



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Nongame Wildlife Program

Division of Ecological Resources – Reg. 4

Phone: [REDACTED] FAX: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]@state.mn.us

FEB - 2 2010

TO: Mags Rheude

FROM: [REDACTED]

DATE: 29 January 2009

SUBJECT: eagle nest info

I'm enclosing some information that I've received from private citizens ([REDACTED]) re: eagle nests along the Minnesota River Valley from Belle Plaine to the Henderson-LeSueur area. I'm not including them but they've also sent photos of the actual nests, in many cases. These individuals and other avid "birders" in the area keep fairly close tabs on eagles and waterbirds in the area. I'm confident that [REDACTED] accurately identify eagle nests and have the general location on their maps. However, we've had some difficulty getting location coordinates that could be considered precise i.e. that we could assign UTM coordinates to with confidence. Part of this is due to technology and part due to ground accessibility.

Confounding this is that we've discovered that the area residents refer to eagle nests by different names than the DNR has in its database. Instead of fighting the tide, I'd eventually like to modify our database to reflect the commonly used names. However, for now just even ascertaining when we're talking about the same nests hasn't always been easy. Also without annual aerial surveys*, it's sometimes been unclear when we have an alternate nest or a new pair as some of the territories are getting pretty close. So you may find the enclosed information helpful but it isn't considered a final product for publishing.

Currently, the DNR Nongame Wildlife Program doesn't have the funding or staff to conduct aerial surveys for eagle nest activity. However, that may be something that the transmission project proposers may wish to invest in by contracting experienced surveyors to fly proposed routes during the appropriate time. (We generally flew nest activity surveys early late March/1st week of April prior to green up –even buds can obscure nests which often are in crotch of tree)