

Bald Eagles of Eastern Idaho  
Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem

**2004 ANNUAL PRODUCTIVITY REPORT**



**GYE/IDAHO Bald Eagle Research Project**

**U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Targhee National Forest  
U.S.D.I. Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Falls District  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
and  
Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative**

**Idaho BLM Technical Bulletin 2005-03**



Pictured above is the adult male of the Pine Creek Bald Eagle Breeding Area after banding as a nesting adult in 1988. This South Fork Snake River adult has produced 21 young at the same breeding area since 1988, and produced two young in 2004. Productive adult longevity may be the most important metric involved in the sustained recovery of the region's bald eagle population, a statistic now under study by the Idaho/GYE Bald Eagle Research Team.

# **ANNUAL BALD EAGLE PRODUCTIVITY FINAL REPORT 2004**

**Idaho Portion of the  
Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem  
Zone 18**

**IDAHO/GYE BALD EAGLE RESEARCH PROJECT**



**U. S. Bureau of Land Management  
U. S. Forest Service, Targhee National Forest  
Idaho Department of Fish and Game  
and  
Northern Rockies Conservation Cooperative**



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**ANNUAL BALD EAGLE PRODUCTIVITY REPORT 2004  
IDAHO PORTION OF GREATER YELLOWSTONE ECOSYSTEM**

**SUMMARY AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We report results of calendar year 2004 activity and productivity surveys at each of the 58 currently known bald eagle breeding areas within the Southeast Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE). Data were collected through aerial, ground, and float surveys.

The late winter/early spring, March and April 2004, were unusually warm and dry, followed by a wetter, cooler period in the last half of April and May. We believe that this unusual weather contributed to a high level of activity at known bald eagle breeding areas, and high productivity at lower elevation breeding areas. The 49 advanced young produced in the Snake Idaho unit in 2004 is the highest productivity we have recorded in that unit. All 38 breeding areas in the Snake Idaho unit of the GYE were occupied. In the Snake Idaho population unit, for sites with known productivity, a total of 49 young were produced at 38 occupied, 35 active, and 30 successful sites, for productivity ratios of 1.29 advanced young/occupied site, 1.40 advanced young/active site, and 1.63 advanced young/successful site.

In the Continental Idaho unit, nesting success and productivity were at lower levels. In 2004, 17 of 20 breeding areas were occupied; however, the Buffalo River site may not be a legitimate breeding area. Of 17 occupied sites with known success, 17 were active. Fifteen young were produced at 10 successful sites, for productivity ratios of .88 advanced young/occupied site, .88 advanced young/active site, and 1.50 advanced young/successful site.

Anecdotal observations suggested two potential new Snake Idaho Unit bald eagle breeding areas in 2004, but productivity observations were not completed at these sites. These areas will be investigated more thoroughly in 2005. Productivity was documented at one newly discovered breeding area in the Continental Unit, Middle Reservoir on Island Park Reservoir, a breeding area where bald eagle nesting has been suspected since the early 1990s. Fifteen nestling bald eagles were banded in 2004. The research team acquired a high-powered spotting scope in 2004 and made an extra effort to learn the band status of nesting adults, and to determine banded adult natal areas. Of 63 actively nesting adults for which band status could be determined, 19 adults were banded (11 males, 8 females), or 30.2% of the checked adults. Sixteen of the 19 adults were banded in the GYE, and area of origin was not determined for the other 3. Eleven of the GYE banded eagles were banded in Idaho, 3 in Wyoming, and 2 in Montana. Natal breeding area was determined for 9 adults with numbered color bands. The oldest observed banded adult was at least 22 years old.

M. Whitfield and S. Miller conducted ground and float surveys at most of the Idaho sites for the Idaho Bald Eagle Research Project and prepared this report. G. Stanley and G. Collins assisted with banding. K. Rice and M. Zimmerman of the Bureau of Land Management monitored some lower main Snake and South Fork nests. B. Alford of Targhee National Forest assisted with boat surveys of Palisades Reservoir. L. Hanauska-Brown and Justin Naderman reported on Idaho Department of Fish and Game monitoring of several lower river sites.

## **ANNUAL PRODUCTIVITY REPORT 2004**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

There are currently 58 known bald eagle breeding areas within the Southeast Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE, Zone 18). Of this total, 38 are found within the Snake Idaho Unit of the GYE population on the South Fork Snake River, lower Henry's Fork, and Teton River (figure 1). Another 20 breeding areas are found within the Continental Idaho Unit of the GYE population (figure 2), primarily on the Henry's Fork Snake River above Ashton, Idaho. In 1988, territories within each unit were numbered consecutively, beginning at the most southerly site on Palisades Reservoir and proceeding to the north end of the Continental Unit. New territories found since 1988 have been numbered as they have been found.

Since the Idaho research team began more intensive monitoring of bald eagle productivity in the Idaho/GYE area in 1983, there has been nearly a five fold increase in the number of adult nesting pairs (from 12 to nearly 60). In 2004 2 new bald eagle breeding areas were suspected in the Snake Idaho population unit, but actual nesting activity and productivity at these sites were not confirmed. J. Naderman reported seeing bald eagles at a new site in a field along the South Fork near Market Lake, but productivity at this site was not monitored in 2004. K. Rice saw bald eagles at a new site on the South Fork of Teton River near Sugar City, and M. Whitfield saw an adult near this nest after the nesting season. Within the Continental Unit, a new breeding area, Middle Reservoir (18-IC-20), was discovered. Observations from the early 1990s suggested that bald eagles were nesting in this area, but no nests were discovered (see narrative below).

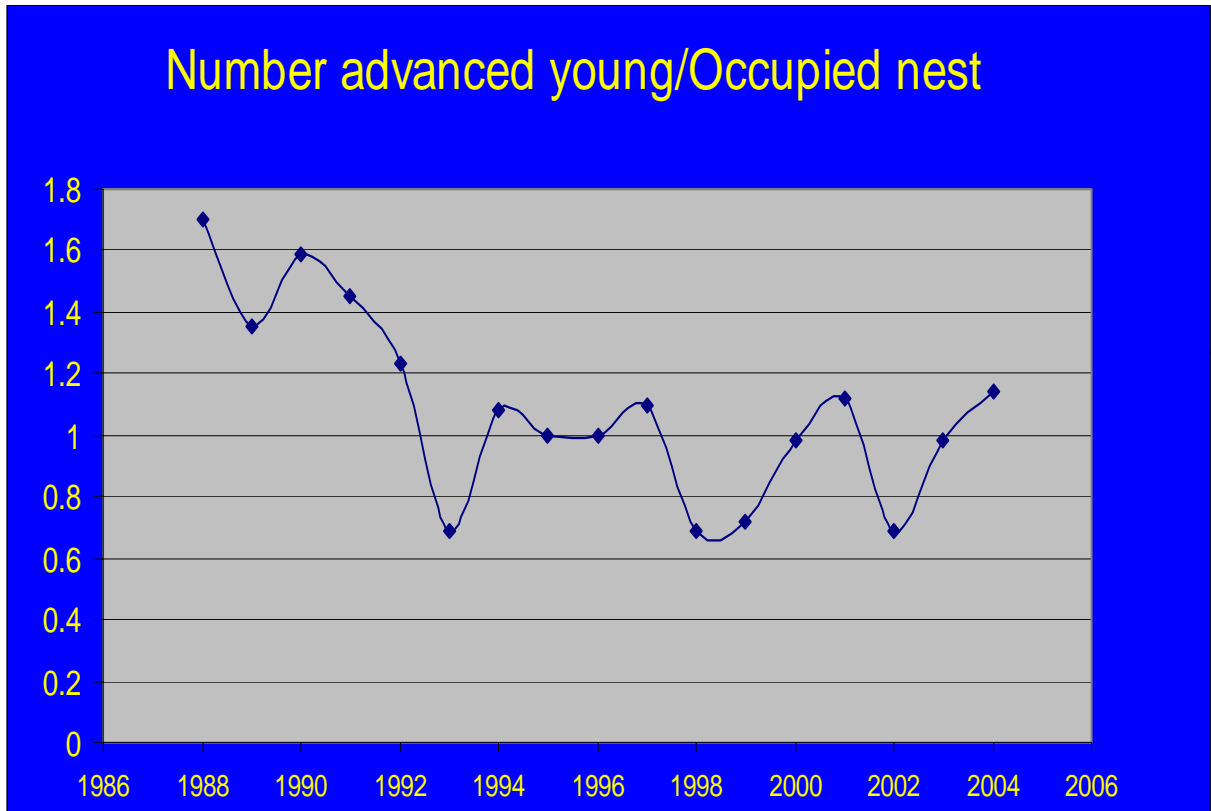
Productivity Monitoring Methods. We attempted to visit all known sites at least twice: early in the nesting season for an activity check and later when advanced young would be expected for a productivity check. In most cases, additional nest checks were necessary to determine productivity status or to locate new alternate nest sites (appendix table 3). Multiple visits to some sites also helped to clarify use of new alternate nests. Most ground checks were from long distance with spotting scopes so as to avoid disturbance of adults. We banded a sampling of the advanced nestlings in 2004 as we sought blood samples for contaminant analysis, and thus, entered some nests during productivity checks.

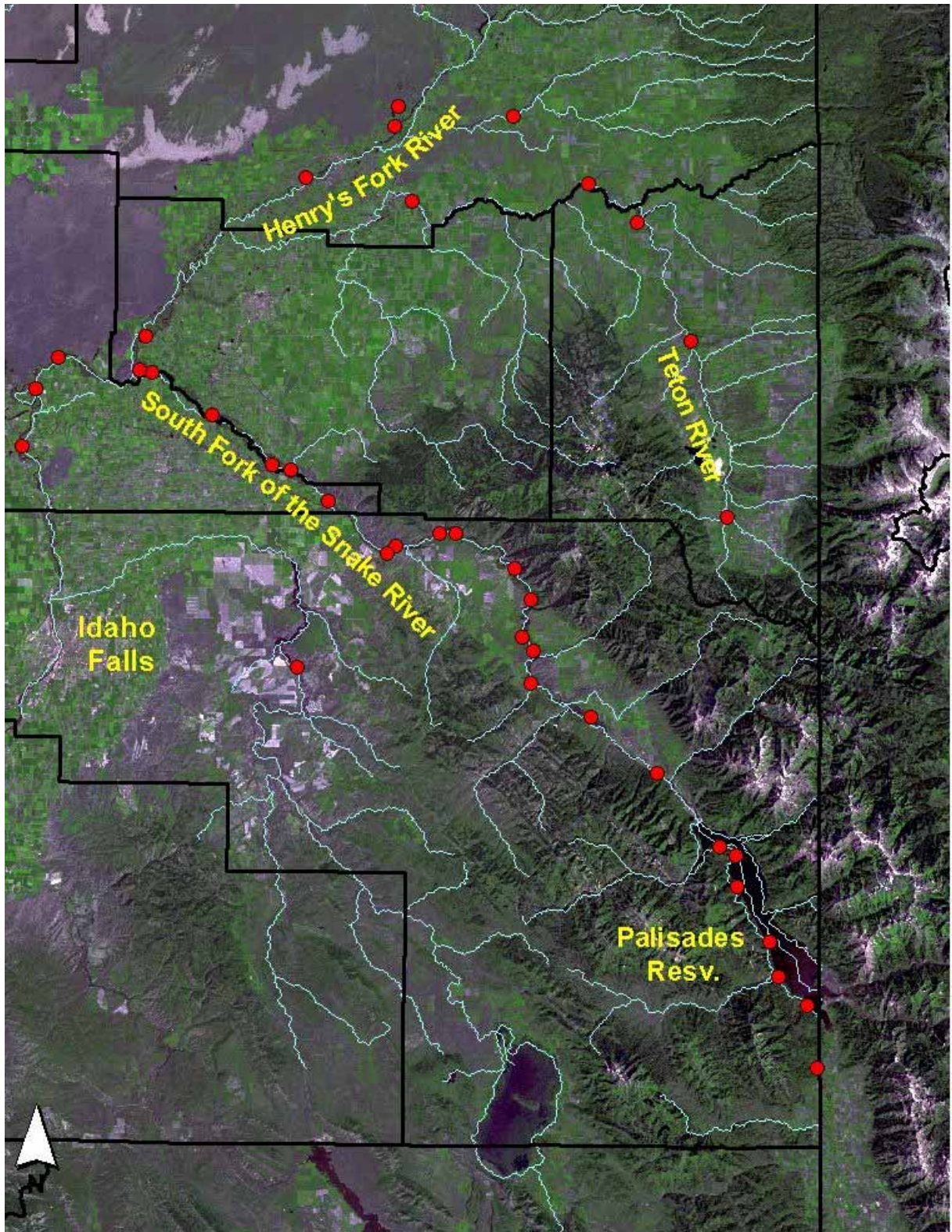
Productivity since 1993 has been consistently around 1 young/occupied nest, a relatively low level compared with the prior decade, but within the recovery targets identified for this population. A number of factors may be contributing to this slowing in the population's productivity. Many recent years have featured wet spring weather at a critical point in the nesting season, in the first week or two after hatching. This has been particularly evident in the higher elevations. Since 1992, new pairs have established breeding territories at 21 new areas. Typically new pairs reproduce less successfully than experienced pairs; growth in breeding population may thus depress productivity rates. Establishment of new territories also appears to disrupt productivity in adjacent historic breeding areas. Importantly, several formerly productive sites are no longer consistently successful due to human development near nest sites.

**Table 1. Advanced young per occupied nest for nests with known outcome for years 1988-2003.**

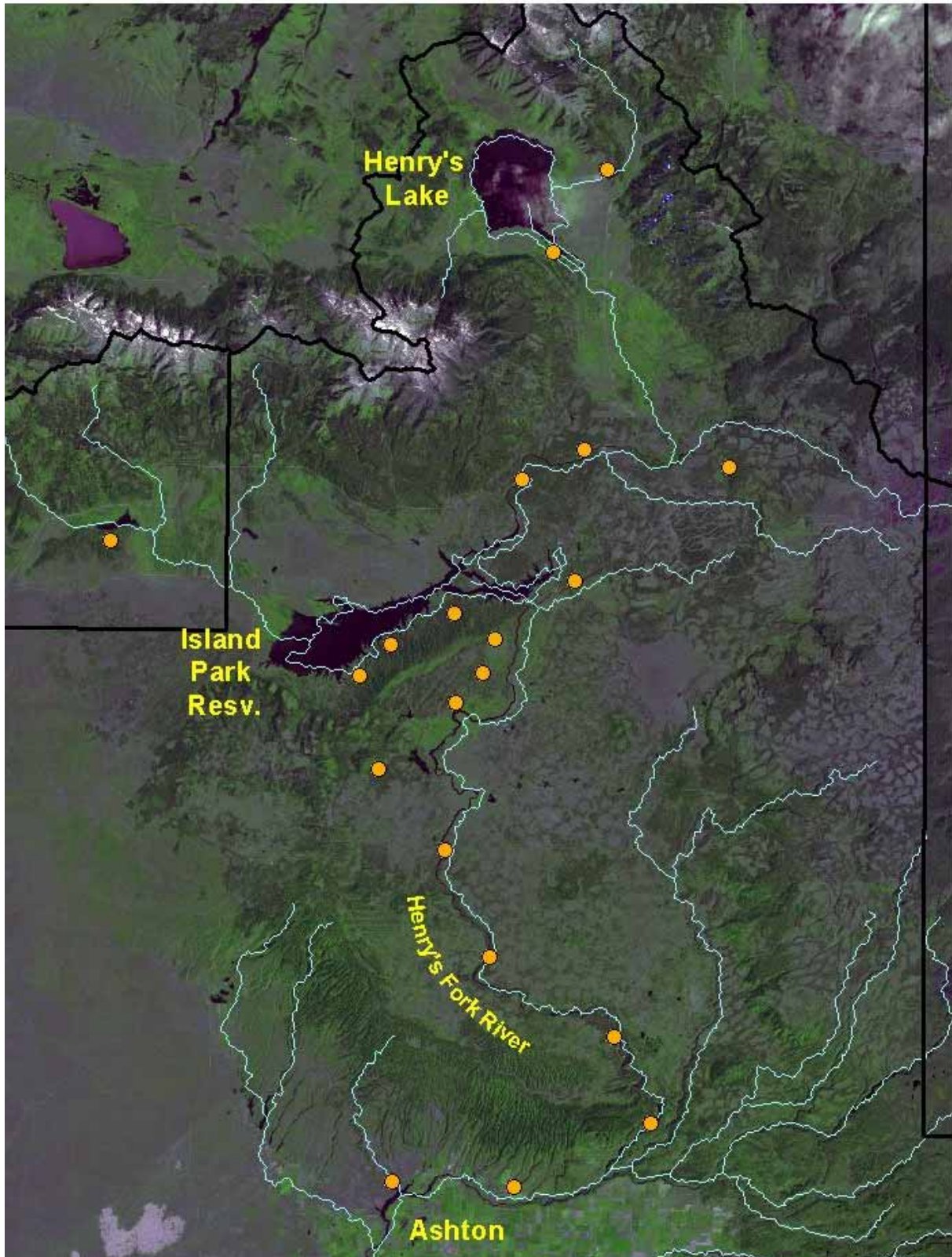
<u>Year</u>	<u>Advanced young/ Occupied nest</u>
1988	1.70
1989	1.35
1990	1.59
1991	1.45
1992	1.23
1993	0.69
1994	1.08
1995	1.00
1996	1.00
1997	1.10
1998	0.69
1999	0.72
2000	0.98
2001	1.12
2002	0.69
2003	0.98
2004	1.16

**Advanced Young per Occupied Nest, 1988-2004**





**Figure 1. Map of currently known bald eagle breeding areas within the Snake Idaho Unit of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, October 2004.**



**Figure 2. Map of currently known bald eagle breeding areas within the Continental Idaho Unit of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, October 2004.**



## BREEDING AREA ACCOUNTS

We provide an account of calendar year 2004 activity and productivity surveys at each breeding area in Southeast Idaho, Management Zone 18, the Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Nesting chronology is reported where reliable data were obtained. Breeding areas are organized by geographic location.

### PALISADES RESERVOIR AREAS

Over the past decade, analysis of bald eagle productivity at the seven bald eagle breeding areas associated with Palisades Reservoir has been complicated by several factors. First, two areas of the reservoir, Van Point and Hoffman, feature multiple breeding areas in relatively close proximity to one another. Second, there has been considerable movement by breeding adults among alternate nesting sites in some of these breeding areas. Finally, nesting activity and success at these sites have been highly variable, with the result that it is been difficult to apply year-to-year results to analysis of breeding area status.

Over the past several years we have reported breeding area results in the Palisades Reservoir area with concern that the some of the newly identified breeding areas might actually be alternate nests used by earlier established breeding pairs. Each new breeding area or alternate nest has required a renewed evaluation of which bald eagle pair is involved. This year's observations were more definitive for two reasons: more intensive observation effort, discovery of a new alternate nest site near McCoy Creek, and adult nesting activity at all the known nests.

In 2002 our team found a new nest site in the Trout Creek area, and we assumed that the Hoffman East pair, the bald eagle pair nearest this site, occupied this site. In 2004 we discovered a new nest site near the McCoy Creek campground that we have attributed to the Hoffman West breeding pair.

In the Van Point/Edwards Creek area, 2004's observations found active and successful nesting at all three breeding areas, Van Point North, Van Point South and Edwards Creek. This was the first year that we have observed successful nesting at all three of these sites in the same year.

#### Hoffman West/McCoy Creek 18-IS-28

S. Miller discovered a new nest for this area on 04-26-04 during an observation from across the reservoir to the east. This new nest in a very large Douglas fir is located between summer homes to the south and the McCoy Creek campground to the north. An adult was perched on a branch next to the nest, but the observer could not see into the nest to determine if there was a bird incubating or brooding. The nest structure is on the southwest side of the tree bole. Miller then drove around to the McCoy Campground area to get a better view of the nest, and did detect an adult sitting on the nest. S. Miller observed this area from the west side of the reservoir on 05-19-04, and again found an adult on this newly discovered nest. No young were seen. S. Miller and M. Whitfield detected an eagle on this newly located alternate nest on 06-07-04, but could not determine how many nestlings were on the nest. On 06-21-04, S. Miller again returned to observe at the new McCoy Creek nest. One adult, thought to be the male, was perched in a snag top Douglas fir near the reservoir, directly below the nest. The other adult was perched in the

nest tree, but was only partially visible. Miller could see wing movement from at least one dark nestling, but could not see into the nest clearly. We elected not to enter this nest to band young because the nest tree is so close to sources of human disturbance.

#### Hoffman East/Trout Creek 18-IS-01

M. Whitfield and S. Miller attempted to observe this nest from the access road that passes beyond the Alpine airport on 03-20-04, but could not see the nest surface from this angle and distance. There was an adult perched in a tree in front of the nest. The McCoy Creek road into this area was still snow covered, which made it impractical to get close enough for a clear view. On 04-03-04, the McCoy Creek road remained impassable to vehicle traffic. M. Whitfield was unable to detect any adults from distant observation points on this date. S. Miller saw an adult standing on this nest on 04-26-04. On 05-19-04, S. Miller saw both adults around the nest and one dark youngster on the nest.

On 06-07-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller banded a nestling of approximately 6 weeks age in the Trout Creek nest. Both adults were flying in the area during the 70-minute visit to the nest site. S. Miller observed an adult with the large nestling on this nest on 06-21-04.

#### Williams Creek 18-IS-02

On 03-20-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller observed this nest twice from the opposite side of the reservoir during their initial 2004 survey of Palisades Reservoir. On the first scan at about 07:30, there were no bald eagles at this site. However, on the return visit a single adult was perched on the nest. The nest appeared to be built up with twigs stacked on the nest edge. On 04-03, M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw an incubating adult on the nest. On 04-06, M. Whitfield again saw an incubating adult on this nest. S. Miller saw an adult standing on the Williams Creek nest on 04-26-04 and again on 05-19-04.

On 06-07-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller banded two approximately 5.5 week old nestlings at the Williams Creek nest site. Bud Alford of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest transported the banding crew to the nest via boat. On 06-30-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller found one large nestling sitting on the edge of this nest; the second nestling was not in view, and no adults were detected.

#### Van Point North 18-IS-03

M. Whitfield and S. Miller observed an adult working on this nest on 03-20-04. The adult was only partially visible from the distant State Highway 26, but did not appear to be incubating as the eagle's head was moving widely over the nest surface. It did appear that the adult was arranging nest material. On 04-03-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw an incubation exchange at this nest. The incubating adult was not visible until a second adult flew into the nest area and perched near the nest. The bird on the nest then departed, and the second adult landed on the nest and settled into incubation posture. S. Miller saw an adult on the nest on 04-26-04. On 05-19-04, S. Miller saw an adult fly into this nest, but could not detect young.

During a boat survey piloted by Bud Alford of the Caribou-Targhee National Forest on 06-07, M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw an adult perched in the top of a live conifer near the nest, but no eagles were detected on the nest. This observation was from the reservoir edge northeast of the

nest site. We decided not to attempt banding because it appeared that any young present were still small. The banding crew, consisting of M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley returned to this site in a boat piloted by Bud Alford on 06-18-04. The crew lowered two large nestlings to the ground below the nest, banded them and took blood samples, and returned them to the nest.

#### Van Point South 18-IS-29

A single adult was perched atop a Douglas fir near this nest at 07:00 and again at 11:00 on 03-20-04 when observed by M. Whitfield and S. Miller. However, the nest surface was not visible from State Highway 26 observation points. On 04-03-04, S. Miller and M. Whitfield saw an adult in incubation posture on this nest, with a second adult perched nearby. The nest surface is not visible from Highway 26 pullouts opposite the nest site, but could be clearly seen from a more distant point along the highway. S. Miller saw an adult on the nest on 04-26-04. On 05-21-04, S. Miller again saw an adult on the nest and a second adult perched nearby.

On 06-07-04, M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and B. Alford saw an adult on this nest in apparent brooding posture. No young were seen on the nest. On 06-18-04, M. Whitfield and G. Stanley banded one nestling of approximately 5.5 weeks of age in this nest. Both adults were circling overhead during the banding activity. On 06-30-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw both adults perched near the nest, and the nestling was sitting on the nest.

#### Edwards Creek 18-IS-17

M. Whitfield and S. Miller did not detect any bald eagles or nest structures during a distant observation on 03-20-04. Similarly, on 05-19-04, S. Miller was unable to see any bald eagles in this area. However, on 06-07-04, S. Miller, M. Whitfield, and B. Alford found an adult sitting on a nest along the reservoir shoreline north of Edwards Creek. A second adult was flying in the area. The adult on the nest appeared to be brooding a nestling, but no nestlings were observed. S. Miller observed the Edwards Creek nest from across the reservoir on 06-21-04. It appeared that the adult male was tending to young in the nest, although the young could not be seen from that distance. On 06-30-04, M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Collins banded two large nestlings at this site. B. Alford transported the banding crew to the nest area via boat.

#### King Creek 18-IS-18

M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw an incubating adult on this nest on 03-20-04 and again on 04-03-04. However, in subsequent observations on 04-26-04, 05-19-04, and 06-21-04, S. Miller reported that this nest was abandoned, and no adults were seen.

### SOUTH FORK OF THE SNAKE RIVER

#### Palisades Creek 18-IS-04

S. Miller reported an incubating adult on this nest on 03-11-04. On 03-20-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller again saw an adult sitting low in incubation posture on this nest. The observers watched the site during an extended period, but did not see the second adult. On 04-03-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller again saw an adult low in this nest. The adult eagle was not visible from near the nest in the subdivision owing to twigs around the nest edge, but the top of its head was visible from Highway 26. M. Whitfield again saw an adult low in this nest on 04-06-04. On 04-16-04, S. Miller saw an adult on the nest in brooding posture. This adult vocalized as a second

adult, the male, flew in with a small fish, landed in the nest, and stood next to the female. The male hopped up to perch on a branch, and the adult female ate the fish. On both 04-22-04 and 05-19-04, S. Miller saw an adult standing on the Palisades Creek nest.

On 06-18-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller could not locate the Palisades Creek nest—it was no longer in the nest tree. Believing that the nest had blown down, S. Miller surveyed the river for fledged young on 06-21-04. Miller saw one adult 1/4 mile downstream of the nest tree, but found no young. L. Hanuska-Brown of Idaho Department of Fish and Game reported that a nearby homeowner did find the fallen nest near their home. Idaho Fish and Game personnel surveyed the area and found one dead nestling and one that survived to fledging.

#### Swan Valley 18-IS-05

On 03-11-04, S. Miller observed an incubating adult on this nest. M. Whitfield and S. Miller again saw an adult in incubation posture on this nest on 03-20-04. S. Miller saw an adult in brooding posture on this nest on 04-16-04. On 05-13-04, S. Miller saw an adult standing on the nest, but could not see the young. S. Miller observed the Swan Valley nest from the Fall Campground area on 06-16-04, but again could not make out how many young were in the nest. On 06-21-04, Miller observed one very large youngster on the nest from an observation point west of the nest. The nestling appeared to be as large as the adult that came to the nest during the observation.

#### Conant Valley 18-IS-06

On 03-11-04, S. Miller attempted a long distance observation of the Conant Valley nest, but could not locate the nest visually. On 04-16-04, S. Miller saw a pair of bald eagles perched in cottonwoods a half mile below the highway bridge downstream of Swan Valley: first an adult perched in a cottonwood on the north side of highway, second a sub-adult, with a dark streak behind eye, perched in a cottonwood overhanging the river. These eagles later departed upriver. On 04-29-04, S. Miller saw an adult flying across the river to an east side channel 1/4 mile upstream of the Forest Service's Snake River Guard Station. Miller found a rudimentary stick structure in a cottonwood on the west side of the river in this area. S. Miller saw an adult perched on the east side of the river in cottonwoods on 05-13-04, but did not detect a nest.

S. Miller hiked into the northwest side of the river along the river rim on 06-02-04, but did not detect any nest structures and did not see any bald eagles. On 06-23-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller walked throughout the island where the nest used in the last several years was located. The observers did not see any bald eagles, and the historic nest structure had blown down.

During an early morning observation on 07-08-04, M. Whitfield found two adults roosted in a cottonwood on an island below the old Swan Valley Bridge abutment at the upper end of the Conant Valley breeding area. Whitfield did not detect any nest structures in the Douglas fir stand on the west side of the river in this reach.

#### Pine Creek 18-IS-07

S. Miller saw an adult standing in the same nest as used last year on 04-12-04. The nest was built up, and it appeared that the adult was tending to young, although the young were not observed. On 05-03-04, S. Miller saw an adult with one nestling at the Pine Creek nest. S.

Miller saw two nestlings on the Pine Creek nest on 06-02-04, but no adults. M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw two young on the Pine Creek nest on 06-23-04. Both adults, including the adult male banded here in 1988, were in a limber pine downstream from the nest on the west side of the river. M. Whitfield again saw this adult pair perched together on 09-24-04, this time at the lower end of the breeding area on the Bennion property in cottonwoods near the river.

#### Five Ways 18-IS-24

S. Miller observed an adult sitting low on the Five Ways nest on 04-12-04.

S. Miller saw two young and an adult on the Five Ways nest on 06-02-04. M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw three young on the Five Ways nest on 06-23-04 during a float survey. No adults were in view. On 07-14-04, M. Whitfield heard or saw all three fledged young food begging in the vicinity of the nest. One of young eagles flew into the nest area from a perch east of the river.

#### Dry Canyon 18-IS-08

S. Miller saw an adult on this nest in incubation posture at 09:20 on 04-12-04. At 09:50 an adult stood up and flew off. Another adult arrived at the nest from across the river shortly after the first bird departed. This adult, the female, had white feathers on its back. On 04-30-04, S. Miller and G. Collins saw the adult female brooding, and later feeding fish to two small young on this nest. The adult male was perched in a Douglas fir across the river and upstream of the nest. S. Miller saw an adult feeding young at this site, and later observed the second adult take over nest attendance while the first adult foraged upstream on 05-03-04. S. Miller hiked into the Dry Canyon area on 06-02-04, where she observed both adults in the general area of the nest and two nestlings on the nest. On 06-23-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw two large young on the Dry Canyon nest.

#### Gormer Canyon 18-IS-09

S. Miller and G. Collins searched for bald eagles in this breeding area on 03-31-04. They detected an adult 3/4 miles downstream of the nest flying over the river, and then perched on a cottonwood limb over the river. This adult later soared above the cliffs out of view. The nest was unoccupied, and did not look built up. The observers scanned the entire area for several hours and did not detect any other bald eagles.

On 04-14-04, S. Miller again monitored the Gormer Canyon area to learn if there was a nesting pair here independent of the activity detected at Fisher Bottom (see narrative below). Miller saw a subadult perched in a cottonwood at the mouth of Black Canyon, and later saw an adult land in a cottonwood directly in front of the historic nest. This adult took to the air in pursuit of the subadult, circled around the river, and then flew downriver over the ridge, still in pursuit. The historic nest was not occupied, and no other structures were detected in the nest area.

On 05-15-04 during a 5.5 hour observation, M. Whitfield searched for bald eagles throughout the portion of this breeding area above Black Canyon while S. Miller monitored bald eagle activity from Black Canyon to Fullmer Landing. Whitfield did not detect any adults in the upper reach. The Douglas fir alternate nest for the territory was built up with some new nest material. Two hours into the observation (09:00), Miller saw three bald eagles, two adults and a sub-adult, in cottonwoods across from the mouth of Burns Canyon. The adult female was preening and

vocalizing. The adult male harassed the sub-adult and eventually chased it downstream past the Fisher Bottom nest and out of view. Later the adult male flew back upstream from below over the Fullmer Landing launch site, hunted up side channels upstream of Burns Canyon, and perched with the female. Late in the observation, the observers detected bands on the adult male, W/G on the left leg, USFWS silver on the right, but did not detect any numbers on either band.

S. Miller and G. Stanley returned to this breeding area on 05-21-04 for a three-hour observation to again attempt to determine the number of adult bald eagles in the area. Miller saw no bald eagles seen from Black Canyon to below Fullmer boat landing. Stanley observed an adult perched in a riverside cottonwood at the mouth of Bear Gulch, and a second adult downstream. S. Miller saw the banded adult male and unbanded adult female perched on a backwater channel opposite the Gorner nest, and later in the Gorner nest tree, on 06-11-04.

M. Whitfield and S. Miller spent two hours in the Gorner nesting area on 06-23-04 during a float survey. There were no eagles on the Douglas fir alternate nest, but both adults were perched in a cottonwood near the nest tree. The adult female was not banded. The adult male was banded W/G on the left leg, with no markings on band. The observers were unable to read the numbers on the USFWS band on the right leg. One immature bald eagle was seen across the river from the nest site on this date.

Fisher Bottom. M. Whitfield and S. Miller observed an adult in incubation posture on the Fisher Bottom nest on 03-24-04. There were also two immature bald eagles in the area. S. Miller and G. Collins observed an adult on this nest in incubation posture on 03-31-04. S. Miller again saw an adult sitting low in this nest on 04-14-04, and did not see a second adult during an hour of observation. On 04-22-04, there were no bald eagles in the vicinity of the Fisher Bottom nest, and starlings were hopping around on the nest. S. Miller found no bald eagles in the Fisher Bottom area on 06-11-04, after watching an adult pair in the Gorner nest tree earlier in the day. For 2004, we are again uncertain if this is a new nesting pair or an alternate nest for the Gorner pair, although this year's observations suggest the later.

#### Wolverine 18-IS-10

M. Whitfield and S. Miller observed an adult on the Douglas fir nest (alternate two) in incubation posture on 03-24-04. S. Miller and G. Collins saw an adult on this nest on 03-31-04. S. Miller again saw an adult sitting low on the nest on 04-14-04. During a 3.5 hour observation on 04-22-04, S. Miller saw a brooding adult on this nest and a nest exchange. S. Miller watched an adult hunting in the Wolverine breeding area on 05-13-04, but did not detect any activity or movements on the nest. On 05-15-04 M. Whitfield and S. Miller did not see any bald eagles at this nest site or in the breeding area. The nesting attempt had apparently failed. S. Miller reported that the Wolverine nest site was not occupied on 06-11-04.

On 06-23-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller confirmed that there were no young produced at the Wolverine breeding area this year. The adult pair were seen in the nest area on this date and again on 06-25-04.

Table Rock Canyon 18-IS-36

M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw in adult in incubation posture on the Table Rock nest on 03-24-04. S. Miller and G. Collins observed a preening adult male perched in a cottonwood near the Snake River road across river from the Table Rock nest on 03-31-04. The adult was wet, and traded vocalizations with its mate on the nest. S. Miller detected both a color band and a silver FWS band on the adult male on this date, which aided in tracking the adults in subsequent observations. S. Miller saw a brooding adult on the Table Rock Canyon nest on 04-22-04. On 04-29-04 and again on 05-13-04, S. Miller saw the adult male standing on the nest, but no young were visible. The adult female was perched upstream of the nest during the 04-29 observation, and later flew to the river and then delivered an unidentified object to the nest.

On 05-15-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw one adult perched in a snag above the nest, but could not see eagles on the nest. S. Miller saw the adult male perched near the road opposite the nest site on 06-11-04, but did not see any bald eagles at the nest. Eagles are not easily detected at this nest unless they are active and standing tall.

On 06-25-04, S. Miller saw 2 young at the Table Rock Canyon nest, one in the nest, the other on a branch behind the nest. The adult female was perched in a snag above the nest. M. Whitfield observed both fledged young perched together in a cottonwood snag on the north side of the river opposite the nest on 07-14-04.

Antelope Creek 18-IS-11

S. Miller saw an adult in incubation posture on this nest on 03-11-04, the same alternate used the past several years atop a tall Douglas fir at mid-slope. There was still an incubating adult on this nest on 03-24-04 when observed by M. Whitfield and S. Miller. S. Miller returned to observe this nest on 03-29-04, and found an adult on the nest in incubation posture on nest. A second adult was soaring over the area and foraging in the river downstream of the nest. Miller observed a nest exchange later in the observation. On 04-22-04, S. Miller saw an adult in brooding posture on the Antelope Creek nest. S. Miller found an adult brooding on the nest on 04-29-04. A second adult was perched on the northeast side of the river downstream of the nest, wings outstretched as though drying. This adult later flew upstream to a cottonwood snag. Miller saw at least one young nestling on the nest, a fuzzy and light-colored nestling. The adult later fed the youngster pieces of whitefish. On 05-07-04, S. Miller saw one nestling on the nest.

M. Whitfield and Miller saw an adult feeding two nestlings on this nest on 05-15-04.

On 06-11-04, S. Miller saw an adult on the Antelope Creek nest, but did not detect any young. S. Miller observed two young of the year at the Antelope Creek nest on 06-25-04; one perched on a branch above the nest, the other in the nest. The perched juvenile was a color morph with a pied plumage: with a white pattern on the front of its head, a dark bill, a few white feathers in its breast and tail, and dark talons.

Clark Hill 18-IS-25

On 03-11-04, S. Miller observed an adult in incubation posture on the same nest as last year (alternate #2). A second adult was seen 1/4 mile upstream on the north side of the river in a cottonwood branch overlooking the river. On 03-29-04, S. Miller again observed an adult on the

nest in incubation posture. On 03-31-04, S. Miller noted an adult on the nest, and a second adult soaring over the road.

On 04-14-04, S. Miller saw an adult perched on top of a Douglas fir at the rest area on Highway 26, apparently the adult female. This adult exchanged vocalizations with an adult on the nest. Miller later saw a sub-adult perched on a telephone pole one mile north along the highway. During a two-hour observation on 04-21-04, S. Miller observed an adult brooding two small, grey downy young on the Clark Hill nest. S. Miller saw one small nestling's head over the nest on 05-13-04, and saw a larger nestling on the edge of this nest on 06-11-04. On 06-19-04, M. Whitfield noted two advanced nestlings on this nest with one attendant adult perched nearby.

#### Great Feeder Island 18-IS-31

S. Miller observed an adult in incubation posture on this nest on 03-11-04 and 03-24-04, and in brooding posture on 04-14-04 and 04-21-04. On 05-07-04, S. Miller saw an adult perched in the snag near the nest, with one nestling visible on the nest. M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and K. Rice boated to this nest site on 06-04-04 via jet boat. Two large young were found on this flimsy nest. The adult male was perched across the river.

M. Quinn transported M. Whitfield down river to this nest area in a jet boat on 07-16-04. Mike Quinn had noticed that the nest had blown down about two weeks earlier, but that both nestlings were still in the nest tree. On 07-16-04, the observers found both adults in the nest tree area. The nest had entirely broken out of the tree. Both juveniles were found downriver of the nest, and later flew to perch in the large snag near the nest tree.

#### Cress Creek 18-IS-12

M. Whitfield and S. Miller found an adult in incubation posture on a new alternate nest in the midst of the heron rookery upriver of past nests on 03-24-04 after a hike into the point between the two river channels. On 03-29-04, S. Miller observed an adult on this nest at 07:45. Shortly after arrival of the observer to the observation point across the river from the nest, the adult left the nest and flew downstream. Three minutes later the adult returned and perched near the nest. It appeared to be wet. At 08:05 the second adult came in from upriver and landed near the nest, with lots of vocalizing by both birds. On 05-07-04, S. Miller saw both adults perched in cottonwoods in the nest vicinity, but could not see the nest from the Archer highway/Twin bridges area. M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and K. Rice visited the Cress Creek nest via jet boat on 06-04-04. Both adults were near the nest area, and one very large nestling was standing on the nest.

Lowder Slough 18-IS-37. M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and K. Rice hiked off the river into this nest area on 06-04-04. The adult female was found on the nest attending to two young. She flew away from the nest out of view. The adult male was seen perched near the river.

LaBell 18-IS-38. M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and K. Rice boated and hiked into this nest area on the east side of the river on land owned by Mr. Tanner on 06-04-04. One nestling was seen on the nest. Both adults were in the area defending the nest.



Ririe Reservoir 18-IS-26

On 05-07-04 S. Miller met with L. Hanauska-Brown of Idaho Department of Fish and Game to survey the Ririe Reservoir breeding area. The upper nest in the nearest large cottonwoods was reportedly occupied earlier this year (IDF&G report), but on this date no bald eagles were seen. The nest was built up but empty. Whitewash on the ground and in new greenery suggested recent activity. A lower alternate nest at the other end of the cottonwood grove nearer the Reservoir was not occupied. The Reservoir level was relatively low this year, and may not have reached the Deer Creek area.

Confluence 18-IS-13

On 03-29-04, K. Rice and M. Zimmerman observed an adult bald eagle in incubation posture on this nest. On 06-01-04, M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley observed one large nestling on the Confluence nest.

Potential Additional Nest site

On 06-01-04, M. Whitfield and crew twice saw an unaccounted for adult bald eagle perched near the river between the Confluence and Market Lake breeding areas. J. Naderman of Idaho Department of Fish and Game earlier reported seeing a new nest in a field in this general area, but this nest was not located or monitored during the breeding season.

Menan Buttes 18-IS-20

M. Whitfield and S. Miller observed an adult in incubation posture on the Menan Buttes nest on 03-09-04. On 03-30-04, S. Miller found an adult standing on this nest, head down tending to eggs, or more probably young. Miller saw an adult perched next to the nest and two young on this nest on 05-07-04.

On 06-01-04, M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley banded three large eaglets at the Menan Buttes nest site. The adult female was in attendance during the survey. M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and K. Rice returned to the Menan Buttes nest site on 06-04-04 to determine the adult band status and to monitor the young nestlings. The young appeared to be in fine condition, and both adults were in the nest area.

Market Lake 18-IS-22

On 03-09-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw an adult in incubation posture on the Market Lake nest. During the observation, a second adult flew to the nest tree from upstream and landed below the nest. On 03-30-04, S. Miller saw an adult on this nest in brooding posture. The adult moved around the nest, and appeared to be attending to young.

On 06-01-04, M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley observed one nestling on this nest, with both adults in the area.

Dry Bed 18-IS-35

M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw an adult in incubation posture in this nest, and a second adult standing in this nest, apparently eating a prey item, on 03-09-04. S. Miller could not determine if an adult was on this nest on 03-30-04 or 05-07-04, but did see an adult near the nest on this later date.

During a BLM boat survey on 06-01-04, M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley saw both adults in the breeding area, but the nesting attempt appeared to have failed. Although there was ample whitewash below the nest, the nest was empty.

#### Annis Slough 18-IS-27

M. Whitfield and S. Miller saw an adult bald eagle in incubation posture on the Annis Slough nest site on 03-09-04. On 03-29-04, K. Rice and M. Zimmerman observed an adult bald eagle in incubation posture on this nest. S. Miller monitored adults at this site on 03-30-04. An adult was on the nest in brooding posture, and a second adult was perched downstream at the South Fork confluence on a branch over the water, where it appeared to be hunting. On 05-07-04, Miller saw an adult and one youngster on the nest. The nestling was dark colored and large.

M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley observed one very large nestling on this nest on 06-01-04 and 06-40-04. Both adults were present; the adult female is much larger than the male. S. Miller returned to the Annis Slough breeding area on 06-16-04. The female was in the nest with the single nestling, and the adult male was perched nearby.

### LOWER HENRY'S FORK

#### Cartier Slough 18-IS-14

M. Whitfield and S. Miller detected an adult in incubation posture on the Cartier Slough nest on 03-09-04 after attempts to see into the nest area from many locations along the roadway on the northern Menan Butte. S. Miller saw a white head on this nest on 03-30-04, but the observation conditions made it impossible to determine the behavior of the adult. Miller saw an adult near the nest on 05-07-04, but could not see into the nest.

On 06-01-04, M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley saw one nestling atop the Cartier Slough nest. Both adults were perched nearby.

#### St. Anthony 18-IS-15

M. Whitfield saw an adult in incubation posture on this nest on 02-23-04 and again on 03-09-04. M. Whitfield saw two young at this nest on 06-03-04. On 06-17-04, M. Whitfield observed an empty nest in the St. Anthony breeding area.

#### Singleton Pond 18-IS-16

M. Whitfield did not see any bald eagles in the vicinity of this nest on 02-23-04 during a long-distance scan from the Chester Wetlands headquarters. The nest structure appeared to be built up. On 03-09-04, M. Whitfield observed an adult standing on this built up nest. M. Whitfield, M. Orme, and D. Aslett scanned this nest from the vicinity of Singleton Pond with a spotting scope on 06-03-04. Two large nestlings were observed on the nest. No adults were seen in the area.

On 07-16-04, M. Whitfield found a single adult perched in a fishing perch in the stand of large cottonwoods approximately 50 meters below the Chester Dam on the south side of the river.

Whitfield did not survey the nest area or Singleton pond during this mid-day observation, and did not see the fledglings.

Fun Farm Bridge 18-IS-34

On 02-23-04, M. Whitfield saw an adult perched above the new alternate nest (2003) in the Fun Farm Bridge breeding area. The nest was built up over its ending condition from last year. The second adult was not in the nest area. M. Whitfield found an adult in incubation posture on 03-09-04. On 06-03-04, M. Whitfield observed three dark nestlings on this nest with a spotting scope. One adult was perched near the nest during the observation.

M. Whitfield surveyed the nest site and river corridor in the nest area within the Fun Farm Bridge breeding area from the river road on 07-16-04. No bald eagles were detected during two drives through the area, but later a fledgling flew from downriver of the bridge to a snag perch behind the nest. No other eagles were seen during this mid-day observation.

Lower Fall River 18-IS-19

M. Whitfield observed the area on 03-23-04, but did not see any adults. On 04-04-04, S. Miller saw an adult perched in the area of the known nest, but could not see into the nest. Miller did not see any adults in the area on 05-10-04, and was unable to see the nest.

On 07/05/04, M. Whitfield and L. Davy hiked into the Lower Fall River nest site. One large nestling was perched on the nest, and the adult male was perched in a nearby snag.

TETON RIVER, ALL REACHES

Upper Teton River 18-IS-21

M. Whitfield saw an adult in incubation posture with a second adult perched on the edge of this nest on 03-05-04. Whitfield again saw an adult sitting low on this nest on 03-21-04. M. Whitfield observed the Upper Teton adult female perched on a power pole at the Buxton Bridge on Teton River (North Bates) on 04-04-04. The breeding adults were frequently seen at this location post incubation, a location that is over five miles from the nest site. On 04-24-04, and again on 05-31-04, M. Whitfield saw an adult feeding two downy young on this nest. On 06-16-04, M. Whitfield saw at least two large nestlings on this nest, and found both adults far upriver at the Buxton Bridge on Teton River.

Hog Hollow 18-IS-23

On 04-25-04, M. Whitfield and E. Davy monitored this breeding area. The observers first located banded adult male perched in a cottonwood immediately south of the Hog Hollow bridge over the Teton River. The observers then scanned the known nest from a distance with a spotting scope, but did not detect any bald eagles. They then hiked into the nest tree, where whitewash was seen under the nest and some new sticks on the edge of the nest, but no evidence of recent nesting.

S. Miller and G. Stanley hiked throughout the Teton River corridor in the area of the Hog Hollow nest site on 05-26-04. An adult was seen flying upstream, but no alternate nests were located.

Sugar City, South Fork Teton River. K. Rice discovered adult bald eagles near a nest structure on the South Fork Teton River near Sugar City, Idaho in late April. M. Whitfield visited the site on 07-13-04, and observed a flat-topped nest structure in a live cottonwood in the area. A single adult was perched downstream of the nest site. No young bald eagles were detected.

Canyon Creek Area. S. Miller and G. Stanley observed an adult soaring in the Linderman dam area and downstream, but did not see any nest structures on 05-26-04.

Spring Hollow 18-IS-30

M. Whitfield and S. Miller observed an incubating adult on the upper snag nest from the top of the canyon rim on 04-13-04. S. Miller saw both adults standing in this nest on 05-05-04. No young were visible. S. Miller observed the adult female on the Spring Hollow nest on 05-27-04, with at least one youngster on the nest.

On 06/20/04, M. Whitfield observed one large nestling on this nest. The adult female was perched near the nest throughout a two-hour observation and was banded. The adult male delivered a fish taken from upriver to the nest, which the adult female shared with the nestling. On 07/05/04, M. Whitfield again observed one large nestling on this nest, and the adult female perched above the nest in a nearby tree.

Trail Creek, Upper Teton River 18-IS-32

On 03-17-04, S. Miller noted that last year's nest in an aspen grove northeast of the heron rookery is in disrepair and mostly blown down. Sue located a new nest at the northeast end of the heron rookery grove in a shorter, live aspen near some snags. An adult was in incubation posture on the nest. S. Miller and G. Stanley returned to this nest site on 03-23-04, and found the adult female with the deformed beak in incubation posture on this nest. The adult male was in pursuit of a subadult in the nest area during the observation. On 05-03-04, S. Miller saw one fuzzy, light grey nestling on the nest with the adult female. The male later delivered grass to the nest. Great blue herons were actively nesting in their nearby rookery, and flying throughout the area near the bald eagle nest. On 06-16-04, S. Miller observed a very large nestling on this nest, with the adult male perched nearby.

Danford Nest, Teton River Canyon 18-IS-33

M. Whitfield found no bald eagles or evidence of activity at the known nest in mid-March. On 05-05-04, S. Miller observed two adults and a subadult flying about and perching in the Teton River Canyon below the Felt Dam at the mouth of Badger Creek. M. Whitfield observed a pair of bald eagles in this area on 06-12-04, and detected an unoccupied nest mid-slope on the canyon wall on the west side of the river canyon below the dam.

NORTH FORK OF THE SNAKE RIVER (HENRY'S FORK), CONTINENTAL UNIT

Kerr Canyon 18-IC-01

M. Whitfield and S. Miller observed this nest site from south of the Ashton Reservoir on 03-28-04. An adult was perched in a snag east of the nest, and a second adult in incubation posture on

the nest. On 05-10-04, S. Miller saw an adult perched in the nest tree, but couldn't see young on the nest from her long range observation point south of the Ashton Reservoir.

On 06-03-04, M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley boated to the Kerr Canyon nest (actually in the mouth of Box Canyon) in the company of C. Atchley. We banded the lone nesting at this nest, a nestling estimated to be 6.5 weeks old. The crew then hiked up Box Canyon to the vicinity of the known alternate nests, and then to the west and down Rattlesnake Canyon, to determine if any other breeding bald eagles were in the area. No other bald eagles were observed.

#### Pine Haven 18-IC-02

S. Miller saw an adult in incubation posture on the Pine Haven nest on 03-16-04. On 03-22-04, S. Miller saw the adult male on the Pine Haven nest in incubation posture during a 1.5 hour observation. The adult was panting, as it was a very warm day, left the nest surface for 3 minutes at one point, and later was replaced by the adult female in an incubation exchange. On 04-07-04, S. Miller watched an adult on this nest for 3 hours. The adult remained low in the nest the entire observation period, and the second adult did not appear. S. Miller found an adult on the Pine Haven nest in brooding posture on 04-27-04. A second adult was perched upstream of the nest in a Douglas fir.

S. Miller did not find any bald eagles on the Pine Haven nest on 05-27-04. An adult was perched in a river side snag 250 m downriver from the nest. A second adult flew by the nest and out of sight to the east. No movement was detected on the nest.

On 06-08-04, M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Collins hiked into the observation point opposite the Pine Haven nesting area, and scanned the existing nest with a spotting scope. No bald eagles were detected in the area. Osprey were perched in the old nest tree downriver of the existing nest.

#### Box Canyon 18-IC-03

During a ski survey of the Box Canyon breeding area on 03-16-04, S. Miller saw an adult standing on the nest (alternate #5, same as last year). This adult immediately flew to a dead snag perch in the same tree group as the nest tree and joined the other adult. The adult male briefly mounted the female with lots of wing flapping, then returned to his perch nearby. On 03-28-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller skied along the Henry's Fork and found both adults perched in a Douglas fir snag near the Henry's Fork and east of the nest. On this date the nest was not occupied, but was obviously built up.

S. Miller skied along the Henry's Fork within the Box Canyon breeding area on 04-19-04, and found both adults circling over the river in the area of the large lava flow at the base of Thurmon Ridge. S. Miller returned to the Box Canyon area on 05-17-04 for an extended attempt to determine band status. Miller noted that the nest site remained unoccupied. She observed an adult flying over the Henry's Fork east of the nest, and later on a perch often used by this pair on Island Park Reservoir.

M. Whitfield and S. Miller tracked adult activity on Island Park Reservoir during attempts to learn the identity of the banded adult male on 06-13-04, 06-15-04, 06-22-04, 06-29-04 and 08-01-04.

Coffee Pot 18-IC-04

On 03-28-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller skied to the vicinity of alternate nest number two along the Henry's Fork, but did not find any bald eagles in the vicinity of the nest. S. Miller hiked up the west bank of the Henry's Fork to observe the downstream Coffee Pot alternate nest on 04-27-04. There were no bald eagles in the area, and no evidence of use of the nest. Miller continued hiking upriver to alternate number one, where she saw a vocal adult circling over the nest stand, and heard a response from an unseen bald eagle. She may have observed a nest attendance exchange, as the observed bird landed in the nest tree area and a second adult flew out of the area to the east side of the river.

M. Whitfield, S. Miller and G. Collins hiked into the active nest in this breeding area, alternate number one, on 06-08-04. An adult or near adult bald eagle was perched midway up the nest tree well below the nest in the shade, and was later joined by a second adult from downriver. G. Collins climbed into the nest, and found one egg in a depressed area in the center of the nest. This egg was determined not to be alive, and was collected. No prey remains were found in the area.

Bishop Lake 18-IC-05

M. Whitfield and S. Miller walked through the forested areas in the vicinity of know alternate nests in the Bishop Lake breeding area on 05-02-04, but did not see or hear any bald eagles. On 05-18-04, S. Miller observed the Bishop Lake nest area for several hours, and did not detect any adult bald eagles. Miller did see an immature bald in the area, and two unoccupied and partially intact nest structures. On 06-29-04, S. Miller found the alternate nest last used in this general area, alternate number three in a large, scraggly branched Douglas fir. Sticks at the base of the tree were old, with no nest buildup or other evidence of recent use. This tree is next to some mature aspens about 150 yards above the road, and about 200 yards before the road turns right around the ridge.

On 07-04-04, M. Whitfield located a new alternate nest site for this breeding pair while searching through the area east of the West End campground on Island Park Reservoir. The new nest is atop a large Douglas fir snag one-half mile east of the campground. On this date, two large nestlings were seen on the nest. M. Whitfield returned to this nest site on 09-06-04 to collect a GPS location for the new alternate nest.

Sheridan Reservoir 18-IC-06

On 04-13-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller observed from a point opposite Sheridan Reservoir, and spotted a perched adult near the Reservoir, and a second adult in incubation posture on the nest.

M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley hiked into this breeding area from the Sheridan Ranch headquarters on 06-15-04. One large nestling of about 7 weeks age was banded outside the nest and returned to the structure. Bands were detected on both adults, and a few prey remains were collected.

Lucky Dog 18-IC-07

S. Miller found that the Lucky Dog nest area was not accessible on 04-07-04 due to active road plowing along the access to Big Springs. S. Miller saw an apparent incubation exchange at a Lucky Dog nest on 04-19-04 during a ski survey of the nest area. S. Miller and G. Collins hiked into the hillside north of the Lucky Dog nest on 05-25-04, and did not see any bald eagles at the formerly active nest site. They did find sticks and some eggshell remnants at the base of the nest tree. They later observed an adult female perched at the Henry's Lake outlet confluence.

Henry's Lake 18-IC-08

On 04-07-04, S. Miller saw an adult on alternate nest number two in incubation posture. Henry's Lake was ice-free in spots around the lake edges. On 05-25-04, S. Miller and G. Collins found the Henry's Lake nest abandoned. There were no adults in the area. The observers did find eggshell remnants and prey remains at the base of the nest tree.

Staley Springs/Targhee Creek 18-IC-09

On 05-02-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller scanned for eagles along Targhee Creek, the east shoreline of Henry's Lake, and the Staley Springs area, but did not see any adult bald eagles. A subadult was seen on the lakeshore north of Targhee Creek. (There is a new roadway up Targhee Creek, and the known nest area was cut over last year.) S. Miller and G. Collins scanned for bald eagles along the east shoreline of Henry's Lake on 05-25-04, but did not find any bald eagles.

Hale Canyon 18-IC-10

S. Miller attempted to get to observation points on the river opposite the known nest on 03-16-04, but was unable to get up the north side Henry's Fork road due to snow. S. Miller observed the only known Hale Canyon nest from the South side of the river on 03-22-04. Miller saw no bald eagles in the area, and reported that the nest was intact but without any newly added nest material. On 04-04-04, S. Miller returned to the Hale Canyon breeding area to observe bald eagles. From observation points along the North River Road, Miller observed an adult perched in a Douglas fir on the north side of the Road in a conifer stand on the south side of lower Strong Canyon. This adult later flew southeast to the Henry's Fork, perched in two different Douglas fir perches on the south side of the river, and then disappeared in a soaring flight high over Hale Canyon north of the river canyon. Miller later drove to the south side of the nest, where she found the known nest on the south side of the Henry's Fork unoccupied and in disrepair.

S. Miller again monitored adult activity within the Hale Canyon breeding area on 05-14-04. Miller tracked an adult from a Douglas fir perch above the Henry's Fork in the historic nest area to the Douglas fir stand along the North River Road east of Strong Creek. This eagle eventually disappeared beyond the tree line to the north, and no nests were detected. On 05-27-04, S. Miller spent the morning monitoring bald eagle activity in this area in an attempt to locate an active nest. After tracking an adult along the Henry's Fork in this area, Miller walked up Strong Creek to observe an area where these adults often flew. Miller found an adult perched in a snag near an active nest near the top of a live Douglas fir. Two dark young were on the nest. M. Whitfield and S. Miller observed at the new Strong Creek nest site on 05-29-04. Two large young were again seen on this new alternate nest.

Moonshine 18-IC-11

S. Miller skied into the Moonshine Mountain area on 03-22-04, but was unable to locate the nest. On 04-13-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller skied in to Moonshine Mountain to find an adult on this nest in incubation posture. This was the same live Douglas fir nest as was used last year—a very large tree with an open canopy at the base of the mountain. The observers watched at the site for 45 minutes, with hope of a band check, but did not see any change in activity. S. Miller hiked into the Moonshine Mountain nest site on 05-10-04. Miller found an adult brooding on the nest. She later observed an adult switch at the nest, and noted that one of the adults, apparently the male, was not banded.

M. Whitfield and S. Miller hiked into this breeding area on 06-13-04. No bald eagles were seen at the nest site, and the nest was empty, an apparent unsuccessful nesting attempt.

Last Chance 18-IC-12

On 03-16-04, S. Miller saw an adult bald eagle perched in the nest tree immediately below the nest, and believed that she saw a second adult on the nest. The long distance of this observation and a snowy background made for difficult viewing conditions on this date. M. Whitfield and S. Miller had a similar observation on 03-28-04, a suspected but not totally confirmed adult on the nest. A second adult was coursing over the Henry's Fork in the Last Chance area, flushing ducks off the river.

On the morning of 04-07-04 S. Miller noted good observation conditions at the Last Chance nest site, but she did not detect any bald eagles. Whitfield and Miller could not determine the status of this nest from a mid-day long distance observation on 04-13-04. S. Miller did detect an adult on the Last Chance nest during a long-distance observation on 04-19-04. S. Miller and G. Collins saw no bald eagles on this nest on 05-25-04.

On 06-15-04, no bald eagles were found at the Last Chance nest site during a hike into the nest area. M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley collected a few prey remains from the ground below the nest. There was very little whitewash below the nest, suggesting that this nest failed some time ago. There was quite a bit of nest debris below the nest tree.

I. P. Bills 18-IC-13

M. Whitfield and S. Miller monitored this nest from the subdivision on the north side of Island Park reservoir on 03-28-04. S. Miller observed an adult flying and then perching in the IP Bills nest vicinity on 04-27-04, but the heat waves prevented a clear observation of the nest. An adult was seen in incubation posture on alternate nest number two. S. Miller saw an adult standing on the I.P. Bill's nest on 05-18-04, but did not detect any young.

Miller saw one nestling on this nest on 06-29-04, but could not gain a clear view of the nest. In the early morning of 07-04-04, M. Whitfield observed two large nestlings hopping about and wing flapping on alternate two for this breeding area. This observation was from the opposite (north) side of the reservoir under particularly good early morning viewing conditions.



#### Flat Rock 18-IC-14

On 03-16-04, S. Miller observed an adult in incubation posture on the snag alternate nest visible from State Highway 20. However, on 04-07-04, S. Miller did not see an adult at this nest, although an adult was foraging just upstream of the Highway 20 bridge. On 04-19-04, S. Miller was again unable to detect any bald eagles on the snag nest (alternate number two). On 05-02-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller again noted that the snag nest was empty, but found an adult in brooding posture on the other alternate in a live Douglas fir. The second adult was not seen.

On 05-18-04, S. Miller monitored bald eagle activity at the live Douglas fir nest site in the Flat Rock breeding area. An adult delivered a fish to the nest, where a single growing youngster was in view. The other adult then left the nest and perched on the alternate snag nest tree.

After consulting with the Flat Rock Club managers, M. Whitfield, S. Miller, G. Collins, and T. Lance hiked into the vicinity of the live Douglas fir alternate nest on 06-08-04. This team banded a single nestling at this site. S. Miller returned to the site on 06-22-04 to find the single youngster on the nest, and no adults nearby. Miller found the adult male perched across the river from the nest. This adult was not banded.

#### Riverside 18-IC-15

On 05-02-04, the observers were unable to access this nest area because of snowdrifts on the roadway. S. Miller hiked into the nest area on 05-10-04, and found an adult standing on the nest, and later apparently tending to young in nest.

On 06-13-04, S. Miller and M. Whitfield hiked into the Riverside nest site above Hatchery Ford. A single vocal adult was attendant at the nest while Miller and Whitfield banded one nestling of approximately seven weeks of age in the nest.

#### Snake River Butte 18-IC-16

On 03-16-04, S. Miller saw both adults on the old nest (alternate #1) in a prominent live Douglas fir. One adult departed and then brought back a branch about 5 minutes later. The adult placed the branch on the nest, and then started preening the other adult. The stick fetcher appeared to be the adult male. On 03-22-04, S. Miller noted the Snake River Butte nest appeared to be built up, but there were no bald eagles observed in the area. On 04-04-04, S. Miller saw an adult fly downriver passed this nest, which appeared to be built up, but did not detect an eagle on the nest. The flying adult vocalized as it flew past the nest area. On 04-13-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller observed the known nest from the gravel pit, but saw no eagles. Whitfield and Miller looked for alternate nests from further up along the power line, but did not see any structures. Whitfield and Miller did not see any bald eagles in the vicinity of alternate nest number one, the live Douglas fir nest, on 05-02-04. The nest structure was in disrepair. No eagles were detected in the area of the snag nest north of alternate number one on 05-02-04. M. Whitfield and S. Miller hiked into this nest site from the west on 05-29-04. Both adults were actively defending the snag alternate nest, although no young eagles were seen. Both adults were wearing bands.

S. Miller and M. Whitfield saw two nestlings on the snag alternate nest on 06-13-04 in the company of one adult. The nestlings were approximately 6 weeks old.

Buffalo River 18-IC-17

M. Whitfield looked for bald eagles on the Buffalo River several times in May and June, 2004, but did not see any adults or nesting structures.

Big Bend 18-IC-18

S. Miller saw an adult perched in the area of the Big Bend nest on 04-07-04, but did not detect a nest. On 04-13-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller stopped along highway 20 one mile before the last chance fishing access, and Whitfield spotted an adult in incubating posture on a nest along the edge of the lodgepole pine stand NE of Big Bend.

M. Whitfield, S. Miller, and G. Stanley found the Big Bend alternate nest used this year about 100 yards interior to the lodgepole pine forest line north of Big Bend on the Henry's Fork. On 06-15-04, most of the nest had fallen from the tree, with one dead nestling of approximately 5 weeks of age on the ground in the nest debris. A second live nestling of 7 plus weeks of age was in the nest atop a slender lodgepole pine. Both adults were present, the adult male unbanded, and the adult female banded in the Snake Idaho subpopulation unit as learned in 1995.

Upper Mesa Falls 18-IC-19

On 05-02-04, M. Whitfield and S. Miller scanned the area of known nest sites within the Mesa Falls breeding area, and along the river corridor, but did not see any bald eagles or nest structures. S. Miller again scanned the area on 05-10-04, but did not see any eagles or nest structures.

Middle Reservoir 18-IC-20

On 07-04-04, M. Whitfield located this new nest site within a new breeding area on Island Park Reservoir. Two large, advanced nestlings were on the nest. M. Whitfield returned to the nest sites on 09/06/04 to collect GPS locations. No bald eagles were detected on this later observation.

For 13 years, M. Whitfield and colleagues have suspected a nest site in the middle portion of Island Park Reservoir between the I.P. Bills and Bishop Lake breeding areas, but have been unable to locate a nest site. In 1991, M. Whitfield and students conducted extensive observations on the reservoir that revealed that there was pair of unaccounted for adults foraging on the reservoir during the breeding season. These adults were often perched together during the nesting season, which suggests that they may not have raised young in that year. In many visual scans of the conifer stands south of the reservoir, no eagle nest structures were detected.

On 07-04-04, M. Whitfield again scanned this area, on this occasion from a high point on the road far north of the reservoir. A potential nest was observed, as well as an adult perched in a tall lodgepole pine several hundred yards away at the reservoir edge. Whitfield hiked into the area from the end of a two-track road east of the West End Campground, and located a nest site in a large live Douglas fir with two advanced nestlings on the nest. During subsequent tracking of the adult female bald eagle in the general area, Whitfield located the remains of a very large stick nest 100 yards west of the alternate used this year. This older nest had been about 40 feet up atop a large diameter Douglas fir snag, and would not have been visible from anywhere but very near the nest tree because of the taller forest canopy all around the nest site, an explanation

for the failure to locate this site during many distant observations. The evidence on the ground suggests that both nest sites were used for several years.

Whitfield returned to these nest sites on 09-06-04 to collect GPS locations for the two nest sites. No bald eagles were seen in the nest area on this date.

Sand Creek WMA

No nest site has been discovered in this area, but adult bald eagles were observed foraging in this area again in 2004.

**Appendix Table 1. Activity and productivity status for bald eagle breeding territories within the Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Zone 18, 2004.**

<u>BREEDING TERRITORY NAME</u>	<u>TERRITORY NUMBER</u>	<u>PRODUCTIVITY STATUS</u>	<u>NUMBER ADVANCED YOUNG</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
SNAKE RIVER, IDAHO SNAKE UNIT (IS)				
PALISADES RESERVOIR AREA				
Hoffman East/ Trout Creek	18-IS-01	Active, Successful	1	1 nestling banded
Hoffman West McCoy Creek	18-IS-28	Active, Successful	1	
Williams Creek	18-IS-02	Active, Successful	2	2 nestlings banded
Van Point North	18-IS-03	Active, Successful	2	2 nestlings banded
Van Point South	18-IS-29	Active, Successful	1	1 nestling banded
Edwards Creek	18-IS-17	Active, Successful	2	2 nestlings banded
King Creek	18-IS-18	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
SOUTH FORK OF THE SNAKE RIVER				
Palisades Creek	18-IS-04	Active, Successful	1	Nest blowdown killed one nestling.
Swan Valley	18-IS-05	Active, Successful	1	
Conant Valley	18-IS-06	Occupied, Inactive	0	2003 nest blew down
Five Ways	18-IS-24	Active, Successful	3	
Pine Creek	18-IS-07	Active, Successful	2	
Dry Canyon	18-IS-08	Active, Successful	2	
Gormer Canyon	18-IS-09	Active, Unsuccessful	0	May have attempted nesting at Fisher Bottom
Wolverine	18-IS-10	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
Table Rock Canyon	18-IS-36	Active, Successful	2	
Antelope Creek	18-IS-11	Active, Successful	2	
Clark Hill	18-IS-25	Active, Successful	2	
Great Feeder Island	18-IS-31	Active, Successful	2	Nest blew down post fledging
Cress Creek	18-IS-12	Active, Successful	1	New alternate

**Appendix Table 1. Activity and productivity status for bald eagle breeding territories within the Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Zone 18, 2004 (continued).**

<u>BREEDING TERRITORY NAME</u>	<u>TERRITORY NUMBER</u>	<u>PRODUCTIVITY STATUS</u>	<u>NUMBER ADVANCED YOUNG</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
SOUTH FORK SNAKE RIVER (continued)				
Lowder Slough	18-IS-37	Active, Successful	2	
LaBelle	18-IS-38	Active, Successful	1	
Ririe Reservoir	18-IS-26	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
Confluence	18-IS-13	Active, Successful	1	
Menan Buttes	18-IS-20	Active, Successful	3	Nestlings banded
Market Lake	18-IS-22	Active, Successful	1	
Near Market Lake		Occupied, Unknown		Possible new breeding area, productivity unknown.
Dry Bed	18-IS-35	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
Annis Slough	18-IS-27	Active, Successful	1	
LOWER HENRY'S FORK				
Cartier Slough	18-IS-14	Active, Successful	1	
St. Anthony	18-IS-15	Active, Successful	2	
Singleton Pond	18-IS-16	Active, Successful	2	
Fun Farm Bridge	18-IS-34	Active, Successful	3	
FALL RIVER				
Lower Fall River	18-IS-19	Active, Successful	1	
TETON RIVER				
Upper Teton	18-IS-21	Active, Successful	2	
Hog Hollow	18-IS-23	Occupied, Inactive	0	
Spring Hollow	18-IS-30	Active, Successful	1	
Trail Creek, Teton	18-IS-32	Active, Successful	1	
Danford, Felt Dam	18-IS-33	Occupied, Inactive	0	New alternate
Sugar City, So. Fk.		Occupied		Possible new breeding area

**Appendix Table 1. Activity and productivity status for bald eagle breeding territories within the Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Zone 18, 2004 (continued).**

<u>BREEDING TERRITORY NAME</u>	<u>TERRITORY NUMBER</u>	<u>PRODUCTIVITY STATUS</u>	<u>NUMBER ADVANCED YOUNG</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
HENRY'S FORK SNAKE RIVER (NORTH FORK), IDAHO CONTINENTAL UNIT (CI)				
Kerr Canyon	18-IC-01	Active, Successful	1	Nestling banded
Pine Haven	18-IC-02	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
Box Canyon	18-IC-03	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
Coffee Pot	18-IC-04	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
Bishop Lake	18-IC-05	Active, Successful	2	New alternate
Sheridan Reservoir	18-IC-06	Active, Successful	1	Nestling banded
Lucky Dog	18-IC-07	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
Henry's Lake	18-IC-08	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
Staley Springs/ Targhee Creek	18-IC-09	Unoccupied	0	No eagles seen
Hale Canyon	18-IC-10	Active, Successful	2	New alternate
Moonshine	18-IC-11	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
Last Chance	18-IC-12	Active, Unsuccessful	0	
I.P. Bills	18-IC-13	Active, Successful	2	
Flat Rock	18-IC-14	Active, Successful	1	Nestling banded
Riverside	18-IC-15	Active, Successful	1	Nestling banded
Snake River Butte	18-IC-16	Active, Successful	2	
Buffalo River	18-IC-17	Unoccupied	0	
Big Bend	18-IC-18	Active, Successful	1	One young killed in nest blowdown, 1 survived
Upper Mesa Falls	18-IC-19	Unoccupied	0	
Middle Reservoir	18-IC-20	Active, Successful	2	New breeding area, activity in prior years not detected.
Sand Creek		Occupied		No known nest site.

**Appendix Table 1. Activity and productivity status for bald eagle breeding territories within the Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Zone 18, 2004 (continued).**

**Summary Statistics:**

**(The following data do not include two possible new breeding areas, South Fork Teton River Area and New Market Lake Area)**

Total number breeding areas: 58  
(SI = 38, CI = 20)

Number occupied breeding areas: (SI = 38, CI = 17)	Advanced young/occupied nest <sup>1</sup> : (SI = 1.29, CI = 0.88)
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Number occupied breeding areas, success known:  
(SI = 38, CI = 17)

Number active breeding areas:  
(SI = 35, CI = 17)

Number active breeding areas, success known: (SI = 35, CI = 17)	Advanced young/active nest <sup>1</sup> : (SI = 1.40, CI = 0.88)
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Number successful breeding areas:  
(SI = 30, CI = 10)

Number advanced young known: (SI = 49, CI = 15)	Advanced young/successful nest <sup>1</sup> : (SI = 1.63, CI = 1.5)
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<sup>1</sup> Excludes breeding areas for which number of young produced was unknown.

**Appendix Table 2. Band numbers, locations and dates for nestling bald eagles banded within the Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, 2004.**

<u>USFWS BAND NUMBER</u>	<u>COLOR BAND</u>	<u>TERRITORY NAME</u>	<u>TERRITORY NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE BANDED</u>	<u>APPROX. AGE</u>
629-40601	W/G, left I/U	Menan Butte	18-IS-20	06-01-04	7.5 weeks
629-40602	W/G, left I/V	Menan Butte	18-IS-20	06-01-04	7.0 eeks
629-40603	W/G, left I/W	Menan Butte	18-IS-20	06-01-04	7.0 weeks
629-40604	G/W, left 4/N	Kerr Canyon	18-IC-01	06-03-04	6.5 weeks
629-40605	W/G, left I/X	Trout Cr./Hoff.E.	18-IS-01	06-07-04	6 weeks
629-40606	W/G, left I/Y	Williams Cr.	18-IS-02	06-07-04	5 weeks
629-40607	W/G, left I/Z	Williams Cr.	18-IS-02	06-07-04	5 weeks
629-40608	G/W, left 4/P	Flat Rock	18-IC-14	06-08-04	6 weeks
629-40609	G/W, left 4/R	Riverside	18-IC-15	06-13-04	6.5 weeks
629-40610	G/W, left 4/S	Sheridan Ridge	18-IC-06	06-15-04	6.5 weeks
629-40611	W/G, left 2/A	Van Point No.	18-IS-03	06-18-04	7 weeks
629-40612	W/G, left 2/B	Van Point No.	18-IS-03	06-18-04	7 weeks
629-40613	W/G, left 2/C	Van Point So.	18-IS-29	06-18-04	5.5 weeks
629-40614	W/G, left 2/D	Edwards Cr.	18-IS-17	06-30-04	7 weeks
629-40615	W/G, left 2/E	Edwards Cr.	18-IS-17	06-30-04	7 weeks



Appendix Table 3. Bald eagle field study effort within the Idaho portion of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (bald eagle management area 18) in the 2004 nesting season (does not include data analysis and documentation).

<u>Date</u>	<u>Breeding Areas Observed<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Activities Undertaken<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Observers<sup>3</sup></u>	<u>Hours of Effort (person hrs)</u>
02/23/04	IS-15,16,34	AS	MW	3
03/05/04	IS-21	AS	MW	1
03/09/04	IS-14,20,22,27,35	AS	MW, SM	16
03/09/04	IS-15,16,34	AS	MW	4
03/11/04	IS-4,5,6,11,25,31	AS	SM	8
03/16/04	IC-2,3,12,14,16	AS	SM	8
03/17/04	IS-32	AS	SM	3
03/20/04	IS-1,2,3,4,5,17,18, 28,29	AS	MW, SM	12
03/21/04	IS-21	AS	MW	1
03/22/04	IC-2,10,11,16	AS	SM	6
03/23/04	IS-19	AS	MW	2
03/23/04	IS-32	AS	SM, GS	4
03/24/04	IS-10,11,12,25,31,36	AS	MW, SM	12
03/28/04	IC-1,3,4,12,13	AS	MW, SM	16
03/29/04	IS-11,12,25	AS	SM	8
03/29/04	IS-13,27	AS	KR, MZ	10
03/30/04	IS-14,20,22,27,35	AS	SM	6
03/31/04	IS-9,10,36,25	AS	SM, GS	16
04/03/04	IS-2,3,4,18,29	AS	MW, SM	14
04/04/04	IS-21	BC	MW	1
04/04/04	IC-10,16; IS-19	AS, BC	SM	6
04/07/04	IC- 2,7,8,12,14,18	AS, BC	SM	10
04/12/04	IS-7,8,24	AS	SM	6
04/13/04	IS-30	AS	MW, SM	2
04/13/04	IC-6,11,12,16,18	AS	MW, SM	14
04/14/04	IS-9,10,25,31	AS	SM	9
04/16/04	IS-4,5	AS	SM	5
04/19/04	IC-3,7,12,14	AS	SM	8
04/21/04	IS-25,31	AS, BC	SM	4
04/22/04	IS-9,10,11,36	AS, BC	SM	5
04/24/04	IS-21	AS	MW	1
04/25/04	IS-23	AS	MW	2.5
04/26/04	IS-1,2,3,4,18,28,29	AS	SM	7
04/27/04	IC-2,4,13	AS	SM	7
04/29/04	IS-5,11,36	AS	SM	7
04/30/04	IS-8	AS	SM, GC	5
05/02/04	IC-5,9,14,15,16,19	AS	MW, SM	16
05/03/04	IS-7,8,32	AS	SM	7
05/05/04	IS-30 & Canyon	AS	SM	6

05/07/04	IS-11,12,31	AS, PS, BC	SM	5
05/07/04	IS-14,20,26,27,31,35	AS, PS, BC	SM	6
05/10/04	IC-1,11,15	PS, BC	SM	7
05/10/04	IS-19	PS, BC	SM	1
05/13/04	IS-5,6,10,25,36	PS, BC	SM	5
05/14/04	IC-10	PS, BC	SM	5
05/15/04	IS-9,10,11,36	PS, BC	MW, SM	15
05/17/04	IC-3	PS, BC	SM	7
05/18/04	IC-5,13,14	PS	SM	8
05/19/04	IS-1,2,3,4,17,28,29	PS	SM	8
05/21/04	IS-9	PS, BC	SM, GS	10
05/25/04	IC-7,8,9,12	AS, PS	SM, GC	20
05/26/04	IS-23 & Canyon	AS, PS	SM, GS	10
05/27/04	IC-2,10	AS, BC	SM	6
05/27/04	IS-30	PS	SM	1
05/29/04	IC-10,16	AS, BC	MW, SM	14
05/31/04	IS-21	PS	MW	1
06/01/04	IS-13,14,20,22,27,35	PS, Ba, BC	MW, SM, GS	30
06/02/04	IS-6,7,8,24	PS, BC	SM	8
06/03/04	IC-1	PS, BC	MW, SM, GS	12
06/03/04	IS-16, 34	PS, BC	MW	2
06/04/04	IS-12,20,27,31,37,38	PS, BC	MW, SM, KR	30
06/07/04	IS-1,2,3,17,28,29	PS, Ba, BC	MW, SM, BA	30
06/08/04	IC-2,4,14	PS, Ba, BC	MW, SM, GC	30
06/11/04	IS-9,10,11,25,36	PS, BC	SM	7
06/13/04	IC-3,11,15,16	PS, Ba, BC	MW, SM	20
06/15/04	IC-3,6,12,18	PS, Ba, BC	MW, SM, GS	30
06/16/04	IS-21	PS, BC	MW	2
06/16/04	IS-5,27	PS, BC	SM	6
06/17/04	IS-32	PS, BC	SM	4
06/18/04	IS-3,4,29	PS, Ba, BC	MW, SM, GS, BA	36
06/19/04	IS-25	PS	MW	1
06/20/04	IS-30	PS, BC	MW	3
06/21/04	IS-1,4,5,17,18,28	PS	SM	8
06/22/04	IC-3,14	PS	SM	6
06/23/04	IS-6,7,8,9,10,24	PS, BC	MW,SM	20
06/25/04	IS-10,11,36	PS, BC	SM	8
06/29/04	IC-3,5,13	PS, BS	SM	8
06/30/04	IS-2,17,29	PS, Ba, BC	MW,SM,GC	18
07/04/04	IC-5,13,20	PS, BC	MW	9
07/05/04	IS-19,30	PS, BC	MW	5
07/14/04	IS-24,36	PS	MW	8
07/16/04	IS-16,31,34	BC	MW	8
08/01/04	IC-3	BC	MW	5
09/06/04	IC-5,20	T	MW	7
09/24/04	IS-6,7,8,9,10,24	BC	MW	8

- 1 Breeding areas within Unit 18 as coded in Appendix Table 1.
- 2 Activity Codes: AS = Activity Survey, PS = Productivity Survey, BC = Band Check, Ba = Banding nestlings, T = Territory measurements.
- 3 Observers include: Michael Whitfield (MW), Sue Miller (SM), Georgie Stanley (GS), Greg Collins (GC), Karen Rice-BLM (KR), Monica Zimmerman-BLM (MZ), Bud Alford-FS (BA)