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February 23, 2015

Via US Mail



Mr. Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

In re: Bridger Pipeline LLC
Raptor Survey
Heart River Pipeline

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

As stated in the Route Application submitted in February 2015, Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc. is providing this supplement for the February 2015 raptor survey findings.

Please find enclosed the Raptor Survey Report and shapefiles CD for Bridger Pipeline LLC's proposed 16-inch crude oil pipeline in Billings and Stark County.

Per US Fish and Wildlife survey protocols, no construction restrictions during this nesting season are warranted. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Karine Becker
Project Manager

Cc: John W. Morrison (Electronic)
Ken Dockweiler (Electronic)

Enclosure: Raptor Survey Report
Raptor Survey Map
Shapefiles CD

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Supplement to raptor survey findings

Keitu Engineers & Consultants, Inc.
Karine Becker, Project Manager

An aerial raptor and nest survey was conducted on February 11, 2015. During the aerial survey, three surveyors (seated in front-left, rear-left, and rear-right positions of the helicopter) thoroughly examined the area within the 2-mile-wide survey corridor to locate raptors and raptor nests. The survey methods were consistent with the US Fish and Wildlife Service survey protocols. Complete survey coverage was obtained by traversing the survey corridor in a perpendicular manner while visually scanning all areas of potential nesting habitat. A second pass was conducted in a similar manner in the opposite direction to get full field of view and line of sight in all possible raptor nest locations. When a possible nest was discovered, the helicopter would slow to a hover, at a distance great enough to prevent flushing if the nest was occupied and in the shortest amount of time needed to determine condition, type of nest, contents, and obtain accurate GPS location coordinates. The timing of the survey was conducive to locating nests in deciduous trees as “leaf out” had not occurred at this time.

No occupied nests were found during the survey. A total of three unoccupied nests were recorded (see Figure 1). While it is impossible to say with certainty that raptors will not occupy the recorded empty nests in the near future, based on the size of the nests, it would be improbable. Short-term land use and human activities may progress near a nest or nest territory designated as unoccupied. For long-term use activities, unoccupied nests should be conserved as recommended by the Bureau of Land Management (see Table 1). Unoccupied nests of species which are not raptors of concern should be conserved for a minimum of two years.

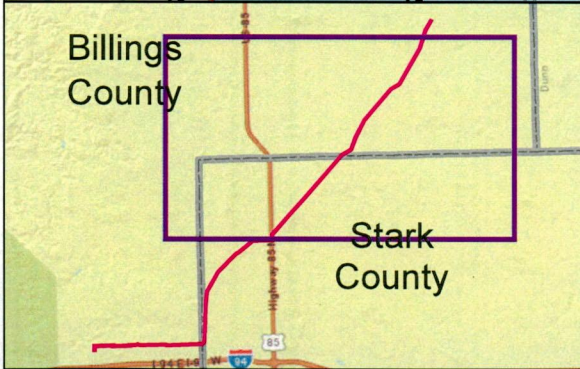
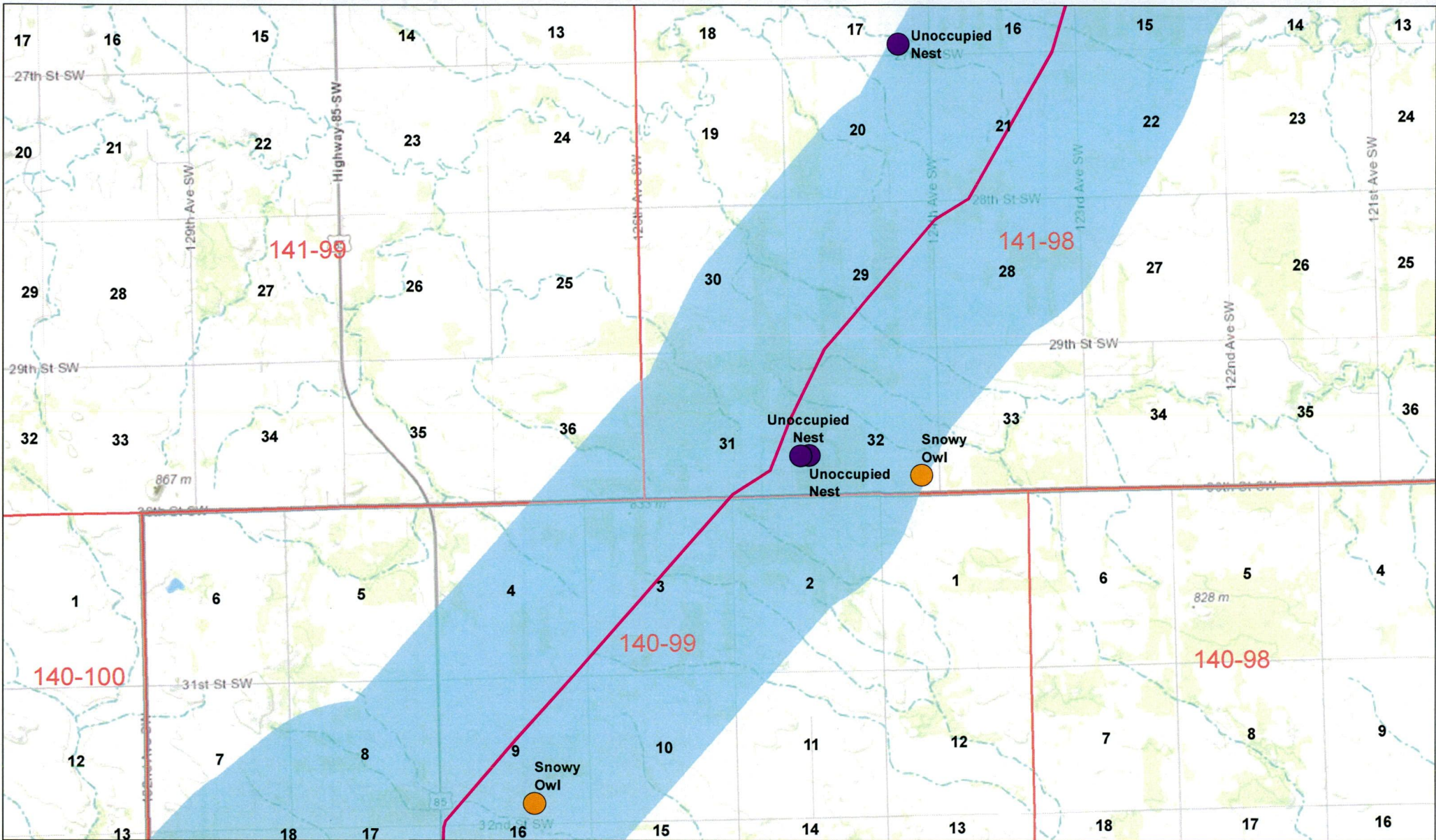
Table 1: Recommended conservation periods for unoccupied nests of Raptor Species of Concern¹		
Raptor		Years
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus leucocephalus	5
Northern Harrier	Circus cyaneus	Habitat Conservation*
Northern Goshawk	Accipiter gentilis	3
Swainson's Hawk	Buteo swainsoni	3
Ferruginous Hawk	Buteo regalis	5
Golden Eagle	Auila chrysaetos	10
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	Indefinite
Flammulated Owl	Otus flammeolus	5*
Burrowing Owl	Athene cunicularia	5*
Short-Eared Owl	Asio flammeus	3

*Species may not return to individual nest, but may nest in aggregates in suitable habitat
¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 9. 2008. Guidelines for Raptor Conservation in the Western United States.
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No raptor species of concern were observed during the survey. Two snowy owls were observed within the corridor (see Figure 1). Snowy owls nest in the Arctic tundra and it would be uncommon for them to nest in North Dakota.² However, if an occupied nest is spotted during construction, a construction buffer zone will apply. Due to the range of this species, it is not uncommon for one to be seen at a distance greater than one mile from their nests, making it probable that the owl's nest is outside of the corridor.







Based on the US Fish and Wildlife survey protocols, no construction restrictions during this nesting season are warranted.

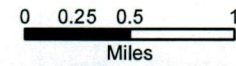
² Owl Research Institute. 2013. Owl ID Guide: Snowy Owl (*Bubo scandiaus*). www.owlinstitute.org



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Legend

-  Proposed Project Centerline
-  Snowy Owl
-  Unoccupied Nest
-  Aerial Survey Corridor
-  Township
-  Section



**Heart River Pipeline
Nest & Raptor Findings**

Figure 1