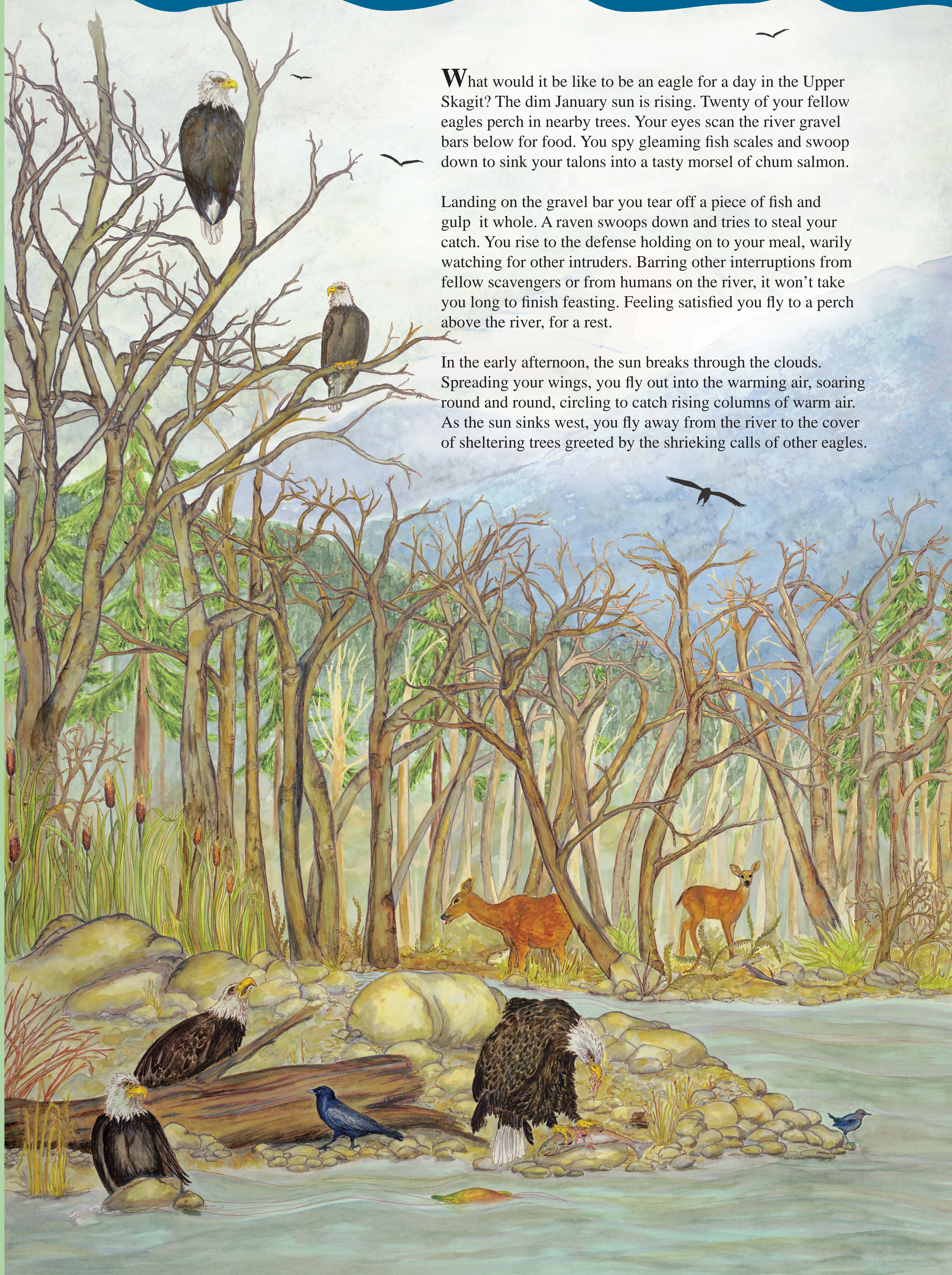


Eagle for a Day



Did You Know?

- H** Bald eagles measure 31-37 inches in height with a wingspan of six feet or more.
- H** Eagles weigh between 9 and 14 pounds. Females are one-third larger than males.
- H** Eagles can see six to eight times better than humans.
- H** Adults have dark brown bodies, and a white head and tail, with bright yellow beaks and feet. Juveniles are brown or blotchy brown all over.
- H** Bald eagles may live up to 30 years in the wild. They mate for life and they may use the same nest for several years, raising one or two chicks.
- H** An eagles' diet consists exclusively of meat. They hunt, steal and scavenge for their food, conserving energy while dining on whatever food is available.



What would it be like to be an eagle for a day in the Upper Skagit? The dim January sun is rising. Twenty of your fellow eagles perch in nearby trees. Your eyes scan the river gravel bars below for food. You spy gleaming fish scales and swoop down to sink your talons into a tasty morsel of chum salmon.

Landing on the gravel bar you tear off a piece of fish and gulp it whole. A raven swoops down and tries to steal your catch. You rise to the defense holding on to your meal, warily watching for other intruders. Barring other interruptions from fellow scavengers or from humans on the river, it won't take you long to finish feasting. Feeling satisfied you fly to a perch above the river, for a rest.

In the early afternoon, the sun breaks through the clouds. Spreading your wings, you fly out into the warming air, soaring round and round, circling to catch rising columns of warm air. As the sun sinks west, you fly away from the river to the cover of sheltering trees greeted by the shrieking calls of other eagles.

SKAGIT WILD & SCENIC RIVER SYSTEM



Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest