



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

J. ERIC BOYETTE
SECRETARY

DATE: 3/10/2023
TO: File
FROM: Garry Wright, DEO
SUBJECT: 2023 Eagle Survey BR-0086 US 301 Bridge over Neuse River in Johnston County

Per our NRTR/raptor report it was determined that there is a large raptor nest located within 660 feet of the project study area that has potential for use by Bald Eagles, a species that currently receives protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Based on guidance provided by USFWS a survey protocol was developed that consisted of one (1) initial survey that should take place between the dates of January 15 and April 15, with a duration of 2 hours and beginning no later than one half hour before sunrise. The protocol further established that if no eagle sighting(s) occurs during the initial survey a second survey shall be conducted not less than 1 week later and following the same guidelines.

The 2023 calendar year survey was conducted by Garry Wright (NCDOT Division 4) on the mornings of February 23, 2023 and March 10, 2023. The observer was in place from one half hour before sunrise and remained for a 2-hour period without observing any activity at the nest. The finding of no activity at the nest is consistent with the prior eagle surveys conducted in 2022 and 2021 (Attachment 1 and 2) as well as the those recorded in the Departments Natural Resources Technical Report dated December 2019. Based upon these findings the Biological Conclusion is **No Effect** on bald eagles.

For any questions please contact Garry Wright (Division 4 Environmental Officer) at 252-640-6576 or by email at glwright@ncdenr.gov.

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MEMORANDUM

April 11, 2022

Memorandum To: Mr. Gary Jordan
US Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 33726
Raleigh, NC 27636-3726

FROM: Byron Bateman
NCDOT Environmental Officer – Division 4

SUBJECT: Eagle Survey BR-0086 US 301 Bridge over Neuse River in Johnston County

Per our NRTR/raptor report it was determined that there is a large raptor nest located within 660 feet of the project study area that has potential for use by Bald Eagles, a species that currently receives protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Based on guidance provided by USFWS a survey protocol was developed that consisted of one (1) initial survey that should take place between the dates of January 15 and April 15, with a duration of 2 hours and beginning no later than one half hour before sunrise. The protocol further established that if no eagle sighting(s) occurs during the initial survey a second survey shall be conducted not less than 1 week later and following the same guidelines.

An initial eagle survey was conducted by Byron Bateman (NCDOT Division 4) on the morning of March 18, 2022. The observer was in place one half hour before sunrise and remained for a 2-hour period without observing any activity at the nest. A second site visit following these protocols was conducted on March 29, 2022. There were no observations made of eagles at the nest or within the project study area throughout the course of these site visits. During three site visits there were no apparent anthropomorphic or meteorological activities that presented obvious deterrents to raptors attempting to visit or otherwise use the nest site.

These observations are consistent with those documented in 2019 (recorded in the Department's Natural Resources Technical Report dated December 2019) and 2021. Based upon these findings the Biological Conclusion is No Effect on bald eagles.

If you have any questions concerning the project, please contact Chad Coggins Division 4 Project Manager at 252-640-6427 or by email tcoggins@ncdot.gov. Please include the STIP Project Number in all correspondence and comments.



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MEMORANDUM

June 9, 2021

Memorandum To: FILE

FROM: Chad Coggins
NCDOT Environmental Project Engineer

SUBJECT: Eagle Survey BR-0086 US 301 Bridge over Neuse River in Johnston County

Per our NRTR/raptor report it was determined that there is a large raptor nest located within 660 feet of the project study area that has potential for use by Bald Eagles, a species that currently receives protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

Based on guidance provided by USFWS a survey protocol was developed that consisted of one (1) initial survey that should take place between the dates of January 15 and April 15, with a duration of 2 hours and beginning no later than one half hour before sunrise. The protocol further established that if no eagle sighting(s) occurs during the initial survey a second survey shall be conducted not less than 1 week later and following the same guidelines.

An initial eagle survey was conducted by Chad Coggins (NCDOT Division 4) and Jason Dilday (NCDOT PDEA) on the morning of March 9, 2021. The observers were in place one half hour before sunrise and remained for a 2-hour period without observing any activity at the nest. Subsequent site visits following these protocols were conducted on March 30, and April 7, 2021 by Chad Coggins and Bryan Gamble (NCDOT Division 4). There were no observations made of eagles at the nest or within the project study area throughout the course of these site visits.

These observations are consistent with those documented on July 26, 2019, and August 22, 2019, and recorded in the Department's Natural Resources Technical Report dated December 2019. Based upon these findings the Biological Conclusion is **No Effect** on bald eagles.