

Why does PSE have an Avian Protection Plan?

PSE is committed to reducing our electrical system's potential to harm birds, maintaining service reliability for our customers, and complying with state and federal regulations related to birds.

PSE is proud to be a leader in Avian Protection.

PSE responds to approximately 200 bird-related incidents each year.

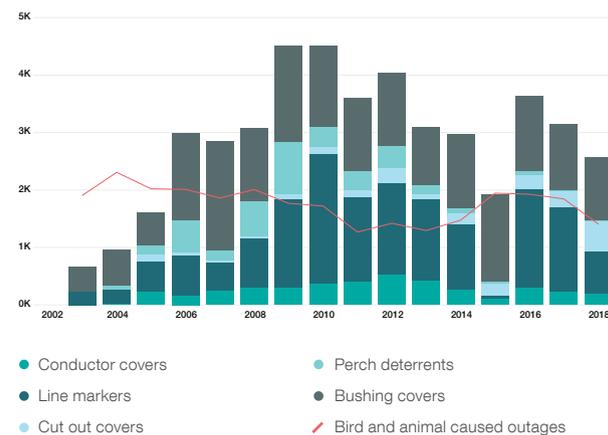
PSE had an average of about 1,750 bird and animal caused outages each year between 2003 and 2018.

PSE's avian protection program completes an average of 300 avian safe units (line spans and poles) each year with remediation projects to protect birds from electrocutions and collisions.

PSE builds all new construction in avian habitat areas using avian safe standards.

PSE's APP has partnered with the Audubon Society, The Nature Conservancy, The Trumpeter Swan Society, and is an active member of the Avian Power Line Interaction Committee.

Avian Protection Devices Installed 2003-2018



Bird protection laws

Almost all species of birds are protected from "take," which can mean to "harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, collect, or attempt any such conduct," under one or more of the following:

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA)
- Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA)
- Endangered Species Act (ESA)

There are three main types of bird-related utility equipment incidents:

Electrocutions occur when birds make direct contact with energized and grounded conductors or equipment, and spacing between equipment can influence this risk.

Collisions occur when birds fly directly into conductors, causing injury or mortality from impact, such as a broken wing or neck.

Problem nests become a risk when nest material on utility poles comes in contact with energized equipment, and can conduct electricity when wet, and potentially ignite, cause outages, and pose a hazard to the nesting birds.

Electrocutions, collisions, and problem nests can cause harm to birds, electrical outages, fires, and other damage to the electrical system. PSE is actively engaged in reducing all three types of incidents.



Line markers along Jones Road, Whatcom County.

PSE marks about 130 spans of power lines each year in swan foraging and roosting habitat, making the lines more visible for birds to reduce collisions.

Avian First Response contacts and resources

Puget Sound Energy

Mel Walters
Consulting Resource Scientist
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melvin.walters@pse.com



Haley Olson
Sr Resource Scientist
206-419-4919
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Visit our website for more information:
pse.com/pages/environment/bird-protection

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mill Creek Office
425-775-1311
teammillcreek@dfw.wa.gov



La Connor Office
Seasonal Swan Hotline
360-466-4345 ext. 266

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Western Washington Regional Office
425-883-8122
www.fws.gov



Avian Power Line Interaction Committee

www.aplic.org



Avian Protection Program



Promoting bird safety and improving electric system reliability.





A problem osprey nests on a 3-phase transformer bank pole.

PSE installs about 4 nest platforms each year to provide safe nest locations for birds.



Wintering snow geese and trumpeter swans in Skagit County.

PSE responds to about 74 swan related incidents each year, including injuries, mortalities, lead-poisoning, and electric outages between 2009 and 2012.



Eagle nest near the Skagit River, Sedro Woolley.

PSE monitors eagle and other sensitive nests for disturbance when construction or vegetation management activities occur in close proximity during the nesting season.



Bald eagle perched on an avian-safe pole.

PSE installs about 365 bird guards each year in eagle nesting, foraging, and roosting habitat to reduce electrocutions.

Making PSE's electrical system safer for birds



Line markers increase visibility of power lines to reduce the potential for collisions.



Bird guards allow birds to perch safely on utility poles by covering energized conductors and providing sufficient spacing between conductors.



Perches provide a safe place for birds to perch on preferred poles away from electrical equipment.



Equipment covers include bushing covers, cut out covers, and covered jumpers, which reduces the risk of bird electrocution on equipment poles.



Nest platforms provide a safe nesting location in areas with few trees to minimize nesting on utility poles and reduce risk of harm to nesting birds, outages, and damage to equipment.



Perch deterrents help move birds from unsafe parts of the crossarm to a safer perch with wider spacing between conductors.

PSE's Avian Protection Program is a voluntary program that addresses avian issues and concerns company-wide, including electrocutions and collisions, bird nests on electrical equipment, and even avian management at PSE's wind facilities.

Responsibilities of the Avian Protection Program:

- Maintain compliance with state and federal wildlife laws.
- Document and respond to incidents of bird mortalities, injuries, problem nests, and ensure appropriate notification and coordination with state and federal agencies.
- Systematically reduce the risk of avian electrocution and collision with PSE's electrical system.
- Maintain a positive relationship with regulatory agencies, manage appropriate federal and state permits, and regularly report to agencies as needed.
- Provide a framework for field personnel to manage bird/power line interactions.
- Increase electrical system reliability and environmental stewardship.
- Establish design standards for new equipment and power line construction to reduce the risk of avian mortalities and injuries.
- Coordinate with PSE planning, construction, and vegetation management to reduce affects to birds, nests, and habitat.
- Raise awareness among PSE employees and service providers about avian protection issues and the related company policies and procedures.