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Figure 1. Map of survey points and survey route along the Nooksack River and farmland, respectively. Agricultural zoning sourced from Whatcom County (2017). Dairy farm locations represent only grade-A licensed cow milk dairy milking facilities, sourced from WSDA (2020b).

Figure 2. Eagle abundance (number of individuals) on the Nooksack River relative to the timing of recorded peaks. The timing (date) of week zero differs by year. Survey results for 1974 to 1976 and 1976 to 1977 were from Stalmaster (1976) and Hansen (1977), respectively. Surveys from 1980 to 1981 were excluded due to differences in areas surveyed.

Figure 3. Timing of eagle and salmon carcass peaks during the (a) 2018 to 2019 and (b) 2019 to 2020 winters. Values were normalized as a fraction of maximum value. Vertical dotted lines delineate the timing of initial high-flow events on the river.

Figure 4. Visual summary of the mechanisms driving bald eagle habitat shifts in the Pacific Northwest. Declining salmon populations and impacts of climate change are reducing the availability of salmon carcasses during the winter, forcing eagles to leave historical feeding grounds in search of alternative food sources at non-river habitats such as agricultural areas. Illustration by Sage Pollack.

Figure 5. Timing of eagle abundance peaks for surveys conducted between 1976 and 2020 on the Nooksack River (Stalmaster 1976, Hansen 1977, Knight and Knight 1983). Vertical lines delineate timing of peak abundance for a given winter. Abundance values were normalized as a fraction of maximum value for each winter. Weekly data from 1974 to 1975 surveys were not available, but the peak was reported at 23 January 1975.

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