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***SENATOR JEFFORDS ANNOUNCES FUNDING
FOR BALD EAGLE RESTORATION PROJECT***

WASHINGTON - U.S. Sen. Jim Jeffords, I-Vt., announced today that he has secured \$200,000 to help complete the Bald Eagle Restoration Project in Vermont. Senator Jeffords appeared at Shelburne Farms earlier today to make the announcement with representatives from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Vermont Commissioner of Wildlife, National Wildlife Foundation, Central Vermont Public Service and Outreach for Earth Stewardship.

“I look forward to the day when it is once again commonplace to see such a great creature soaring through the skies of Vermont, and this funding will go a long way to help achieve that,” said Jeffords.

Bald eagles have historically nested and thrived in Vermont, but have been absent, except as transients, since their near extinction in the 1960s. The Champlain and Connecticut River Valleys are ideal habitats, with remote nesting sites, abundant aquatic food supplies and ideal climatic conditions.

The first phase of this project was funded as part of the FY 03 Interior Appropriations bill. As a result, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the State of Vermont Natural Heritage Program have determined that a relatively small investment could establish breeding populations of these spectacular birds in Vermont and solidify their recovery in New England.

“What animal more signifies what this country stands for than the bald eagle?” asked Jeffords. “The return of nesting bald eagles to Vermont will help complete one of the most remarkable environmental protection success stories in U.S. history. This project should remind us that we can reverse environmental damage. The Endangered Species Act and other environmental protection laws are bearing fruit.”