

Wildlife: Eagle populations will continue to grow despite threats

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years unless some sort of environmental catastrophe forces a more immediate look at how a species is doing. Even after a species is delisted, the Fish and Wildlife will review it again five years later.

This year, five listed species are up for review: the marbled murrelet, the bald eagle, the peregrine falcon, American white pelicans and the lynx.

Of these five, the first four are familiar — by name if not by regular sightings — to most coastal residents.

Eagles flying high

Bald eagles are especially visible here at the mouth of the Columbia River. Any given morning, there's at least one perched on driftwood, on the lookout for prey and making the gulls nervous.

Eagle populations dropped decades ago primarily due to chemical contaminants, but also thanks to habitat loss. After being listed as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act in 1978, state and federal organizations laid down protective measures and eventually the enormous birds of prey were delisted federally in 2007. Currently, they remain listed as "sensitive" in Washington, but now the state is recommending a change, saying that this status no longer applies.

A review document published by Fish and Wildlife in early July sums up the status of the bald eagle, saying that "while there are still threats" to the species, "current population analyses indicate that bald eagle populations will continue to grow despite those threats."

According to recent data from North America, the bald eagle population is projected to continue to grow for the next 10 to 20 years. Under this model, the total population would eventually stabilize at about 228,000 birds.

Even if they are removed from Washington's list, bald eagles would remain protected under three different federal acts: the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Lacey Act.

All three acts provide just as much if not more protection as any state listing, said Hannah Anderson, Fish and Wildlife listing and recovery section manager.

Murrelets struggle

But the future is less bright



Joshua Saranpaa/Submitted Photo

American bald eagle numbers are on the rise after dropping drastically decades ago.



The Daily Astorian/File Photo

The Wildlife Center of the North Coast in Olney dealt with an influx of 4- to 6-week-old American white pelican chicks after a 2014 disturbance at their colony 10 miles upriver from Astoria.

for marbled murrelets, which loggers used to call fog larks.

As of 2015, there were only an estimated 7,500 birds in the state, according to a July 2016 status review document for the marbled murrelet prepared by Fish and Wildlife.

Pacific County provides nesting opportunities for marbled murrelets, for instance in the protected trees in Cape Disappointment State Park. In 2015, the park opened up a new trail to its historic North Head Lighthouse. The trail, a wide paved multi-use path, winds through possible marbled murrelet habitat. To mitigate for this, the park closed down another trail that used to take hikers from a parking lot

near Beards Hollow up to the lighthouse.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources maintains a significant stand of old-growth forest on the South Nemah River on the east side of Willapa Bay, partly to serve as murrelet habitat. In 2011, possible presence of the birds on bordering Radar Ridge doomed a wind-energy farm proposed by Pacific County Public Utility District No. 2.

Marbled murrelets fly upward of 55 miles inland to nest in mature and old conifer forests, places that have been impacted in the past by commercial logging operations. While loss of nesting habitat



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Marbled murrelets nest in Pacific County forests and are in trouble throughout the Pacific Northwest. Washington state is re-examining their protection status.

continues to be a likely factor in the birds' decline statewide, biologists believe a combination of factors are at work. Low reproductive rates coupled with the fact that few juvenile birds are surviving into adulthood currently appear more to blame.

Between 2004 and 2008, only 20 percent of nests were considered "successful" with many nestlings starving or adult birds abandoning their eggs before completing incubation.

"Without solutions that can effectively address these concerns in the short-term, it is likely the marbled murrelet could become functionally extirpated in Washington within the next several

decades," the review document states.

In other words: the marbled murrelet "is not in a good place and it's not getting better," Anderson said.

Pelicans and peregrines

The other birds up for review, American white pelicans and peregrine falcons, are both doing well in Washington, however. The department is recommending that peregrine falcons be delisted at the state level, though they are still considered "protected wildlife" under state law. Both they and white pelicans are already protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Peregrine falcons, like bald

eagles, experienced severe population declines across North America and even much of their global range due to the use of contaminants, especially the synthetic insecticide DDT. In 1980 in Washington, there were only five nesting pairs of peregrine falcons found statewide. As the use of DDT was restricted, however, peregrine falcon populations began to slowly recover, including in Pacific County.

White pelicans are not listed under the federal Endangered Species Act and Washington state calls them only a "moderate conservation concern." A conservative estimate of the total population in 1998 to 2001 was approximately 157,000 adults, a far cry from when the population dipped in the 19th and early 20th centuries due to "habitat loss, persecution and pesticide contaminants, especially DDT."

Though the population has grown in the decades since, white pelicans are concentrated on a few breeding colonies and are particularly vulnerable to disturbance, disease and environmental changes.

Bird rescuers in the Astoria area have firsthand knowledge of the pelicans' vulnerability. In 2014, starving white pelican chicks, too young still to fly or feed themselves, were rescued off beaches along the Columbia River after campers spending the Fourth of July week on their nest island got too close to the nesting parents, scaring them away. The chicks, abandoned, took to the water and were swept downriver to Astoria, Chinook and Ilwaco. Rescuers believed close to 100 chicks were scared off the island though they were only able to capture 30 and of these, only 21 survived to be rehabilitated and then released in September.

Submit comments

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is accepting public comments on all five species up for review through Oct. 10. For more information about the individual species and to read the review documents associated with them, visit <http://bit.ly/2ayVY0x>

Comments on the reviews and recommendations can be submitted via e-mail to TandEpubliccom@dfw.wa.gov or by mail to Hannah Anderson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capitol Way N., Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN

TV LISTINGS

Evening listings THURSDAY

THURSDAY EVENING													JULY 28	
A	L	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
2	KATU	(2) KATU News at 6		2016 Democratic Convention (L)		BattleBots (N)		Greatest Hits "2000-2005" (N)		Jeopardy!	Wheel of Fortune	KATU News at 11	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
3	KOMO	(4) KOMO 4 News		2016 Democratic Convention (L)		BattleBots (N)		Greatest Hits "2000-2005" (N)		To Be Announced		KOMO 4 News	(35) Jimmy Kimmel	
5	KING	(5) NBC Nightly News	KING 5 News	2016 Democratic Convention (L)		Running Wild "Zac Efron"		Hollywood Game Night (N)		Dateline NBC		KING 5 News	(35) Tonight Show	
6	KOIN	(7) KOIN 6 News at 6	CBS Evening News	2016 Democratic Convention (L)		Big Bang Theory	Life in Pieces	Big Brother (N)		Extra	Ent. Tonight	KOIN 6 News @ 11	(35) S. Colbert (N)	
7	KIRO	(7) KIRO 7 News	CBS Evening News	2016 Democratic Convention (L)		Big Bang Theory	Life in Pieces	Big Brother (N)		The Insider	Ent. Tonight	KIRO News	(35) S. Colbert (N)	
8	KGW	(3) KGW News at 6:00 p.m.		2016 Democratic Convention (L)		Running Wild "Zac Efron"		Hollywood Game Night (N)		Dateline NBC		KGW News at 11	(35) Tonight Show	
9	KRCW	(3) Seinfeld Pt. 2 of 2	Seinfeld	Modern Family	Modern Family	DC's Legends of Tomorrow "Progeny"		Beauty and Beast "The Getaway" (N)		KGW News at 10	(35) Two 1/2 Men	(05) Two 1/2 Men	(35) King of Hill	
10	KOPB	(10) (5:00) PBS Convention Coverage "Democratic Convention" (L)				Oregon Art Beat	Outdoor Idaho	Shetland "Red Bones" Pt. 1 of 2		Scott & Bailey "Supercial"		The Politician's Husband		
12	KPTV	(12) 6 O'Clock News		Family Feud	Family Feud	Home Free "Flying Solo/ Skill Got It" Only		three contestants remain. (N)		10 O'Clock News		11 O'Clock News	Loves Ray	
13	KPDx	(13) Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	FOX 12's 8 O'Clock News on PDX-TV		FOX 12's 9 O'Clock News on PDX-TV		The Mentalist "The Red Ponies"		The Mentalist "Pink Chanel Suit"		
14	KCPQ	(14) Name Game	Modern Family	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Home Free "Flying Solo/ Skill Got It" Only		three contestants remain. (N)		Q13 News at 10		Q13 News	Modern Family	
20	TBS	(20) Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	2 Broke Girls	2 Broke Girls	Conan (N)		
21	KZJW	(21) Two and a Half	Two and a Half	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Modern Family	Modern Family	Q13 News at 9		Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Friends	Friends	
29	ESPN	(29) (4:30) MLS Soccer All-Star Game (L)		SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter		SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	SportsCenter	
30	ESPN2	(30) CFL Football Winnipeg Blue Bombers at Edmonton Eskimos Site: Commonwealth Stadium -- Edmonton, Alta. (L)				Baseball Tonight (L)		Baseball Tonight (L)		NFL Live		Jalen & Jacoby (N)	30 for 30	
31	NICK	(31) Henry Danger	Henry Danger	Crashletes (N)	The Thundermans	Garfield: The Movie "04) Breckin Meyer.		Full House		Full House		Friends	Friends	
32	DISN	(32) Liv and Maddie	K.C. Undercover	Bunk'd	Bizaardvark	Best Friends (N)	How to Build a Better Boy "14) Marshall Williams.			(15) Girl Meets W.	(40) Liv Maddie	(05) Walk Prank	K.C. Undercover	
34	FAM	(34) (5:30) *** Jurassic Park (1993, Sci-Fi) Laura Dern, Jeff Goldblum, Sam Neill.				(45) *** Men in Black (1997, Sci-Fi) Tommy Lee Jones, Vincent D'Onofrio, Will Smith.						The 700 Club		
35	FMC	(35) (5:55) **** Rio 2 ("14, Ani) Anne Hathaway, Jesse Eisenberg. (45) FXM Presents				*** Rio ("11, Ani) Voices of Anne Hathaway, Jesse Eisenberg. (55) FXM Presents				Walking With Dinosaurs ("13, Adv) Tiya Sircar, Justin Long. (45) FXM Presents		Born This Way "Game of Love" (N)		
36	LIFE	(36) My Crazy Ex		My Crazy Ex		My Crazy Ex		My Crazy Ex (N)		I Love You "Gold Digger/ Paranoid" (N)		WPT Poker L.A. Classic		
38	ROOT	(38) (5:30) Monster Jam	Softball 360 (N)	ERA Rodeo Day 2				Bull Riding Championship		Cliff Diving		FOX Sports Live	TMZ Sports	
39	FST	(39) (5:00) UFC 196				Fox Sports Live	TMZ Sports (N)	Speak for Yourself		Garbage Time	Best I Heard (N)	FOX Sports Live	TMZ Sports	
43	SPIKE	(43) Cops	Cops	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Lip Sync Battle	Movie	
44	COM	(44) (15) Futurama	(45) Futurama	(20) The Comedy Central Roast "Justin Bieber" Watch as comedians put "The Biebs" to fire.		The Roast Battle		The Roast Battle		The Roast Battle "Day One" (N)		The Daily Show (N)	Nightly Show (N)	
45	HIST	(45) Pawn Stars	Pawn Stars	Mountain Men "Freeze Out"		Mountain Men "Killer Instinct"		Mountain Men "Crash and Burn" (N)		(05) Ozy and Jack's World Detour		(05) Mountain "All Work and No Pay"		
46	A&E	(46) First 48 "Bad Reputation/ Deadly Party"		The First 48		The First 48	Inside the Tape	The First 48		To Be Announced		(05) The First 48 "Cranked"		
47	TLC	(47) Say Yes-Dress	Say Yes-Dress	Tots/Tiara "America's Treasured Dollz"		Tots/Tiara "Little Mr. and Miss Nevada"		Tots/Tiara "Southern Majestic Pageants"		Tots/Tiara "Island of Dreams Pageant"		Big Fat Fab. "Flirting With Disaster"		
48	DISC	(48) Naked and Afraid "Nicaragua, Part II"		Naked and Afraid "Panama"		Naked and Afraid "South Africa Part 1"		Naked and Afraid "South Africa Part 2"		Afraid "South Africa: Part Three" (N)		Naked and Afraid "Guyana: Rupununi"		
49	NIGHT	(49) No Man Left Behind "To Hell and Back"		Live Free or Die "Builds and Bees"		Live Free or Die "Call of the Wild"		No Man Left "Stealth Fighter Down"		No Man Left "The One That Got Away"		No Man Left "Stealth Fighter Down"		
50	TNT	(50) Supernatural		Castle "Watershed"		*** The Hangover (2009, Comedy) Bradley Cooper, Zach Galifianakis, Ed Helms.		*** Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy "04) Will Ferrell.						
51	AMC	(51) (4:00) *** Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End "07) Johnny Depp.				*** Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows (2011, Action) Jude Law, Jared Harris, Robert Downey Jr..		Queen "El Engano Como la Regla" (N)		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Poisoned Motive"		Law & Order: S.V.U.	Beat Bobby Flay	
52	USA	(52) Law&Order: SVU "Gambler's Fallacy"		Law&Order: SVU "Reasonable Doubt"		Law & Order: S.V.U. "Forgiving Rollins"		Law&Order: SVU "Daydream Believer"		Queen "El Engano Como la Regla" (N)		Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	
53	FOOD	(53) Chopped "Beer Here!"		Chopped "The Bold and The Bacontful"		Chopped "Battle of the Grandpas"		Chopped "Grill Masters Napa: Part Four"		Beat Flay (N)	Beat Bobby Flay	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	
54	HGTV	(54) Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop	Flip or Flop (N)	Flip or Flop	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	
56	FX	(56) (4:30) ** This Is 40 (2012, Comedy) Leslie Mann, Paul Rudd.		*** The Other Woman (2014, Comedy) Nikolaj Coster-Waldau, Leslie Mann, Cameron Diaz.				Sex&Drugs (N)	Sex&Drugs&Rock	Sex&Drugs (N)	Sex&Drugs&Rock	Sex&Drugs&Rock	Date Night "10)	
57	CNN	(57) America's Choice 2016		America's Choice 2016		America's Choice 2016		America's Choice 2016		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		CNN Tonight With Don Lemon		
58	FNC	(58) The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly		Hannity		The O'Reilly Factor		The Kelly File With Megyn Kelly		Hannity		On the Record		
61	CNBC	(61) American Greed: Scam		2016 Democratic Convention (L)		American Greed: Scam		American Greed "The Surfer Slayer?"		Amer. Greed "Capturing the Fugitives"		Paid Program	Paid Program	
63	BRVA	(63) Wives NJ "Leopard is the New Black"		Housewives "And Away We Finally Go"		The Real Housewives "Boogie Fights"		Flipping Out "Scope of Work" (N)		Wives NJ "Leopard is the New Black"		WatchWhat (N)	Flipping Out	
64	TCM	(64) (5:00) Scarecrow ('73) Gene Hackman.		*** The Last Detail ('73, Com/Dra) Randy Quaid, Otis Young, Jack Nicholson.				*** Wise Blood (1979, Drama) Dan Shor, Amy Wright, Brad Dourif.				The Drowning Pool	(75) Paul Newman.	
65	SYFY	(65) (5:00) 3-Headed Shark Attack		Atomic Shark (2016, Action)				Ice Sharks (2016, Sci-Fi) (P)				Dark Tide (2012, Thriller) Halle Berry.		
182	RFD	(182) SF Machinery	Small Town	Rural America 'Live'		Steve Lantvit	Rural Eve. News	Market Journal	GA Farm Monitor	SF Machinery	Small Town	Time Life Library		

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