

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

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## News Release

For Immediate Release October 3, 2006 Heather Peterson 651-290-3030 X292 Heather\_peterson@nps.gov

Bald Eagle Day at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, St. Paul MN

Once nearing extinction, bald eagles have made a remarkable comeback not only in Minnesota, but across the lower 48 States. In 2006, 15 pairs of bald eagles nested and raised their young within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, 72 miles of river running through the Twin Cities. See one of these remarkable creatures up close and personal, and learn more about bald eagles within the metropolitan area at Bald Eagle Day, at the Mississippi River Visitor Center, Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

From 12:00 to 1:00 pm, Acting National Park Superintendent Steven Johnson will share information about the National Park Service's project that tested bald eagles for pollutants this summer. A team of wildlife biologists located many new nesting sites in the park, and gathered data directly from young, pre-fledged eagles. Once the data has been analyzed, the study will provide a better understanding of the health of all animals along this section of the river.

From 1:00 to 3:00 pm "Angel," a live bald eagle from the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, is part of a program given by an eagle expert from the Center. Learn the best spots to see bald eagles along the river this winter. For more information, check the Events Calendar at www.nps.gov/miss or call 651-293-0200.

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