

Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council  
c/o Bill Becker, Executive Director  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council,

I would like to propose that the Lessard Outdoor Heritage Council purchase of a parcel of land on Sullivan Lake in northeastern Morrison County using funds from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. I believe the purchase of this parcel would be perfect for the intent of this amendment because it will protect a forest, a wetland, a lake shore and a nationally famous Bald Eagle's nest.

The property is located on the northwest corner of Sullivan Lake. It contains approximately 11 acres of land and 605 feet of lake shore. The parcel is strategically located between a wetland, a township road that serves as a public boat launch and Sullivan Lake. It is jointly owned by cousins Edmond Contoski and Dan Krawyzk whose grandfather originally purchased the property in the 1939. They are willing sellers and are currently asking \$705,000.

The parcel is one of the last undeveloped sites on Sullivan Lake. The proposed development of this property has been temporarily stopped because of a large White Pine supporting a likewise large Bald Eagle's nest. In August of 2006 Edmond Contoski successfully sued the Federal Government to remove the Bald Eagle from the endangered species list.

I believe the purchase of this property would show Minnesotans that our new amendment really works to protect our natural resources. The national publicity regarding the Bald Eagles nest would also be very positive.

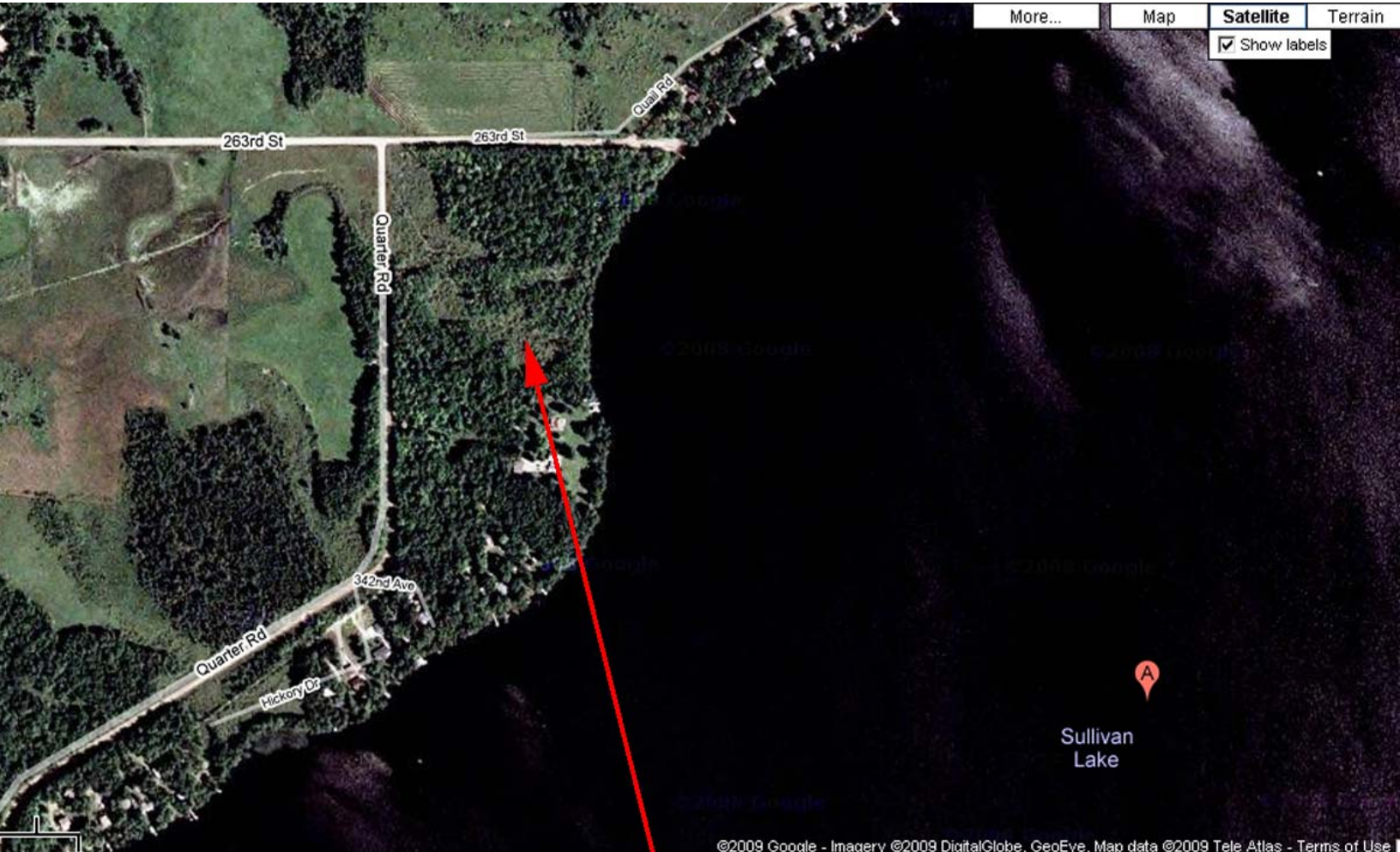
The Lake Sullivan Association (tax ID # 41-6173302) is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit corporation and is willing to assume trustee ownership of the property and keep it undeveloped in perpetuity.

Sincerely,

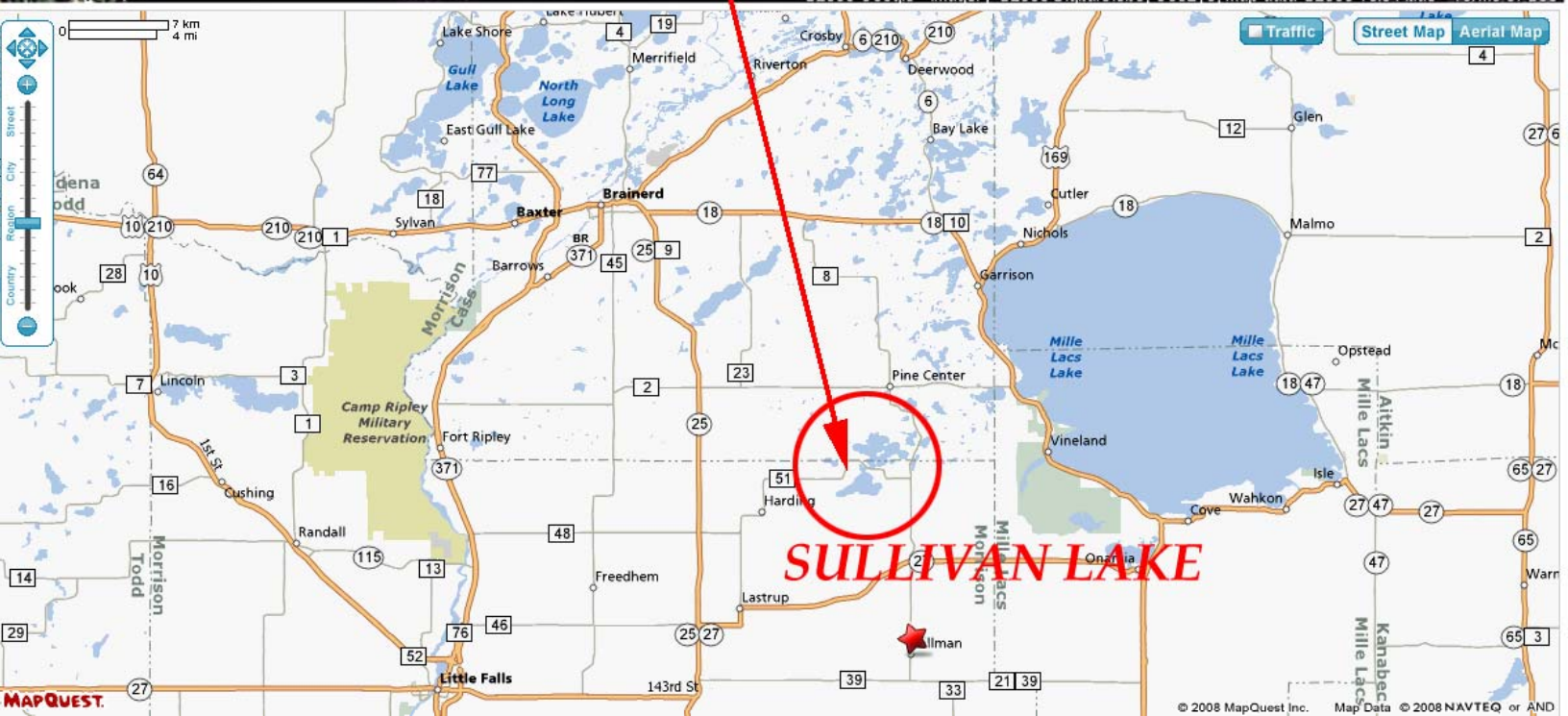


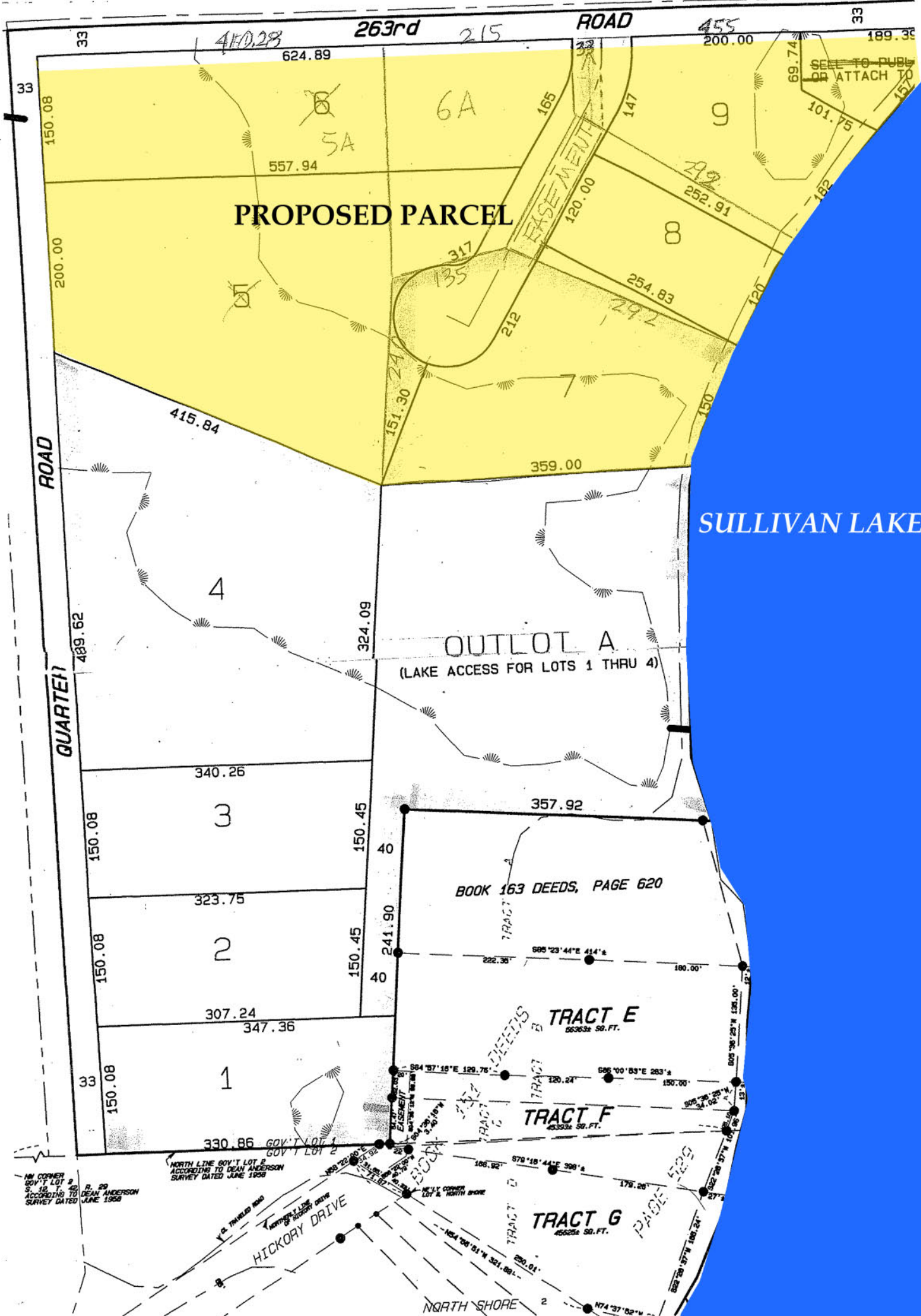
Roger Tadsen, President  
Lake Sullivan Association

Enclosures



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SULLIVAN LAKE

## Outdoor Heritage Fund Proposal

**Your name:** Roger Tadsen, President

**Your organization:** Lake Sullivan Association, Inc. (LSA)

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 16 Hillman, Minnesota 56338

**Phone/fax number:** H 952-454-7040 W 612-851-5973 Fax 612-851-5987

**Email address:** rtadsen1@yahoo.com

**Program/project short name:** Sullivan Lake habitat preservation

**FY09 Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars requested:** \$705,000

**Additional funds leveraged and source:** \$ Not sure LSA sponsors charitable gambling

**Expected outcomes at completion:** Approximately 11 acres and 609 feet of shoreline including a woodlot, a wetland and a Bald Eagles nest would be preserved forever. The development of this property would have an adverse effect on the water quality of Sullivan Lake because of the intermittent stream flowing from surrounding farm land through the wet land and into the lake. Tree removal, lawns, septic systems and hard surfaces would increase water quality degradation. Saving this parcel from development would be a positive event for our lake and could produce nation publicity because of the very famous Bald Eagles nest located there.

**Short narrative of program/project, location(s), timeline for completion and measures of success.**

The parcel is in northeastern Morisson County on the northwest corner of Sullivan Lake. The parcel is currently owned and offered for sale by cousins Edmond Contoski and Daniel Krawyzk. The parcel was plotted for development in 2004 and included 9 lots and a cul-de-sac. The north end of the property is being offered including 5 plotted lots and is adjacent to a public boat launch maintained by the Lake Sullivan Association. We would hope sellers would be open for negotiations. Lake lots have sold on Sullivan Lake for more than \$2000 a front foot. We do have willing sellers and could close as soon as funds are available.

**Generalized budget:**

Budget Item	Outdoor Heritage Fund \$\$	Other Fund \$\$	Total Funds \$\$
Appraisal	?	?	?
Closing costs	?	?	?
Land	\$705,000	?	\$705,000
Total	\$705,000	0	\$705,000

**Describe how long-term costs for sustaining project, monitoring and/or addressing property tax implications will be met:**

Not sure. Would be willing to partner with another government entity if needed. Our association does not have a lot of financial resources but we do sponsor charitable gambling.

# The Washington Post

## Bald Eagle to Be Taken Off Endangered List

By Peter Slevin  
Washington Post Staff Writer  
Monday, December 25, 2006; A03

MINNEAPOLIS -- Seven years after the U.S. government moved to take the bald eagle off the endangered species list, the Bush administration intends to complete the step by February, prodded by a frustrated libertarian property owner in Minnesota.

The delisting, supported by mainstream environmental groups, would represent a formal declaration that the eagle population has sufficiently rebounded, increasing more than 15-fold since its 1963 nadir to more than 7,000 nesting pairs.

The next challenge is to ensure the national symbol's continued protection.

"By February 16th, the bald eagle will be delisted," said Marshall Jones, deputy director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "We'll be clear so people won't think, 'It's open season on bald eagles.' No way."

Although the majestic raptor will no longer be covered by the Endangered Species Act, two earlier laws and a few carefully written phrases are expected to balance respect for the eagle with an appreciation for property rights.

"It's not as though we're pulling away the Endangered Species Act and you have nothing else," said John Kostyak, senior counsel at the National Wildlife Federation, which supports the delisting.

Kostyak called the eagle's recovery "an amazing success story," but said if the species' numbers unexpectedly decline, the bird can be added to the list anew.

It was a bald eagle's nest that undid Edmund Contoski. And it was Edmund Contoski who filed a federal lawsuit that prompted U.S. District Judge John Tunheim to set the February deadline for the government to act or explain why not.

Contoski's problem, as he saw it, was the nest high in a pine on his property alongside Sullivan Lake, about 100 miles northwest of the Twin Cities. When the nest was reported to state environmental authorities, he was a few weeks away from carving out a road and several lots, hoping to make good on

a family investment.

No eagles were using the nest that year -- they returned later -- but the discovery meant that no one could build within 330 feet. The land was suddenly useless for development, and Contoski was steamed.

"I can't even cut firewood," he said. "I can't trim a tree. I can't do anything."

He tracked down the Pacific Legal Foundation, which has a record of challenging endangered-species rules. Better yet, Pacific attorney Damien Schiff was willing to file suit for free.

For attorney and client, the case was more about principle than principal.

Contoski, 69, is not a prosperous man, although he owns his comfortable Minneapolis home free and clear. He lives with his black cat, Victor, and reads a lot. A table is piled high with such volumes as "Global Warming and Other Eco-Myths" and "The Skeptical Environmentalist."

A former city planner, published author and founder three decades ago of Minnesota's Libertarian Party, Contoski is not enthusiastic about government rules. During a recent ride to a restaurant, he declined to wear his seatbelt despite an insistent dashboard beep.

He would not mind wearing a seatbelt in a world without such laws, he explained, "but I'll be [expletive] if I'll wear it if the government insists."

When he studies his Constitution, he sees a guarantee of inalienable rights.

"It doesn't say, 'unless eagles need a home.' It's unfair that we pay taxes all these years and now we can't recoup that. If it's public benefit, let the federal government or the state pay us for it."

Contoski's family bought 23 acres in 1939. The lakefront land provides gorgeous views to the far shore, about a mile away, but he sees no justification for paying taxes on property they will not use.

"I'm 69 years old and I have a heart condition. How long am I going to live?" asked Contoski, who likes to say he pays taxes and eagles don't. "It's not as though I'm against the eagles. If the eagles lose this tree, they'll go to their other nests."

Hence the lawsuit, which Contoski filed in 2005 and won in August.

A key issue was why the government had not acted. After all, it was a dramatic moment in July 1999 when President Bill Clinton stood beside a bald eagle at a White House ceremony and hailed "the rebirth of our proudest living symbol."

Despite Benjamin Franklin's dismissal of the national icon as "a bird of bad moral character" -- he preferred the humble turkey -- extraordinary efforts were made to keep it from disappearing from the lower 48 states.

The greatest threat to a creature with few natural enemies came from humankind, particularly with the widespread use of the pesticide DDT, which weakened eagle eggs. In time, DDT was banned, and the eagle, whose population once numbered as few as 417 nesting pairs in the contiguous United States, was added to the endangered list.

Taking it off the list has proved difficult, to say the least. The Clinton administration left office without taking action. The Bush administration promised to move on it, but those efforts also lagged.

Amid the often conflicting agendas of politics, preservation and development, experts say what now makes a compromise likely is the unexpected resilience of the eagle population and a consensus that regulations should be clear but flexible.

Environmentalists and eagle fans want to be sure eagles and sufficient habitats are protected. Developers, investors and others want continued access to building permits via various exceptions and tradeoffs that are not allowed under the laws that would take precedence if the eagle were delisted.

"Ultimately, what we're trying to work toward is ensuring, if the bald eagle is taken off the list, people won't see that much of a change," said Chris Tollefson, chief spokesman for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rules are being polished, for example, to define activities permitted near eagle habitats and what can be done near nests that eagles are not using. A debate has been underway over what it means to "disturb" an eagle, a crucial but imprecise word in the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.

"The bottom line is the delisting has been working its way through the process for a long time," said Kostyak, who said of Contoski, "Give him credit for getting a deadline imposed."

As for Contoski's fortunes, he considers it unlikely that anything will change, especially now that the eagles have returned.

He is contemplating another lawsuit, this time against the remaining laws.

"From his point of view, it may be a Pyrrhic victory," said Michael J. Bean, who leads wildlife conservation efforts for Environmental Defense. "But from an eagle's point of view, it's a good thing to recognize it has recovered."

*Staff writer Juliet Eilperin in Washington contributed to this report.*

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