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Manitoba Hydro
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Manitoba Hydro
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Reference: Field Survey Report – MMTP – Mineral Lick and Raptor Stick Nest Aerial Survey

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this field survey report is to describe the results of an aerial survey to identify mineral licks or stick nests within or adjacent to the new right of way portion of the proposed MMTP project. Mineral licks can serve as important locations for wildlife to obtain essential mineral nutrients from a deposit of salts and other minerals in the soil. Stick nests can provide important multiyear nesting locations for birds of prey such as eagles, hawks and owls. During construction and operation mitigation measures such as constructions setbacks, seasonal timing windows, movement and replacement can be employed to avoid impacts to these sensitive wildlife features.

METHODS

On May 1st, 2018 Manitoba Hydro conducted an aerial survey along the new right of way of the proposed MMTP final preferred route in a helicopter (150 m ASL, 90-110km/hour). A pilot and two experienced observers conducted the survey between 10:00am and 2:00pm. All stick nests and mineral licks were recorded with GPS and notepad.

RESULTS

Data from this survey is stored in MB Hydro LEA data management files (EPIMS).

Weather conditions on May 1st were 6 degrees Celsius, with calm winds, slightly overcast, with no precipitation. Due to a cooler spring, trees and shrubs did not have any leaf growth, which provided ideal conditions for identifying mineral licks and stick nests.

One (1) stick nest was identified outside the proposed project ROW. This nest was recorded but given its location outside of the proposed ROW (>10 meters) would not be affected or damaged by tree clearing activities. Two (2) suspected mineral licks were identified, however these were both located in livestock pastures, and presumably were placed there by to support livestock production. No mineral licks were identified in forested or other areas.

A summary of mineral licks and stick nest location is outlined here in Map 1.

INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

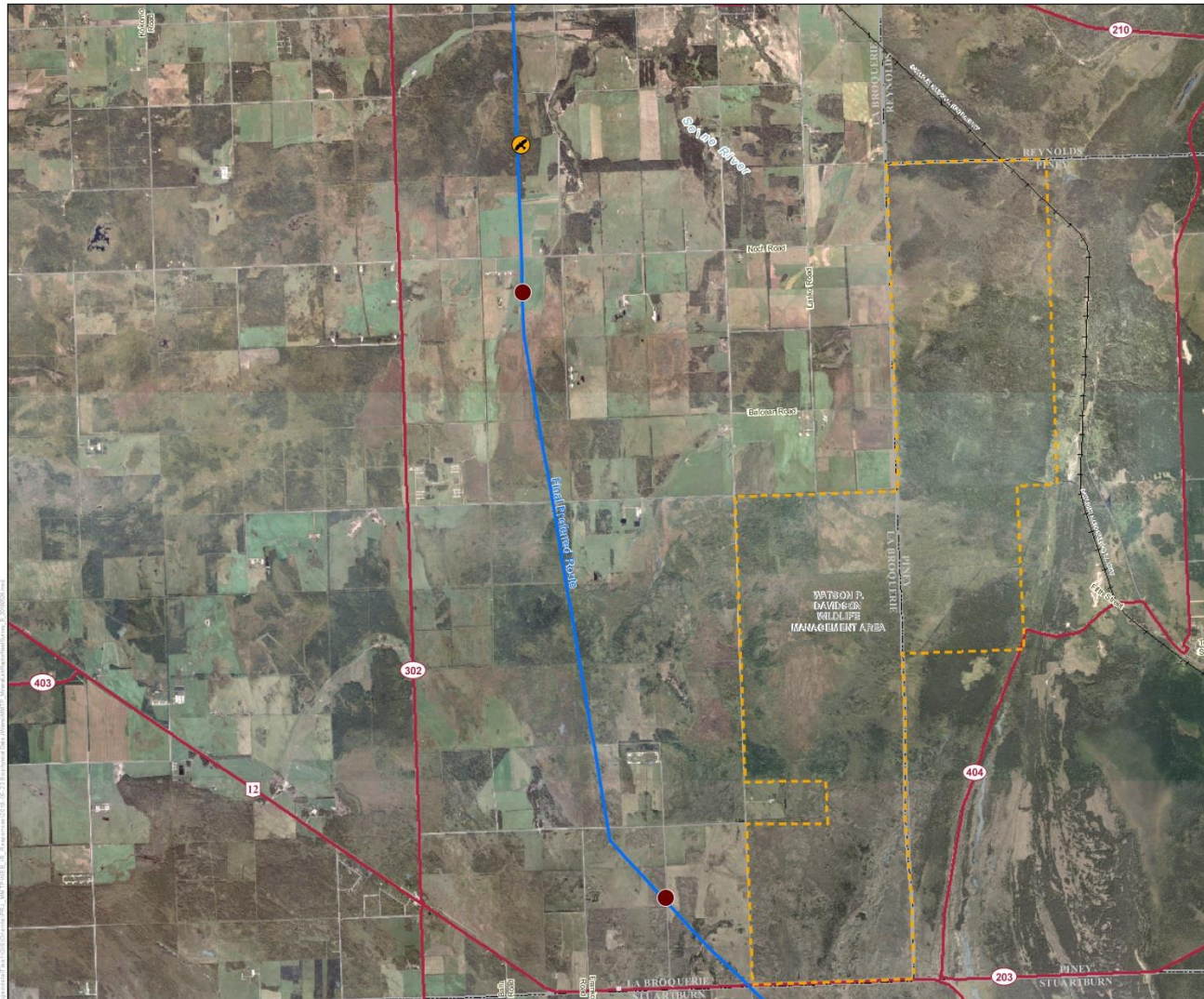
This survey provided a useful snapshot of existence and distribution of any mineral licks and stick nests within the new corridor of the final preferred route of the MMTP. The stick nest will be monitored, and be given an appropriate species specific construction buffer if it becomes occupied, as per the Project's construction environmental protection plan.

The results indicate that no additional mitigation measures are required due to mineral licks or stick nests.

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Manitoba-Minnesota Transmission Project

Project Infrastructure

Final Preferred Route

Biophysical Survey

Mineral Lick

Stick Nest

Existing Infrastructure

Transmission Line

Railway

Highway

Major Road

Local Road

Landbase

Wildlife Management Area

Rural Municipality

Coordinate System: UTM Zone 14N NAD83
Data Source: MBHydro, Prov MB, NRCan, NTS
Date Created: July 13, 2018



0 0.5 1 1.5 Kilometres
0 0.5 1 Miles

1:75,000

Mineral Lick and Stick Nest Survey