

**From:** [Ritter, Michael W \(DFW\)](#)  
**To:** [Turcotte, Carol M \(DFW\)](#);  
**cc:** [Nelson, Travis W \(DFW\)](#);  
**Subject:** FW: Whistling Ridge Response REVIEW  
**Date:** Thursday, October 21, 2010 9:05:48 AM

---

Michael Ritter  
Wind Mitigation Biologist  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
2620 N. Commercial Ave.  
Pasco, WA 99301  
w) 509-543-3319  
c) 509-380-3028

---

**From:** Anderson, David P (DFW)  
**Sent:** Mon 7/19/2010 10:01 AM  
**To:** Watson, James (DFW); Ritter, Michael W (DFW); Nelson, Travis W (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Whistling Ridge Response REVIEW

I have always been suspect of point counts for picking up migration patterns. Migration can be influenced by weather patterns and time of day. Point counts can miss these peak activity levels. Problem is we have generally not raised a concern about this methodology when studies are being conducted. I have raised the issue in the past but these surveys are generally considered the industry standard. We need to be careful if we criticize the studies if in fact (via Bill W.) they did what we asked.

If we think the results are inconclusive then we can question the results.

---

**From:** Watson, James (DFW)  
**Sent:** Monday, July 19, 2010 9:53 AM  
**To:** Ritter, Michael W (DFW); Nelson, Travis W (DFW); Anderson, David P (DFW)  
**Subject:** RE: Whistling Ridge Response REVIEW

Thanks Mike. I am too unfamiliar with the specific methodology the consultant used for the point counts on this project (other than 20 min frequency) to be comfortable in concluding this is not a part of a significant migration flyway. Further, I am unconvinced that periodic point counts are an appropriate method for documenting passage of migrants.

Did the proponent address the topic of raptor migration in the report? The nuances of a migration flight on a given day or for several consecutive days (e.g., weather, wind, etc.) can result in very few birds passing through an area, or conversely a major influx. Migrating raptors are not always obvious (flight elevations are variable) to the inexperienced. In the Cascades, the period from mid-August through mid-September will have the greatest numbers of birds in passage, primarily juvenile accipiters (I noticed they started the counts in mid-Sept). Adult birds, obviously fewer in number, will dominate counts after mid-September including eagles and buteos.

I would like to leave it up to David as to whether/if you enjoy these concerns in your response letter. Regardless, it would be really good for you to come up to the migration site at Chelan Ridge this fall if you haven't had this experience to get a better idea of some of the things I am talking about. -Jim

---

**From:** Ritter, Michael W (DFW)  
**Sent:** Mon 7/19/2010 9:23 AM  
**To:** Nelson, Travis W (DFW); Anderson, David P (DFW); Watson, James (DFW)  
**Subject:** Whistling Ridge Response REVIEW

Attached is the latest version for review.

In advance, thanks.

Michael Ritter  
Wind Energy Development  
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
2620 N. Commercial Ave  
Pasco, WA 99301  
509-543-3319 (office)  
509-380-3028 (cell)