

Final Report

On The

Removal of Inactive Bald Eagle Nest Platform
And
Nest Platform Tree Monitoring During the 2013 Breeding Season

At

Department of the Navy Manchester Fuel Department

Under

U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Permit #MB83087A-0

By

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SUMMARY

1. This Final Report is provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Permit #MB83087A-0 for the Removal of an Inactive Bald Eagle Nest Platform at Department of the Navy Manchester Fuel Department (Kitsap County, Washington). Permit requirements included monitoring the treated tree, a nearby alternate nest platform #1322-2, and the vicinal forest for bald eagle nesting activity during the 2013 breeding season. This Final Report fulfills Permit requirements.

2. Eagle Nest Take (Inactive Nest) Permit #MB83087A-0 was issued by the USFWS Portland Migratory Bird Permit Office for the removal of an inactive bald eagle nest platform situated in a large Douglas-fir tree on the Navy's Manchester Fuel Department, near Port Orchard, Kitsap County, Washington. The tree's top broke off decades ago. Subsequently, rot infected the broken bole from the top and spread downward, weakening the tree to the point that large, upper limbs broke off and lodged in the crown. This posed a danger to two large petroleum pipelines below the tree, installation personnel and vehicular traffic. A detailed description of the tree, location and hazard situation is provided as Supplemental Information in the Permit Application, dated 16 August 2012, which was provided as Appendix A in the previously submitted Interim Report.

MONITORING NOTES

The following notes document monitoring events of the platform removal site and surrounding area throughout the 2103 bald eagle nesting season. Please refer to Figure 1 for locations named in these notes. Observations were aided with binoculars. Times are by 24-hour clock.

N. B.: Whether or not it is explicitly so stated, all monitoring events included close scrutiny of the location of the removed nest platform in the trimmed 70" DBH Douglas-fir on Ash Road, as well as the existing alternate nest platform on tree #1322-3, which is located 550 to the east of the trimmed tree, as well as proximal trees.

(1) MFD Friday 11 JAN 2013

W. R. Briggs; 27° F, clear

1510 ~1 mature BE perched in the broken-top DF located approximately 400' W. of trimmed tree. Eagle is perched at very top of tree. No other BE around, on, in or near the other nest tree or the trimmed tree. The base of the tree in which the BE is perched is located about 2/3 of the way up the slope.

1645 ~ Depart

(2) MFD Wednesday 16 JAN 2013

W.R. Briggs; 32° F, clear

1710 ~ One mature BE perched in the top of a multi-leader DF located about 50' W. of the trimmed tree.

1735 ~ eagle flew East and over the hill, out of sight. Due to dusk, I departed.

(3) MFD Wednesday 23 JAN 2013

W. R. Briggs; 42° F, drizzle, overcast

1320 ~ 1 mature BE perched in shoreline tree, W. end of North Dike Road.

1328 ~ BE flew to East side of Little Clam Bay, perched in shoreline DF.

1340 ~ 1 immature BE perched in tree about 850' West of trimmed tree (above electrical box).

1342 ~ 1 mature BE flew from fish pens South towards Manchester Point.

1350 ~ 6 GBH in DF West side of old C.O.'s home site.

1354 ~ 1 mature BE perched in top of DF along South side of Manchester Point, about ½ way between Admin Building and shoreside picnic shelter. Harlequin ducks (4) on rocks along South shoreline, where we've seen harlies before.

1357 ~ the above BE departed to the West. It was quite large, probably a female.

1400 ~ Conclude survey/monitoring

(4) MFD Tuesday 29 JAN 2013

W. R. Briggs; 40° F, overcast, light drizzle, thin fog in tree tops

0728 ~ No BE near nest platform trees. The only BE were two mature birds perched at the extreme East end of North Dike Road: one was in the last tree (DF) outboard the fence and the other was about 200' away in the last tree (DF along the hillside, i.e., the first tree North of Bldg #178 (oily waste treatment bldg).

0840 ~ Depart

(5) MFD Tuesday 05 FEB 2013

W. R. Briggs; 45° F, overcast

0730 ~ No BE along Olympic Drive or in trees outboard of fence.

0820 ~ Depart

(6) MFD Wednesday 06 FEB 2013

W. R. Briggs; 48° F, high overcast

1456 ~ 1 mature BE in shoreline DF outboard security fence by North Dike Road, about 500' West of trimmed tree.

(7) MFD Thursday 07 FEB 2013

W. R. Briggs; 40° F, clear and sunny

0727 ~ 1 mature BE in shoreline DF outboard security fence along North Dike Road, about 200' West of trimmed tree.

0740 ~ 1 pair mature BE in last DF at East end of Olympic Drive, about 200' North of Oily Waste Building. This is the same tree as on 29 JAN 2013 observation. I also saw a red tailed hawk perched in DF along Olympic Drive. It had a clear white breast and mottled belly. First seen about 500' West of trimmed tree with crows harassing it, it flew to a shoreline tree (DF) to perch, then to a DF on the south side of Olympic Drive about 800' West of trimmed tree.

0837 ~ Depart MFD.

(8) MFD Wednesday 13 FEB 2013

W. R. Briggs; 44° F, overcast

0720 ~ 1 mature BE in spike-top tree 1,050' West of trimmed tree.

0726 ~ 1 mature BE perched on limb of DF located about 75' NE of alternate nest tree #1322-3 and another mature BE perched about 50' SE of that.

0740 ~ Immature red tailed hawk (RTH) on grassy verge of North Dike Road, just sitting there. It flew to a DF just outboard of the perimeter fence.

0803 ~ I walked to the East end of North Dike Road. I then walked W. on North Dike Road: a pair of mature BE flew out of the DF where I had seen them about 75' NE of alternate nest tree #1322-3. They flew East towards the lighthouse: one landed in a DF, the other turned West, flew over the big pier and disappeared towards the town of Manchester. At the same time as above, another pair of mature BE were perched on the last light standard on the Small Boat Pier (just off the East end of North Dike Road). So, I saw 5 separate BE on MFD today.

0833 ~ Depart MFD

(9) MFD Friday 22 FEB 2013

W. R. Briggs; 41° F, overcast with light rain

0720 ~ Two mature BE perched on spike-top tree 1,050' W. of trimmed tree. No other BE along Olympic Drive or shoreline.

0758 ~ Depart MFD.

(10) MFD Monday 04 MARCH 2013

W. R. Briggs; 32° F, clear, sunny

0701 ~ 1 mature BE on top of spike-top tree 1,050' W. of trimmed tree; and a pair of mature BE perched within 10' of each other in a DF about 250' W. of the trimmed tree.

0710 ~ The BE in the spike-top tree flew East past the perched pair, flushing them and continued East to land in the top of nest tree #1322-3 along with one of the pair. The other of the pair flew W. to perch in a DF.

0715 ~ 1 immature BE perched on spike-top tree 1,050' W. of trimmed tree.

0722 ~ this BE flew E. out of sight.

0737 ~ Pair gone from #1322-3. One mature BE perched in DF 600' E. of tree #1322-3.

0740. I departed MFD.

(11) MFD Tuesday 05 MARCH 2013

W. R. Briggs; 40° F, high overcast, dry

0652 ~ Juvenile RTH perched in DF outboard perimeter fence at W. end of North Dike road.

0717 ~ 1 mature BE came from the east flying along shoreline and perched in an 18" DF outboard the security fence about 800' East of the trimmed tree. It called several times. Perch tree located at West end of oil boom laydown area. There were 2 other mature BE already in the tree. A 4th mature BE was perched on the ground at shoreline. Two eagles flew W. to soar over the Washington department of Ecology buildings just north of the Navy property, while the other two flew W. 200 yards to another DF outboard the perimeter fence, which tree is about 75' W. of the trimmed tree. Numerous calls. About 0750 this pair flew East and perched 75' NE of alternate nest tree #1322-3.

0805 ~ I departed MFD.

(12) MFD Monday 11 MARCH 2013

W. R. Briggs; 40° F, high, broken clouds

0720 ~ RTH perched on spike-top tree 1,050' W. of trimmed tree. Also, two mature BE perched in branches of nest tree #1322-3.

0735 ~ 1 mature BE perched in top of easternmost DF on Olympic Drive, on north side of Building #178 (oily waste treatment). As usual, crows are harassing eagles and the RTH.

0851 ~ 2 mature BE perched by Bldg #200, about 350 yards north of Olympic Drive.

0851 ~ Depart.

(13) MFD Tuesday 26 MARCH 2013

W. R. Briggs; 58° F, high, broken, light cloud cover

1400 ~ 1 juvenile RTH perched on spike-top tree. No BE along Olympic Drive or along shoreline.

1445 ~ Depart.

(14) MFD Thursday 28 MARCH 2013

W. R. Briggs; 47° F, overcast

0740 ~ No BE along shoreline or Olympic Drive; none in or near the trimmed tree on Ash Road or alternate nest tree #1322-3.

0825 ~ Depart MFD.

(15) MFD Monday 01 APRIL 2013

W. R. Briggs; 59° F; high overcast, broken clouds

1430 ~ No BE along Olympic Drive, North Dike Road or outboard of the perimeter fence.

1548 ~ still no BE to be seen – not on trimmed tree, alternate nest tree #1322-3 or anywhere else.

1548 ~ I departed MFD.

(16) MFD Thursday 04 APRIL 2013

W. R. Briggs, N. Reid (SCA); 49° F, light rain with overcast

1055 ~ No BE to be seen along monitoring area

1111 ~ Still no BE in area.

1128 ~ Conclude observations.

(17) MFD Monday 08 APRIL 2013

W. R. Briggs; 50° F; sunny with high, broken clouds

1135 ~ Begin monitoring. No BE observed along Olympic Drive.

1144 ~ Single RTH perched in broken top of DF 550' W. of trimmed tree.

1215 ~ No BE seen along Olympic Drive or North Dike road, nor outboard the perimeter fence along N. Dike Road. I looked from the West end of N. Dike Road all the way to Building #178 (oily waste treatment building)

1215 ~ Conclude survey and depart

(18) MFD Friday 12 APRIL 2013

W. R. Briggs; 47° F, high overcast

1125 ~ 1 immature BE perched in DF 850' W. of trimmed tree. It flew N. to soar over the near portion of Clam Bay

1146 ~ 1 mature BE flew out of alternate nest tree #1322-3, circled over the shoreline and returned to the tree. It sounded as though another eagle was chittering from the nest tree. The flushed eagle made 1 circle and returned to the tree. It landed 1' away from another eagle already on the branch, which is right by the nest platform.

1206 ~ 1 California sea lion swimming W. half way between the shoreline and the near floating fish pens.

1213 ~ Pair of mature BE still on branch that supports alternate nest platform #1322-3. They are sitting about 1' apart; one looks bigger than the other and is probably the female.

1216 ~ Conclude observations and depart.

(19) MFD Wednesday 17 APRIL 2013

W. R. Briggs; 60° F, sunny with high, very thin, broken clouds

1347 ~ Begin observations of area from W end to E end of North Dike Road. No BE observed anywhere. Two California sealions on red channel buoy; none on offshore fish pens. No activity in/by tree #1322-3.

1422 ~ Conclude observations and depart

(20) MFD Monday 29 April 2013

W. R. Briggs; 45° F, sunny, high scattered clouds. Proceed E. on North Dike Road

1040 ~ 500' W of trimmed tree, crows mobbing juvenile RTH, forcing it to flee W of outfall of Little Clam Bay, then out of my sight.

1105 ~ Pair of mature BE perched on W arm of the last light standard on the Small Boat Pier. They are about 145 yards out from Gate 13.

1110 ~ Head QW on N. Dike Road

1112 ~ The larger BE on the light standard dropped down to the pier for a minute, then flew back to its light standard perch carrying a fish. Once perched, it began to eat.

1117 ~ 1 immature BE perched in top of DF 200' E of alternate nest tree #1322-3.

1122 ~ 1 mature BE soaring over the outfall of Little Clam Bay; flew N to soar over EPA Lab. This is a separate bird from the two on the Small Boat Pier.

1132 ~ California sealions (3) on further out fish pens, calling. None on channel buoy

1136 ~ Pair still on Small Boat Pier light standard.

1138 ~ No eagle activity on/near nest tree #1322-3. Conclude observations, depart.

(21) MFD Wednesday 01 May 2013

W. R. Briggs; 55° F, clear, sunny.

1248 ~ No BE along N. Dike Road or Olympic Drive, by nest tree #1322-3, or the trimmed DF on Ash Road, on pier or near Bldg #178.

1357 ~ Traversed entire N. Dike Road corridor again: no BE in area. Conclude survey and depart. No marine mammals on fish pens or channel marker buoy.

(22) MFD Wednesday 09 MAY 2013

W. R. Briggs; 56° F, overcast

0918 ~ Start E. on North Dike Road

0939 ~ Pair of mature BE on last (furthest out) light standard on Small Boat Pier; one eagle on each arm.

0950 ~ standing on Olympic Drive by Bldg #178 to observe BE on light standard; head W on North Dike Road.

0954 ~ Still no birds (BE) around alternate nest tree #1322-3. 2 California sealions on red channel marker buoy. None anywhere else.

1006 ~ Conclude survey, depart.

Prepared by:

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Date: _____

