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Received
Planning Division
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PACIFIC HABITAT SERVICES, INC.

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TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Date: January 8, 2020

To: Habib Matin
Emerald Engineering & Construction Company
10475 SW Helenius Street, Suite 101
Tualatin, OR 97062

From: Christie Galen, Senior Ecologist

Subject: Scholls Apartments Bald Eagle Assessment
City of Beaverton Pre-Application Conference #PA2019-0037
PHS Project Number: 6906

PROJECT BACKGROUND

Pacific Habitat Services, Inc. (PHS) was contracted by Habib Matin to conduct a bald eagle assessment of the proposed Scholls Apartments site located south of the intersection of SW Scholls Ferry Road and SW 155th Terrace in Beaverton, Washington County, Oregon (Figure 1). The land use application proposes a multi-family residential development in the uplands while preserving a 0.45-acre wetland located on the southern portion of the site. The primary objective of this assessment was to determine whether bald eagles nest on site or in the vicinity of the proposed project in order to address the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

The subject site is located on a gently sloping south facing forested slope above Progress Ridge shopping center and lake (Photo 1, Figure 2). Existing conditions in the uplands include a multi-aged forest canopy with a residence, garage, driveway and turn-around beneath. The canopy is dominated by Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), with smaller amounts of western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), and red alder (*Alnus rubra*). Trees range in size from 8-inches in diameter at breast height (dbh) to 48-inches dbh. There is a multi-layered native understory dominated by Oregon grape (*Mahonia nervosa*), salal (*Gaultheria shallon*), oceanspray (*Holodiscus discolor*), and vine maple (*Acer circinatum*). Ground cover is dominated by sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*) with English ivy (*Hedera helix*) dominant near the residence. Wetland vegetation is dominated by Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*) and slough sedge (*Carex obnupta*).

BALD EAGLE BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The bald eagle is associated with aquatic habitats and frequents estuaries and coastal regions, large lakes, reservoirs, and major rivers. Fish is the major component of its diet, but waterfowl, gulls, and carrion provide additional food sources. Two general habitats of bald eagles are of primary concern: nesting and wintering. Bald eagles nest in large mature trees, such as Douglas fir and black cottonwood (*Populus balsamifera*), near open water. Large trees are necessary not only for nesting to support their large, bulky nests, but also for foraging, perching, and roosting. Bald eagles have high nest site fidelity and return to a particular breeding territory year after year in January and February. Nest initiation, including courtship and nest-building, occurs February through March; incubation spans from early March to May; eggs hatch in April and May; and eaglets occupy the nest from April through mid-August (Isaacs, et al. 1983). In winter, they often congregate at specific wintering sites that are generally close to open water and offer good perch trees and night roosts (Marshall, et al 2003). Wintering areas offer an abundance of prey and carrion that are typically associated with large concentrations of waterfowl and/or large mammals.

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act protects bald eagles and their nests; activities that could potentially harm them or their nests or identified winter roost sites require special permits issued through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

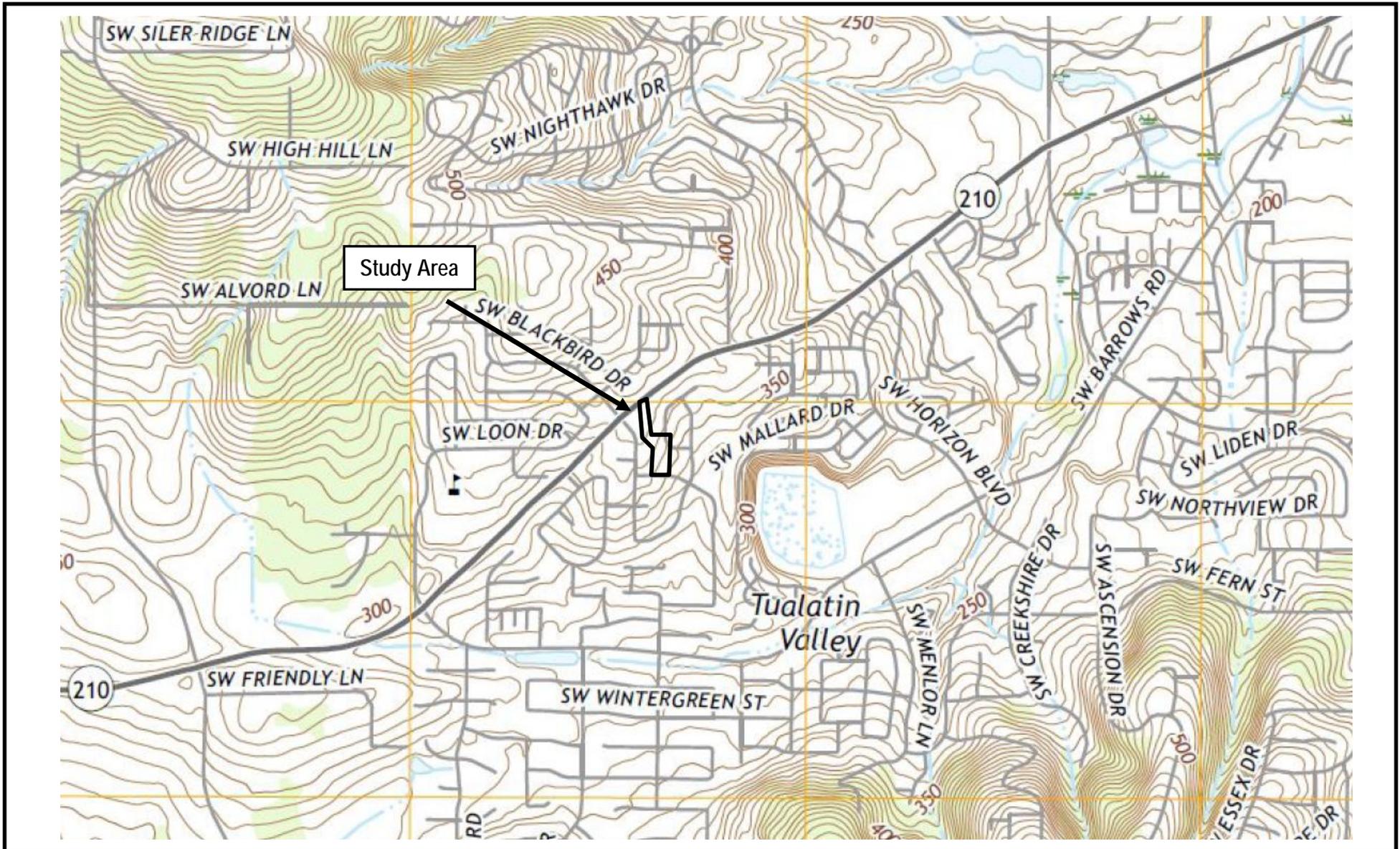
RESULTS

Eagle habitat on the subject site was evaluated by Christie Galen of PHS on January 4, 2020. Every large diameter tree that could potentially support a bald eagle nest was scoped from beneath and viewed from the side and from adjacent roads and parking lots. PHS also reviewed drone footage (December 11, 2019) of the canopy provided by Pacific Community Design.

No eagle nests or eagles were observed on or adjacent to the project site during the field survey. Bald eagles potentially use the tall site trees to perch and search for prey (e.g. fish, waterfowl) in the lake below as the trees provide an excellent view of the lake at the Progress Ridge Shopping Center; however, the lake is not big enough to provide year-round food for the eagles.

CONCLUSIONS

There are no bald eagle nests or winter roosts on the proposed project property. Based on the site evaluation, the development plans for the property will not disturb bald eagle nests or winter roosts. Therefore, no special permitting, as required by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act for impacts to bald eagles, is needed.



#6906
1/8/2020



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General Location and Topography
Proposed Scholls Apartments - Beaverton, Oregon
United States Geological Survey (USGS) Beaverton, Oregon 7.5 quadrangle, 2017
(viewer.nationalmap.gov/basic)

FIGURE
1



Photo 1:

Scholls Apartment forest viewed from below at Progress Ridge Pond.

Photo 2:

Forest habitat; all mature, large canopy trees like the large diameter tree on the left of this photograph were searched for eagle nests.



Project #6906
1/6/2020



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Photo documentation

Scholls Apartments Bald Eagle Assessment - SW Scholls Ferry Road, Beaverton, Oregon

FIGURE

2