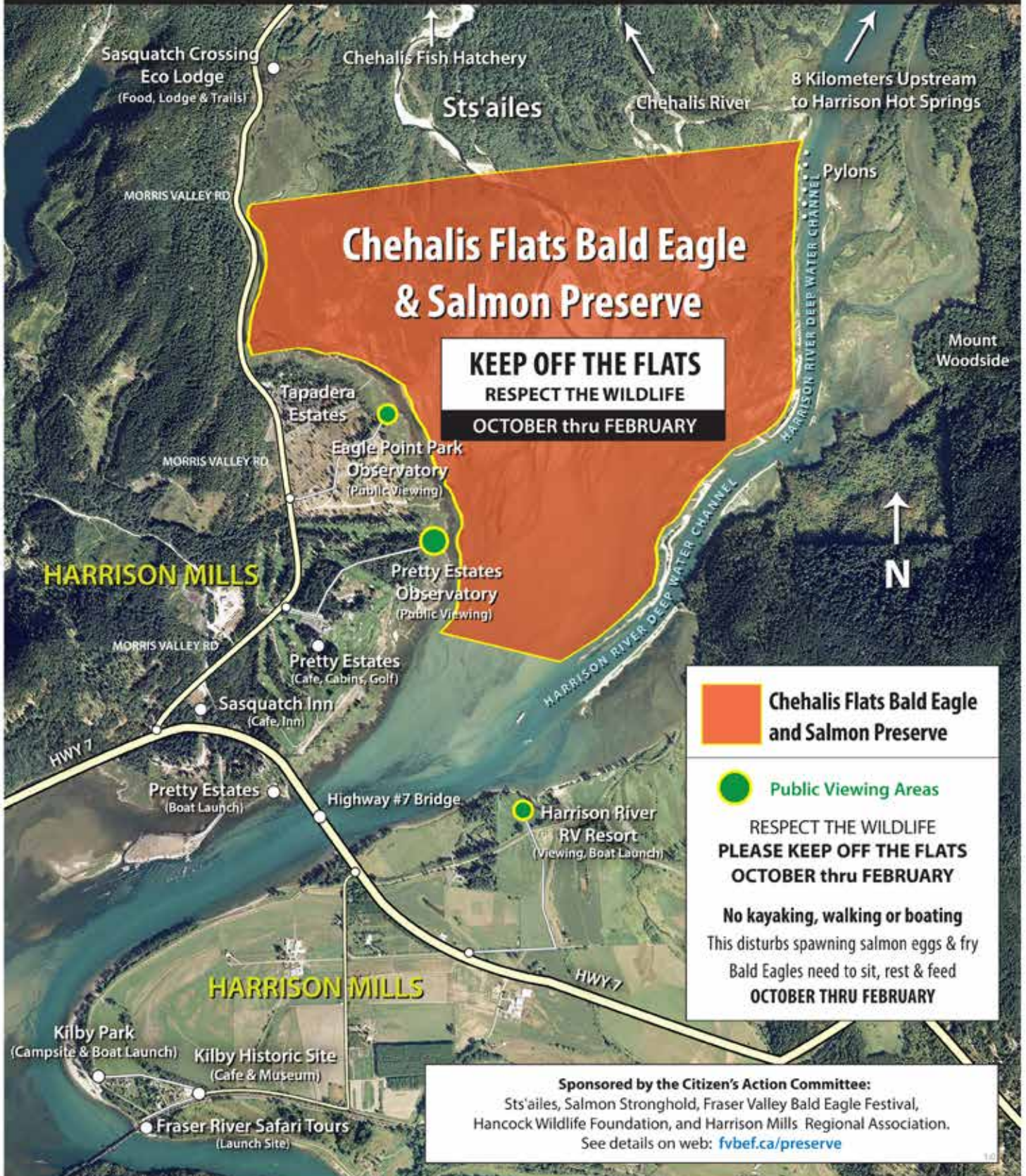


Chehalis Flats Bald Eagle & Salmon Preserve

KEEP OFF THE FLATS





Background of Chehalis Flats Bald Eagle & Salmon Preserve Concerns:

The **Chehalis Flats Bald Eagle & Salmon Preserve** is a unique resource for both salmon and bald eagles. Additionally the area supports thousands of wintering waterfowl. It needs to be admired, protected and not disrupted.

The **Chehalis – Harrison system** has been defined as Canada's first **Salmon Stronghold** – the best Salmon River in all of Canada. All 5 species of salmon spawn in this ecosystem along with steelhead, rainbow and cutthroat trout as well as bull trout and a variety of other species that depend upon them for food or share their habitat. **Adult salmon, their eggs and fry are present throughout the Chehalis Flats and the adjacent gravel beds every month of the year**, and then the juvenile salmon move into the tributaries, river margins and wetlands where some may reside for more than a year after that – growing and feeding other wildlife before finally swimming downstream and into the Salish Sea for the next phase of their lives. Please do not walk these river bottoms and close shorelines and 'grind up' the next generation of salmon.

The alluvial fan of the Chehalis Flats have yet another claim to fame: they host the largest gathering of bald eagles in the entire world. These eagles have arrived from Alaska, Yukon and northern British Columbia and they depend upon these flats and the spawned out salmon carcasses to get them through the fall & winter months. The flats serve as a resting and feeding area after the eagles have traveled southward 1000 to 1500 miles – then many of them have to make the return trip for breeding in the north as spring approaches. Sitting and socializing, without being disturbed or flushed off the ground, is important to their health and survival. We need to honor their need to sit and loaf and not be constantly flushed off the ground or off their feeding. **Please do not walk, fish, hunt or kayak through the Chehalis Flats.** Please keep to the eastern (deep water channel) of the Harrison River along the base of Mt. Woodside or walk the western shoreline of paths and viewing sites.

The eagles nor the salmon eggs or fry are bothered by people or vessels in the above noted deep water channel or walking the shoreline paths along either shoreline below the trees. Please respect this incredible wildlife resource in the midst of our beautiful lower mainland.

This Chehalis Flats Bald Eagle & Salmon Preserve is sponsored by: the Sts'ailes (First Nation), the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival Society, the Salmon Stronghold, the Harrison Mills Regional Association and the Hancock Wildlife Foundation and supported by many other local conservation organizations and the governing agencies.

For more details and an opportunity to "join the conversation" visit the web site: **Chehalis Flats Bald Eagle & Salmon Preserve:** fbef.ca/preserve

