

LOCALNEWS



FILE PHOTO
Areas around five active eagle nests in VNP have been temporarily closed to human activity.

VNP bald eagle nesting areas protected

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

Five bald eagle breeding areas in Voyageurs National Park have been temporarily closed to campers and other human activities, report VNP staff.

After the young bald eagles leave the nest, park officials say the areas will be reopened for public use.

Five the park's 291 developed day use, camping and houseboat sites are affected by the temporary closures. The closed developed areas are:

- Kabetogama Lake
 - Happy Landing Campsite (K-11)
 - Camelback Island Campsite (K-3)
 - Ek Bay Houseboat Site (K-47)
 - Namakan Lake
 - Sexton Island Campsite (N-62)
 - Rainy Lake
 - Skipper Rock Houseboat Site (R-45)
- The closed areas are

marked with closure signs and buoys.

Park managers are asking both motorized and non-motorized watercraft users to not travel within 200 meters of nests where bald eagles are actively nesting during the closure period from early May through mid-August. Boaters are also encouraged to not stop on the water within the 200 meters near active nesting sites.

A park news release said if more breeding areas are found with actively nesting pairs that fall within conservation management guidelines, more park areas may be posted closed.

Park staff report people play a very important role in protecting nesting eagles and other birds. Individual eagles differ in temperament and tolerance to human and natural activities. Some are easily displaced by human and eagle interactions, whereas others are

more accustomed to close interactions with humans. April, May and June are particularly sensitive periods for nesting eagles. Overall, reducing the potential for sustained close human and eagle interactions has been documented to allow greater nesting success of eagles throughout the United States, report park biologists.

"We appreciate the public's assistance in protecting the bald eagles of Voyageurs National Park," Superintendent Mike Ward said. "Reducing the potential adverse impacts at eagle nesting areas ensures that we are successful at sustaining the VNP eagle population."

Park biologists conduct aerial surveys to determine the number and location of bald eagle nesting pairs present in the park. A second occupancy survey will be conducted in mid-May to check on the status of oc-

cupied breeding territories and search for late incubating pairs.

The park follows the recommended conservation management actions of the Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Management Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668c, 1940 as amended). Each year since 1992, the park has temporarily closed the land and water areas around active bald eagle nests to visitor use during their critical nesting periods.

Some eagle pairs nest in late March and early April and others may not initiate nesting until late April or early May.

Specific management recommendations from a 2-year research study on the effects of watercraft on bald eagles nesting in Voyageurs National Park are also being applied for the 12th consecutive year. Information on that research can be found in the Wildlife Society Bulletin, 2002.

Giving the gift

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Memorial Blood Centers' big bus was around town this week stopping in several places to allow volunteers to donate blood.

Tuesday's drive at Falls High School was organized by the student council.

The center's website makes it clear donating blood is important.

If not personally in need, at some point everyone will all know a friend, neighbor, family member, or co-worker who needs a blood transfusion, according to the website.

People may schedule a blood drive or sign up to donate on the website.

One out of three people will need blood in their lifetime, according to the website.



STAFF PHOTO BY LAUREL BEAGER

Falls High School senior McKenzie Gunnerson gives blood with the assistance of Gina Sundeen, left, Tuesday inside the Memorial Blood Centers bus outside Falls High School. Gunnerson said she's donated blood a number of times because it feels good to help other people.

"From natural disasters to unforeseen catastrophes, emergency hospital procedures to life-long battles with chronic diseases such

as sickle cell, the demand for blood is constant," the website reads. "The supply is not. And since there is no substitute, only volun-

teer blood donors can roll up their sleeves and save lives."

For more information, visit www.mbc.org.

FIRST OUTING



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Alan and Miriam Burchell of Kabetogama Lake took their first outing by boat Saturday. The ventured to Gold Portage, which connects Rainy Lake and Kabetogama Lake. "Water a bit low for that area but we made it. Heavier boat would not have. Just precious. No one else out," he reports. Burchell notes that the water level is at pre-dam high.



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