

27. Raptors

Recommended Actions:

The Wisconsin and Minnesota DNRs should coordinate monitoring efforts and consolidate data to evaluate the factors that potentially limit the population growth of Bald Eagles and other raptors in and near the St. Louis River AOC.

- (1) WDNR should include all Bald Eagles that nest in and near the AOC in ongoing research projects and monitoring of blood contaminant levels.
- (2) WDNR, with Minnesota/federal agencies, should investigate contaminant uptake routes in Bald Eagles and their prey, including pigeons and other birds that eat grain from rail tracks.
- (3) WDNR and MDNR should minimize eagle exposure to contaminated prey and reduce contaminant uptake by prey species. Upon acceptance of the Great Lakes Bald Eagle Biosentinel Protocol by the IJC, WDNR, MDNR, and MPCA should actively implement it.
- (4) USEPA, WDNR, and MPCA should establish and enforce water quality regulations that eliminate discharge of persistent, bioaccumulative toxic substances.
- (5) USFWS should coordinate data assessment of contaminant accumulation and raptor die-offs in the AOC.
- (6) Agencies and universities should do research about identification and assessment of potential indicators of ecosystem health.

Implementors:

MDNR, MPCA, and WDNR's Water Quality Division and Bureau of Research, USEPA (GLNPO).

Actions Taken:

4/98: Follow up letter sent to MDNR.
01/01: No progress at this time.

Project Status:

This project does not appear to have a plan in place to address the problems stated. A plan of action needs to be established.