ANNUAL BALD EAGLE REPORT 2024 Survey Year

submitted to The California Department of Fish and Wildlife by Green Diamond Resource Company

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Introduction

In 2024, Green Diamond Resource Company (GDRCo) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) developed and began implementing an ownership-wide bald eagle consultation protocol for timber harvest plans (THPs).

In accordance with this consultation protocol, between February 1st and May 15th, GDRCo biologists conduct searches and status checks for historic and active bald eagle nests occurring within 0.25 mile of ground-based operations and 0.5 mile of helicopter-based operations expected to be active during the critical period for bald eagles. The critical period is January 15th to August 15th. Nest status need not be determined if ground-based operations within 0.25 mile of the nest or helicopter-based operations within 0.5 mile of the nest occur outside the critical period.

The ownership-wide consultation allows operations within 1000 feet (but not within 400 feet) of occupied nests during the critical period so long as operations occur as late in the critical period and as far from the nest as operationally feasible. Operations shall encroach upon the nest gradually during the critical period. If operations other than hauling on mainline roads are to occur within the 1000-foot disturbance buffer during the critical period, the nest must be monitored to determine if operations are adversely affecting the nesting bald eagles or their young. Timber operations shall be suspended pending consultation with CDFW if bald eagles appear to be disturbed by operations within 1000 feet of the nest tree during the critical period.

This report summarizes the survey results for bald eagle nests covered by the consultation during 2024. An occupied nest is defined as a nest or nest tree used by a bald eagle pair during the current nesting season. An active nest is defined as a nest or nest tree used at least once during the last five years. A tree may be considered an active nest tree even if it has lost all or a portion of its stick nest, provided that suitable substrate for rebuilding the nest remains. An inactive nest shall be a nest that has not been occupied in the last five years and may or may not retain all or a portion of its stick nest or have suitable substrate remaining for rebuilding a nest.

Summary of Results

Five individual historic or active nests or nest trees were surveyed a total of 19 times in 2024 (Figure 1). Four of the five nests were unoccupied, and occupancy at one nest was unknown (Figure 2).

No helicopter-based THP operations occurred within 0.5 mile of historic or active bald eagle nests during the 2024 critical period. Two ground-based THPs with operations during the critical period occurred within 0.25 mile of three bald eagle nests (Table 1). Unit B of THP 56-2201 (1-23-00125-HUM) with operations during the critical period was located within 0.25 mile of the Bear Creek #2 nest, and hauling associated with this same plan occurred within 0.25 mile of the Bear Creek #1 nest during the critical period. Additionally, hauling associated with THP 66-2101 (1-23-00008-DEL) occurred during the critical period within 0.25 mile of the McGarvey Creek #2 nest. All three of the THP-associated nests were determined to be unoccupied (Figure 2), and concurrent monitoring was not required.

No operations occurred within 1000 feet of bald eagle nests where occupancy could not be determined. Refer to Table 1 for a complete summary of the status of the 2024 bald eagle nests and THP associations and Map 1 for the nest location and THP unit boundaries.

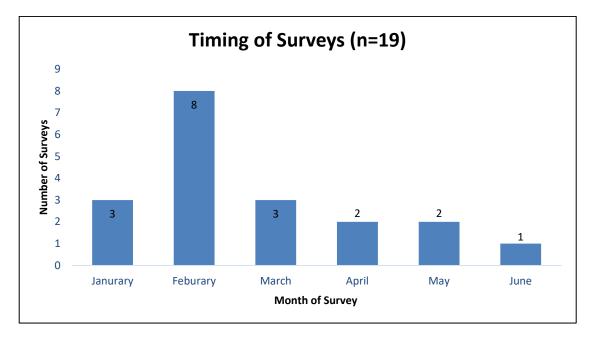


Figure 1: Timing of surveys conducted during the 2024 bald eagle critical period.

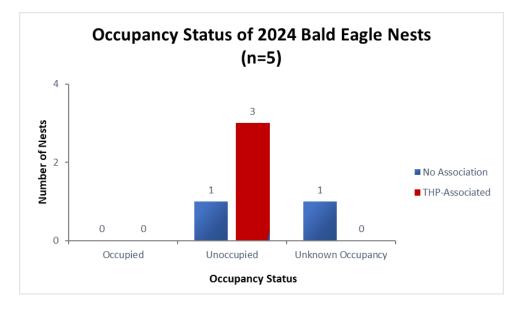


Figure 2: Occupancy status of bald eagle nests surveyed in 2024.

Table 1. Summary of occupancy status and THP association by nest site, 2024.

Site Name	Ground-based operations within 0.25 mile during critical period	State ID	Survey Occupancy
Bear Creek #1	56-2201	1-23-00125-HUM	Unoccupied
Bear Creek #2	56-2201	1-23-00125-HUM	Unoccupied
Little River #1	None	Not Applicable	Unknown
McGarvey Creek #2	66-2101	1-23-00008-DEL	Unoccupied
Ah Pah	None	Not Applicable	Unoccupied

