



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION AWARD

**SOUTHWESTERN BALD EAGLE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
ARIZONA BALD EAGLE NESTWATCH PROGRAM**

In recognition of the outstanding efforts and contributions of the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee and the Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program to protect the bald eagle and its habitat in Arizona.

The Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee was created in 1984 to address the needs of the bald eagle and its habitat in Arizona, along with establishing a forum for better working relationships among Federal, State, county, and tribal governments and nongovernmental organizations concerning our Nation's national symbol. This unique collaborative partnership of over 23 entities has proven very successful; cooperation among the agencies and broad public support has been the basis of this success. Through the early leadership efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and now the Arizona Game and Fish Department in coordination with others, the Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program has been instrumental in directly saving the lives of numerous individual bald eagles and protecting over 50 breeding and nesting areas in Arizona.

In 1999 the bald eagle was proposed for removal from the endangered and threatened species list due to its population rebound. In the same time period, the Committee and the Arizona Game and Fish Department started working on a Conservation Assessment Strategy for Bald Eagle in Arizona which was completed in 2007. The strategy describes current threats facing bald eagles and identifies the management necessary to maintain their distribution and abundance after delisting. The bald eagle was officially delisted in July 2007; however, the bird is still protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. There are still challenges and threats for the bald eagle in Arizona, but through active and continued support by the various entities engaged in the Committee, the bald eagle will continue to thrive in the southwest.

For their vision, leadership, and collaborative work to conserve and protect Arizona's bald eagles and their habitat, the Southwestern Bald Eagle Management Committee and the Arizona Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program are granted the Cooperative Conservation Award of the Department of the Interior.

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