

Did you Know?

- Bald eagles mate for life.
- Nestlings are bigger than adults when they leave the nest.
- Female bald eagles are bigger than males.
- Bald eagles can live to be more than 20 years old in the wild.
- They take four to five years to mature.
- Nestling and juvenile bald eagles are black for the first five years.
- GRIC's bald eagle nest is among the southern-most nests in the United States.



- GRIC's nest produces offspring earlier than other nests in the region.
- GRIC's nest produces, on average, more offspring than any other nest in Arizona.

Report suspicious activity to
Gila River Police Department

(520) 562-3361

For more information visit
www.gricdeq.org

Or

Contact the Department of
Environmental Quality

Wildlife Program

(520) 562-2234

PO Box 97 / 45 S. Church Street
Sacaton, AZ 85147



Bald Eagle Nestwatch Program



Gila River Indian Community Nestwatch Program

Goals

The goal of the Bald Eagle Nest Watch Program is to protect and conserve bald eagles and their breeding habitat in the Community. The training and hiring of Community members will ensure that current and future generations of Bald Eagles will continue to inhabit and successfully reproduce in the Community.



Timeline

Pre-2003

- Since the 1970s, District 7 Community members observed bald eagles showing up sporadically in the Pee Posh Wetlands (PPW).

2003

- Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) staff first sighted the bald eagles in the PPW and began monitoring and documenting their activities. Activities they observed included “playing house” (building nests that they used but did not lay eggs in) and fishing out of the beaver pond.

2010

- A pair of bald eagles began nesting at PPW.
- In order to protect the eagles, DEQ staff began monitoring their behavior and collecting data on their condition and welfare.
- One eagle fledged (mature enough to leave the nest) from first nest.

2011

- Community volunteer nestwatchers and DEQ helped the eagles successfully produce or “fledge” 2 young eagles from the nest.

2012

- The human-caused Pee Posh fire destroyed the nest and two nestlings. The Community honored their loss ceremonially.



2013

- DEQ focused on obtaining funding specifically for protecting Eagles in their habitat during the breeding season.
- Funding was secured through the Bureau of Indian Affairs Endangered Species Program to hire dedicated personnel (Community Nestwatchers) to monitor eagles.

2014-2016

- Successful breeding resumed, with each year’s nest producing 1-2 offspring.
- Fire-killed nest trees fell during bad weather events each year after the breeding season ended.

2017

- Returning bald eagles built their nest in a cottonwood tree near the Community boundary.
- A nest camera was installed. Nestwatchers monitor and protect the eagles closely traditional and electronic methods.



Bald Eagle Nest Etiquette

- Stay back at least 1,000 feet
- Do not feed the eagle(s)
- Remain quiet
- Do not try to make the eagle fly
- Keep pets and other animals away
- Keep surrounding area free of litter
- Properly dispose of fishing line and hooks
- Do not hunt or shoot near an active nest

For more information on bald eagles in Arizona visit

www.swbemc.org or www.azgfd.gov