The Importance of the Great Salt Lake and Promontory Peninsula to Raptor Populations
• Promontory peninsula is a unique feature in GSLE
• 1000-acre Promontory Point landfill, slated for operation fall 2018 (Class I now, potentially Class V)
Promontory Raptor Landscapes

Grasslands
Promontory Raptor Landscapes

Shrubsteppe Cliff
Promontory Raptor Landscapes

GSL Wetlands
Species of Conservation Need

Breeding

• Short-eared Owl (Sensitive)
• Golden Eagle
• Peregrine Falcon
• Burrowing Owl
Potential Breeding Raptor Impacts

• Disturbance, vehicle strike, and scavenger impacts
Species of Conservation Need

Migration & Wintering

• Ferruginous Hawk
• Bald Eagle
• Golden Eagle
• Peregrine Falcon
Promontory and Antelope Island Migration

Promontory Point (~80 survey hrs, late Sep 1985)
- 1610 total raptors (20.1 raptors/hr...Goshutes level!)

Antelope Island (124.5 survey hrs, Sep/Oct 1996-97)
- 743 total raptors (5.97 raptors/hr)
- 387 accipiters, 210 falcons, 73 buteos, 23 eagles, 8 TUVUs, and 42 others
Migration Context
Migrating Ferruginous Hawk from Canada
Data Courtesy of University of Alberta REACT
Migrating Ferruginous Hawk from Canada
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Migrating Ferruginous Hawk from Canada
Data Courtesy of University of Alberta REACT

September 4, 2013
Golden Eagle Tracking
Raptor Vehicle Strikes
Vehicle Strike mortalities along east Promontory Road & 7200 N

- 5 Short-eared Owl (State Sensitive Species)
- 3 Burrowing Owl (Species of Greatest Conservation Need)
- 1 Golden Eagle (Species of Greatest Conservation Need)
- 1 Turkey Vulture
- Red-tailed Hawk (unknown number)

Documentation has only been haphazard to date, vehicle strikes likely more prevalent than documented along this road.
52 documented vehicle strike mortalities in northern Utah since 2015 - most within 10 miles of Promontory

Most in areas with significantly higher traffic volumes than Promontory Rd and 7200 N

Short-eared Owl & Vehicle Strikes
How will increased traffic associated with proposed landfill affect raptor vehicle collision rates?
Take Away

- Promontory peninsula is important to raptors year-round, and serves as a critical migration corridor
- Landfill likely to result in increased disturbance, scavenger abundance, and wildlife vehicle strike
- Management of traffic, ROW vegetation, and carcasses will be critical to minimize raptor impacts
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