

## **Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)**

Description: The bald eagle is a very large dark bird. At five years of age and older bald eagles have a pure white head and tail. Bald eagles are typically seen soaring overhead or perched in trees facing water.

Status: Federally listed as threatened and Kansas listed as threatened. Distributed across most of continental US, Canada and Alaska. Eagles are typically only found on Fort Riley from mid-October to late-March.

Habitat: Bald eagles require stream and lake habitats that have large trees nearby to meet both breeding and wintering needs. Eagles need adequate prey resources, especially during the winter. The Bald eagle is common along the Kansas and Republican Rivers and along the shoreline of Milford Reservoir during winter months. Threats to eagles include habitat destruction, human disturbance, electrocution from powerlines, striking guy wires from radio towers and illegal killing by humans.

Conservation Goal for Fort Riley: To protect eagles from a direct "taking" while present on Fort Riley. This includes disturbance from humans. Maintain and improve existing habitat on Fort Riley.

### Actions taken by Fort Riley:

- Review all actions that may affect bald eagles prior to action initiation to ensure the actions don't harm the species.
- Enforce a 100 meter "minimum disturbance" zone around primary eagle habitat.
- Enforce a 100 meter "no disturbance" zone around communal bald eagle roosts on Fort Riley.
- Educate installation personnel about requirements protecting eagles.
- Protect trees important to eagles on Fort Riley.
- Develop long-term silvicultural plan to manage woodlands along our rivers for eagle habitat.
- Conduct roost surveys twice per week and day use surveys once per week during periods when eagles are likely to be present.