

Plan for Late Winter/Early Spring Capture of Golden Eagles in Depredation Area

April 2019

Objective – Because of depredation, falconers will attempt to mitigate eagle depredation on replacement ewes and new born lambs on a Central Wyoming ranch, by focusing on trapping multiple eagles, selecting and removing two eagles suspected of killing sheep, and placing them with qualified, properly permitted falconers.

Licensing – Wyoming General Raptor Capture Licenses are only issued at the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Headquarters Office in Cheyenne during normal business hours. For those falconers selected to capture/receive a golden eagle, they need to plan license purchase accordingly. Exceptions cannot be made to license purchase location or time-frame. A non-resident Wyoming raptor capture license is \$249.

Federal CFR and State Statute/Regulations – All participants shall abide by applicable Federal CFRs and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Chapter 25 Falconry Regulations - https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Regulations/Regulation-PDFs/REGULATIONS_CH25. Failing to do so may result in legal action and/or removal from the rancher's property and loss of the falconer's privilege to capture/receive a golden eagle. Selected falconers are responsible for complying with all applicable Federal and Wyoming laws, regulations, and licensing requirements, as well as the rancher's depredation permit.

When and How – Trapping should begin as soon as reasonably possible, on or shortly after April 15. In order to begin trapping, the following steps need to occur –

- 1) Trapping methods will need to be finalized, after discussions between the selected falconers and the “experienced eagle trappers”. The current recommendation is to use lamb/sheep carcasses for bait to target specific eagles. Phai, Bal-Chatrri, and noose carpet traps can be available, if requested by a selected falconer. Any leg hold traps must be pre-approved by the experienced eagle trappers.
- 2) Candidate falconers will be notified by email, using various organizations email lists and bulletin boards to distribute the information on how to apply. Applicants will be given approximately 10 days, no later than 11 pm Mountain Daylight Time April 9, to submit their contact information, proof of eagle falconer license, and other information to a NAFA maintained database.
- 3) Only Qualified and properly licensed applicants will be assigned a lottery number and each applicant will be privately notified of their lottery number. On or about April 10, the Rancher will draw the numbers and they will be recorded in the sequence drawn.
- 4) The drawing might be conducted live on the internet. Successful applicants will be notified of their order in the drawing. Drawing results will be used for any additional eagles that may become available on this ranch.

- 5) In the event there is a different opportunity on a different ranch in Wyoming in 2019, this same sequence of numbers/falconers may be used, if possible. This is because Wyoming may not be participating in the Flyway Council Allocation Procedure in 2019.
- 6) In the event any Wyoming resident eagle falconer(s)* apply for the lottery, each of their names will be entered twice in the lottery. Proof of Wyoming residency is required prior to 11 pm Mountain Daylight Time April 9.
- 7) Bait, marked trapping equipment, trapping “teams”, and other important matters will be discussed by the teams in advance to make sure everything needed is secured and on site. This is ultimately the falconers’ responsibility, but at the direction of an “experienced eagle trapper”.
- 8) The selected falconers’ trapping plans need to be submitted by the falconers to USFWS three business days prior to trapping. This is intended to be a “notification” to USFWS.

Who – The Rancher is requiring the involvement of an experienced eagle trapper. Each trapping team will have an experienced eagle trapper (meaning someone who has trapped at least 100 eagles), a properly licensed falconer, and a possible assistant/observer. No more than two teams will be in place at the same time. Potential experienced eagle trappers include Sam Crowe and Mike Lockhart. Falconers selected to obtain an eagle will only be those selected through the Rancher/NAFA/IEAA administered lottery. Other falconers, scientists, USDA representatives, or Wyoming Game and Fish personnel may be present and participate, but only with the Rancher’s authorization.

Other Considerations –

- 1) Multiple eagles may be trapped in the process, some will be banded and relocated, but only two of them will be transferred to falconers. Any relocated eagles will be released in areas selected by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wyoming Game and Fish, or other landowners and land management agencies.
- 2) In the event an eagle is injured, Wyoming regulations will apply – the falconer will have two options for dealing with an eagle injured by their trapping efforts; they may put the eagle on their falconry license, or they may give the eagle to a veterinarian or licensed raptor rehabilitator. In either case the falconer must properly report the take no more than ten (10) days after capture of the eagle. The falconer must also pay for all expenses related to treatment of the injured eagle. Wind River Raptors in Lander is willing help, if needed. Their contact phone number is (307) 349-0409.
- 3) The Rancher reserves the right to refuse access to their property to any falconer at any time and for any reason.

- 4) Selected falconers must show up with all proper licenses and equipment needed to properly handle, care for, and safely transport their eagle back home. If not, they will be sent home, and the next falconer will be called.
- 5) Selected Falconers are responsible to make sure all proper trapping gear and bait is secured and available prior to trapping. This includes traps, hoods, jesses, anklets, perch, giant hood, etc.
- 6) It is anticipated there will be costs associated with the experienced trappers; fuel, room and board, rental of specialized equipment, etc. Estimated cost is \$150-300 per day/trapper, to be paid by the two selected falconers.
- 7) The falconers will also be responsible for their own expenses.
- 8) The Rancher may require any and all persons involved to sign a liability waiver to protect the Rancher from any liability associated with eagle trapping and/or observation activities while on the ranch.
- 9) All falconers must agree to abide by this "Plan" and any reasonable changes that are made by the Rancher.
- 10) All traps used for capturing raptors for falconry purposes shall be legibly marked or tagged with the permittee's name and address or current raptor capture license number. All devices and setups used for capturing golden eagles shall be checked every thirty (30) minutes while in use.

*To qualify for a Wyoming resident game and fish license a person shall be domiciled and shall physically reside in Wyoming for one full year (365 consecutive days) immediately preceding the date the person applies for or purchases the license and the person shall not have claimed residency elsewhere for any other purpose during that one-year period. Proof will be required prior to the drawing.