# Comprehensive Data Delivery README FILE

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| **Study Section** | Study 10.14: Eagles and Other Raptors |
| **Study Component** | Territory Occupancy and Productivity Surveys, Foraging and Roost Surveys, Migration Surveys — Public data |
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| **Field Date Range** | June 27, 2011; May 7–14, May 19–21, July 8–12, July 25–26, October 17, 31, November 13, December 14, 2012; April 12–May 11, May 5–12, 19–24, July 6–11, 29–30, September 16–October 15, October 1–2, 21–22, November 11, December 2, 2013; May 7–14, 20–22, July 13–15, July 21–22, 2014 |

**Introduction:** The overall goals of the territory occupancy and productivity surveys, foraging and roost surveys and migration surveys were to characterize the population size, productivity, nesting phenology, habitat use, winter foraging roost use, and migration collision risk of eagles and other raptors in areas with the potential to be affected by construction and operation of the proposed Susitna–Watana Hydroelectric Project (Project) in Alaska. The study also will provide information required for possible application for federal eagle take and/or eagle nest take permits.

The raptor territory occupancy and productivity survey main objective focused on enumerating and identifying the locations and status of raptor nests and territories that could be affected by Project construction and operations. Three specific tasks were associated with this objective: (1) review and synthesize existing nest data for eagles and other raptors; (2) conduct field surveys to locate and characterize nests; (3) create a geospatial database of all nests and territories. The foraging and roost survey main objective focused on identifying, mapping, and characterizing the habitat-use patterns at fall and winter communal roost sites and foraging sites of Bald Eagles. The raptor migration surveys focused on identifying areas of collision risk for nesting and migrating raptors along proposed transmission lines.

The study area encompassed the reservoir inundation zone, associated areas for the dam and camp infrastructure, and the potential access-road corridors (Gold Creek, Chulitna, and Denali corridors) and material sites. The study team conducted helicopter-based occupancy and productivity surveys and foraging and roost surveys of the study areas in 2012–2014 (and a 1 hour reconnaissance survey at the dam site in 2011). The migration surveys utilized multiple ground crews stationed to document use by raptors migrating or flying along proposed transmission line corridors.

The territory occupancy and productivity surveys were a multi-year effort that began in 2012 and continued in 2013–2014, but were not completed because two years of data were not collected in the Denali East corridor, which was added to the study in 2014. The foraging and roost surveys were a multi-year effort conducted in 2012 and 2013. Raptor migration surveys were conducted in spring and fall of 2013 but were not completed because a second year of surveys was still needed at the time the study was suspended. A Technical Memorandum (2012), Initial Study Report (2014), and Study Implementation Report (2015) were completed.

**Data Summary:** The public data for the Eagles and Other Raptors territory occupancy and productivity surveys, forage and roost surveys, and migration surveys consist of (1) a geodatabase file containing spatial layers of the Eagle and Other Raptor Study, including a raster for suitable Golden Eagle nesting habitat, a feature class delineating areas with suitable Golden eagle nesting habitat, and 2012–2014 study areas; (2) a Microsoft Excel file containing raptor nest occupancy and productivity data for 2012–2014 (without geographic coordinates, due to the confidential nature of nest location data); and (3) representative field photos. All field data for the study were collected on paper data forms and digital cameras. All data for the study have undergone a QC3 level of review.

**Data Organization:**

Public data: 10\_14\_RAPT\_Nests\_NoXY\_20170630.xlsx is archived in the root directory, /10-WILD/10.14- RAPT. Photos are archived in the subdirectory /10-WILD/10.14-RAPT/Photos. SuWa\_10\_14\_GIS\_20170630.gdb is archived in the sub-directory /10-WILD/10.14-RAPT/GIS and contains the following features:

* GOEA\_2012\_2014\_Suit\_NestHab\_RemSen (file geodatabase raster)
* RAPT\_2012\_2014\_Study\_Areas
* RAPT\_2012\_2014\_GOEA\_FieldDelinNestHab

**Online Data Link:** <http://gis.suhydro.org/SuWa/10-WILD/10.14-RAPT/>

**Online Report Link:** 10.14 Surveys of Eagles and Other Raptors – Study Implementation Report under 2017; Study Completion and Implementation Reports at <http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/type/documents>

[[1]](#endnote-1)

1. **Data Distributor Contact Information:**

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