



USDA Forest Service

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

MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2006

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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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- **SOIL**

2005 National Field Soil Scientists Awards

Stephanie Connolly, Monongahela National Forest, has a strong passion for the soil resource that she has consistently demonstrated with numerous IDT and project assignments. Harnessing existing soil data, Stephanie has developed numerous GIS coverages on the Monongahela NF (MNF) to help non-soil scientists understand how to protect soil productivity while supporting multiple-use on the MNF. Stephanie's proven success has led to other NFs in R-9 and R-8 to request her assistance in their efforts to develop similar GIS coverages to aid them in land management decision making. She is active in teaching at local colleges and universities to help undergraduate students understand how soils are managed on National Forest Systems lands. She has kept abreast of emerging issues such as acid deposition and nutrient cycling. In this case, Stephanie teamed with watershed and air specialists in the development of a sampling protocol that is being used across West Virginia. She also has developed an agreement with NRCS to analyze soil samples that are thought to be susceptible to damage from acid deposition. Recently she began monitoring for mercury sources across the MNF. Where Stephanie has needed addition expertise, she has been able to obtain off-Forest experts to help answer complicated issues. She has also developed soil displays for use in MNF visitor centers. She has also been able to leverage scare inventory funds to complete the update of 20,000 acres of soil resource inventory. Stephanie has demonstrated that one person can truly make a difference by understanding how to mobilize existing resources and leveraging those resources using new technology.

Dennis Law, Francis Marion-Sumter National Forests, has a proven commitment to protecting and restoring the soil resource including wetlands. He has developed soil resource inventory techniques that have been adopted by the NRCS. He and his field crews have completed over 300,000 acres of detailed soil resource inventory across the Francis Marion- Sumter NFs (FMS). He has perfected site restoration techniques that have brought thousands of acres of highly eroded lands back into forest and grass production. He has developed nurseries to provide indigenous plant materials for his land recovery efforts. Notably, he has been successful in providing sweetgrass, used for basket making, along with short and long-leaf pine seedlings for restoration projects. It is no surprise that Dennis leads one of the largest watershed improvement programs in the NFS. His restoration efforts include volunteers who collect seed, assist in the nursery, and plant seedlings. To date, volunteers have contributed over 2000 days to restoration projects. He leads the BAER program on the FMS and participates in a host of ground disturbance projects ranging from timber sales to recreation access and developments. Dennis also is a mentor for upcoming soil scientists and watershed specialists. He annually makes numerous soil management presentations to local grade, middle, and high schools along with the several 1890 colleges. He is a collaborator extraordinaire! His cooperators include the SC Native Plan Society, NRCS, SC Department of Natural Resources, Clemson University, and the Tall Timbers Research Station. He is also working with the Army Corps of Engineers and the SC Palmetto Conservation Foundation in their restoration efforts. His involvement with research includes cooperative efforts in prescribe fire, fuel reduction, biomass treatments, and forest health. Dennis' career demonstrates

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that partnering and innovation can literally move forgotten, abused lands into ecological and watershed functionality.

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- **TES**

Lloyd Swift Sr., Jack Adams, Karl Urban, Conservation Partner and Conservation Project Awards

Department of Interior Secretary Gale Norton, USDA Forest Service Associate Chief Sally Collins, and BLM Director Kathleen Clarke presented two Forest Service Career Achievement awards and three joint BLM-Forest Service Awards at the 71st North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference in Columbus, Ohio on March 22, 2006. Please follow the link to the detailed letter.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/index.html> or

http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/tes/ls_ja_partner_awards_06.pdf

Invasive Species Partnership

The Forest Service has a partnership with Wildlife Forever and the famous television personality Babe Winkelman on Invasive Species. Check it out! This is a project that Nick Schmal and Mike Ielmini have been working on for several months. Nick is Fisheries and Invasives coordinator in Region 9. In addition, we are moving along with the development of the second Invasive Species prevention video (DVD) in a 6-DVD series. The first video is finished and is available on line or hard copy from me. (<http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/prevention/dangeroustravelers.shtml>). The second video will focus on providing invasive species prevention support to wildlife and fisheries biologists and hunters and anglers.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies/prevention/huntersanglers.shtml>

<http://www.winkelman.com/>

<http://www.winkelman.com/invasivespecies.php>

For any additional information, contact Mike at:

Mike Ielmini, National Invasive Species Program Coordinator

USDA Forest Service, National Forest System, Washington, D.C.

Ph: 202-205-1049 / <mailto:mielmini@fs.fed.us>

- **WETLAND**

President's Earth Day Wetlands Report

I want to thank everyone who was involved in the report. It is posted on the White House's CEQ page under reports.

http://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/wetlands_200604.pdf

Bill O. Wilen, National Wetlands Inventory

703-358-2278 or Bill_Wilen@fws.gov

- **WILDLIFE**

2005 Mule Deer Conservation Award Recipients Announced!

Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison (GMUG) National Forest wildlife biologists Tom Holland and Craig Grother were honored at the annual Mule Deer Foundation's

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(MDF) national convention for their leadership in restoring mule deer habitat on the GMUG. Holland is the GMUG's Forest Wildlife Biologist in Delta and Grother is Zone Wildlife Biologist on the Norwood/Ouray Ranger Districts. The recognition stems from a national partnership, signed four years ago between the Forest Service and the Mule Deer Foundation, for the conservation of mule deer. As part of the partnership, the Foundation recognizes the Forest Service, unit or employees who best demonstrate leadership and excellence in mule deer conservation each year. The award was presented by Intermountain Regional Forester Jack Troyer and Mule Deer Foundation Board Member Bill Burbridge in Reno at the February event.

On the Uncompahgre Plateau alone, Holland and Grother designed and implemented more than 30 projects over the last ten years that benefit mule deer. Approximately 3,000 acres are being restored annually on the GMUG National Forest. Projects include prescribed burning, roller-chopping, hydro-axing, road closures, seeding and fertilizing winter ranges and water developments. The biologists have been effective in matching Forest Service funds with funds from partners such as the MDF, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Bureau of Land Management, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Quail Unlimited, and most recently with Safari Club International, to maximize the beneficial effects of this work. By working with so many partners, they are also able to address habitat issues at a broader landscape scale.

State Agency, Conservation Group Restoring Wild Turkeys

(Courtesy of the National Wild Turkey Federation)

Biologists from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and National Wild Turkey Federation released 55 Gould's wild turkeys into the Santa Rita and Pinaleno mountains April 12 as part of efforts to restore this subspecies.

In March, the AZGFD, the NWTF, the Association of Wildlife Managers in Mexico and the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, in Mexico, trapped the birds near Zacatecas, Mexico, and transferred them to a quarantine facility in Arizona.

Gould's once thrived in the mountains of Arizona. However, they were an important food source for those who settled and worked in the area. By 1920, the Gould's wild turkey had all but disappeared from the landscape of Arizona due to unregulated harvest.

Since 2003, the AZGFD and the NWTF have transferred 230 Gould's wild turkeys from Mexico to the Chiricahua, Huachuca, Santa Rita and Pinaleno mountains of southern Arizona to restore Gould's populations.

To view the complete release, with photos, visit

http://www.nwtf.org/nwtf_newsroom/press_releases.php?id=11832

Contact: For more information on Gould's wild turkey restoration contact Scott Vance at (800) THE-NWTF.

For more information, contact Matt Coffey, or Jonathan Harling at (803) 637-3106, or mcoffey@nwtf.net or jharling@nwtf.net.

Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

- **WETLANDS**

2006 National Wetland Awards Reception

Please join the Environmental Law Institute in honoring the 2006 National Wetlands Awards recipients at a reception and ceremony on May 10th, 2006. The ceremony will be held from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the Cannon House Office Building Caucus Room on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

This year's awardees are: Royal Gardner (Florida) for Education and Outreach; Curtis Richardson (North Carolina) for Science Research; Alan Ammann (New Hampshire) for Conservation and Restoration; The Higel Family (Colorado) for Landowner Stewardship; Francisco Abarca (Arizona) for State, Tribal, and Local Program Development; and Chester McConnell (Alabama) for Wetland Community Leadership.

Please RSVP, acceptances only, by May 5, 2006, to ELI by providing your name, affiliation, and phone number to wetlandsawards@eli.org or (202) 939-3842. You can view the full invitation at http://www2.eli.org/pdf/nwa/nwa_2006_invite.pdf

For more information about this year's winners, or the National Wetlands Awards program visit <http://www2.eli.org/nwa/nwaprogram.htm>.

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- **WILDLIFE**

May is American Wetlands Month

During the month of May, the Nation will celebrate American Wetlands Month, focusing on the economic benefits that wetlands provide. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) joins with other federal, state and local agencies and private partners to recognize the wonderful ways that wetlands enrich the environment and society. Events are scheduled all across the country to educate and involve Americans in better understanding the importance of one of Earth's most valuable and fragile ecosystems.

Also known as marshes, swamps and bogs, wetlands are important for flood control, acting as buffers to absorb and reduce damage caused by flood waters. They also help to remove pollutants from water, cleaning streams and lakes, thereby reducing the cost of drinking water treatment. Wetlands are productive ecosystems, which support sometimes rare plant and animal habitat. They are important to the multi-billion dollar commercial fishing industry and provide a boost to recreational industry activities, such as fishing, birding, canoeing and hunting. While more than half of the nation's original wetlands have been lost or converted to other uses in the lower 48 states, EPA's goal is an over all increase in quality and quantity of wetlands nationwide. To learn more about activities for American Wetlands Month, please visit www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/awm/ and the Izaak Walton League of America's website at www.iwla.org. Information about wetlands is available at www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands.

Training – Tools – Interesting Information:

- **SOIL**

Izaak Walton League of America

Introduction to Alternative Practices to Manage Highway Runoff



Join the Izaak Walton League for the first in a four-part Webcast series on the latest techniques available to help transportation agencies save money, comply with water regulations, and improve water quality with context-sensitive stormwater management. Introduction to Alternative Practices to Manage Highway Runoff (May 18, 1pm-2:30pm EDT) features expert panelists discussing the benefits of low impact development (LID) principals. LID refers to a toolbox of techniques, some of which provide excellent stormwater management options at low life-cycle cost for highways. LID in a highway environment means managing stormwater safely and cost-effectively to reproduce predevelopment hydrology while using methods that are appropriate to and fit within existing streetscapes and landscapes. Learn more about the benefits of these techniques and transportation projects that have used them successfully. We encourage decision makers at transportation departments, design engineers, planners, regulators, students, maintenance supervisors, construction engineers, and consultants to participate. Visit <http://www.iwla.org/> and click on Webcasts to register. This on-line training series is made possible with support from the Center for Transportation and the Environment, the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

2006 R-9 Soil, Water, Air Workshop Presentations. Presented late March 2006.

This Powerpoint presentation provides an overview of the National Soil Management Program including focus areas and steps being taken to accomplish the emphasis areas. www.fs.fed.us/biology/soil/index.html

This Powerpoint presentation provides an overview of the current soil quality standards and related appeal decisions that have occurred in recent years. This presentation also provides steps being taken to resolve questions raised in the court decisions. www.fs.fed.us/biology/soil/index.html

- **WETLANDS**

Learn at Midewin Workshops

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 30239 South State Route 53, Wilmington, IL 60481

Contact: Marta Witt, (815) 423-6370

Excerpted from: [Wilmington April 3, 2006]

The U.S. Forest Service is offering several workshops to the public and volunteers at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie this spring. Participation in the workshops is free. Details and contact information are listed below.

Butterfly Workshop - Part 2

Saturday, May 20, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This outdoors workshop is for current, former, or brand new butterfly monitors to enhance identification skills in the field. Participants will visit monitoring sites at Midewin and at Goose Lake Prairie. Goose Lake Prairie monitors should meet there at 9 a.m. and Midewin monitors should meet at the Midewin Welcome Center at 1:00 p.m. To register, call (815) 423-2148.

Information about public programs at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie may be obtained by calling (815) 423-6370 or online [at www.fs.fed.us/mnntp/](http://www.fs.fed.us/mnntp/).

Regional Round-Ups:

REGION 9



Least Brook Lamprey

One of the more interesting creatures inhabiting some streams of the Shawnee National Forest is the least brook lamprey, a state-listed threatened species in Illinois. Although the lamprey is found on the Forest, very little was known about the species local abundance and distribution prior to 2004. Southern Illinois University research studies have documented the lamprey at 13 locations in five streams within the state; most were on the

Shawnee National Forest. The scarcity of information for this species is directly related to its unique life history.

During survey work for the Trails Designation Project in 2004, a large group of adult lamprey was observed in Little Bay Creek. The lamprey captured on video was tentatively identified as the rare, state-listed least brook lamprey by Fisheries Biologist Mike Welker. Based on this observation, the Forest developed a plan to survey for lamprey by walking along the streams during the spawning period. The crystal clear streams of the Shawnee National Forest, combined with the shallow riffle spawning locations, offered an excellent opportunity to locate them on the Forest. During 2005 and 2006, Shawnee personnel led by fisheries biologists Brad Fink and Mike Welker set out to learn more. They were assisted by numerous Forest employees, volunteers, students from Southern Illinois University, students from Southeastern Illinois College, a retired Forest biologist and anyone willing and able to hike along the streams.

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The results of the two year study exceeded initial expectations. In 2005, lamprey were observed spawning at 33 locations in 6 streams. In 2006, with more intense effort, lamprey were documented at 90 locations in 15 streams. Based on this work we have much better data about available spawning habitat, relative abundance and distribution of lamprey across the eastern part of the Forest, indicating there are many

more lamprey in Illinois than the Illinois Department of Natural Resources had documented.

The Forest has recently partnered with Southern Illinois University to conduct more research and learn more about the spawning behavior, habitat requirements and life history of this species. There are also plans to partner with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to help locate new sites in streams on private land adjacent to the Forest. In 2007, the Forest plans to expand the search for lamprey to include streams on the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District. Results of this study and future studies will help the Forest to develop "best management practices" to protect this species and its habitat. These findings add to the available scientific knowledge and assist other agencies, private landowners and academic institutions in management and research of this rare species.

Photographs and video of lamprey and these activities can be viewed on the Shawnee National Forest website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee/>

Vacancies/Employment Opportunities:

- **OTHER**

Organization: Wildlife Management Institute

Job Title: Conservation Policy Coordinator

Listing Type: Permanent / Long Term Professional Positions (M.S. or Ph.D. Level)

Closing Date: June 15, 2006

Salary: \$70,000-\$90,000

Keywords: wildlife, management, policy, hunting, CWD

Contact: Scot Williamson, VP, WMI, 69 Clinton Avenue, St Johnsbury, VT 05819

802-748-6717

Email: wmisw@together.net

Description: The Wildlife Management Institute seeks exceptional candidates to assist the WMI President and Vice President with implementation of key legislative and resource management initiatives. Serve as primary contact with congressional committee staffs and policy coordinators in other organizations and agencies. Provide national coordination for the Hunting Heritage Action Plan development and implementation and the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance. Ensure that the best knowledge, data and science are brought to planning and decision-making processes that may impact important wildlife habitats, and support forums where this knowledge can be transferred to interested publics. Monitor and coordinate response to conservation issues that are important to WMI and partners. Advise and educate congressional staff on proposed legislation. Coordinate preparation and delivery of requested comments or testimony. Manage legislative schedule and staff coverage for hearings and related events. Track, analyze and develop strategies for WMI action on legislative and agency matters within WMI Mission.

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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