

## **NDG&F April 20th Newsletter**

### **Report Bald Eagle Nest Sightings**

While there are likely 125 more active bald eagle nests in the state than 15 years ago, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department continues to monitor this bird that once flirted with extinction.

Sandra Johnson, Game and Fish conservation biologist, said the department is looking for locations of nests with eagle's present, not individual eagle sightings.

Johnson said eagles are actively incubating eggs in March and April, and it's easy to distinguish an eagle nest because of its enormous size.

"While bald eagles were removed from the Endangered Species List in 2007, it's still important to keep an ongoing list of nesting birds to make sure they are not heading back the way they came," Johnson said.

Historically, Johnson said eagle nests were found along the Missouri River. Now, they have been observed in more than half of the counties in the state, mostly near streams and mid- to large-sized lakes. However, they are also found in unique areas such as shelterbelts surrounded by cropland or pasture.

Johnson estimates the state has around 140-150 active bald eagle nests.

Nest observations should be reported to Johnson at 701-328-6382, or by email at [ndgf@nd.gov](mailto:ndgf@nd.gov).

Observers are asked to not disturb the nest, and to stay away at a safe distance. "It is important not to approach the nest as foot traffic may disturb the bird, likely causing the eagle to leave her eggs unattended," Johnson said.

### **Camping Restrictions on Some WMAs**

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department will continue to implement camping restrictions on some wildlife management areas in western North Dakota and along Lake Sakakawea.

Overnight camping is prohibited on the following WMAs: Antelope Creek, Lewis and Clark, Big Oxbow, Ochs Point, Neu's Point, Overlook, Sullivan and Tobacco Garden in McKenzie County; Van Hook in Mountrail County; and Hofflund Bay and Trenton in Williams County.

Lewis and Clark and Trenton WMAs are closed from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise unless users are legally engaged in fishing, hunting or trapping.

However, camping is allowed for paddlefish snaggers only during the open paddlefish season, at the Lewis and Clark WMA Pumphouse area, and by boat access only at Neu's Point WMA.

In addition, the following WMAs are closed to camping on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, but open to camping Thursday-Monday: North Lemmon Lake in Adams County; Bull Creek in Billings County; Alkali Creek and Spring Creek in Bowman County; Smishek Lake and Short Creek Dam in Burke County; Harris M. Baukol in Divide County; Killdeer Mountains in Dunn County; Camels Hump Lake in Golden Valley County; Audubon, Custer Mine, Deepwater Creek, deTrobiand, Douglas Creek and Wolf Creek in McLean County; Beaver Creek and Hille in Mercer County; Crown Butte Lake and Storm Creek in Morton County; Cedar Lake and Speck Davis Pond in Slope County; and McGregor Dam in Williams County.

On those WMAs where camping is allowed Thursday through Monday, all equipment must be removed

on Tuesday and Wednesdays when camping is not allowed.

The Game and Fish Department will lift the Tuesday-Wednesday camping restriction for the week of Memorial Day, May 25-29. This same waiver will allow camping on those WMAs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays during all state-recognized holiday weeks throughout the year, including 4th of July week (June 29-July 3), and Labor Day (Sept. 7-11).

Glass bottles are prohibited on all WMAs. Other camping restrictions at all WMAs are posted at entry points.

These rules ensure that WMAs are available for hunters and anglers.