

# **PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS: PEMBROKE PINES BALD EAGLE SANCTUARY**

## **Nest is located on City of Pembroke Pines Property**

No present plans for disposition or development  
Dense 27 acre stand, mostly Melaleuca and Australian Pines  
South Florida Water Management District land to south and west  
Residential development to north and east

## **Eagles return annually from early October into early May**

Ongoing legal and fiduciary duty of City to protect nest  
FWC Bald Eagle Management Plan provides guidelines for land use

## **Public safety issues**

### **Temporary, during nesting season**

Visitor surge, traffic, parking, signage, viewing area  
Education of public

### **Ongoing**

Fire danger

## **Measures needed to assure safety of eagles**

Install permanent fencing  
Preserve nest tree and roosting trees (Australian Pines)  
Reduce fuel load and danger of wildfire laddering to nest tree  
Clear deadfalls and understory,  
Clear-cut fire break around nest tree  
Improve habitat  
Remove exotics (Melaleucas, Brazilian Pepper, etc)  
Restore native flora

## **Initiate City planning process**

### **In-house expertise**

City Manager  
Parks and Recreation  
Planning & Zoning  
Police  
Public Services  
Utilities

Input from FWC, public, eagle biologists, Audubon, conservation-oriented groups

Obtain model local regulations

Consider Pembroke Pines "Eagle Ordinance"

## **Limited time frame for action**

Activities within 330 feet of nest must take place outside nesting season  
Standing water and storms in late summer may impede activities  
Need to prioritize and phase actions  
FWC Permit not required after nesting season but is recommended

## **Need for interagency coordination**

### **Utilities**

All should be made aware of restrictions during nesting season  
Actives in easement near nest do not require permit from city  
If possible, spare roost trees by using directional pruning near power lines  
Other government entities & permittees  
Should be informed of obligations under FWC guidelines

## **Sources of expert assistance (Partial list)**

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Florida Division of Forestry  
Florida state and local Audubon Societies  
Greater Fort Lauderdale Flyways Cities Coalition  
Environmental consulting firms

## **Determine Priorities**

### **Immediate**

Clear-cut fire break around nest tree  
Mechanical clearing necessary with removal of piles  
Controlled burn/pile burning not feasible  
Remove deadfalls nearest to nest tree

### **Intermediate**

Reduce fuel load in entire wooded area  
Install permanent fencing  
Develop "Eagle Ordinance"

### **Long-range**

Remove certain exotics but spare larger Australian Pines  
Introduce native flora  
Public education/interpretation  
Signage  
Trained volunteer docents during breeding season