



USDA Forest Service

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

MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

MAY – JUNE 2006

CONTENTS

National in Scope

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

Coming Events - Conferences & Meetings

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

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

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

Training - Tools - Interesting Information

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

- Soil
- TES
- Watershed
- Wildlife

Regional Round Ups

- Air
- Appeals & Litigation
- Aquatic/Fish (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
- TES
- Watershed
- Wildlife
- Other

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

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

[Submit your information; Disclaimer & Non-Discrimination Statement](#)

National in Scope:

- **WILDLIFE**

Aspen Delineation Project.

We are pleased to announce that the Aspen Delineation Project, a cooperative project of the US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the California Department of Fish and Game, has created a website [Aspen Delineation Project](#) that can serve as a consolidated and centralized clearinghouse of reference information concerning the ecology and management of aspen communities in North America. It is intended to provide bibliographic, research, and management information to all stakeholders, including land and resource managers, scientists, private landowners, and the general public.

This website, made possible in part by a grant from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, is designed for all those interested in aspen and its habitat. I invite you to explore the site and to contribute to its databases by providing your aspen bibliographic, management, research, or event information. Submission forms are available for all the major databases found on the site.

Research Grant Program To Strengthen Wildlife Habitat Protection Launched.

The first Requests for Proposals (RFPs) by the new **Wildlife Habitat Policy Research Program** (WHPRP) will be issued on June 12, 2006 by the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE). The RFPs will be posted on the WHPRP website (www.whprp.org) and also distributed via email to the wildlife habitat conservation community. The program is supported by a four year grant by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF).

Application to the WHPRP is open to everyone and begins with composing Letters of Intent due to NCSE by July 10, 2006 (see website for instructions.) Three applicants for each grant will be invited to submit full proposals to be reviewed by an independent panel of experts, who will evaluate the technical quality and practical value of each submission, managed by the American Institute for Biological Sciences (AIBS).

Grants will be made only for the projects specifically defined in the RFPs and will cover a variety of research areas with the general goal of improving the basis for implementation of the statutory State Wildlife Action Plans. Reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of this conservation challenge, the program will support research in law, economics, social sciences, natural sciences, and public policy. Examples of the RFPs research topics include:

- Valuation of ecosystem services and estimations of the costs and benefits of habitat conservation
- Syntheses of what is known about the impacts of climate change on habitat and wildlife
- Review of the State Wildlife Action Plans to determine the conservation priorities indicated by them.

In total, the WHPRP will offer about ten RFPs ranging in size from \$50,000 to \$150,000 to be conducted over 12 months beginning November 1, 2006.

Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:

- **AQUATIC/FISH**

15th International Salmonid Conference.

American Fisheries Society (AFS) and Trout Unlimited (TU) have finalized the conference for 2006 in the continuing series sponsored by the AFS, TU and USFS. It is similar to the one held in Westport, Ireland in 2002. This one will be in the northern UK near Scottish Border, on Oct. 17-20, 2006.

More information can be found at the following website:

www.associationofrivertrusts.org.uk

The AFS also has it listed under their Calendar: 2006 Fisheries Events.

Training – Tools – Interesting Information:

[CONTENTS](#)

- **WILDLIFE**

First Annual Regional Wetland Restoration.

You're invited to attend the First Annual Regional Wetland Restoration Institute from September 10-15, 2006 in Olympia Springs on the Daniel Boone National Forest. The Wetland Restoration Institute provides a unique opportunity to:

- Learn how to build and plant wetlands that look and function like natural ecosystems by actually participating in their construction.
- Learn how to identify where wetlands once occurred, hundreds of years after they were eliminated, and hear how they were drained from people who drained them.
- Learn how to sample wetlands by working alongside experts in the areas of amphibians, reptiles, bats, soils, and plants.

The Wetland Institute is reasonably priced; \$300.00 covers your lodging, meals, transportation, and registration for the week. Scholarships are available for those who work in eastern and southern Kentucky, from Eastern Kentucky PRIDE.

You may view a copy of the agenda, and download registration materials by visiting www.kypride.org/newsstory.php. Please hurry, as registration is scheduled to close June 26, 2006.

Regional Round-Ups:

[CONTENTS](#)

- **REGION 9 – Aquatic/Fish**

Lake Associations help provide shade for fish.

Lakewood, Wis. – Fish are no different from humans when it comes to seeking a shade tree on a hot summer day. Members of two lake associations in the Lakewood-Laona District of the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Oconto County helped provide a little shade for our finned friends.

Trees are critical for a healthy fish population. Trees provide shade, cover, and habitat (homes) for almost all fish species. In lakes with a lot of weeds trees may not be as important, but in lakes with very few weeds trees often provide the only hiding habitat for fish.

As more and more shorelines are “armored” with rock rip rap, and sea walls, and as more docks and associated watercraft are placed along a lakes shoreline available hiding cover is removed. A recent study found that as dock numbers and sizes increased and more watercraft was stored with these docks the amount of weeds decreased. This may sound great to some but if you really care about a lake you quickly realize if everyone along a lake reduced the weeds there would be no habitat for fish or other animals that need the weeds for habitat, perch sites (insects), spawning, cover (fish, frogs and turtles), and basking areas (frogs).

Another way to increase habitat and provide perch sites, basking, spawning, and overhead cover is to add trees along a shoreline. This type of habitat restoration has been successfully completed on a number of lakes with in the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest over the last several years.

In February 2006 two lakes on the Lakewood-Laona Ranger District had trees placed along their shorelines to restore these critical habitat components. The Forest Service partnered with two lake associations, as well as the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

A pole skidder was used to haul trees from upland locations away from the shoreline out on to the lakes on the ice. Small groups of 2-4 trees were placed strategically along the shorelines. Projects like this in the past have received instant use once the ice melts and the trees settle into the water. These clumps of trees look very natural, like a group of trees just fell into the water. Many species of animals and fish use the trees year around. The trees are cabled to the lakeshore so ice and wave action doesn't move them. – Tom Moris, FS

[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) 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. If photos are included in your submission please provide alternative text with each photo. Alternative text should not repeat captions but describe the scene shown in the photo.

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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[CONTENTS](#)