

Bald Eagle Habitat Model Documentation

Project Information

- Potential Bald Eagle Habitat (nesting and foraging)
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- Date started: October 2021
- Date completed: November 2021

Model Information/Description

This layer compiles terrestrial and aquatic habitat areas used by the bald eagle which are comprised of open waters (lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams) for foraging and forested areas used for nesting for the entire state of North Carolina. This layer can be useful when looking at habitat for bald eagle during NRTR investigations. This model will highlight forested areas within 1 mile of water bodies that could be potential nesting/foraging sites and will also highlight the potential foraging/fishing water bodies in an NRTR study area.

Input Base Layers:

- 2019 NCLD
- ATLAS Open Water Phase I V 20200303
- North Carolina County Boundary

Summary of model steps.

- All bodies of water greater than 2.0 acres were selected as potential habitats
- Deciduous Forest, Evergreen Forest, Mixed Forest and Woody Wetlands within a mile buffer of selected waterbodies were selected as potential Bald Eagle nesting/foraging habitats.
- The combination of the NLCD and body of water layer was considered Potential Bald Eagle Habitat

QC was checked by manually zooming around in GIS to check for accuracy, and also showing outputs to ATLAS T&E team during a couple weekly calls. Updates for this layer should occur when the NLCD is updated or ATLAS Open Water Phase 1 is updated. No official field reviews or desktops were requested for this model.