

Squaw Creek Refuge to host Eagle Days this Weekend

(KTNC) - Squaw Creek National Wildlife Refuge will host the annual Eagle Days celebration this weekend. This is the 34th year for the popular event, which is scheduled for this Saturday and Sunday.

The Dickerson Park Zoo from Springfield, Missouri, will bring captive eagles for special programs and live shows, in the refuge maintenance building. Shows begin each hour on the hour, starting at 9:00 a.m. Saturday and 11:00 a.m. Sunday.

There will also be special eagle exhibits in the visitor contact station, and volunteers will staff eagle-viewing stations along the auto tour route. Guided bus tours will be available both days, and a video, "Where Eagles Soar," will be shown in the auditorium. All presentations and exhibits are free to the public.

Squaw Creek officials say water levels at the refuge are low, but there are more than 70 bald eagles and over 200,000 snow geese on the refuge. Those numbers could increase over the next week as Eagle Days approaches.

For those planning to attend Eagle Days, an alternate parking site will be provided at the Squaw Creek Eagles' Nest Truck Stop, just off I-29, at Exit 79. A free shuttle bus will be available from the alternate parking lot to the Eagle Days event on Saturday only.

Eagle Days is a cooperative venture between the Missouri Department of Conservation, Friends of Squaw Creek, Missouri Western State University's Student Chapter of the Wildlife Society, the Midland Empire Audubon Society, and the Missouri Department of Transportation.