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**From:** Meegan, Sean  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 02, 2014 8:42 AM  
**To:** Dohoney, Courtney  
**Subject:** FW: Eagle-Osprey Survey Timing

**From:** Nystrom, Sarah [[mailto:sarah\\_nystrom@fws.gov](mailto:sarah_nystrom@fws.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 28, 2014 3:25 PM  
**To:** Meegan, Sean  
**Subject:** Re: Eagle-Osprey Survey Timing

Hi Sean,

Thanks for your email. It's a good question. Osprey will definitely be starting to nest later than eagles, but I think one thing in your favor is that in general their nests may be a bit easier to find since they tend to nest in more open situations. I think the key for eagles in a lot of places is trying to catch the nests before leaf out when it will be easier to see them. After leaf out, many surveys miss nests if they don't already know where to look. If your project area will tend to be dominated by conifers that may be less critical (for obvious reasons). Eagles will still be around nests in late April, though you'll have missed incubation and early chicks so it may be difficult to tell if a nesting attempt was made and the nest failed for some reason.

I would be sure to check in with the various states/provinces to see if they'll agree to give you the current nest data within your survey area so you can be sure to verify those nest locations. What distance from the route are you planning to survey out to? If there is likely to be any blasting we recommend a buffer of at least a mile from any known nests so you'll want to be sure to cover at least that distance.

Sarah

On Fri, Mar 28, 2014 at 2:10 PM, Meegan, Sean <[SMeeegan@ene.com](mailto:SMeeegan@ene.com)> wrote:

Sarah, good afternoon, my company is working with the Department of Energy (DOE) on the proposed Northern Pass project in the state of New Hampshire. We are planning to conduct an aerial survey for bald eagle and osprey nests along the proposed route. We received your name last year from Maria Tur, but weren't in position to conduct those surveys until this field season.

My question for you is a recommended time period for conducting both bald eagle and osprey nest surveys at the same time? I saw some references for ospreys beginning nesting in early to mid-April in New England, when waters become ice-free, but this year with the winter we've had, perhaps a survey late April/early May

would be better? I am assuming bald eagles would still be on nests during this time period. The other issue is the Project Area extends from south of Concord up to the Canadian border, so there will be a range of climatic conditions on the ground throughout the area. Any thoughts or recommendations would be appreciated?

Thanks, Sean

Sean Meegan

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