GeoEngineers

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Field Report

File Number:	
024145-001-01	

Project:	Date:
Sunnyside Village Co-Housing Project	2/17/23

Owner:	Time of Arrival:	Report Number:
King Creek LLC	13:00	1

Prepared by:	Location:	Time of Departure:	Pages:
Emily Hurn	3121 66th Ave NE, Marysville, WA & Parcel # 29050300402100	13:30	5 (including Figure 1 and Photographs 1 ,2 and 3)

Purpose of visit:	Weather:	Travel Time:	Permit Number:
Bald Eagle Nest Assessment	OC	1.5 hrs RT	N/A

Upon arrival to the site I assessed personal safety hazards: ☒ Yes or ☐ Referred to Site Safety Plan and Safety Tailgate if applicable

Safety Hazards Were Addressed by : ☐ Staying Alert to Construction and Equipment Hazards ☐ Other (describe)

Introduction

This field report is in response to the City of Marysville Land Use Application (LUA) comment #15 (provided in a letter dated November 16, 2022) which stated:

> "*Based on the pre-application comments, the subject property has a bald eagle nest in the vicinity. Per MMC 22E.010, an updated critical area assessment must be provided to ensure the bald eagle habitat shall be protected pursuant to the Washington State Bald Eagle Protection Rules of WAC 232-12-292.*"

Site Background

Prior to the site visit Emily Hurn, a GeoEngineers scientist, was provided with site historical information by the property owner (Dean Smith) who noted that eagle nesting activity was most recently observed approximately 4 years ago (2019) on the adjacent parcel to the east (Parcel #29050200302400, owned by City of Marysville). In 2020, Dean noted that the eagle nest blew down during an early winter storm season. Since then, according to Dean, eagle nesting activity has not occurred. However, there are regular eagle sightings utilizing the trees in the adjacent property for resting and perching.

Site Visit

One GeoEngineers scientist (Emily Hurn) completed a site visit on February 17, 2023 to evaluate the Sunnyside Village Co-Housing (SVC) Project parcel and adjacent parcel for bald eagle nesting activity. I was joined by one of the Sunnyside Village Cohousing coordinators, Paul Cullen, who identified the tree where historical bald eagle nesting activity had been observed. The subject tree is a Douglas fir with a double leader at the top. The tree is located on the adjacent parcel to the east, owned by the City of Marysville, approximately 65-feet from the SVC parcel boundary. This distance was estimated using a rangefinder on site and verified using the Snohomish County PDS Map Portal analysis tool. See attached Figure 1 for approximate location of the subject tree.

	FIELD REPRESENTATIVE	DATE
THIS FIELD REPORT IS PRELIMINARY A preliminary report is provided solely as evidence that field observation was performed. Observations and/or conclusions and/or recommendations conveyed in the final report may vary from and shall take precedence over those indicated in a preliminary report.	Emily Hurn	2/17/23
X **THIS FIELD REPORT IS FINAL** A final report is an instrument of professional service. Any conclusions drawn from this report should be discussed with and evaluated by the professional involved.	**REVIEWED BY** F. McNair	**DATE** 2/26/23

Attachments: Figure 1 and Photographs 1 ,2 and 3 (included as part of the field report)

Distribution: SVC, Schemata Workshop and City of Marysville Planning Department

Within the upper 15-feet of the subject tree, a few feet above the double leader fork, fragments of a bald eagle nest were observed with evidence of damage and weathering. The nest was unoccupied for the duration of the site visit. The nest was uneven in shape with a thin/shallow profile. Typically eagle nests are 4-6 feet in diameter and 3 feet deep, although larger nests exist (USFWS 2007)[1]. See Photographs 1 and 2 for more details on the subject tree and damaged nest. Photograph 3 shows terrestrial habitat conditions located north of the subject tree within the adjacent parcel. No additional nests or bald eagle nest building behaviors were observed within this area.

No nest building or nesting activity was observed during the site visit. One adult bald eagle was observed landing and resting on an adjacent tree approximately 60 feet south of the subject tree. We observed the behavior of the eagle for the remainder of the site visit and did not observe any nesting behaviors. The eagle remained perched at the top of the nearby tree and neither perched on nor delivered nesting material to the adjacent damaged nest tree.

Conclusion

The site visit completed on February 17, 2023 satisfies the City of Marysville's request to assess habitats within the project site and adjacent parcels for bald eagle nests. The site visit was completed during the bald eagle nest building season for the Pacific Region (includes Washington State) which begins at the end of December and extends through early April (USFWS 2007)1. Because the eagle nest building season is still underway, there is a possibility that bald eagles could begin rebuilding the damaged nest or build a new nest in a different tree this year. Therefore, we advise that the owner continue monitoring the adjacent parcel for any signs of nest building activities. If site conditions change and nesting activity is observed, we will notify the City and perform a follow-up site visit.

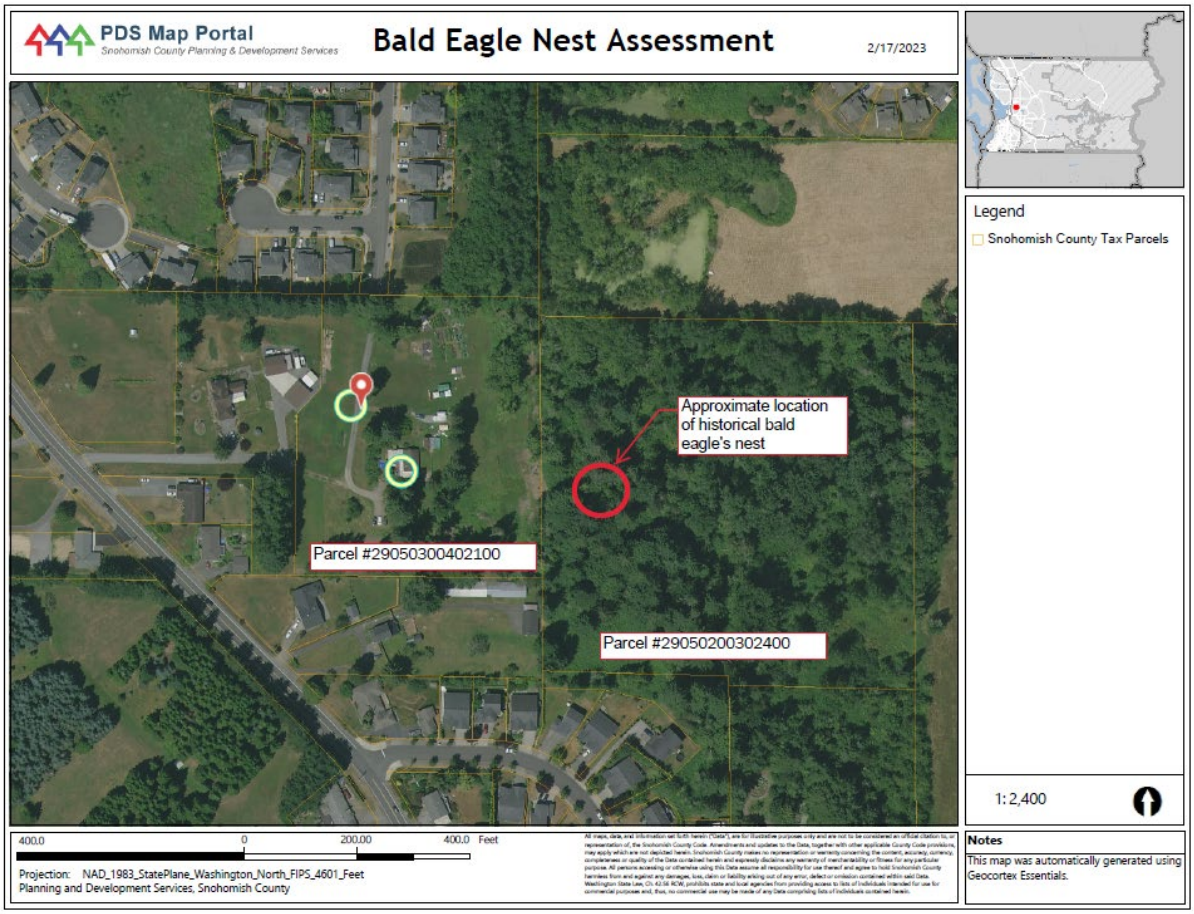

Figure 1. Site overview figure showing the location of the historical bald eagle nest in relation to the project site.

[1] United States Fish and Wildlife Service 2007. National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines. May 2007. Available at: https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/national-bald-eagle-management-guidelines_0.pdf

Photograph 1. Looking east towards the adjacent parcel. Douglas Fir with double leader and damaged eagle nest is shown.

Photograph 2. Looking east towards adjacent parcel. Douglas Fir with double leader and damaged eagle nest is shown.

Photograph 3. Looking northeast towards the other terrestrial habitat within the adjacent parcel. No nests or bald eagle nest building activity was observed within this area.