



USDA Forest Service

WATERSHED – FISH – WILDLIFE – AIR – RARE PLANTS ::: WFW

MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2005

CONTENTS

National in Scope

- **HOT BREAKING NEWS**
- Director's Discussion
- General/Cross Areas
- Air
- Appeals & Litigation
- **Aquatic/Fish**
- Planning
- Partnerships
- **Soil**
- Stream Team
- TES
- Watershed
- **Wildlife**

Coming Events - Conferences & Meetings

- **General/Cross Areas**
- Air
- Appeals & Litigation
- Aquatic/Fish
- Planning
- Partnerships
- Soil
- Stream Team
- TES
- Watershed
- Wildlife

Technical Information & Publications - New Technical Information that is broadly applicable

- General/Cross Areas
- Air
- Appeals & Litigation
- **Aquatic/Fish**
- Planning
- Partnerships
- Soil
- Stream Team
- TES
- **Watershed**
- **Wildlife**

Training - Tools - Interesting Information

- General/Cross Areas
- Air
- Appeals & Litigation
- Aquatic/Fish
- Planning

- Partnerships
- Soil
- Stream Team
- TES
- **Watershed**
- Wildlife

Regional Round Ups

HTML links to Regional hosted web pages where possible

- Air
- Appeals & Litigation
- **Aquatic/Fish (Region 3 & Region 9)**
- Planning
- Partnerships
- Soil
- TES
- Watershed
- Wildlife

Vacancies/Employment Opportunities

Federal job announcements can be found at:

http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp

- General/Cross Area
- Air
- Appeals & Litigation
- Aquatic/Fish
- Planning
- Partnerships
- Soil
- Stream Team
- TES
- Watershed
- **Wildlife**
- Other

Catch of the Day (critters, botanical finds, and bizarre occurrences in the news)

- General/Cross Areas
- Air
- Aquatic/Fish
- Planning
- Partnerships
- Soil
- Stream Team
- TES
- Watershed
- Wildlife

Submit your information; Disclaimer & Non-Discrimination Statement

National in Scope:

- **HOT BREAKING NEWS**

Jeff Kershner Accepts New Position at USGS

Dr. Jeff Kershner, currently USFS National Aquatic Ecologist for WFW, accepted the position of USGS Director for the Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center in Bozeman MT. He will leave some time this fall. The Center has a large group of research scientists in a variety of disciplines working throughout the northern Rockies. It is an exciting challenge and one that he looks forward to with anticipation.

[CONTENTS](#)

- **AQUATIC/FISH**

AFS Western Division Riparian, Watersheds & Habitat Committee 2005 Riparian Challenge

The Riparian Challenge Committee received three entries from the U.S. Forest Service for this year's Riparian Challenge. The Committee followed a quantitative scoring process in order to assure fairness in scoring the individual projects. The committee thoroughly reviewed and discussed all of the projects submitted by Forest Service. The 2005 Riparian Challenge winner is the Karnowsky Creek Riparian Restoration Project submitted by the Siuslaw National Forest, Mapleton Ranger District. The primary contact is Paul Burns, 541-902-6953, pnburns@fs.ged.us. The award will be presented to the winners at the American Fisheries Society 135th Annual Meeting in Anchorage Alaska at the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society business luncheon on Tuesday September 13th at 12 pm.

Fly Fishing Get Big Tax Break In Highway Bill

Wall Street Journal, Wed Aug 3, 2005, Christopher Conkey

The fly-fishing lobby has hooked a big one: the highway bill. Lurking deep within the six-year, \$286 billion measure awaiting President Bush's signature is a provision that would tweak the excise tax imposed on fishing-rod manufacturers, capping what currently is a 10% levy at \$10 per product.

Most rods are mass-produced in Asia and generally sell for less than \$100 so the levy on them won't fall. The provision will benefit domestic makers of higher-priced models used by fly-and saltwater-fishing enthusiasts. Many of the highest-quality rods, which typically sell in the \$350 to \$600 range, are still hand-made by small companies such as Scott Fly Rod Co. of Montrose, CO. Certain old-fashioned models, such as the split-cane bamboo rods made by JD Wagner Rods of Parma Heights, OH are produced in home shops and can cost 10 times as much. Having the excise tax reduced to \$10 a rod, regardless of the price, will provide significant savings to these specialty makers...(for the remainder of this article go to [The Wall Street Journal – Online](#) and pay \$4.95)

Senator Jeffords visits Batten Kill

The Batten Kill, located in the southwestern corner of the GMNF, has long been recognized as one of the state's top trout fishing streams and has been grouped with other similarly recognized trout streams from around the country. Sometime during the early-mid 1980's the fishery began a gradual trend of reduced trout abundance and lowered fishing quality.

In response to this, special regulations and harvest restrictions were established to protect the dwindling population and allow time for investigating possible causes of the fishery decline and identification of appropriate long-term management opportunities.

On August 2nd, Senator James Jeffords (I-VT) made a trip to the Batten Kill to observe first-hand how the federal appropriations he secured for the Batten Kill project in recent years were being used to restore fish habitat in the river. At a project site called the Manchester Slide, the Senator observed a GMNF fisheries crew placing large trees to improve protective cover for fish and other aquatic organisms in the stream channel and stabilize an eroding riverbank.

He also took the opportunity to announce \$500,000 in additional Federal funding for 2005 and 2006, which will also be directed to restore the river's wild trout fishery and its habitat. He was pleased to find money for the Batten Kill in what he described as a tough budget year. Since 2000, Sen. Jeffords has secured nearly \$2 million for biological/fishery assessments, stream and riparian habitat restoration, and land acquisition for resource protection in the Batten Kill watershed.

- **SOIL**

National Cooperative Soil Survey 2005 Conference

Randy Davis participated in the National Cooperative Soil Survey (NCSS) 2005 Conference late May, in Corpus Christi, TX. The NCSS conference is held every other year. The conference allows all members of the cooperative to share their plans and accomplishments. A number of committees are convened to address current and on-going soil survey issues. Randy co-chaired the Ecological Principles Committee and presented information on the Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory (TEUI) Technical Guide and the accomplishments the Forest Service has made in soil resource inventory and TEUI. Haans Fisk, Remote Sensing Applications Center (RSAC), presented information concerning the TEUI Geospatial Toolkit

Long-term Soil Productivity Program

Recently, Randy Davis attended the Long-term Soil Productivity (LTSP) program summer meeting in Olympia, WA, where the participants toured two affiliated sites located on Weyerhaeuser and Three Diamond commercial forest lands. Randy also had the opportunity to inspect the LTSP sites in northern Louisiana. Andy Scott, Research Soil Scientist, Southern Research Station, Pineville, LA, discussed management and funding needs of the sites. Randy discussed the situation with the Kisatchie Forest Supervisor, Gretta Boley. She and her staff discussed maintenance needs and associated costs along with improving the awareness of the value of the LTSP program to both NFS and State and Private.

- **WILDLIFE**

CONTENTS

The Forest Service is Recognized by Quail Unlimited

On July 30, 2005, Quail Unlimited President Rocky Evans presented the Forest Service with the *Partners in Conservation Award* for Outstanding Contributions to Quail Unlimited. Associate Deputy Chief Gloria Manning accepted the award during the Quail Unlimited and Dove Sportsman's Society National Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. Associate Deputy Chief Manning and Rocky Evans also presented the Distinguished Service *Answer the Call Award* to an outstanding Forest Service employee, and to a Quail Unlimited Chapter volunteer. **Larry Hedrick**, a resource staff officer on the Ouachita National Forest, was the Forest Service award recipient. For the past thirty years, Larry has been improving quail habitat and restoring native plant communities in southern pine forests. **David Jones**, a 16-year old Quail Unlimited chapter member, (yes, he is a teenager!) was also recognized with the *Answer the Call* Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding volunteer efforts and support of wildlife conservation.

Nominations Open for WMI's Prestigious Touchstone and President's Awards

Wildlife Management Institute is seeking nominations for its **2006 Touchstone and President's awards**. These awards recognize exceptional professional creativity, ingenuity and tenacity in effecting a particular program that, within the past several years, has notably advanced the cause or prospect of sound resource management and conservation in North America. Nominations can be for programs in any natural resource discipline.

Nominations for either award must be received by **December 1, 2005**. The awards will be announced and presented at the 71st North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, which will be held in March 2006, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus in Columbus, Ohio. Award winners will be profiled in the 71st Conference Transactions.

Nominations should be sent to: WMI Awards, Wildlife Management Institute, 1146 19th Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20036, or by email to bmckown@wildlifemgt.org. For other information about the awards, including other previous awardees, go to www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/pages/awards.html.

CONTENTS

Avian Influenza

Most of us have read or heard media and other accounts regarding the spread of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, referred to as H5N1. To date, this virulent form of avian influenza has not been detected in either wild or domestic birds or in humans, in North America. In fact, between 1998 and 2004 more than 12,000 wild bird samples from Alaska have been analyzed, and no evidence of this virus has been discovered. We know that birds migrating from Asia to Alaska could potentially carry the H5N1 virus. However, based upon recent and ongoing surveillance, knowledge of the scope of the disease in Asia, and the projected movement of birds from affected areas, it is unlikely that H5N1 will be carried by birds migrating from Asia to North America this fall or winter.

The Fish and Wildlife Service, along with USGS, State and university partners, is continuing surveillance of wild birds in Alaska for the H5N1 virus, and we are working with an interagency group of scientists, public health and policy officials to design an intensified effort for surveillance and early detection of this virus in wild birds. This effort will help ensure that we are in position to support prompt detection and response activities, and take appropriate measures to conserve bird populations and protect the safety of our employees, partners and the public.

As the situation and information with regard to the H5N1 virus changes, these guidelines may be updated. For additional information and references on avian influenza and H5N1, visit the National Wildlife Health Center Avian Influenza web page at www.nwhc.usgs.gov/research/avian_influenza/avian_influenza.html.

CONTENTS

Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

- **GENERAL/CROSS AREAS**

“Fuels Management--How to Measure Success” Conference

March 27-30, 2006 in Portland, Oregon.

Exchange ideas and experience in fuels management planning, execution, and evaluation... with a focus on "how to measure success”

Submit an abstract for a presentation at: www.iawfonline.org

Abstracts due September 30, 2005. Papers due March 30, 2006.

Technical Information & Publications:

- **AQUATIC/FISH**

Briefing Paper: Aquatic Invasives Partnership

Topic: John G. Shedd Aquarium and the Eastern Region

Issue: An Aquatic Invasives Partnership in Chicago

Background: The John G. Shedd Aquarium in Chicago is developing a partnership with the USDA Forest Service Eastern Region, Fish and Aquatic Ecology Programs, and the University of Notre Dame, in support of a public exhibition the Aquarium is developing about aquatic invasive species. An exhibit space containing nearly 15,000 gallons of water will feature live animals and native ecosystems to acquaint visitors with some of the most destructive of local invasive species. Through the exhibit, the Shedd will demonstrate the impact these animals have on both the ecology and economy of the region and the importance of preventing their spread.

Key Points: The goals of the exhibition and associated educational/marketing programs are:

- To increase public recognition of some aquatic invasive species;
- To heighten awareness and understanding about how aquatic invasives dramatically impact native habitats and economies; and
- To inspire visitors to help prevent the spread of invasive species, either through individual actions or through support of public legislation and expenditures.

For a copy of the complete briefing, contact, Nick Schmal, Eastern Region Fish & Aquatics Program Manager, 414/297-3431

[CONTENTS](#)

- **WATERSHED**

Glasser writes article, “The History of Watershed Management in the Forest Service: 1897-2005”

Steve Glasser, National Water Rights Program leader, has written a four page article on the evolution of watershed management in this agency and it was published in the July/August, 2005, issue of the *Journal of Forestry*. Steve encourages WFW Newsletter readers to look for the article in their local area where there may be a member of the Society of American Foresters (SAF). If

not, interested readers can contact Steve for an electronic copy. Send all requests to sglasser@fs.fed.us.

Ground Water Publications

There are four separate documents related to Ground Water that have been in preparation for up to five years. Steve Glasser is very happy to report that the policy manual, FSM 2543 and 2880 are both nearing the end of internal agency reviews and will be issued in final form by the end of 2005. The legal guide, *USDA Forest Service Sourcebook of State Ground Water Laws in 2005* is done and is posted on WFW staff 's website at www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/watershed/index.html. The document is available in PDF and rtf formats. The *Technical Guide to Managing Ground Water* is almost ready for the GPO for printing as hardcopy and as CD's. The final component is the *Inventory and Monitoring Guide*, which is in a rough early draft stage.

- **WILDLIFE**

Participatory Biological Monitoring Guidelines for Forestry

Biological monitoring is essential for understanding environmental change but is often expensive. From the hundred+ year-old Audubon Christmas bird count to the EPA's volunteer water quality monitoring to the growing multiparty monitoring movement by community-based forestry organizations, participatory monitoring has proven to be an effective way to increase biological monitoring activities, build support for science, and increase public involvement in understanding environmental change.

A goal of this project has been to synthesize the literature and stakeholder knowledge on participatory monitoring and create a tool to help forest managers and scientists: 1) broaden participation to meet biological monitoring needs while maintaining scientific standards, and 2) build positive long-term relationships with participants and their local communities. The guidelines are designed as a reference handbook on the managerial, scientific, and social considerations of participatory monitoring and complement rather than duplicate existing manuals providing monitoring methods (e.g., *Monitoring Plant and Animal Populations*, Elzinga et al. 2001). The guidelines can be scaled to work with any type of project whether bottom-up or top-down, large or small, volunteer or small contractor.

View online or download at: www.ifcae.org/projects/ncssf3/. Bound versions are forthcoming.

New nonfiction book, "Out of Eden: An Odyssey of Ecological Invasion"

The nonfiction book is about the environmental consequences of invasive species. Briefly, "Out of Eden" is a personal journey through the landscapes being remade by alien species. Partly it's a science documentary, following invasion biologists around the world in their efforts to better understand how ecosystems work. Partly it's a travelogue adventure: Alan Burdick's reporting took him to New England, San Francisco Bay, Hawaii, Guam, and Tasmania, among other places. (One of the most exotic locations Burdick visited was the NASA spacecraft-assembly facility in Pasadena, where microbiologists have discovered several bacterial species that may already have been exported to Mars.) Mostly the book is an extended meditation on our very complicated and contradictory relationship to nature.

The book has earned warm reviews in The New York Times Book Review, the Washington Post, Natural History, the Boston Globe, the Houston Chronicle, Salon.com, and elsewhere. You can

access the full reviews, read other articles Burdick has written, and learn more about “Out of Eden” on his website: www.aburdick.com

Training – Tools – Interesting Information:

- **WATERSHED**

TRAINING: Ground Water Management Course

Mark your calendars now for May 2007! Attend the new Ground Water Management course in South Lake Tahoe. October 2006 is **FULL** already! Learn how to set up and run your ground water program. Basic hydrology is covered. Get it on your AgLearn IDP and nominate through AgLearn as well. In AgLearn, use the “Catalog Search” button, typing in “groundwater” or “2800 WO Ground Water Management” (without the quotes). For further information download the course pdf: www.fs.fed.us/r1/projects/nmto/course_offerings/groundwater_mgmt_10-2005_laketahoe.pdf.

[CONTENTS](#)

Regional Round-ups:

- **AQUATIC/FISH**

Region 3

Three Successful Fish Salvages Conducted on the Tonto Forest

The Cave Creek Complex fire, which ignited on 24 June 2005, burned over 248,000 acres of Sonoran Desert grasslands and uplands making it one of the largest fires recorded in recent history. The fire’s large size affected multiple watersheds and placed native fishes at risk of extirpation from ash flows associated with monsoon precipitation events that occur at this time of year. Tonto National Forest fishery personnel Todd Willard, Bob Calamusso and Carol Engle in concert with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel conducted fish salvage operations in Lime Creek, Silver Creek, and Camp Creek. Salvages were conducted in order to preserve rare Southwestern fishes, which included Endangered Gila topminnow (Lime Creek) and have persisted in this system for over 20 years. The Lime Creek population is one of ten populations of Gila topminnow, which occur on the Tonto National Forest. Gila chub, a species that has been petitioned for listing by US Fish and Wildlife Service under the Endangered species act, were successfully salvaged from Silver Creek. Additionally, Forest Service sensitive speckled dace that inhabited Camp Creek were captured and transported to the Phoenix Zoo. This race of speckled dace found in Camp Creek, are particularly unique due to their large size as compared to other stocks on the Tonto Forest. All three species will be held in captivity until stream conditions improve. The Gila topminnow and Gila chub are being held at AZDGF Bubbling Ponds Hatchery and the speckled dace are being housed at the Phoenix Zoo. All agencies involved are commended on the proactive approach to saving these unique and rare Southwestern species.

Contact: Amy Unthank, aunthank@fs.fed.us

Region 9

Volunteers Help Clean Up Allegheny Reservoir

Excerpted from USFS Region 9 “Success Story Reporting”

Every spring, Forest Service and US Army Corps of Engineers personnel, capturing fish with gill nets, assess reservoir fish population health. “...Gill netting is done in early spring before vegetation has grown up around the shoreline, and this year Forest fisheries technician Nate Welker observed a significant amount of garbage around the Reservoir. Nate contacted local partners including the Kinzua Fish & Wildlife Association, Kinzua-Wolf Run Marina, and Warren County Adult Probation to assist in the clean-up. The public was invited to participate through media releases.

Kinzua-Wolf Run Marina readily agreed to be the operations center and provided a boat to transport volunteers and offered the use of their dumpster. The Kinzua Fish & Wildlife Association, a long-standing partner with the Allegheny National Forest, and 33 volunteer members of the public spent June 11 combing the shoreline, collecting, bagging and piling trash for the boats to collect at the end of the day. As part of the shoreline clean-up, workers picked up discarded fishing line which is a potential hazard to foraging bald eagles. “The Allegheny National Forest is fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers that are willing to donate their time to help maintain this beautiful area,” Chandler said. Another clean-up day to finish the reservoir shoreline is planned for the fall...”

Contact: Nick Schmal, nschmal@fs.fed.us

USFS employees can access the entire report at Region 9’s USFS system restricted website: [Success Story Reporting System](#).

CONTENTS

National Fishing & Boating Week Celebrated on the Wayne

Excerpted from USFS Region 9 “Success Story Reporting”

“The 8th Annual Wayne National Forest Kid’s Fishing and Fun Day was held June 11, 2005. This year’s event was moved to the Ohio River levee in Marietta, Ohio, because of ongoing repairs to the facilities at the Leith Run Recreation Area.

Sixty-seven children participated in the 2005 Kid’s Fishing and Fun Day. A total of 18 fish were caught and weighed in during the two-hour fishing contest. No one can ever predict what the fishing will be like in the Ohio River, but this year three different fish were caught – flathead catfish, channel catfish, and freshwater drum. It seems the lucky anglers were mostly fishing on the bottom with minnows or nightcrawlers...”

Contact: Nick Schmal, nschmal@fs.fed.us

USFS employees can access the entire report at Region 9’s USFS system restricted website: [Success Story Reporting System](#).

Batten Kill Watershed Alliance:

US Forest Service & Orvis Funding Major River Restoration Project

The Alliance has entered into a cost sharing agreement for \$85,000 with the Green Mountain National Forest to design and execute a large habitat restoration project in Arlington. The Orvis Company will assist the Alliance in raising the matching funds of \$90,000 required to fund the project. This exciting project will involve improvements along an extended reach of river that can really begin to make a difference for fish habitat. The installation of large woody debris, pools, cover, and shelter will address the biggest problems found with the Batten Kill habitat in the scientific studies. Past channel alterations and the removal of large trees along the riverbanks have

contributed to a near absence of in-stream fish cover. Such cover serves as a refuge from predators, floods, and warm temperatures, and is especially important for young trout.

This restoration project will begin on Twin Rivers Farm in West Arlington owned by Dr. and Mrs. William Lesko. GMNF and VT Dept. of Fish & Wildlife experts will execute the multiyear project, with assistance from the Natural Resource Conservation Service and the Bennington County Conservation District. Since the Alliance will coordinate the project, our operations will have partial funding into 2007.

The project site will be monitored for changes in fish populations and habitat. In addition to improving trout cover and shelter, habitat restoration benefits the river in other ways, such as reducing bank erosion and excess sedimentation. The project will serve as a demonstration project for future initiatives. Perhaps we will be able to undertake similar restoration projects elsewhere on the river in both NY and VT in the future.

Contact: Nick Schmal, nschmal@fs.fed.us

[CONTENTS](#)

Spreading the Word on Aquatic Invasive Species at July 4th Parade

Ottawa National Forest employees and volunteers teamed up to spread the word about aquatic invasive species during the Bessemer, Michigan, 4th of July parade. The enthusiastic group decorated a boat on a trailer to appear tangled in Eurasian watermilfoil, a non-native invasive plant. The Milfoil Monster, a green weedy “swamp thing” rode in the boat while children pretended to fish from the float, catching only the invasive weed.

Eurasian watermilfoil is a non-native aquatic invasive species that infests lakes, growing rapidly in the early spring. The problem with Eurasian watermilfoil is that it forms dense canopies that shade out native vegetation, alter the species composition of some aquatic invertebrates, and may impair the ability of some fish to spawn. Due to the plants' ability to spread and form dense stands, water recreation activities such as swimming, fishing, and boating can become impaired. Eurasian watermilfoil is difficult and often expensive to eradicate once established. The best preventive measure is to clean all plant material off boats, motors, trailers, etc., and leave it on shore above the high-water line to avoid spreading it to new waters. Eurasian watermilfoil has infested five lakes in the western Upper Peninsula area.

Contact: Nick Schmal, nschmal@fs.fed.us

Vacancies/Employment Opportunities:

Federal job announcements can be found at:

http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp

- **WILDLIFE**

USFS R5 Wildlife Program Manager

Regional Wildlife Program Manager for the Pacific Southwest Region of the US Forest Service

GS-12/GS-13 Respond By Date: 09/19/05

Contact Diana Craig

dcraig01@fs.fed.us

707-562-8930

[CONTENTS](#)

WFW Newsletter

Contact Information – Disclaimer – Non Discrimination Statement:

WFW Newsletter is a monthly newsletter without a clever name and is provided by the National Forest System Watershed-Fish-Wildlife-Air-Rare Plants staff (including Soils and Weather) of the USDA Forest Service. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Netta Grant at agrant@fs.fed.us or your favorite Program Leader no later than the 20th of each month. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity and brevity. Emphasis on brevity. Links to detailed URLs or documents are great – include them in your information contribution. Please note if the links are accessible to everyone or just USFS agency personnel. Also please note if the text you send is created by you or excerpted from another document.

Positions listed are for outreach purposes only and are not full announcements. Interested individuals should contact the forests referenced or consult the [USAJOBS website](#).

"The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. (Not all bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

[CONTENTS](#)