

# Midwinter Bald Eagle Surveys

## Survey 1-2-3 App FAQs

### **Application Access:**

1. We will have volunteers collecting data - can they use this method without an account?
  - a. Yes, this Survey 1-2-3 application can be used without signing in or creating an account. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to get access to the Survey 1-2-3 app so they can enter the data directly themselves to avoid the duplication of efforts.
2. As a state coordinator, I am anticipating that some volunteers won't be willing to use this application, what should I do if this is the case?
  - a. Volunteers are strongly encouraged to use the application. If they choose not to and prefer to collect data using paper forms, the responsibility will be on the State Coordinators to obtain those paper forms and enter the data into the application. **It is highly preferred that all surveyors obtain access and utilize this application.**
3. If we already have survey 123 installed on our device, can we just log into the eagle survey site?
  - a. Yes! You can use the QR code to quickly locate the form.



### **Application Functionality:**

1. If we are outside of cellular and/or internet service when collecting data, should we click submit? Is the data cached until we get back into a service area?
  - a. Yes, if you are collecting data in an area without cellular or internet service, you are still able to hit submit on your form once you are done entering data. The ArcGIS application will cache the data in your outbox (similar to an email outbox) and when your device is within a service range, it will submit the form.
2. Can we use paper survey forms in the field and input results into the application back in the office?
  - a. If you would prefer to use paper forms in the field and input the data into the ArcGIS 1-2-3 application once you've returned to the home or office, you do have that option. However, we choose this application because of its accessibility and ability to utilize it while in the field. Utilizing the application streamlines the submittal of data and means less work for all involved.

3. Can I print a hard copy of the electronically submitted form?
  - a. Not exactly. The data IS stored in a database behind-the-scenes, and records can be exported out to various formats (Excel, CSV, File Geodatabase, and Shapefile). Individual records and reports can also be exported/created. Exports and Reports can only be completed by someone with the proper permissions.
4. What format will the data be available to the users once it's submitted?
  - a. Excel, CSV, File Geodatabase, and Shapefile to those with proper permissions. State coordinators can contact Mike Vissichelli to obtain data exports. Data will also be made available to the Avian Knowledge Network.
5. Is there any possibility for a bulk upload option?
  - a. Yes. Although we encourage folks to use the Survey 1-2-3 tool. If a bulk upload (from a spreadsheet) is preferred, there will need to be some additional efforts to make that process as smooth as possible. Please contact Mike Vissichelli.
6. We have modified the paper forms to record volunteer hours to capture match for federal grants, is there an ability to use this for that as well?
  - a. Not at this time.
7. Can you select more than one survey method in the application form? I have a route where we utilize multiple modes of transportation (ie walking, car, boat, helicopter etc.)
  - a. Yes.
8. Will the user have access to their data after it's submitted?
  - a. Yes, users will be able to access and edit (if needed) data for surveys they have already submitted.
9. If we have multiple survey crews, will data be synced if everyone uses the same site name? Or would it be better to compile data from all survey crews into one submission?
  - a. The data would need to be compiled and entered as one submission.
10. Can I enter data from a desktop computer?
  - a. Yes, we chose Survey 1-2-3 because it is accessible as an application when in the field, but <https://survey123.arcgis.com/> can be accessed with your web browser on desktop. Note Firefox is not recommended for this.

**TIP:** For people who are submitting multiple surveys that don't want to repeat enter data, you can put the information you want repeated into the survey then click the hamburger icon on the top right and click "Set as favorite answers". Then when you start another survey, you can click collect then once the survey opens you can click the hamburger icon again and select "Paste answers from favorite".

## **Survey Procedures/Definitions:**

1. Can you briefly explain roost vs non-roost?
  - a. A roost is a known area where birds tend to congregate in trees to rest overnight. The same roost trees are used for several years. Roosts are in locations that are protected from the wind by vegetation or terrain, providing a more favorable thermal environment. Roosts are typically identified through tracking and monitoring efforts when an area is noted to have multiple eagles present year after year (or using satellite tracking). A non-roost site is an area where birds are observed and may carry out basic tasks such as foraging, but do not rest overnight. If you are unsure if you have roost at your survey location, it is less likely to be a roost than a non-roost.
2. For each route, then we have two points: start and finish?
  - a. Correct. Report them the same as you have on the paper forms in previous years.
3. What scale do you prefer survey locations be entered? If doing a statewide aerial survey - how do you suggest breaking that up?
  - a. We should be following the same routes and completing the same number of forms that were done in previous years. If this is a new survey reach out to Mike Visischelli (718-775-5571) to discuss. We recognize that Survey 1-2-3 doesn't allow the most optimal geospatial data capabilities for recording observations, as it only drops a single pin on the map for an entire route. However, other applications with more refined geospatial capabilities are not as user friendly as this one. Perhaps in the future we could move to such an application, but at this time we valued accessibility and usability over more robust geospatial capabilities.
4. If our route is a river, could we set the dropped pin to be where we start then add in the start and end sections and could we use the river miles?
  - a. Yes, but the preference is to use Latitude and Longitude.
5. I have never done this before and do not know site locations or if the areas myself/my group will be visiting have been surveyed before.
  - a. Reach out to your state or national coordinator (Mike Vissichelli, 718-775-5571) for additional information on setting up new survey sites/routes.
6. Are we supposed to enter counts as we see them or at the end of the survey?
  - a. How you choose to tally observations is at your discretion, as long as the final total correctly reflects the number of eagles observed along the survey route.

## **Previous Years' Data:**

1. How can we find out if we submitted last years (2023) survey correctly? so that we do not submit previous years info twice?
  - a. Please contact Mike Vissichelli.
- 2.

3. Will you be able to select a site then add another, separate year's data to that site to cut back on entering the same data year after year?
  - a. After the current survey year's data is collected, the application will auto populate certain fields utilizing previous year's data.
4. If a route wasn't surveyed in the last few years should we enter in the most recent survey's info?
  - a. If the same route was surveyed in a previous year, you would reference it. However, if you have altered the route in anyway (IE combined multiple routes, altered length of previous route), then this would be considered a **new** route and you would not associate any previous data with it.
5. Why would we need to fill out previous years' information?
  - a. The "Previous Years" section is used if you have data to enter from a year prior to the current survey year. The current survey year is 2023. If you have data from 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, etc., then would use the "Previous Years" section to submit that information. Please **only** use "Previous Years" to enter data **not** already submitted. If a paper form was already submitted, that data does **not** need to be resubmitted.

For further information please contact Mike Vissichelli ([Michael.G.Vissichelli@usace.army.mil](mailto:Michael.G.Vissichelli@usace.army.mil)), Julie Vicars ([Julie.G.Vicars@usace.army.mil](mailto:Julie.G.Vicars@usace.army.mil)), or Ashleigh Boss ([Ashleigh.N.Boss@usace.army.mil](mailto:Ashleigh.N.Boss@usace.army.mil)) and we will do our best to help you.