



To: Director Marc Miller

From: Director Rafael Gutierrez, OLE *R. G. #332*

Date: May 18, 2010

Subject: Conditions on the Middle Fork (Vermillion River) In Vermillion County

Conservation Police District Supervisor Tony Norman reported rising flood waters, dangerous currents, floating and submerged debris, and sharp turns in the course of the river have created conditions significantly hazardous for navigation on the Middle Fork River from the north boundary of Potomac City Park to the south boundary of Kickapoo State Park. The conditions also make it treacherous for emergency personnel who are called upon to respond to and rescue persons involved in boating mishaps. Region 3 Conservation Police Commander Captain Joe Morelock, Conservation Police Officer Dallas Bowman and Vermillion County Emergency Management Agency Coordinator Ted Fisher concur with the assessment.

The Middle Fork of the Vermillion River level above Oakwood, IL is 4.10 feet with a discharge of 1,650 cubic feet per second. (7:45 a.m.)

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has authorization to designate Restricted Boating Areas during hazardous conditions as cited in the following:

**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. Rescission 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 that the Middle Fork (Vermillion River) from the north boundary of Potomac City Park to the south boundary of Kickapoo State Park be designated as a Restricted Boating Area effective May 18, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. If you approve, please sign below and the Conservation Police will coordinate the implementation of the Restricted Boating Area designation with the Vermillion County authorities.

*[Signature]*  
Approved By Director Marc Miller

*18 May 2010*  
Date