



## ANNUAL PLAN FOR *EAGLEWATCH!* IN SULLIVAN COUNTY, NY

Sullivan County, NY, has become known for its unique ecotourism opportunity: Eagle Watching. For 12 years the Eagle Institute has provided services for thousands of visitors who come to the region each winter to see eagles in their natural habitat. The interpretive, educational and tourism services that we provide not only make for an enjoyable and successful viewing experience for visitors, but also minimizes the disturbances to the eagles. Because most viewing is done in remote and/or roadside areas in winter, visitor safety has become a large part of our programs. And because this region now has a growing, year-round breeding population of eagles, our services have expanded from winter months to year-round.

In order to ensure that the visitors – and the eagles – return to this region each winter, we must be able to continue to provide these services. With Sullivan County’s continued and generous support, we can continue to address visitor needs, respond to a growing “techno-savvy” audience and protect the county’s most unique resource, the bald eagle.

### EAGLE WATCH PROGRAM OF WORK:

- Recruit and train volunteers to staff public viewing sites in Sullivan County to provide educational and tourism information to visitors.
- Plan, publicize and deliver guided eagle habitat excursions.
- Provide educational assistance to group visitors and school groups.
- Implement, maintain and publicize two popular web-based data reporting programs: the Eagle Forum and the Kitchen Counters. Use of these programs will increase awareness, public participation and increase stewardship.
- Increase social networking capacity with such sites as Facebook to increase information sharing, visitor participation, education and enjoyment.
- Provide timely and accurate information about eagles and eagle watching opportunities by responding to electronic and other forms of visitor requests for information (direct requests and through other entities, such as SCVA and Sullivan County businesses).
- Research and distribute educational material and data.
- Complete 3-year eagle habitat assessment study with National Park Service and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and provide data to agencies and public.

- Assure access and safety at Sullivan County observation areas, including oversight of snow/ice removal.
- Respond to media requests (print, television, radio) for information, data and photos about eagle watching in Sullivan County.
- Train volunteers as nest monitors (various locations in Sullivan County NY; and BashaKill Wildlife Management Area, Sullivan County, NY . Collect data about breeding eagles in these locations. Assist with public nest watch program at BashaKill, collecting data and helping visitors.
- Provide educational materials about eagle watching at Sullivan County environmental events, such as local Earth Day events ; Delaware RiverFest in Narrowsburg, NY and “Earth Day in Autumn” at Bethel Woods Harvest Market .
- Provide speakers for events and service organizations and maintain administrative tasks.