

From: [REDACTED]
To: 'Margaret_Rheude@fws.gov'
Subject: RE: CapX 2020 crossing
Date: 08/18/2010 11:37 AM

Mags,

I am afraid I do not have any personal knowledge of eagles around Belle Plaine. Maybe a request for info on MOU-net and MN-net would turn up a local birder.

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-----Original Message-----
From: Margaret_Rheude@fws.gov [mailto:Margaret_Rheude@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 4:18 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: CapX 2020 crossing

Hi [REDACTED]

I don't know if you have been following the CapX hearings and proceedings (specifically the transmission line that will cross the Minnesota River), but it seems to be picking up speed, and far from over. In June, we had sent a letter to Great River Energy (the lead power company on this section of the line) recommending that if a non-aerial option for the powerline river crossing was not possible, we recommended that the line cross the Minnesota River at Belle Plaine instead of Le Sueur. Although we realized that a powerline crossing the river in either locale could negatively affect eagles, we made our recommendation for Belle Plaine due to the concentration of wintering eagles near the Le Sueur area. You and I had a phone conversation this spring about resident vs migrant eagles and their familiarity with a potential hazard (hopefully this is sounding familiar).

To date, we have not been able to find information on any eagle wintering concentration areas near Belle Plaine (although we do know that they nest up in the Belle Plaine area). As you can imagine, this recommendation of ours has sparked lively debate, in fact, the exact crossing location has not been determined, and has been remanded back to the Administrative Law Judge for further deliberation. One of the questions we have been getting asked is about the density of eagles in the Buck Lake area vs the Belle Plaine area. I know back in the winter I had asked you if you had any information on eagles in the Belle Plaine area, or if you knew of anyone who did. We are trying to ensure that there isn't an eagle wintering area that we inadvertently missed. If you have any info, or any local birders in that area come to mind that I can talk to, let me know.

Thanks so much - talk to you next week,
Mags

Mags Rheude
Wildlife Biologist

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