

## Arizona Wildlife Podcast Comprehension Activity

### Episode 20: Bald Eagle Management

**Part A:** Determine whether each statement below is true or false. If it is false, correct the statement so that it will be true.

1. Because of their protected status, bald eagles are managed by the Federal government.  
**False.** Bald eagles are managed by the state government, specifically the Arizona Game and Fish Department. However, the Federal government often sets regulations that the state must follow.
2. There are over 300 bald eagles found in Arizona during the winter.  
**True.**
3. Most of the bald eagles that migrate to Arizona come from nearby western states.  
**False.** Many of the birds come from Canada.

**Part B:** Below are different bald eagle management techniques. Describe what each one is and how it helps the bald eagle population in Arizona.

1. Winter count. A national program in which the states, during January, conduct standardized surveys throughout eagle habitats. The purpose is to count all of the eagles found in the state during the winter. Overall, it gets biologists an idea of how well the eagles are doing both in the state and around the country.
2. Nest search. Using a helicopter, biologists fly around the state. They select areas that are suitable habitat for eagles but no nests have been found yet. This allows them to find new nests that have been created during the past year, which improve population counts and insure that those specific nest sites are monitored and protected, as necessary.
3. Chemical and heavy metal monitoring. While biologists are in the nest to band the new nestlings, they collect egg shell fragments and unhatched eggs. These are analyzed. The fragments are measured to determine the impact that DDT is still making to the population. The eggs are analyzed to determine the level of various chemicals found inside. These chemical analyses will help determine why the eggs did not hatch and may warn the biologists of potential problems.

**Part C:** Answer each question below in complete sentences. The answers are not necessarily included in the content. They may require some critical thinking.

1. Why does a larger population make the yearly productivity more stable?  
As the population gets larger, they are impacted less by catastrophes that may occur. For example, if there is a bad snow storm that wipes out some nest sites, there will still be other nest sites that aren't damaged, and may actually benefit from the increased precipitation.
2. Why do you think thinner eggs will result in lower productivity?  
Thinner egg shells mean they are not as strong. When the parent sits on the egg to incubate it, the weight of the adult may actually crush the weaker egg, resulting in infant mortality.