**Introduction:** Steller’s eiders (*Polysticta stelleri*) and spectacled eiders (*Somateria fischeri*) are two sea ducks listed as threatened species under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. These birds nest on the tundra and may be encountered by researchers doing field work. This plan provides guidance to help you avoid disturbing nesting birds as you conduct your research. More information about Steller’s and spectacled eiders can be found at the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s website.

**Potential Impacts:** Human activity that causes a female eider to flush off her nest may increase the risk of egg predation. Repeated disturbance could cause the female to abandon the nest altogether. Closely approaching an adult female and her young ducklings can also increase their chances of predation. Please follow these instructions when you encounter a bird nest while conducting research on the tundra.

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**Nest is seen**

1. **Determine Type**
   - **Waterfowl Nest**
     - 1-10 solid-colored eggs
     - Eggs are oval shape
     - Usually abundant fluffy down feathers surrounding eggs
     - *Incomplete nests can have fewer eggs and no feathers.*
   - **Non-Waterfowl Nest**
     - 1-4 spotted eggs
     - Eggs more pointed at one end
     - No down feathers in nest

2. **Approach nest with care**
3. **Collect data**
   - More than 1 minute:
     - Mark approx. nest location on map
   - If you can do so in less than 1 minute:
     - GPS Coordinate
     - Take photo of nest

4. **Leave area quickly to allow female to return. Veer off 50 m. to the side to avoid stepping on nest.**
5. **Cover eggs with down**
6. **Report sighting to USFWS**
   - David Safine: David_safine@fws.gov, 907-456-0354
   - Neesha Stellrecht: Neesha_stellrecht@fws.gov, 907-456-0297

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**Nest is not seen**

1. **Back up 80 meters the way you came**
2. **Stay as far from nest as possible. Leave area quickly to allow female to return.**
3. **If bird flies away at close range**
   - Leave area quickly to allow female to return. Veer off 50 m. to the side to avoid stepping on nest.

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**For more information:**
Fairbanks Fish & Wildlife Field Office
101 12th Ave., Room 110
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
907-456-0203
http://alaska.fws.gov/fisheries/fieldoffice/fairbanks/endangered.htm
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* Common eiders may migrate through the area, but do not nest on the tundra near Barrow.