

## **Comments emailed to FWS May 2, 2006**

### **Delisting Proposal Comments—send to: [BaldEagledelisting@fws.gov](mailto:BaldEagledelisting@fws.gov)**

The Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) is an active group of people in northwestern Montana that are interested in sound stewardship and management of natural resources at both the local and national level.

FAS supports the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to remove the bald eagle from the Federal list of threatened and endangered species with one concern we urge the FWS to address. The number of nesting pairs in Montana has rebounded well past the recovery goal of 99 pairs—more than 3 times more. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act should be sufficient to adequately protect bald eagles in the future. Implementing the proposed national guidelines and establishing and using the regulatory definition of disturb would contribute to maintaining adequate populations of bald eagles.

The concern that FAS has is the lack of a conservation/monitoring plan to accompany the delisting proposal. Conservation/monitoring plans are a key element to have in place before delisting occurs. FAS strongly urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete a valid, science-based conservation/monitoring plan that includes monitoring of actual nest production.

### **Draft National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines Comments—send to: [BaldEagle\\_managementguidelines@fws.gov](mailto:BaldEagle_managementguidelines@fws.gov)**

The Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) is an active group of people in northwestern Montana that are interested in sound stewardship and management of natural resources at both the local and national level.

FAS supports the establishment and use of the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines. We feel that use of such guidelines will generally benefit bald eagles and provide some consistency in management.

### **Proposed Regulatory Definition of “Disturb” Comments—send to: [BaldEagle\\_proposedrule@fws.gov](mailto:BaldEagle_proposedrule@fws.gov)**

The Flathead Audubon Society (FAS) is an active group of people in northwestern Montana that are interested in sound stewardship and management of natural resources at both the local and national level.

FAS supports the formal definition of “disturb” as proposed. Such a definition is consistent with the working usage of the term that has been used for many years and the definition is properly based on biological parameters.