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Kansas City District

# Media Release

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Contact: Mitch Frazier  
(816) 983-3486

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## **Eagle Days gives public up-close look at eagles Jan. 10, 11 at Smithville Lake**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Clay County Department of Parks and Recreation and the Missouri Department of Conservation have partnered to give the public an eagle-eye view of the country's national bird at Smithville Lake Jan. 10 and 11.

The two-day event will feature live eagle programs, videos documenting the biology and recovery of eagles in Missouri, displays and activities for children and trips to see the eagles in their natural habitat around the lake.

Live eagle interpretive programs will be held at the Paradise Point Golf Course Complex at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday and at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Sunday.

The lake's Jerry Litton Visitor Center will host eagle videos hourly from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days and offer visitors a chance to view a life-size replica of an eagle nest and other eagle displays and information. Children's craft activities will also be available at the center.

Eagle viewing stations will be set up with spotting scopes near the lake's waterfowl refuge and visitor center. Busses will take visitors between Paradise Point and the Waterfowl refuge both days.

Missouri's winter eagle population averages about 2,000 birds. Only Alaska and Washington have larger wintering eagle populations.

Missouri's large lakes and rivers, which usually remain unfrozen during the winter, give eagles easy access to their dietary mainstay, fish. The birds also eat injured and dead waterfowl and other carrion.

Missouri has many locations where you can enjoy viewing eagles on your own in winter. Swan Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Sumner, Table Rock Lake near Branson, Eagle Bluffs Conservation Area south of Columbia and Mingo National Wildlife Refuge near Puxico are among the sites where large numbers of eagles winter. Plan a visit to one, or all, of these locations, and watch for eagles perched in large trees along the edges of rivers or lakes.

The event is free, but tickets are required for the live eagle programs. Tickets can be ordered by calling the Jerry Litton Visitor Center at (816) 532-0174, Ext. 0.

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