



# THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

29 June 2016

Public Comments Processing  
Attn: FWS-R9-MB-2011-0094-1052  
Division of Policy, Performance, and Management Programs  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
MS: BPHC  
5275 Leesburg Pike  
Falls Church, VA 22041-3803.  
Submitted online at: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)

**RE: Eagle Permits; Revisions to Regulations for Eagle Incidental Take and Take of Eagle Nests;  
Proposed Rule**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Wildlife Society (TWS), founded in 1937, represents nearly 10,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Our mission is to inspire, empower, and enable wildlife professionals to sustain wildlife populations and habitats through science-based management and conservation.

As stated in the TWS Standing Position on *The Use of Science in Policy and Management Decisions*, TWS encourages, recognizes, and publicly advocates for the appropriate use of wildlife, ecological, and conservation science in policy determination and decision-making processes. We adhere to the highest standards when providing support and advice on the appropriate use of science and stand committed to identifying and supporting actions to correct inappropriate uses or abuses of science.

As leaders in wildlife science, management, and conservation, TWS is fortunate to have engaged members from our regional sections and local chapters with expertise in a variety of wildlife-related disciplines, including the conservation of bald and golden eagles. In order to provide these members with adequate opportunity to fully review the intricacies of the above-referenced U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed rule, **TWS respectfully requests a 30-day extension to the public comment period** ending on July 5, 2016. Due to the novelty and complexity of the information referenced in the proposed rule, combined with the considerable geographic range being impacted, an extension of the comment period will provide a broader opportunity for TWS members with relevant biological expertise to provide a meaningful contribution to the environmental review process. Likewise, comments from our members, many of whom are currently engaged in field data collection, are forthcoming pending an extension.

Thank you for considering the views of wildlife professionals. Please contact Keith Norris, AWB®, Director of Government Affairs & Partnerships at [keith.norris@wildlife.org](mailto:keith.norris@wildlife.org) or (301) 897-9770 x309 if you require further information or have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Gary Potts, CWB®  
President