | 87% |
| | | No | 12 | 7% | 16 | 5% |
| | | Depends | 13 | 8% | 23 | 8% |
| | | Total | 163 | 100% | 297 | 100% |
| | Arizona Residents | Yes | 66 | 92% | 141 | 90% |
| | | No | 3 | 4% | 5 | 3% |
| | | Depends | 3 | 4% | 10 | 6% |
| Total | 72 | 100% | 156 | 99% | | |
| Would you buy Arizona Lottery Tickets to support the Arizona Bald Eagle Management Program as well other programs for nongame and endangered wildlife? | All | Yes | 80 | 51% | 154 | 54% |
| | | No | 60 | 38% | 95 | 33% |
| | | Depends | 18 | 11% | 37 | 13% |
| | | Total | 158 | 100% | 286 | 100% |
| | Arizona Residents | Yes | 40 | 57% | 86 | 57% |
| | | No | 22 | 31% | 43 | 29% |
| | | Depends | 8 | 11% | 21 | 14% |
| Total | 70 | 99% | 150 | 100% | | |

When asked, “Would your answer to the first question change if you knew Arizona had an isolated population of 36 breeding pairs,” 140 (90%) of 156 respondents said no, 14 (9%) said yes, and 2 (1%) said it would depend. To separate the 67 responses from Arizona residents, 61 (91%) said no, 5 (7%) said yes, 1 (1%) said it would depend.

Collectively, 262 (91%) of 289 respondents said no, 20 (7%) said yes, and 7 (2%) said it would depend. Of the 151 responses from Arizona residents, 142 (94%) said no, 6 (4%) said yes, 3 (2%) said it would depend.

Similar to last year and collectively, it seems the public would like to see the bald eagle protected, post-delisting, whether or not the Arizona population is isolated. To maintain consistency in our survey techniques, we did not make any changes to the survey form in 2001 that would have appropriately qualified a response on the second question, as we identified in 2000.

SEASONAL CLOSURES

Three people did not answer the question, "Do you agree with the seasonal closing of high recreation areas to reduce disturbance to breeding bald eagles." Of the 162 respondents, 141 (87%) said yes, 17 (10%) said it would depend, and 4 (2%) said no. Of 71 Arizona residents responding, 65 (92%) agreed with the closures, 5 (7%) said it would depend, and 1 (1%) said no.

Over the two survey years, 252 (85%) of 296 respondents agreed with the seasonal breeding area closures, 33 (11%) said it would depend, and 11 (4%) said no. Of Arizona residents, 135 (86%) of the 156 responding said yes, 15 (10%) said it would depend, and 6 (4%) said no.

A majority of those surveyed agreed with the seasonal closures. Those who answered "depends" stated it depended on where the closure was located. This implies that 11 percent of the Arizona's recreating public may agree to seasonal closures only in certain areas.

EDUCATION FROM ABENWP CONTRACTORS

To assess how well ABENWP contractors were relaying information on the ABEMP to the public, we asked a series of three questions. The first question asked was, "Were you provided enough information on Arizona breeding bald eagles through your contact with the nestwatchers." This was followed by a qualifying question, "Before meeting the nestwatchers, how would you rate your understanding of bald eagle management in Arizona." The series ended with a follow-up third question, "And after meeting the nestwatchers." The before and after questions asked the respondents to rate their knowledge of the ABEMP on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being not very informed and 5 being well informed.

Of the 160 respondents, 155 (97%) believed they received enough information on the ABEMP. The remaining five did not offer any comment for their "No" response. Of the 286 responding collectively, 276 (97%) believe the ABENWP contractors met their informational needs.

Before meeting the nestwatchers, 86 (52%) rated their knowledge as 1, 35 (21%) rated 2, 30 (18%) rated 3, 7 (4%) rated 4, 6 (4%) rated 5, and 1 did not answer the question. After meeting the nestwatchers, 78 (50%) rated their knowledge as 5, 41 (26%) rated 4, 30 (19%) rated 3, 7 (4%) rated 2, 1 (1%) rated 1, and 8 did not answer.

Since residents outside Arizona may not see any of the ABEMP public outreach efforts, we separated Arizona residents from non-residents. The results before meeting the ABENWP contractors were a little more promising with 25 (35%) rating their knowledge as 1, 15 (21%) rating 2, 21 (29%) rating 3, 6 (8%) rating 4, and 5 (7%) rating 5. As were the numbers after with 43 (64%) rating their knowledge as 5, 11 (16%) rated 4, 9 (13%) rated 3, 4 (6%) rated 2, 0 rated 1, and 5 did not answer.

Over the term of this survey, 148 (50%) respondents rated their knowledge as 1 before meeting the ABENWP contractors, 69 (23%) rated 2, 48 (16%) rated 3, 15 (5%) rated 4, 17 (6%) rated 5, and three did not respond. After, 142 (50%) rated their knowledge as 5, 81 (28%) rated 4, 43 (15%) rated 3, 12 (4%) rated 2, 8 (3%) rated 1, and 14 did not answer. In Arizona residents, 59 (38%) rated themselves as 1, 37 (24%) rated 2, 37 (24%) rated 3, 11 (7%) rated 4, 12 (8%) rated 5 before, and 1 did not answer. After, 86 (58%) rated 5, 38 (25%) rated 4, 13 (9%) rated 3, 6 (4%) rated 2 and 1 each, and 8 did not answer.

Collectively, 73 percent answered 2 and under for the “before” question, and only 62 percent of Arizona residents. Only 11 percent, 15 percent in Arizona residents, feel they have enough knowledge on Arizona breeding bald eagles to be rated 4 and above.

We also wanted to know the extent to which the ABENWP contractors affected the public’s knowledge. Of those surveyed in 2001, 84 (53%) respondents who rated themselves as a 1 or 2 before their contact, rated themselves as a 4 or 5 afterwards. Sixty (38%) reported only a minimal increase in their understanding (29 of those rating 4 or above), 11 (7%) respondents remained the same (6 of those rating 4 or above), and seven individuals did not complete both questions. The remaining 3 (2%) either lost their understanding of the ABEMP or were confused.

Over the past two survey years, 159 (56%) respondents who rated themselves as a 1 or 2 before their contact, rated themselves as a 4 or 5 afterwards. Ninety-three (33%) reported only a minimal increase in their understanding (49 of those rating 4 or above), 24 (8%) respondents remained the same (16 of those rating 4 or above), and 15 individuals did not complete both questions. The remaining 9 (3%) either lost their understanding of the ABEMP or were confused.

The “after” question offered promise that ABENWP contractors are informing the public on the ABEMP, with 78 percent responding above a 4 (83 percent in Arizona residents). Further analysis calculates a 56 percent increase of knowledge about the ABEMP from before the public met the contractors. Only 7 percent left the ABENWP contractors feeling they knew little about the ABEMP (i.e. rating themselves under a 2).

PERSONAL IMPORTANCE

In 2001, only two respondents did not answer the question, “Is observing bald eagles in the wild important to your recreational experience.” Most, 138 (85%) answered yes, 13 (8%) said it depends, and 12 (7%) said no. In separating Arizona residents from out of state residents, 66 (92%) said yes, 3 (4%) said it depends, and 3 (4%) said no.

Of all 297 respondents, 258 (87%) value observing bald eagles, 23 (8%) said it depends, and 16% (5%) said no. In 156 Arizona residents, 141 (90%) believe observing wild bald eagles is important, 10 (6%) said it depends, and 5 (3%) said no. It is clear most individuals value seeing bald eagles in the wild.

FUNDING

When asked if they would buy Arizona Lottery tickets to support the ABEMP as well as other programs for nongame and endangered wildlife, responses varied. Of the 158 who answered the question in 2001, 80 (51%) said yes, 60 (38%) said no, and 18 (11%) said it would depend. In separating Arizona residents, 40 (57%) said yes, 22 (31%) said no, 8 (11%) said it would depend, and 2 did not answer.

Only 14 respondents did not answer the question in 2000 and 2001. Together, 154 (54%) would buy lottery tickets to support nongame and endangered wildlife, 95 (33%) said no, and 37 (13%) said it would depend. Of Arizona residents, 86 (57%) said yes, 43 (29%) said no, 21 (14%) said it would depend, and 7 did not answer the question.

Again, variation in these responses could be attributed to public attitude about gambling. As stated previously, we wanted to maintain consistency in our survey techniques, and thus did not make any changes to the survey form in 2001, as we identified in 2000.

MASS MEDIA

We asked those surveyed to identify two mass media sources for their environmental information. Collectively, 28 respondents did not answer the question, and 24 only gave one source. Television was mentioned in 226 responses, the newspaper in 178, radio in 53, magazines in 32, and the internet in 7. Also mentioned were the AGFD, Books, Brochures, Church, Internet, National Rifle Association, National Wildlife Federation, Newsletters, School, Sierra Club, The Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, and Wild Bird Newsletters.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Finally, we provided a few extra lines at the bottom of the questionnaire for comments. Listed below are the 86 responses we received:

Positive

- Appreciate nestwatchers for their patience.
- Appreciate nestwatchers time.
- Appreciate program.
- Always informative and great to watch each time we come.
- America should be proud.
- Beautiful people in a beautiful country that cares for our wildlife heritage.
- Cordial, knowledgeable staff, Thanks.
- Enjoyed the telescope opportunity.
- Enjoyed this opportunity. Thanks.

- Excellent program.
- Fabulous program.
- Fascinating and educational.
- Fantastic job.
- Good work on keeping us educated.
- Great experience. Thanks.
- Great experience. Workers very friendly and informative. Thank you.
- Great job. They will never be safe in AZ without nestwatchers.
- Great program.
- Great program. Keep it.
- Great program. Keep it up.
- Happy there are programs like this.
- Highlight of the spring break vacation.
- How fortunate we are to witness nature in its rareness.
- I enjoyed it a lot.
- I have come to the Verde River for three years to see the eagles.
- I love what you are doing to help the environment.
- I would be very disappointed to come out and not find the nestwatchers and the birds. I am very excited to see the new babies every year.
- I would make more direct donations.
- Interesting set up. Thank you.
- It lowered my blood pressure. Beautiful sight.
- It seems to be a very worthwhile program. Keep it up.
- It was really cool learning and seeing Arizona bald eagles. Thanks.
- It's a good experience to see the nest each year and talk to the personnel.
- Keep it up.
- Keep saving animals in Arizona.
- Keep the special attraction right here.
- Keep up the good work.
- Keep up the good work.
- Nestwatchers are extremely courteous and friendly.
- Nestwatchers are fun and informative.
- Nestwatchers are great.
- Nestwatchers are great people.
- Nestwatchers very informative and friendly.
- Non-lottery sources for funding are important, because birds are important.
- Out of state visitors very interested.
- Personnel and friendly, helpful, and knowledgeable.
- Please continue the program and give them more authority.
- Please keep the program.
- Pleasure to talk with the nestwatchers.

- Protection for eagles/wildlife also protects landscape.
- Really enjoyed conversing with the nestwatchers.
- Recommended by the Wild Bird Center.
- Thank you.
- Thank you. Very informative.
- Thank you for caring for our wildlife.
- Thank you for informing us and allowing us to see the eagles.
- Thank you for the hard work and information.
- Thank you for the info on bald eagles. Very informative.
- Thank you for this wonderful work.
- Thank you for your work. God bless
- Thanks.
- Thanks for sharing. This is how tax dollars should be spent.
- Thanks for the view.
- Thanks to everyone involved. In this ever changing world, we need to protect everything we can.
- The above agencies are doing a fine job of protecting the Box Bar Eagles. They are always helpful in allowing us to view the nest and with updates.
- The nestwatcher was very informed and helpful.
- The nestwatchers were very pleasant to talk with. They are doing an excellent job.
- This is a wonderful program, please continue.
- This has been a great experience.
- This service is important for protection, education, data collection, and resource utilization.
- Very nice and informative nest hosts.
- Very nice visiting with the nestwatchers.
- Very special to me.
- We must do everything we can to help save habitat and wildlife now.
- We need to protect the birds.
- We observe eagles at our home in Minnesota. Here, it has enriched our time in Arizona, as we enjoy all bird watching.
- We really appreciate the program, opportunities to view, and watchers to educate us.
- Wonderful experience.
- Wonderful project. Our grandchildren benefited by seeing the eagles.
- Your dedication is more appreciated than you know.
- Your eagle watchers do a fine job. Residents of our area learn a lot from them.

Negative

- Bald eagles nest on a golf course in Colorado. Why do they need so much protection in Arizona?
- Eagles pay very little attention to horses, dogs, or people. Vast waste of money to have five people watch eagles.

- Having five people watch an eagle nest is a vast waste of money. This money should be used to encourage youth to hunt and fish.
- I would prefer restricting access instead of closing areas.

OVERVIEW

We received 300 responses over the two years of the survey (2000 – 2001). The male to female respondent ratio was identical (48% and 50%), and the age distribution favored those 41 to 80 years.

Of those responding, 94 percent believe the bald eagle in Arizona should be protected once removed from the endangered species list. Ninety-one percent would not change their answer to the first question even if they knew Arizona had an isolated population of 36 breeding pairs. Most, 87 percent, value seeing bald eagles in the wild, however, no monetary correlation was determined. Additionally, 85 percent agreed with the seasonal closing of high recreational areas to reduce disturbance with breeding bald eagles.

From the results, it seems the ABENWP is fulfilling one of its goals to educate the public on ABEMP practices. Ninety-seven percent of those responding felt they had received enough information on the ABEMP. In addition, the ABENWP was able to increase the public's understanding of the ABEMP from 73 percent answering 2 and under (on a scale of 1 to 5), to 78 percent responding 4 and above.

Finally, only 54 percent of the responding public would buy Arizona Lottery tickets to support the ABEMP. We believe the responses varied due to public attitudes about gambling.

APPENDIX A: PUBLIC SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE, 2000 - 2001.

Arizona Bald Eagle Management Survey

This survey is being conducted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, in cooperation with the managing agencies of the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee, to assess public attitudes, knowledge, and to identify important public relation issues of Arizona bald eagle management.

- 1) Do you think the bald eagle in Arizona should be protected once removed from the Endangered Species List?
- 2) Would your answer to Number 1 change if you knew Arizona had an isolated population of 36 breeding pairs?
- 3) Do you agree with the seasonal closing of high recreational areas to reduce disturbance to breeding bald eagles?
- 4) Were you provided enough information on Arizona Breeding Bald Eagles through your contact with the Nestwatchers?
- 5) Before meeting the Nestwatchers, how would you rate your understanding of bald eagle management in Arizona? (1 being Not Very Informed, and 5 being Well Informed).
- 6) And after meeting the Nestwatchers? (1 being Not Very Informed, and 5 being Well Informed)
- 7) Is observing bald eagles in the wild important to your recreating experience?
- 8) Arizona Lottery Dollars support the Arizona Bald Eagle Management Program as well as programs for other nongame and endangered wildlife. Would you buy Arizona Lottery tickets to support these programs?
- 9) Why did you visit this area today?
- 10) Please name two mass media sources you use for environmental information? (Television, newspaper, radio, etc.)
- 11) What is your age? _____ Gender? M F City of Residence? _____

| | | | | |
|-------|-------|---------|---|---|
| Yes | No | Depends | | |
| Yes | No | Depends | | |
| Yes | No | Depends | | |
| Yes | No | | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| Yes | No | Depends | | |
| Yes | No | Depends | | |
| _____ | | | | |
| _____ | | | | |
| 1. | _____ | | | |
| 2. | _____ | | | |

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mail Other Comments To:
Bald Eagle Management Coordinator
Nongame Branch
Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4399