

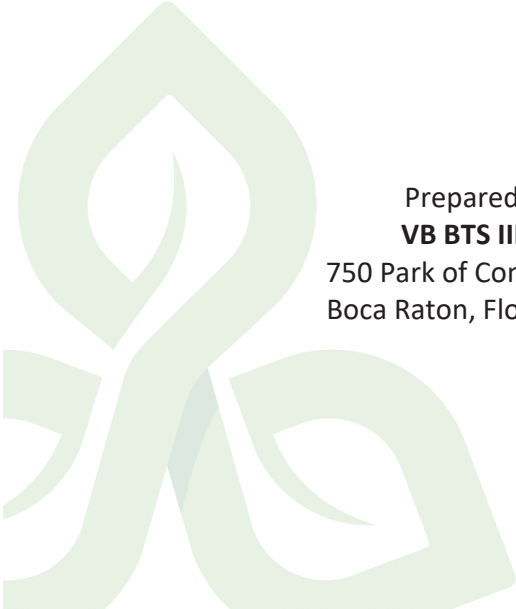


## **Avian Survey**

**May 1, 2025**



**US-CA-5368 Big Pine**  
1001 County Road  
Big Pine, Inyo County, California  
93513 Trileaf #760816



Prepared For:  
**VB BTS III, LLC**  
750 Park of Commerce Dr.  
Boca Raton, Florida 33487

Prepared By:  
**Trileaf Corporation**  
2121 West Chandler Blvd., Suite 108  
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**Status Table**

Status	Species	Estimated Fledge Date
No Nest	N/A	N/A

### **Introduction**

Trileaf was contracted by Verizon Wireless to conduct a survey for nesting birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) at a proposed telecommunications tower project located south of County Road in Big Pine, California.

On April 28, 2025, a representative for Trileaf evaluated the site to determine the presence of any migratory birds and their nests. The Site was observed from 10:00am to 1:00pm by Ms. Randi Honeycutt, a qualified biologist equipped with a high-powered spotting scope. The Site location in a dirt and grass-covered area on an animal shelter property and is dominated by tree species, including Fremont Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), Siberian Elm (*Ulmus pumila*), California Incensed-cedar (*Calocedrus decurrens*), Great Basin Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus longaeva*), Black Lotus (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), and Water Birch (*Betula occidentalis*).

### **Methods**

Survey methods included walking straight transects approximately 25 feet apart throughout the survey area when accessible. At the start of each transect, and upon arrival on site, the project area and suitable nesting habitat adjacent to the project area was scanned for nesting migratory birds. If a nest was detected, the nest was to be observed for a minimum of 20 minutes to determine if it was active and if possible, determine the bird species and the presence or absence of any eggs or flightless young in the nest.

### **Findings**

Various species were observed perching within trees located on the parcel including one (1) Lesser Goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), one (1) Hummingbird (*Trochilidae spp.*), and one (1) Virginia Warbler (*Leiothlypis virginiae*). All species flew away shortly after spotting and did not display any nesting behaviors or return. One (1) Vulture (*Cathartes aura*) was observed flying in the distance but never came close to the parcel. A pair of House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were perched at the top of a pile of foliage and branches within the middle of the parcel but flew a minute after spotting. No migratory birds, nests, eggs, or flightless young were observed within the project area during the evaluation.

### **Conclusions**

Based on Trileaf's observations, the site is currently considered to be "inactive" because there are currently no nests, eggs, or flightless young within the project area. If nests containing eggs or flightless young are discovered within the project area during construction activities, it is recommended that construction is halted to prevent disturbance. It is recommended that an additional evaluation is conducted to determine the appropriate time at which construction can resume without disturbing nesting migratory birds.

## **Qualifications**

### **Randi Honeycutt, Project Scientist II**

Ms. Honeycutt holds a B.S. degree in Aquatic Biology from the University of California Santa Barbara, and a M.S. in Ecology, Evolution and Marine Biology from the University of California Santa Barbara. Ms. Honeycutt's previous work includes coastal and subtidal vegetation and wildlife surveys, coral reef ecosystem dynamics, and environmental sample collection and analysis.

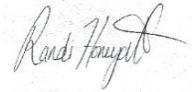
### **Samantha Neary, Assistant Project Manager and Migratory Bird Specialist**

Ms. Neary holds a B.S. degree in Zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and an M.S. in Ecology from San Diego State University. Ms. Neary's previous work includes coastal and subtidal vegetation and wildlife surveys, invasive plant identification and control, and environmental sample collection and analysis.

### **Brandy Moss, Group Manager – West Region**

Ms. Moss holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Technology Management from Arizona State University. Ms. Moss' previous work experience includes Phase I Environmental Site Assessments, field work, NEPA reviews, Conservation and water monitoring at ASARCO Ray mine, Waste and Recycling implementation for Gila River Gaming Enterprises (GRGE), as well as Migratory Bird Evaluations for wireless telecommunications projects.

Respectfully Submitted,  
TRILEAF Corporation



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Randi Honeycutt  
Project Scientist II



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Samantha Neary  
Assistant Project Manager and Migratory Bird Specialist



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Brandy Moss  
Group Manager – West Region





### **Legend**

- Proposed project footprint
- - - Transects within parcel
- - - Transects along buffer

### **Site Plan**

**VB BTS III, LLC – US-CA-5368 Big Pine**  
1001 County Road  
Big Pine, California 93513





**Site Photograph 1**, Looking north at the proposed tower location



**Site Photograph 2**, Looking south away from the proposed tower location

### **Site Photographs**

**VB BTS III, LLC – US-CA-5368 Big Pine**  
1001 County Road  
Big Pine, California 93513

Photographed: 4-28-2025  
*\*Photographed through a spotting scope*







**Site Photograph 3**, Looking east at the proposed tower location



**Site Photograph 4**, Looking west away from the proposed tower location

## Site Photographs

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**Site Photograph 5**, Looking south at the proposed tower location



**Site Photograph 6**, Looking north away from the proposed tower location

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**Site Photograph 7**, Looking west at the proposed tower location



**Site Photograph 8**, Looking east away from the proposed tower location

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**Site Photograph 9**, Typical potential nesting habitat on the north side of the parcel



**Site Photograph 10**, Typical potential nesting habitat on the north of the parcel

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**Site Photograph 11**, Typical potential nesting habitat on the east side of the parcel



**Site Photograph 12**, Typical potential nesting habitat on the east side of the parcel

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**Site Photograph 13,** Typical potential nesting habitat on the south side of the parcel



**Site Photograph 14,** Typical potential nesting habitat on the south side of the parcel

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**Site Photograph 15**, Typical potential nesting habitat on the west side of the parcel



**Site Photograph 16**, Typical potential nesting habitat on the west side of the parcel

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**Site Photograph 17,** Typical potential nesting habitat within the parcel



**Site Photograph 18,** Typical potential nesting habitat along access easement

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