

# BALD EAGLE NESTING

February 2025



The presence of bald eagles at Marine Corps Recruit Depot (MCRD) Parris Island is a testament to the area's rich natural habitat and commitment to environmental stewardship. By monitoring and protecting these nests, MCRD Parris Island contributes to the preservation of this iconic species and demonstrates a commitment to environmental stewardship.

## Preferred Habitat

- Bald eagles, the national bird of the United States, are often found near large bodies of open water with abundant food supply and old-growth trees for nesting.
- Located in Beaufort County, South Carolina, the Depot provides an excellent environment for bald eagles with its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, rivers, and marshlands.

## Nesting Season

- The breeding season for bald eagles in South Carolina generally begins in the fall, with courtship and nest-building occurring from October through November.
- Eggs are typically laid from December to February, with eaglets hatching after about 35 days of incubation.
- Eagle pairs generally return to the same nest year after year, so it is very important to protect the nesting site with a buffer zone.



*Bald eagle nesting locations are shown as red dots with their buffer zones shown in blue.*



## Challenges

- Human activities, including military training exercises, can pose potential disturbances to nesting eagles.
- Ensuring the preservation of suitable nesting habitats is crucial, including the protection of large trees and maintaining the health of surrounding aquatic ecosystems that provide food for the eagles.
- Raising awareness among military personnel about the importance and presence of bald eagles can help support conservation efforts.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

- Federal laws, such as the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, provide legal protections for bald eagles.
- The U.S. Marine Corps is committed to environmental stewardship, including the protection of threatened and endangered species and their associated wildlife habitats. Efforts to monitor and protect bald eagle nests are part of broader conservation initiatives.
- Environmental staff at MCRD Parris Island conduct regular surveys and monitoring of bald eagle nests, publish policies, and enforce mitigation measures to ensure eagles are protected from disturbances.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has developed management guidelines to help protect eagles, their nests, and nest sites.



Points of Contact:

### COMPLIANCE

**Compliance Manager/EMS**  
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**Hazardous Waste**  
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**Stormwater/Water Quality**  
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### NATURAL RESOURCES

**Natural Resources Manager**  
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**Conservation Law Enforcement/Game Warden**  
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**Wildlife Biologist**  
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