

From: [REDACTED]
To: Margaret_Rheude@fws.gov
Subject: RE: CapX 2020 crossing
Date: 08/17/2010 03:24 PM

Mags,

Thanks for the update. I haven't been following CapX more recently. Mostly depending on our regional env. review Specails ([REDACTED]) to keep me posted on new developments. Plus I was vacation for 2 weeks and just returned. Currently, both [REDACTED] & I are working at alternate locations (I'm at home) as our office space is being renovated.

re: density of eagles in the Buck Lake area vs the Belle Plaine area. -- Are you referring to wintering?

We haven't flown wintering surveys in a several years but Belle Plaine was never a "hotspot" when we did. And what I hear from local birders is that Bucks Lake still is the place. We're still not talking numbers like you get along the Mississippi where lock & dams keep the water open.

There is a video that [REDACTED] put together that showed numerous wintering eagles, and other waterbirds (colonial, and I think a loon) at Bucks Lake. All my work items are boxes so I don't know where my copy is but I think it may still be posted on the Henderson Feathers website, and I'm sure [REDACTED] still has a copy. Her email is [REDACTED]

Beyond that, [REDACTED] is a good source for info on eagles and other birds in that area (nesting and wintering) and he is in touch with [REDACTED] as well.

Hope that's helpful. Keep me posted if you can
[REDACTED]

From: Margaret_Rheude@fws.gov [Margaret_Rheude@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2010 2:33 PM
To: [REDACTED] (DNR)
Subject: CapX 2020 crossing

Hi [REDACTED]

I don't know if you have been following the CapX hearings and proceedings, 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. 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 have sent out a letter to [REDACTED] as I know he has about 20 years of field notes from the Le Sueur 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 any local birders in that area come to mind that I can talk to, let me know.
Thank you,
Mags

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