



USDA Forest Service

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

MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 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:

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- **DIRECTOR'S DISCUSSION**

Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring Technical Guide

We are pleased to announce the publication of the Technical Guide for Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring (MSIM). This technical guide describes protocols designed to collect statistically valid information on a wide range of plant and animal species over a broad area and at a minimal cost. The MSIM is a robust monitoring protocol with repeated sampling that obtains basic presence and distribution data for a large number of plant and animal species and condition data for their habitats. The MSIM protocol is particularly suited for use in an adaptive management context, such as is prescribed by the 2005 Planning Rule. The sampling design is based upon our ongoing Forest Inventory and Analysis sampling grid to take advantage of this premier data collection effort.

The guide was developed by the Pacific Southwest Research Station and has included input from a large number of scientists, field technicians, and managers within and outside the Forest Service. The protocols have received extensive peer review, and pilot work has been published in the primary literature (see the web site listed below). As a consensus document, this represents an important scientific contribution from the Forest Service to the wider scientific and management community. The MSIM Guide is now in press, but can be accessed on the web: http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/programs/snrc/featured_topics/msim/ (Go to "MSIM preprint" at the bottom of the page and right click it to save it to your hard drive, where you can then open the pdf. If you left click the file instead, it will be slow to open.)

We encourage Regions and Forests to adopt the MSIM protocol as a foundation of their plant and animal species and habitat monitoring programs. We hope the Department of Interior and state wildlife agencies will view this as a significant step toward fulfilling our common objectives for monitoring of plant and animal species and habitats across landscapes. We look forward to working together to increase the power and efficiency of our monitoring efforts through cooperation and mutual adaptation.

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- **TES**

Pulling Together Initiative Proposal Request

The 2006 Request for Proposals for Funding through the Pulling Together Initiative (PTI) is available through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - See information on the NFWF website: <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/pti.cfm>

PTI provides support on a competitive basis for the formation of local Weed Management Area (WMA) partnerships. These partnerships engage federal resource agencies, state and local governments, private landowners, and other interested parties in developing long-term weed management projects within the scope of an integrated pest management strategy.

The Request for Proposals will fund projects occurring between **May 1, 2006 and September 30, 2007**. This is a NATIONWIDE grant program. Please get the word out to all your states, counties, and local partners, as well as all your Forest Service program managers.

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The 5th North American Pollinator Protection Campaign International Conference and Workshop

The 5th North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (NAPPC) International Conference and Workshop was held in Washington, DC at the National Zoo on October 20th and 21st. Nan Vance, David Pivorunas, and Larry Stritch participated for the Forest Service. Attendees came from the United States, Great Britain, Mexico, and Canada, and included state, private, and federal parties interested in working on pollinator conservation. The Conference and Workshop included presentations on pollinators, and NAPPC committees and task forces met to work on various topics. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Fish and Wildlife Service and NAPPC to cooperate on pollinator conservation. The Forest Service was the first federal agency to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with NAPPC in 2005. On Thursday evening, at a reception at the Canadian Embassy, Ann Bartuska accepted a Pollinator Advocate Award for Dale Bosworth, Chief of the Forest Service, for Forest Service activities in pollinator conservation. Another award was made to the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service.

For more information on the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign.
www.napppc.org

Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

- **TES**

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Pacific Salmonid Recovery Conference Science - Policy - Assessment - Restoration - Monitoring

February 15 - 17, 2006, 8:30 A.M. to 5 P.M.
Oregon State Convention Center
777 NE Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Portland, Oregon

We are currently seeking speakers for the 2006 Pacific Salmonid Recovery Conference. This will be the sixth regional salmonid recovery conference that we have hosted and our first effort to include speakers and participants from Alaska, B.C. Canada, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. We anticipate having over 50 speakers addressing a wide range of topics. Each session will provide practical information, methods, and resources to help participants improve their salmon recovery efforts. The goal of the conference is to provide participants with best available fisheries science, regulatory updates, and innovative strategies for assessment, restoration, and monitoring.

Please join us as a speaker, exhibitor, or sponsor; and remember to mark your calendars!

Intended Audience: Biologists, ecologists, planners, tribal representatives, engineers, regulators, research scientists, lawyers, elected officials, landowners, and nonprofit groups.

Conference Website: http://www.nwetc.org/bio-500_02-06_portland.htm

Please, feel free to call us if you have any questions. We can be reached Monday through Friday 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. PST at 206-762-1976.

Erick McWayne, Executive Director
Northwest Environmental Training Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
emcwayne@nweec.org
www.nweec.org

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- **WILDLIFE**

Wildlife and Highways TRB Workshop

Sunday January 22, 2006

8:30 am to 5:00 pm

Hilton Hotel, Caucus Meeting Room

Title Wildlife and Highways: Considerations and Solutions

Purpose The workshop will provide transportation officials, highway engineers, transportation planners, safety engineers and environmental planners a better understanding of how wildlife and fisheries issues can be integrated into planning, engineering, design and maintenance of highways.

The workshop will be divided into sessions addressing planning, engineering and design practices. Each session will be designed to show how transportation officials are working to promote and improve the integration of highways, wildlife and fisheries.

Expected Outcome Participants will get a basic understanding of the current state of the art and how the transportation community is integrating wildlife and fisheries issues into highway programs. Participants will learn where they can get technical assistance to help them address specific issues they are working with in their programs. Participants will learn about current research needs to improve planning, engineering, design and maintenance of highways with respect to wildlife and fisheries issues.

Workshop Organizers

Sean Furniss, National Coordinator, Refuge Roads Program, Fish and Wildlife Service
Task Force on the Transportation Needs for National Parks and Public Lands
Low-Volume Roads Committee
Sandra Jacobson, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Forest Service
Task Force on Ecology and Transportation

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- **REGION 4**



Report for the Native Cutthroat Trout Project Field Review Conducted in Southern Utah, June 28 – 30, 2005

Interagency Project Review Team:
Daniel J. Duffield, USDA Forest Service
Tom Pettengill, UDWR
Tom Mendenhall, USDI BLM, Utah State Office
Timothy Hawkes, Trout Unlimited

Background

The Bonneville cutthroat trout and Colorado River cutthroat trout conservation teams within the State of Utah formed an interagency team to assess accomplishments for conserving both cutthroat trout subspecies in southern Utah. The team was comprised of representatives from the USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and Trout Unlimited. The native cutthroat trout project review was conducted on the dates of June 28 – 30, 2005. The primary objective of the review was to verify and document both State and Federal management agency commitment to conserving native cutthroat trout as signatories to the conservation agreements for both subspecies. Projects reviewed represented both proactive conservation projects (i.e. reintroductions of native cutthroat trout, construction of fish barriers for protection of native cutthroat trout populations, and native cutthroat trout brood source development) as well as efforts to integrate native cutthroat trout concerns into fire and grazing management.

This report is structured to provide background information as well as document the Team's observations and recommendations for each project reviewed. Local, State and Federal agency personnel accompanied the review team during the review process. These local experts provided background information and local context for all the projects reviewed. This report also contains many photos for a visual link to project accomplishments.

For a copy of the complete review, please contact Daniel Duffield at dduffield@fs.fed.us.

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- **REGION 8**

Smoky Madtom News

This has been a momentous, historic summer for smoky madtoms! A total of 74 smoky madtoms, of which 62 were YOYs, were observed in Citico Creek in only three surveys between September 19 and October 5--record high numbers; in two late

August surveys in Abrams Creek 38 were observed, (30 YOYs)—all wild-spawned; and, for the first time in Tellico River, we observed five wild-spawned YOYs along with a stocked adult on September 21st. For the first time since this species was “extinct” in 1957, described in 1969, and rediscovered in 1980, there are three known reproducing populations! (YOY means Young Of the Year - wild fish that were spawned in the stream this summer.)

The Forest Service should take pride in the significant contribution we have made toward the recovery and survival of this and the other rare aquatic species we are effectively managing.

- **REGION 9**

Shawnee National Forest stabilizes Big Creek Watershed.
By: Sarah Calloway : R09 Shawnee

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Photo Caption: A small section of Big Creek, located within the Hidden Springs Ranger District in Hardin County, Illinois, was stabilized to reduce sedimentation in the stream, limit further erosion and provide improved habitat for native aquatic species.

The Shawnee National Forest completed this project the first week of August 2005.

Big Creek watershed was rated a unique aquatic resource based upon the

Biological Stream Characterization (BSC) and the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI). Big Creek provides excellent habitat for six native mussels, five native crayfish and 39 native fish species.

For the first phase of the project, stream bank specialist Wayne Kinney surveyed the project area. Using the survey data, he designed the plans for the bank stabilization contract.

The second phase of the project was construction. The contractor used a track hoe, small dozer and skid steer to clear the area and construct a “stone toe protection” with riprap along the eroded bank.

Keys were constructed using riprap every 100 feet into the bank of the creek to tie in the stone toe protection. Two sections of the streambank were stabilized for a total distance of 625 feet.

The final step was to seed and mulch the two sections. Monitoring of this site will continue to occur in the future.

The project was completed with the help of Wayne Kinney, Fred Cooley and Sons Excavating, and Shawnee National Forest employees Bobbi Archdale, Mike Welker, Kara Kleinschmidt, Mike Spanel, Mary McCorvie, Dave Johnson, Beth Shimp and Sarah Calloway.

Forests Complete Large Woody Debris Project on the Au Sable River
By: Kate Salm :R09 Huron-Manistee



Through a partnership with state agencies, the Huron-Manistee National Forests have implemented a Large Woody Debris habitat restoration.

As part of an on-going Large Woody Debris restoration project, 200 trees were placed via helicopter between Cummins Flats and McKinley reach below Mio Dam, and another 225 trees were placed below Alcona Dam of the Au Sable River in September.

The oak and pine trees were placed in strategic locations to improve the habitat along the river for a variety of plant and animal species, to change the effect of the water at certain points to minimize erosion, and to create diverse water speeds.

The project was done in conjunction with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MI-DNR) and the Huron Pines Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D).

Huron Pines RC&D administered the helicopter contract, while Forest Service and MI-DNR monies provided the funding. All three organizations provided the people needed to complete the project.

The Little River Band of Ottawa Indians has also been an active participant during the course of the project, assisting with implementation and monitoring the trees that have been placed.

Helicopter placement of whole trees mimic natural disturbance processes such as wind-throw and are an efficient method of large-scale restoration for riverine habitat. During the past five years, 840 trees have been placed in six miles of the Manistee River, and 1,300 trees have been placed in 13 miles of the Au Sable River through partnerships.

New Boat Launch Improves Fishing at Pinewood Lakes

By: Charlotte Wiggins : R09 Mark-Twain



Mark Twain NF partners with state to improve popular fishing location on the Poplar Bluff Ranger District.

Fishing was significantly improved summer 2005 at a favorite fishing spot on Poplar Bluff Ranger District, Mark Twain National Forest. The Pinewoods Lake boat launch was completed under a partnership with Missouri Department of Conservation. Excessive vegetation was also removed from Pinewoods Lake, a small reservoir on Highway 60, just west

of Poplar Bluff, Missouri. It is a day use area with picnic shelters and a fishing pier.

Pinewoods Lake boat launch on Mark Twain National Forest was built and Pinewoods Lake vegetation removed improving fishing conditions.

Vacancies/Employment Opportunities:

- **OTHER**

Position Title: Natural Resources Specialist - Shooting Sports Program

Organization Unit: Recreation/Heritage Resources (RHR), WO

Grade/Series: GS-401 – 14

Duty Location: Washington, D.C.

Position Description: The RHR staff is preparing to advertise a new position, which will have responsibility for coordinating agency shooting sports issues. Technical expertise in management of shooting and hunting sports, working with other Federal agencies, the shooting sports industry and interest groups to improve National Forest management of this activity are critical factors. The position will also be responsible for coordination of RHR response to Forest Plan appeals. The position will be filled in fall, 2005. We are seeking applicants from all federal agencies for this interesting assignment. The duty station is the Washington Office of the Forest Service, in Recreation Heritage Resources reporting to the Assistant Director for Recreation, Tourism, and Public Services.

Responsible management of shooting sports on Forest Service lands is an agency emphasis and presents significant opportunities and challenges. This position will strengthen the agency's relationship with industry and interest groups representing the shooting sports as well as ensure interagency coordination with Federal partners. Response to Forest Plan appeals is an important and growing function for the recreation and heritage staff area in the WO, which will be combined with the shooting sports duties.

Contacts: If you are interested and would like to know more about this position, or living in Washington, D.C., please call or email one of the contacts listed below. A vacancy announcement will be posted during September.

Primary Contacts: Gail VanderBie	gvanderbie@fs.fed.us	(202) 205-1756
Art Jeffers	ajeffers@fs.fed.us	(202) 205-0425
Martha Ketelle	mketelle@fs.fed.us	(202) 205-1358

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. If brevity and clarity are a struggle for you, we recommend the "[Plain & Simple! Document Writing](#)" workshop instructed by Dr. Jud Monroe.

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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