

## BLUESTONE WIND PROJECT EAGLE FACT SHEET - June 2019

### OVERVIEW

- 27 670' tall wind turbines proposed in Broome County, NY towns of Sanford and Windsor.
- Located within the Golden Eagle (GOEA) migration corridor (spring and fall), downstream of the Franklin Mountain Hawk Watch and adjacent to the major Bald Eagle (BAEA) concentration area at the Cannonsville Reservoir and Dam in Deposit, NY.
- Eagle surveys begun by Bluestone Wind March 2016.
- Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society (DOAS) learned of the project in January 2017.
- [DOAS conducted 3 seasons of independent eagle surveys](#): fall 2017; spring 2018; winter/spring 2019 using intervenor funding and private donations.
- Exceptionally high numbers of BAEA and GOEA documented in late winter and spring. High numbers were observed in fall.
- Visibility is compromised at most eagle survey points by trees and terrain, severely at some. DOAS is questioning Bluestone's data on this basis.

### EAGLES IN THE PROJECT AREA

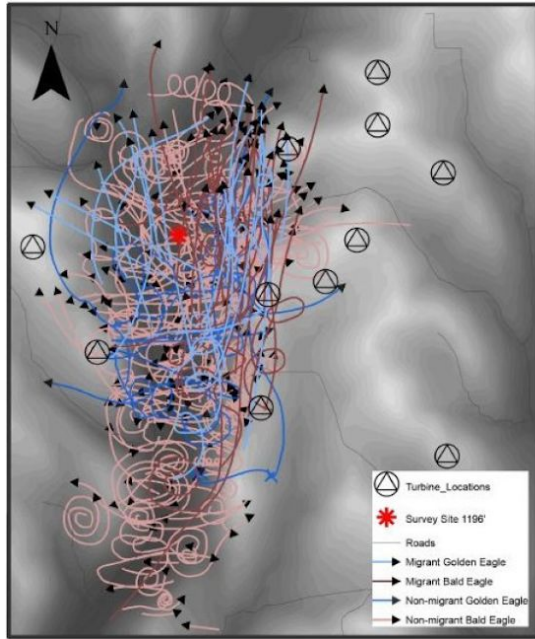
- The USFWS Bayesian Risk Model surveys recorded very high eagle rates. However, the take (fatality) estimates are secret. The New York State Article 10 review process granted Bluestone confidential status for the federal take estimate numbers. DOAS members who signed a protective order to view the estimates find them disturbing. The NYS application contains dramatically lower take estimates. There is no sound rationale provided for the extreme difference.
- DOAS surveys recorded 105 GOEAs observations. Non-migrant GOEAs were present more than 10% of the time in March 2018. 2019 results were slightly lower but still found more resident GOEAs than previously found anywhere in the state. Regionally, the fall 2017 survey count of 35 migrant GOEA was only surpassed by FMHW during the survey period.
- During 2018 and 2019 March and February surveys, DOAS mapped 502 eagle flight paths. Eagles were observed flying and foraging at turbine locations. 396 observations were within turbine swept height.
- Using mapped eagle tracks from its spring 2018 and 2019 surveys in the project area, DOAS has calculated that eagles (Bald and/or Golden) intersected one of four visible turbine locations at the rate of one per 4.9 hours of coverage.
- Eastern GOEA expert Tricia Miller PhD determined that 36% of DOAS GOEA observations were migratory individuals. 27% were wintering, 24% non-migratory individuals (wintering or stopover), and 13% were of unknown seasonal status.
- Migrating eagles can clear a wind project in minutes, resident and stopover eagles may spend weeks or even months in an area, increasing the risk from turbines.
- Dr. Miller's report on mitigation options for GOEAs in the east asserts that there are no effective mitigation options for the take of GOEAs in the east – [DMM Exhibit TAM 4, 225](#)

### THE STATE PROCESS

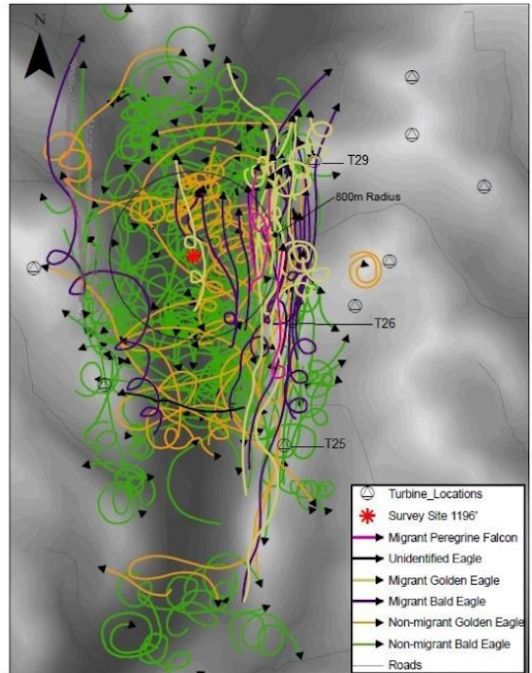
- DOAS opposes licensing for reasons detailed in testimony – [DMM item 225 direct testimony of T. Salo](#).

- Governor Cuomo is making an effort to shift the state to carbon neutral power. The NYS Departments of Environmental Conservation and Public Service appear to be green-lighting the project without adequate consideration of eagle impacts. State agencies need to consider independent studies for this project.
- All documents, studies, testimony and other data available to the public are on the [NYS DPS website](#).

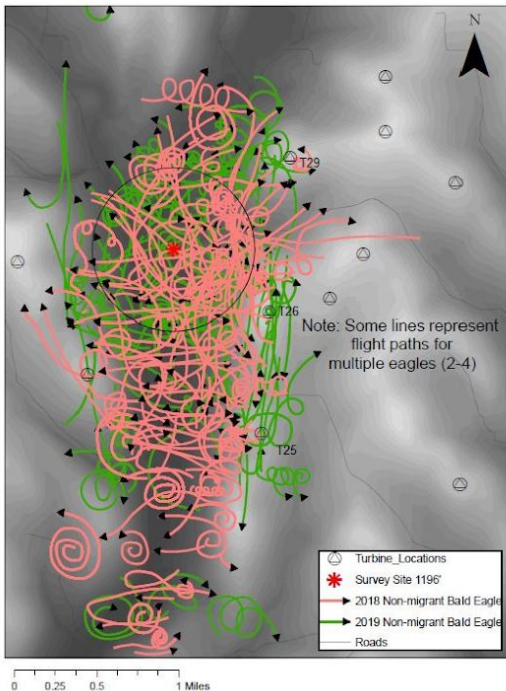
All DOAS 2018 Eagle Flight Paths  
n = 300



All 2019 Documented Flight Paths  
n = 204



COMBINED 2018 & 2019 FLIGHT PATHS OF  
NON-MIGRATING BALD EAGLES OBSERVED  
WITHIN 200m OF GROUND LEVEL, n = 250



COMBINED 2018 & 2019 FLIGHT PATHS OF  
NON-MIGRANT GOLDEN EAGLES OBSERVED  
WITHIN 200m OF GROUND LEVEL, n = 29

