



Illinois Department of
Natural Resources **MEMORANDUM**

To: Director Natalie Phelps Finnie

From: Sgt. Matt Graden, OLE

Date: May 2, 2024

Subject: Conditions on the Middle Fork Vermilion River

Central Zone – District 19 Sgt. Matt Graden reports the conditions prompting the boating restriction, on April 28, 2024, are no longer significant. Vermilion County Sheriff Patrick Hartshorn concurs with the assessment.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has authorization to lift Restricted Boating Area designation when navigation is no longer significantly dangerous.

Section 2030.80 Hazardous Navigation Conditions - Designated Restricted Boating Areas

In the event that the Department of Natural Resources determines the presence of conditions that make navigation of a body of water significantly dangerous to the public, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources may, in coordination with the federal government, designate Restricted Boating Areas on any affected body of water within the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois. This designation shall be made by public announcement in local media and by posting at local public boat launches and marinas, and the restricted area shall be physically marked by buoys, signs, manned watercraft or yellow police tape. This designation will remain in effect until the Director of the Department of Natural Resources determines that navigation is no longer significantly dangerous to the public, but in no case shall the designation remain in effect longer than 90 days. Recision of the Restricted Boating Area designation shall be publicly announced in local media and posted at local public boat launches and marinas and any markings shall be removed.

(Source: Added at 29 Ill. Reg. 15550, effective September 27, 2005)

I recommend the Restricted Boating Area (recreational vessels only) be lifted on the Middle Fork Vermilion River from the Illinois/Indiana State line to the town of Oakwood effective at 2:00 PM on May 02, 2024. If you approve, please sign below and the Office of Law Enforcement will coordinate the lifting of the Restricted Boating Area designation with the local authorities.

Natalie Phelps Finnie

Approved by Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director

Date 5/2/24