

# REGULATORY TOOLS FOR COMMON RAVEN MANAGEMENT

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Introduction  
- USFWS  
Region 8  
Migratory  
Bird  
Program

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PERMIT STAFF MANAGED OUT OF  
REGIONAL OFFICE IN SACRAMENTO

# Regulatory Options

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- Depredation Permits
- Control Order
- Conservation Order
- Depredation Order
- Hunting
- Removal from MBTA protections
- Agency Species Protection Regulation and Permit

# Depredation Permits

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Current regulatory approach in Nevada for ravens

- NDOW for greater sage-grouse protection
- Wildlife Services for protection of livestock and human health and safety
- Utilities for human health and safety
- Airports for human health and safety

Authorizations to reduce damage or loss caused by birds

- Agricultural damage
- Private property damage
- Threats to human health and safety
- Threats to recovery of protected wildlife

# Depredation Permits

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- Limitations
  - Used to manage local problems
  - Not meant to be used for long-term population management
  - Requires non-lethal methods (e.g., reduce or remove human subsidies) be attempted prior to lethal take
  - Use of blinds and lures prohibited
- Service is preparing a NEPA document to evaluate increasing the take limits

# Orders

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## Control Order

Native species protected under the MBTA but occur outside of their normal range

causing depredation, property damage, or human health issues in the new range

Does not apply to ravens

## Conservation Order

Addresses overabundant populations where traditional management programs are unsuccessful

One conservation order to control 'light geese.'

Would only address species protection, and only on a species-by-species basis

Lengthy process

## Depredation Order

Allows taking birds listed under specific regulations without a permit

Several requirements such as allowable methods and annual reporting

Lengthy process

Not intended for long-term population control

# Hunting

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- Some MBTA-protected species are game and huntable
- Regulations are developed in cooperation with states
- Through structure of four administrative flyways
- Ravens not a game species as defined by MBTA treaties or states
- Wyoming requested raven hunting season in 2016
  - Wanted ravens added to Depredation Order for blackbirds, cowbirds, grackles, crows, and magpies
  - Service identified the process – includes credible data and going working with Flyway
- No state has initiated this process

# Removal from MBTA Protection

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- Would allow broad take
- Still needs to follow state, tribal and local laws
- Requires Department of State negotiation
- Working with at least one of the 4 signatories (Canada, Japan, Mexico, Russia)
- Treaties that include ravens would require amendments.
- Concurrence required each country with the treaty
- No species has been removed to date



# Agency Species Protection Regulation/Permit

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- New regulation is being considered
- Would allow agencies to take species that threaten at-risk species
- Could be used to remove ravens for protection of many species
- Could be written specifically for population management
- Could include blinds, baiting, calling to increase effectiveness
- Draft regulation under development but not highest priority

# Suggested Actions

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- Letter of support for the Agency Species Protection regulation
- Continued support in increasing take limits for depredation permits
- Continue to look for subsidy removal – education and awareness