

BALD EAGLE PRODUCTIVITY FOR WRANGELL-ST ELIAS NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE 1997
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Table 1. Survey information for bald eagle surveys, 1989-1997.

Occupancy Survey	Productivity Survey	Plane	Pilot	Observers
Interior				
5/23-27/89	7/1-7/89 & 8/2/89	Tern/Supercub Cessna 185	Hannah, Lee Rainy	Faber, Bird Bernatowicz
5/12-15/90	8/15-18/90	Tern/Supercub Cessna 185	Hannah, Lee Rainy	Bird, Route Bernatowicz
5/15-17/91	7/19-20/91	Tern/Supercub	Hannah, Lee	Kozie
5/12-14/92	7/30-31/92	Supercub	Lee	Kozie
5/7-9/93	8/2/93	Supercub	Lee	Steidl
5/11-12/94	7/29/94	Supercub	Lee	Kozie
5/11-12/95	7/27&31/95	Supercub	Lee	
Kozie, Barten				
5/10&13/96	7/28&31/96	Supercub	Lee	Barten
5/8-9/97	7/29/97	Supercub	Lee	Mitchell
Coastal				
5/16/92	7/22/92	Supercub	Rainy	Kozie
5/14/93	8/3/93	Supercub	Sharp	Mossman
5/10/94	7/30/94	Supercub	Sharp	Mossman
5/12/95	8/2/95	Cessna 185	Sharp	Mossman

Table 2. The number of bald eagle breeding territories along the Copper River, its tributaries, several interior areas within WRST and along the coastal region of the Park, 1997.

REGION	NUMBER OF TERRITORIES	REGION	NUMBER OF TERRITORIES
INTERIOR		COASTAL	
COPPER RIVER		MALASPINA FORELANDS	23
UCR	23		
MCR	56		
LCR	53		
GULKANA RIVER BASIN	83		
DELTA RIVER	5		
TAZLINA RIVER	2		
KLUTINA RIVER	7		

TONSINA RIVER	3	
CHITINA RIVER	13	
NIZINA RIVER	2	
TASNUNA RIVER	12	
BREMNER RIVER	20	
TANA RIVER	4	
CHISANA RIVER	1	
PTARMIGAN LAKE	1	
TOTAL	285	23

Table 3. Territory occupancy rates for bald eagles nesting in the interior and coastal study areas of WRST, 1989-1997.

YEAR	TERRITORIES SURVEYED	OCCUPIED TERRITORIES	OCCUPANCY RATE
INTERIOR			
1989	105	67	64%
1990	116	76	66%
1991	128	88	69%
1992	150	98	65%
1993	155	97	63%
1994	159	98	62%
1995	164	102	62%
1996	166	100	60%
1997	167	91	55%
COASTAL			
1992	21	15	71%
1993	22	12	55%
1994	23	12	52%
1995	23	12	52%

Table 4. Productivity of bald eagles nesting along the Copper River, 1989-1997.

	OCC	SUCC	% NEST	NO OF	YOUNG/	YOUNG/
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<u>YEAR</u>	<u>NESTS</u>	<u>NESTS</u>	<u>SUCCESS</u>	<u>YOUNG</u>	<u>OCC NEST</u>	<u>SUCC NEST</u>
1989	33	18	55%	27 ^a	0.82	1.50
1990	70	32	46%	52 ^b	0.74	1.63
1991	81	33	41%	44	0.54	1.33
1992	94	47	50%	71	0.76	1.51
1993	93	49	53%	75	0.81	1.53
1994	96	43	45%	60	0.63	1.40
1995	100	49	49%	67	0.67	1.37
1996	100	40	40%	59	0.59	1.48
1997	86	39	45%	47	0.55	1.21
AVERAGE			47%		0.68	1.44

^a This represents a minimum number of young in 1989. Adults were still brooding young at 2 nests during the second survey, making observations difficult. Calculations were based on estimates of 1 young in both of these nests.

^b The second survey was flown late (August 18) in 1990. This should be considered a minimum estimate of the number of young since some nestlings may have already fledged by this date.

Table 5. Productivity of bald eagles nesting along the Upper, Middle, and Lower regions of the Copper River, 1989-1997.

Upper Copper River

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OCC NESTS</u>	<u>SUCC NESTS</u>	<u>% NEST SUCCESS</u>	<u>NO OF YOUNG</u>	<u>YOUNG/ OCC NEST</u>	<u>YOUNG/ SUCC NEST</u>
1989	3	2	67%	3	1.00	1.50
1990	9	2	22%	2	0.22	1.00
1991	13	7	54%	9	0.69	1.29
1992	10	9	90%	14	1.40	1.56
1993	15	9	60%	17	1.13	1.89
1994	14	9	64%	13	0.93	1.44
1995	11	10	91%	15	1.36	1.50
1996	13	8	62%	16	1.20	2.00
1997	15	10	67%	13	0.87	1.30
TOTAL			64%		0.98	1.50

Middle Copper River

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OCC NESTS</u>	<u>SUCC NESTS</u>	<u>% NEST SUCCESS</u>	<u>NO OF YOUNG</u>	<u>YOUNG/ OCC NEST</u>	<u>YOUNG/ SUCC NEST</u>
1989	11	6	55%	7	0.64	1.17
1990	30	4	13%	6	0.20	1.50
1991	35	8	23%	11	0.31	1.38
1992	32	13	41%	18	0.56	1.38
1993	29	14	48%	21	0.72	1.50
1994	30	8	27%	11	0.37	1.38
1995	30	11	37%	13	0.43	1.18
1996	35	9	26%	14	0.40	1.56
1997	29	12	41%	14	0.48	1.17
TOTAL			35%		0.46	1.36

Lower Copper River

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>OCC NESTS</u>	<u>SUCC NESTS</u>	<u>% NEST SUCCESS</u>	<u>NO OF YOUNG</u>	<u>YOUNG/ OCC NEST</u>	<u>YOUNG/ SUCC NEST</u>
1989	19	10	53%	17	0.89	1.70
1990	31	26	84%	44	1.42	1.69
1991	33	18	55%	24	0.73	1.33
1992	52	25	48%	39	0.75	1.56
1993	49	26	53%	37	0.76	1.42
1994	52	26	50%	36	0.69	1.38
1995	59	28	47%	39	0.66	1.39
1996	52	23	44%	29	0.56	1.26
1997	42	17	40%	20	0.48	1.18
TOTAL			53%		0.77	1.43

Table 8. Nest tree species in interior and coastal study areas.

REGION	SPRUCE	COTTONWOOD	ASPEN	UNKNOWN
INTERIOR	(N) (%)	(N) (%)		(N) (%)
COPPER R				

UCR	37	73%	14	27%		
MCR	61	37%	101	61%		3 2%
LCR	1	1%	102	99%		
KLUTINA R	1		2			
TONSINA R			3			2
CHITINA R	14		13		2	4
NIZINA R	1					1
TASNUNA R			15			
BREMNER R	4		28			
TANA R	2		1			
CHISANA R						1
PTARMIGAN L	2					
TOTAL	123		279		2	11
COASTAL						
YAKUTAT	15		29			
