

Beltrami County

Natural Resource Management

701 Minnesota Ave NW, Suite 234 – Bemidji MN 56601-3178

November 21, 2013

Subject: Protecting “Species of Special Concern” at Three Island Park

Dear Recreational User,

I am writing to inform you of changes adopted by the Beltrami County NRM Department for recreation activities in Three Island Park this coming winter, spring, and summer. In working with the MNDNR Nongame Specialist it has been brought to our attention that a “Species of Special Concern” currently inhabits a portion of the Park and is in need of protective measures.

Species listed as such by the State of Minnesota are protected under the Endangered and Threatened Species Statute (Minn. Stat., sec. 84.0895). This statute provides protection to species at risk of extinction within Minnesota. The statute authorizes the DNR commissioner to designate species as endangered, threatened, or of special concern (Minn. Stat., sec. 84.0895, subd. 3). By definition, species of special concern are "extremely uncommon in this state, or have unique or highly specific habitat requirements and deserves careful monitoring of its status".

To comply with the Minnesota Endangered and Threatened Species Statute, the NRM Department will implement the following actions.

1. Within the protection area, trails segments as identified on the “Three Island Park Species of Concern Protection Area” map, will be closed to all recreational activities both motorized and non-motorized.
2. Effective dates for this closure area will be from February 1st through July 31st, 2014.
3. This time period may be shortened in the future with feedback from the MNDNR Nongame Specialist after conducting a field survey in 2014, but should not be anticipated or expected.

I would like to thank you for your cooperation concerning this matter as Beltrami County continues to provide exceptional recreational opportunities while maintaining our commitment

to protecting and enhancing the resource. If you have questions or comments, please give me a call at 333-4165.

Sincerely,

Shawn Morgan
Beltrami County, Recreation Resource Manager
701 Minnesota Ave. NW
Bemidji, MN 56601

