

Wednesday, February 06, 2008

Volume 19, Issue 5

Turkeys can't mitigate dead eagles

By Letter to the editor from Bob Tammen- Soudan, Minn.

As viewed on 2/5/08 at <http://www.timberjay.com/current.php?article=4077>

The recent publicity about destroying wetlands to open a copper mine has generated some discussion about wetland mitigation. The process has complexities that may be difficult for the average citizen to understand.

Perhaps we could use a hypothetical situation to work through the details.

Imagine that a mining company executive would like to butcher a couple of bald eagles to put on a power lunch for potential investors. The state of Minnesota would insist that bald eagles are a valuable resource and would have to be replaced (mitigated). Our executive would suggest hatching out two turkeys on a farm down by Saint Cloud. Of course, one of our environmentalists, (radical type), would object. The state would respond by requiring the executive to hatch out three turkeys. The state would be very proud of their environmental stewardship.

Our environmentalist (radical type) would still object. This would generate howls of outrage from our Iron Range legislators who would believe that we are being exploited by Twin Cities eagle huggers. Bill Hanna would print an impassioned editorial in the Mesabi Daily News blasting the Blue-Green alliance, the ACLU, the Easter Bunny, and, of course, Melanie Ford for destroying an opportunity to have a jobs producing eagle-butcher industry.

You would probably like to know the next step in this process. The next step is your's to decide. If you do nothing it will be a power lunch. If you care enough to get involved we can force the IRRRB to spend development dollars to satisfy our needs rather than the appetites of corporate executives.