



USDA Forest Service

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

MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

JULY 2005

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Federal job announcements can be found at:
http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp

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Submit your information; Disclaimer & Non-Discrimination Statement

National in Scope:

- **HOT BREAKING NEWS – ZIMMERMAN NAMED DIRECTOR**

Excerpted from the Chief's letter July 29, 2005:

"I am pleased to announce Anne Zimmermann as the new Director of Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Staff.

Anne was appointed Acting Director Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare staff in June of 2004 shortly after joining the staff as the Deputy Director in May. Prior to moving to Washington she was the Forest Supervisor on the Cherokee National Forest, where she also served as Deputy Forest Supervisor before being named Forest Supervisor. Anne started her Forest Service career on the George Washington National Forest working as a biologist. She held biologist positions on the Kisatchie National Forest and the National Forests of Alabama, with additional duties as a Timber Management Assistant and Resource Assistant. On the Lolo National Forest, the Nine Mile Ranger District, she was a Deputy District Ranger, and then a District Ranger on the Seely Ranger District prior to moving to the Cherokee. She served as a member of the Blue Team on the Southern Region's Incident Command Team for five years.

Please join me in welcoming Anne to her new position and wishing her well.

/s/ Sally Collins for
DALE N. BOSWORTH
Chief"

- **DIRECTOR'S DISCUSSION**

Welcome to the first edition of the new WFW staff newsletter. With this newsletter, we hope to convey news and information of strategic importance and interest to Forest Service employees and our partners and keep all of our readers up to date on the resources that form our core business. This is a time of transition and change, both inside and outside of the agency. The WFW staff will try to serve as a bridge between the Washington Office and the field in order to provide as much information and help as possible to make sure our focus remains on good resource stewardship, no matter the changes.

I know that there are concerns about why we've made the move to a single newsletter when prior resource-specific newsletters were well received by their respective audiences. Without detracting from the quality and value of those efforts, our intent is to take what was working well in those individual efforts and meld them into a single, integrated newsletter. This newsletter is meant to highlight and strengthen the obvious interrelationships between all of the natural resources that the WFW represents.

As Acting Director, I want to fully represent and advocate for all the resource areas represented in the WFW staff area. Showcasing the importance of these resources to the overall mission of the Forest Service will make me more effective in representing WFW, which I hope will make your jobs easier. It is important to demonstrate that our resources represent the unified parts of complex ecosystems and are not merely isolated components.

Since this is our first issue, we hope to improve our content and delivery with each subsequent effort. Please send us your comments regarding what you like, what you feel is missing or should be added, or any other changes you might recommend making this a useful, helpful, and enjoyable resource.

Anne Zimmerman, Acting Director, WFW

- **TES**

Nature Serve Agreement

The Forest Service has entered into an agreement with NatureServe to develop and distribute information on threatened, endangered, candidate, and sensitive plant and animal species and their habitats and important ecosystems to facilitate and promote good land and resource management. Under the agreement NatureServe will update species G and T ranks of species that occur on National

Forest land. The information will be useful for the management of federally listed species as well as the new "species of concern" and "species of interest" designated under the new planning rule.

NatureServe is a non-profit organization dedicated to working in partnership with its network of Natural Heritage programs to develop, manage, and distribute authoritative information critical to the conservation of the world's biological diversity. NatureServe's Central Databases is the most comprehensive repository for such information and a widely used information source for Federal Agencies, researchers, and conservation groups. The Forest Service and NatureServe have a successful history of cooperation on the development and distribution of rare species management, which is formalized in a 2003 Forest Service - NatureServe Memorandum of Understanding (<http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2003/releases/12/nature-serve.shtml>).

The link to NatureServe Explorer is <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer/>

• WATERSHED

Christopher Carlson is first National Ground Water Program Leader

WFW Staff is pleased to announce Christopher Carlson as the first National Ground Water Program Leader for the Forest Service. This is a new position that is shared equally between the WO Minerals and Geology staff and the WFW staff. Chris begins work June 27, 2005. He has a PhD in Geological Sciences from Indiana University and has been employed by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Waste Management, since 1995. Chris will be responsible for implementing and marketing the new Forest Service Ground Water Management Program developed by Steve Glasser and James Gauthier-Warinner.

Award Nominations for Hydrology and Air Quality

Acting Director Anne Zimmermann is requesting nominations for "The Wagon Wheel Gap Hydrology Award" and the "Clean Air Act Award." These awards go to current Forest Service individuals working in hydrology or air quality programs in any branch of the Agency. Field units should send their nominations for one or both awards to Anne Zimmermann by July 25, 2005. The evaluation criteria for these awards are described in the call letter (6140-5/June 8, 2005)

A call letter for "Soil Scientist of the Year" went out earlier and a selection has been made.

• WILDLIFE

Breeding Bird Survey

BBS data were critical in the development of the recent State of the Birds report (<http://www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds/index.html>) and they also provide the foundation for many of the Partners In Flight bird population estimates. See the following for more details on the BBS and opportunities for adopting routes in your state.

The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) is a long-term, large-scale, international avian monitoring program initiated in 1966 to track the status and trends of North American bird populations. Each year during the height of the avian breeding season, typically in June, participants skilled in avian identification collect bird population data along roadside survey routes. Each survey route is 24.5 miles long with stops at 0.5-mile intervals. At each stop, a 3-minute point count is conducted. During the count, every bird seen within a 0.25-mile radius or heard is recorded. Surveys start one-half hour before local sunrise and take about 5 hours to complete.

The BBS web page has been updated to include a list of vacant route numbers in conjunction with a state route location map. Visit: <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/results/routemaps/index.cfm> to view the map of routes. Please contact the state coordinators if you wish to be assigned a vacant route.

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Norton Signs Conservation Agreement with Mexico and Canada, Announces \$3.9 Million in Grants for Migratory Bird Conservation

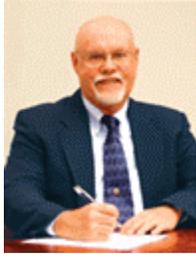
Interior Secretary Gale Norton commemorated the 12th International Migratory Bird Day by signing a declaration of intent with Canada and Mexico to strengthen cooperation on bird conservation. She also announced \$3.9 million in grants to conserve birds throughout the Americas and the Caribbean. Norton signed the North American Bird Conservation Initiative Declaration of Intent to "conserve North American birds throughout their ranges and habitats, and ultimately to collaborate with all participant nations regarding bird cooperation.

More at website: <http://news.fws.gov/NewsReleases/showNews.cfm?newsId=EC290B7D-65BF-03E7-2B9C3BCD1A41E504>

Contacts: Hugh Vickery 202-501-4633

Chris Tollefson (FWS) 202-208-5634

William Ruediger is awarded US Department of Transportation – Federal Highway Administration -- For Excellence in Environmental Leadership



Bill Ruediger has been a long-time advocate of habitat protection as related to road and highway development. He is also one of the leading practitioners in the emerging science of road ecology. Serving as the Ecology Program Leader for Highways in the US Forest Service, Bill led numerous interagency efforts over the years to address the effects of roads and highways on large, wide-ranging carnivores. He has led several statewide and regional efforts to identify wildlife habitat linkages and establish habitat conservation plans for use by transportation and resource agencies. In 2001, Bill participated in an FHWA and AASHTO joint technology scanning tour that examined how countries in Western

USDA Forest Service Europe were addressing the effects of highways on wildlife mortality and habitat connectivity. Transportation agencies have also benefited from Bill's continuing support of the International Conference on Ecology and Transportation series. He played a major role in leading the conference to its current status as the premier international gathering of transportation and ecological interests. In summary, this award for environmental excellence recognizes Bill's leadership commitment, foresight, and tireless efforts to improve habitat connectivity and protect wildlife along our nation's highways.

Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

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• WILDLIFE

SYMPOSIUM: Fish & Wildlife Service

10th Woodcock Symposium is now operational.

Detailed Information: <http://www.michigandnr.com/woodcock-symposium/default.htm>

Dates: October 4-6, 2006

Location: Roscommon, Michigan

The website has author instructions for submitting potential papers abstracts. Abstracts are due July 7, 2005. Draft manuscripts for accepted papers will be due November 1, 2005. Note the early dates for submission since the proceedings will be printed PRIOR to the symposium.

SYMPOSIUM: International Pollination Symposium

9th International Pollination Symposium

Detailed Information: <http://www.ucs.iastate.edu/mnet/plantbee/home.html>

Location: Iowa State University

Dates 23-28 July 2006

Theme: "Host-Pollinator Biology Relationships - Diversity in Action"

Sub-Themes:

- Pollinator Attraction & Rewards - Biology to Biotechnology

- Pollinators in Plant Genetic Resource Conservation
- Pollinator Protection Challenges
- Impacts of insect or animal-mediated pollination on gene flow.
- Use of pollinators in landscape management and sustainable agricultural practices

MEETING: 95th IAFWA Annual Meeting

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency are hosting the 95th IAFWA Annual Meeting.

Location: Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee

Detailed Information: http://www.iafwa.org/2005_Annual_Meeting/2005_Annual_Meeting_Intro.htm

Date: September 11-16, 2005

To register and reserve a hotel room: www.iafwa.org

The theme, *Investing in the Future of Wildlife*, is a timely focus, providing many opportunities to hear from our nation's wildlife conservation leaders, partners, and management experts. The meeting will cover a variety of technical, administrative, and political topics—from migratory birds, fisheries, and invasive species, to professional improvement, Multi-state Conservation Grants, wildlife law enforcement, and legislation.

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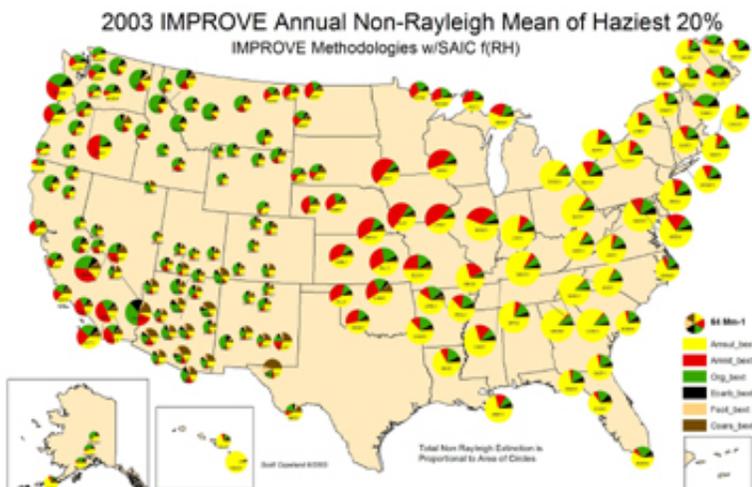
Technical Information & Publications:

- **AIR**

IMPROVE 2003 Data Maps Are Finished

Scott Copeland, our Visibility Data Analyst located in Wyoming, has just finished the maps for the 2003 calendar year of the IMPROVE (Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments) data which show a number of new sites in a national context for the first time. He spoke about them at the Air Quality Program Manager's meeting in Leavenworth, Washington the week of May 17th. He expects to have the 2004 maps completed in October.

This map represents taking all of the days, taking out the "Rayleigh days" - those with the absolutely cleanest air, then looking for the 20% that have the worst visibility, then, averaging the measurements from the filters for each of these days, for each of the sites. The pie graphs show what proportion of the haze comes from what kind of sources. Yellow is sulfate (power plants), red is nitrate (fertilizer and cars), green is organics (trees and chemical plans), black is organic carbon (including fire smoke), tan soil (fine wind blown dust), and brown for coarse particles (road dust and wind blown dust).



The other maps show the same information for the cluster of the 20% cleanest days, and for the cluster around the median 20%.

The IMPROVE network is funded by EPA, NPS, FWS, FS, and many states through their grants with EPA. There must be at least 3 years of data for it to be shown here.

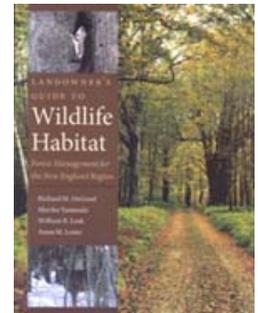
In many cases the NPS, FWS, and FS sites have been running for 15 or more years and have Trend data.

In many cases the NPS, FWS, and FS sites have been running for 15 or more years and have Trend data.

- **WILDLIFE**

Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Habitat: Forest Management for the New England Region

A new publication titled, *Landowner's Guide to Wildlife Habitat: Forest Management for the New England Region*, is currently available from the Forest Service Northeast Research Station. With this guide, the authors Richard M. DeGraaf, Mariko Yamasaki, William B. Leak, and Anna M. Lester, endeavor to help New England forest landowners manage their properties as wildlife habitats and as sources of forest products. These goals--improved habitat conditions and timber management--are not incompatible; wildlife habitat improvement, in fact, depends upon timber management. This guide presents options for managing habitats in extensively forested northern New England and in more agricultural/suburban southern New England. It shows for the first time what the various treatments look like on the landscape, so landowners can visualize the results and choose methods that best meet their goals. The guide is focused on providing habitat for a diverse array of wildlife species, not on maximizing habitat for any one species. Although written specifically for New England, this guide is applicable to a much wider area, essentially wherever northern hardwood, red spruce-balsam fir, white pine, or red oak-white pine forests occur.

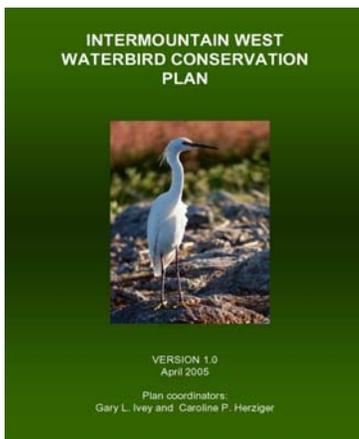


Contact Mary Strong at mastrong@fs.fed.us to order a copy. Not yet available in pdf. <http://www.fs.fed.us/ne/amherst/publications/index.html>

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Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan

Check out the brand new Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan (IWWCP), now available at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/waterbirds/intermountainwest/>.



The (IWWCP) addresses populations, habitats, and conservation strategies for the U.S. portion of the region. The purpose of the IWWCP is to fill knowledge gaps and aid in all-bird conservation efforts of the Intermountain West Joint Venture, 11 States, and other entities associated with the geographic scope of the IWWCP.

Download the Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan, Version 1 (April 2005) as PDF files:

[Main Text of the IWWCP](#) (600 KB)

[Appendices of the IWWCP](#)(752 KB)

Managing Landbird Populations in the Pacific Northwest

The Institute for Bird Populations recently completed the report, *Managing Landbird Populations in Forests of The Pacific Northwest: Formulating Populations Management Guidelines from Landscape-Scale Analyses of MAPS Data from Avian Communities on Seven National Forests in the Pacific Northwest*. The Institute for Bird Populations created this report for the Pacific Northwest Region, USDA Forest Service. Considered a model for national forests.

The model descriptions and management guidelines proposed in this report are based on the relationship between demographic parameters calculated from MAPS data collected on six national forests; two in Washington and four in Oregon. The authors obtained spatial statistics (landscape metrics) from analyses of two-kilometer radius areas of NLCD (1992) data surrounding each station. The study focused on 16 species of conservation concern as classified by one or more landbirds conservation research and planning programs at the regional or continental scale. Species-landscape models could be constructed for other landbird species for which sufficient MAPS banding data were available, those species are not listed as bird of conservation concern and therefore, are not included in this report.

Download the full report and appendices (pdf) at:
www.birdpop.org/downloaddocuments/usfsr6/nwffullreport.pdf

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Training – Tools – Interesting Information:

- **GENERAL/CROSS AREAS**

TOOL: Invasive Species Website

Jim Reaves, Rob Mangold, Val Mezaines and Janette Kaiser, announced the new FS website for invasive species. The National Invasive Species Issue Team developed the website as a communication tool to showcase the invasive species work for the USDA FS. This project was a priority action item identified in the *National Strategy and Implementation Plan for Invasive Species Management*. The national website will be the central location from which users can access FS invasive species information at the national, regional, forest and district levels.

To get to the website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/>

TRAINING: US Fish & Wildlife Service – National Conservation Training Center (NCTC)

<u>COURSE TITLE</u>	<u>DATES (M/D/YR)</u>	<u>TUITION</u>
Stream Restoration Techniques	9/19/05 to 9/23/05	\$850
Stream Habitat Measurement Tech	9/12/05 to 9/16/05	\$850
Monitoring & Adaptive Management For Endangered Sp. Conservation	8/15/05 to 8/19/05	\$850
Intro to Conservation Biology	8/15/05 to 8/19/05	\$850
Law for Non-Lawyers	8/09/05 to 8/09/05	\$170
Natural Resource Law	8/10/05 to 8/12/05	\$510

For further information contact: <http://training.fws.gov>

- **AIR**

MEETING REPORT OUT: Air Program Selects An Innovative Approach For Added Efficiency

At the annual Air program workshop, May 2005 in Leavenworth, WA, attendees reached consensus on an informal structure of "topical teams". "Topical teams" can focus air quality skills and knowledge for the benefit of every agency staff unit. Using this cooperative model premise - with no more than 2 air people (usually just one person) scattered among 20 or so Forest Service units - no one person can be an expert in the myriad of details facing the Air program. In the current organizational model, few people have sufficient time to build issue expertise. Moreover, a Topic team could solve common problems (e.g., a new source modeling strategy) more quickly for everyone's benefit. A Topic team could be experts in smoke management, for example, and thus create the tools and guidance facilitating the success of each Air person. Each person could volunteer for multiple teams, per his/her interests. There will be about 10 teams. Each team will set its own agenda based on the projects and expressed interest presented by the rest of the Air program. The Air program work strategy is being

crafted from the meeting results to closely follow the agency national strategy and the Chief's four threats. Regional haze and critical loads loom large as work items for the year ahead.

- **AQUATIC/FISH**

TRAINING: Backpack Electrofishing and Fish Handling Techniques - Effective Methods for Maximizing Fish Capture and Survival

Vendor: The Northwest Environmental Training Center

Course ID: BIO-407

Dates: August 3 - 4, 2005 (2 Days)

Location: Northwest Environmental Training Center Headquarters, Seattle, WA 98108

Tuition: \$325

10% discount for groups of three or more participants from the same firm or agency

Detail Information: http://www.nwetc.org/bio-407_08-05_seattle.htm

- **WATERSHED**

TRAINING: Ground Water Management

A new course on managing ground water (part of the new Ground Water Program) will be offered through the [Geology and Minerals Training Office](#) (GMTO) October 24-28, 2005, in South Lake Tahoe. It will provide field specialists and managers a comprehensive introduction to the science, ecology, law and policies related to ground water underlying federally owned lands. Look for a call letter from GMTO sometime in August for nominations. Steve Glasser is one of the eight instructors from several agencies at this course.

- **WILDLIFE**

International Migratory Bird Day: May 14th, 2005

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) kicked off the 2005 season at the National Zoo, Washington, D.C. on May 1, 2005. Although the official start date for IMBD was May 14th, events and celebrations associated with IMBD will occur throughout the U.S., Canada, and Latin America beginning in May and continuing through early summer. A reception was hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park on May 2nd honoring and thanking agencies, businesses, and non-governmental organizations who have supported IMBD for the last 13 year. Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief, National Forest Systems, was there to accept the honor on behalf of the Forest Service.

This year's IMBD focuses on the hazards faced by birds during migration and flight. World famous author and illustrator, David Sibley did the artwork for the 2005 poster. Please visit www.birdday.org to find out more about IMBD 2005, locate an IMBD event near you, and learn how you can "clear the way for birds" and help prevent collisions!

Vacancies/Employment Opportunities:

- **WILDLIFE**

EASI Ambassador Positions

This is a great opportunity for you to help improve the wildlife habitat in your community and across the nation. EASI is looking to create five new Ambassador positions, for volunteers to work with the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation program.

For more information on the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program, go to www.whep.org or e-mail tom@easi.org.

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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) 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.

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

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