



## Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture

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

### MONTHLY WFW STAFF NEWSLETTER

MAY 2007

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Federal job announcements can be found at:  
[http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency\\_search.asp](http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp)

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

### Submit your information

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## National in Scope:

### GENERAL/CROSS AREAS

#### **Linares Named PNW Regional Natural Resources Director**

Jose Linares, supervisor of the Siuslaw National Forest was named Director of Natural Resources for the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest region. Linares succeeds Cal Joyner, who in March became deputy regional forester for the Pacific Northwest region, headquartered in Portland. Linares will start his new job July 23.

Excerpted from USDA Forest Service News Release, 5/31/07  
Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW/TES

#### **Integrating Transportation and Resource Planning to Develop Ecosystem Based Infrastructure Projects**

##### **Eco-Logical / FHWA Grant Applications Being Accepted NOW!**

The Forest Service, along with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and other agencies, is advancing an ecosystem approach to comprehensive management called Eco-Logical. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of a NEW Grant Program based on "Eco-Logical" - an Ecosystem Approach to Developing Infrastructure Projects. At least \$1,050,000 has been made available for these grants.

**Grant Application:** [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)

**Due Date:** **Friday, June 22, 2007** by 5 pm EST.

All applicants will be notified of their award status later this summer. A fifty (50) percent match is required by STEP for most contracting agreements. Funded pilot projects will establish or assist in efforts to conduct integrated planning and develop ecosystem-based approaches for transportation projects as outlined in Eco-Logical: an Ecosystem Approach to Developing Infrastructure Projects. This document is available at [www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecological/eco\\_index.asp](http://www.environment.fhwa.dot.gov/ecological/eco_index.asp). All levels of government, Tribal agencies, nonprofits, colleges/universities, and private entities are eligible to apply. Applications will be evaluated based on: the project's link to transportation, the ecosystem approach (working within a geographic framework defined by the ecological rather than jurisdictional boundaries), the ability to partner and leverage funding and resources, the ecological and community benefits, the potential for institutionalizing the project, and project performance measures. This grant program runs under the Surface Transportation Environment and Planning Cooperative Research Program (STEP).

**Additional information:**

[www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=13223&mode=VIEW](http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=13223&mode=VIEW) and select "How to Apply"

**Contact:** Bethaney Bacher-Gresock, [bethaney.bacher-gresock@dot.gov](mailto:bethaney.bacher-gresock@dot.gov) or 202-366-4196.

Submitted By: Anne Zimmermann, USFS/WO/WFW/Director

## **More on Eco-Logical And Submitting YOUR Application**

From FHWA:

The overall goals of Eco-Logical and an ecosystem approach to mitigation and to infrastructure projects are:

- to conserve larger, scarce, multi-resource ecosystems;
- increase habitat connectivity;
- improve predictability in environmental review and regulatory processes;
- provide better public involvement to improve transparency and establish greater credibility;
- and streamline infrastructure planning and project delivery.

Example efforts may include (but are not limited to) those that:

- create data and decision support systems to implement the Eco-Logical principles and concepts;
- build GIS maps of important ecological areas that can be used for infrastructure planning;
- convene multi-agency efforts to establish formal collaboration on conservation and transportation plans;
- and develop a landscape-level conservation strategy or plan for important habitat and/or resources useful to infrastructure and transportation planning and project delivery.

Submitted By: Sandra Jacobson, USFS/PSW

## **More Kids In The Woods – Award Winners**

The call for “More Kids in the Woods” applications went out in the winter. On May 22 the [24 winners were awarded](#) in Washington DC. Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*, hosted the awards ceremony. USFS Deputy Chief Ann Bartuska spoke to the group as well. [American Recreation Coalition](#) and the [USFS](#) posted summaries of the award ceremonies. More than \$500,000 was awarded from the USFS; combined with partners’ funding over \$1.5 million will get more kids in the woods this year. Congratulations winners!

Submitted By: Rhonda Stewart, USFS/WO/WFW

## **AIR**

### **Forest Service Integrates Smoke Forecasts into Google Earth!**

Scott Goodrick, Southern Research Station scientist, has done excellent work integrating daily smoke forecasts into Google Earth. These forecasts help communities determine potential health risks caused by current wildfires across south Georgia and north Florida and using Google Earth as a delivery tool makes the data more user friendly. It is but one of 5 FCAMMS delivering enhanced fire behavior, weather and smoke prediction products. [See the overarching FCAMM site](#) for links to the other FCAMMs. Each has a different approach based on stated or perceived needs of the customer base. These sites emphasize creative ways to deliver useful weather and climate products. Two limiting factors have yet to be tackled: the first is obtaining local scale (county level) meteorological observations especially in the boundary layer that

are important for small scale events; the second is reasonably accurate emissions data from wildland fires. Without this, the best any predictive model will provide is the probable location and time of the highest smoke concentration.

[Check out today's smoke forecast!](#)

Submitted By: Rich Fisher, USFS/WO/WFW/Air

## **AQUATIC/FISH**

### **Dan McKinney Wins the 2006 Sami Izzo Award!**

Congratulations to Dan McKinney for winning the [2006 Sami Izzo Award](#) from the White River Partnership (WRP). Dan is a fish biologist on the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont (USFS/R9). The award is given to individuals in recognition of their significant contributions to the WRP and our community. Dan has been involved with the WRP since its inception. Dan served on the first Board of Directors and from 2000 through 2005 was the WRP Projects Manager. Since

2005, Dan has continued this work on a volunteer basis – making site visits; designing restoration projects; writing permits; and overseeing project implementation. In addition, Dan is an active volunteer with the Upper River Stream Team. Mary Russ, WRP Executive Director, presented the award to Dan.



Mary Russ presents Dan McKinney with the 2006 Sami Izzo Award

Submitted By: Nick Schmal, USFS/R9/WFRPR

### **Holly Jennings Receives Huron Pines Award!**

By: Mark Curtiss (R09\_Huron-Manistee)  
In recognition of her outstanding efforts to protect and improve natural resources in Northeast Michigan by fostering strong partnerships between local organizations and the U.S. Forest Service, Zone Fisheries Biologist Holly Jennings received the Huron Pines Award from the Huron Pines Executive Board. The Huron Pines Award is given annually by the Executive Board to the group or individual who best exemplifies the principle of their Resource Conservation and Development program.



Holly Jennings is presented the Huron Pines Award from Brad Jensen.

As the zone fisheries biologist on the Huron-Manistee National Forests over the past eight years, Jennings has worked with Huron Pines and other partners on several projects, chief among those being the large woody debris projects and soil stabilization on the AuSable River. Jennings was also involved with the Pine River/Van Etten Lake Watershed Coalition and AuSable River Restoration Committee.

In a letter to Forest Supervisor Leanne Marten, Huron Pines Executive Director Brad Jensen expressed his sincere appreciation of Jennings's efforts. "Holly has always been a true professional, has been extremely helpful in working with all of our staff, and has quietly provided excellent advice and leadership while working as a member of several conservation committees throughout the area," the letter read.

Submitted By: Nick Schmal, USFS/R9/WFRPR  
(Edited for space) [Region 9's: USFS Success Story Reporting System](#) on the FSWeb (FS internet)

## **SOIL**

### **James K. Jordan Obituary**

Jim Jordan passed away on April 7, 2007. Jim was a premier scientist with the Forest Service, contributing to the fields of forest soils and ecology at regional, national and even international levels through his contacts with Canadian scientists. Less public was his helpful influence on the professional and personal lives of so many people he worked with.

From his early days on the Ottawa until his retirement in 1998, Jim received over 20 major awards, most for Sustained Superior Performance and Special Achievement. Perhaps Jim's greatest professional accomplishment was pioneering the development of an ecological land classification system that formed the basis for the National Hierarchy of Ecological Units.

Jim began his Forest Service career in June of 1967 in Ely Minnesota. In October of 1971, he moved to the Ottawa National Forest. It was on the Ottawa National Forest that Jim's vision of mapping ecological units by integrating multiple factors at multiple spatial scales became a reality. That system blossomed across all National Forests in the Lake States during the 1980's, and was adopted as national policy for application on National Forests across the country in 1994.

In 1992, Jim became the Lake States Zone Ecologist, and also the Eastern Regional Office's Regional Soil Scientist, serving all the National Forests in the northeast United States. Jim retired in 1998, but continued working with the Landscape Ecology Research Work Unit and the Eastern Regional Office out of Rhinelander, Wisconsin over the past 9 years. Over the course of his career, Jim helped map landscape and local ecosystems across all of the northern Lake States, as well as in parts of Arizona, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, and Vermont.

Along the way, Jim was a mentor for over 30 college students and professional soil scientists and ecologists. He had a profound influence on his scientific field, and on the lives of the many people he gently coached and advised for 40 years. Jim's persistence and determination made him an exemplary Forest Service employee, and has left a legacy that will continue to influence the future of the agency as we face existing and new challenges related to understanding the land base we manage.

Submitted By: David Cleland, USFS/R9/WFRPR

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## **TES - Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species**

### **State Wildlife Grants Allocated \$85 Million**

May 23, 2007: The House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, led by Chairman, Rep. Norm Dicks (D-WA), allocated \$85 million for the State Wildlife Grants Program, the nation's core program for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. This record level of funding for State Wildlife Grants has only been reached once before, in 2002. Detailed information available at: [www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com)

#### **Contact:**

Rachel Brittin, Teaming with Wildlife, 202-624-7744

Sean Robertson, Teaming with Wildlife, 202-624-5363

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

### **TES Project Accomplishments in FY06**

The WFRP-MS database is an activity-based database of wildlife, fish, TES and NatureWatch projects done by agency personnel with NFWF funds, and of future WFRP conservation opportunities that can be done with NFWF funds. It also documents the very significant partner contributions to conservation accomplishments, and the equally significant contributions and investments made with USFS regional funds - the "other" BLIs. We developed a new "Electronic Report Generator" that allows us to bundle groups of projects on specific topics and share them with partners and others on the internet. This is one of them - on numerous TES species conservation projects done with "other" fund contributions. Thanks to everyone entering data and doing great work. [wwwnotes.fs.fed.us:81/wo/wfrp/WFWPartnerships.nsf/report?openpage&id=111](http://wwwnotes.fs.fed.us:81/wo/wfrp/WFWPartnerships.nsf/report?openpage&id=111)

This report and others are available:

[wwwnotes.fs.fed.us:81/wo/wfrp/WFWPartnerships.nsf/reportlist](http://wwwnotes.fs.fed.us:81/wo/wfrp/WFWPartnerships.nsf/reportlist)

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

### **FY06 Forest Service Expenditures for T&E Species Conservation**

Under the 1988 ESA reauthorization, provisions were added by Congress requiring the USFWS to annually report federal expenditures to Congress. Funds identified are those that are "reasonably attributable" to specific T&E species. The data was compiled from what USFS biologists included in the WFRP-MS databases, mostly from the TES database, but also include some T&E expenditures from the Fisheries, Wildlife and NatureWatch databases. Many thanks to everyone who contributed data to WFRP-MS and worked on the WFRP validation process. In addition to NFS expenditures, those from other FS branches that could be attributed to species were included (mostly from Research and International Forestry). The agency invested over \$59 million in T&E species conservation and recovery, of which over \$5 million was land acquisitions. Some \$34 million was reasonably attributable to specific T&E species, and \$20 million benefited many or all of the 422 T&E species that use NFS lands. It is important to note that many of our individual project expenditures benefited more than one T&E species (and most projects also benefited certain sensitive species and other wildlife, fish and plant species). . Although the FY2006 Endangered Species Expenditure report is not yet posted on the FWS site, past year federal agency reports can be found at: [www.fws.gov/endangered/pubs/expenditurereports.html](http://www.fws.gov/endangered/pubs/expenditurereports.html)

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

## **WILDLIFE**

### **Answer the Call - Calling for Outstanding Service Award Nominations**

**Nominations Due: June 25, 2007**

Recognize your employee's significant efforts to restore and improve habitat for quail and upland game birds through our "Answer the Call" partnership award. We enjoy a strong partnership with Quail Unlimited, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Bureau of Land Management who help us fund and implement habitat projects across national forests and grasslands.

One individual from the Forest Service, one from the Bureau of Land Management, and two Quail Unlimited chapter members will be honored for demonstrating outstanding service and leadership in quail management and habitat conservation. Award winners will be announced at the Quail Unlimited national convention held in the Overland Park Convention Center; Overland Park, Kansas from July 20-22, 2007.

Submit electronic nominations to:

Gail Tunberg, USFS/R3/Wildlife Program Leader: [gtunberg@fs.fed.us](mailto:gtunberg@fs.fed.us), 505-842-3262

Roger Wells, Quail Unlimited National Habitat Director: [roger@qu.org](mailto:roger@qu.org), 620-443-5834

[Call Letter and Nomination Form](#)

Submitted By: Gail Tunberg, USFS/R3/WFRP

### **Wayne NF Received NWTF \$34,250**

On April 19, the Ironton District on the Wayne NF (OH) received \$34,250 from the National Wild Turkey Federation (NTWF) for a special barrier-free archery range to accommodate the physically challenged. Every April, the Ironton District hosts a very popular Wheelin' Sportsmen event. This is the first year that NWTF has made funds available from this special construction program and only awarded two grants this year across the nation.

Submitted By: Ted Schneck, USFS/WFW/Making Tracks Coordinator

Also seen in "The Chief's Desk" internal newsletter.

### **Migration – Science & Mystery**

Thursday, May 10th, the Forest Service hosted a 'virtual' field trip to Cooper River Delta, Alaska with hundred of thousands of shorebirds AND school children! Millions of shorebirds migrate more than 6,500 miles from Panama to Alaska each year. How and why do they do it? Using Web and satellite technology, this innovative, FS-supported project brought the fascinating world of shorebird migration to kids throughout the Western Hemisphere. Could this tool help your program reach new audiences? Missed the live broad cast? Watch the [recorded web cast/streaming video](#). Travel from Panama to Alaska via other recorded web casts.

[Program Information](#)

Safiya Samman, Director of Conservation Education, Becky Nourse, Alaska Desk and Anne Zimmermann, Director of WFW, hosted the WO-viewing of the "Migration-Science & Mystery" distance learning adventure.

Submitted By: Bill Otani, USFS/R6/Natural Resources

### **May is Be Bear Aware Month!**

Over 100 Montana Boy & Girl Scouts were trained in being Bear Aware during the May 11<sup>th</sup> weekend. It wasn't limited to being aware of bears but included wildlife stewardship; using wildlife safety techniques - avoiding confrontations with wildlife when hiking, camping, photographing or viewing wildlife. The "[Be Bear Aware](#) Instructors' Guide" was used. The guide was created as part of the "Be Bear Aware" program partnership. Communities are invited to host this program. Visit the "Be Bear Aware" and "Wildlife Stewardship" for more information. Center for Wildlife Information provides free downloadable materials – these materials are the only peer reviewed, accurate and timely program materials available.

**Contact:** Cheryl Carrothers, USFS/R5/EC - "Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship" Program Coordinator, [ccarrothers@fs.fed.us](mailto:ccarrothers@fs.fed.us)

Submitted By: Gail Tunberg, USFS/R3/WFRP

### **Be Bear Aware – Change in USFS National Program Coordinator**

**Many thanks to Gail Tunberg!** She led the Forest Service "Be Bear Aware" program efforts for the past 5 years, taking over from Leon Fisher. This effort was in addition to her normal duties as the USFS, Region 3 (Southwestern) Wildlife Program Manager. Gail did a great job developing partnerships and implementing a high quality program. Cheryl Carrothers is the new "Be Bear Aware" USFS program coordinator. Cheryl is the USFS/Region 5 (Pacific Southwest) Wildlife Program Manager. Gail, Cheryl and Rex Ennis are working together ensuring a smooth transition. Rex Ennis is the USFS, Region 8 (Southeastern) Wildlife Program Manager and regional "Be Bear Aware" coordinator. The "Be Bear Aware" program is formally known as "[Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Program](#)".

Submitted By: Gene DeGayner, USFS/WO/WFW

### **Comments on the "Living With Bears" Book**

Although the title is generic, the focus of "Living With Bears" is black bears. It is a compendium of anecdotal stories and interviews with communities and private citizens in Canada and the U.S. who strive to modify human behavior in order to reduce black bear mortality. Featured topics range from bear chasing dogs to a sanctuary that freely feeds "wild" bears and encourages people to come and watch "wild" bear behavior. Various bear management techniques are described, including aversion programs that "scare" bears away. This is portrayed as successful non-lethal black bear management. What is not discussed is where those "scared" bears go. Unfortunately, they are likely to move to another location and continue habituated and food conditioned behavior. Often, these bears become increasingly aggressive. Locations like the community of Whistler Mountain, featured in the book, discovered that aversion was not a successful deterrent. Officials were unable to keep black bears from seeking human provided sources of food and are now destroying those bears. The aversion program used at Yosemite National Park (also featured in the book) hazes bears out of park campgrounds with a variety of noisemakers, rubber bullets, and barking dogs. Unfortunately, the bears moved to adjacent campgrounds on the Inyo National Forest and continued breaking into automobiles and recreational vehicles. Moving a problem from one agency to another is not my definition of successful management. If you are responsible to manage human-bear interactions, this book provides an overview of a variety of management being implemented across many states and two

countries. It will increase your awareness of how humans are attempting to reduce interactions with bears.

Submitted By: Gail Tunberg, USFS/R3/WFRP

### **Notice of Availability of the Revised Recovery Plan for the Whooping Crane**

The US Fish & Wildlife Service announced the availability of the revised Recovery Plan for the Whooping Crane (*Grus Americana*). This is the third revision of the recovery plan for this species. Copies of the revised plan are available at: [www.fws.gov/angered](http://www.fws.gov/angered) (type "whooping crane" in the species search field).  
FR Notice: Vol.72, No. 102 pg. 29544

Submitted By: Jina Mariani, USFS/WO/WFW

### **USFS Wildlife Program Leaders – May Meeting**

The 2007 USFS Wildlife Program Leaders Meeting was held in Park City, Utah in early May. **Thanks to Danielle Chi** for coordinating and hosting the meeting. Danielle is the USFS Region 4 (Intermountain) Wildlife Program Leader. Danielle did a terrific job. Mary Wagner, Intermountain Deputy Regional Forester and Brian Ferebee, Unita NF Forest Supervisor kicked off the meeting. Their insights and suggestions instigated thoughtful discussions – a great way to kick off the meeting. We appreciate Mary and Brian taking the time to attend the first morning of the meeting. A few action items from the meeting include:

- Regions agreed to prepare/update wildlife strategic plans using goals from strategic plan to define wildlife program and to provide input for WO/RO transition. Agreed to use R2's plan as an example (thanks Melanie) (8 weeks)
- Committee formed to review role of wildlife data bases (Vojta, Brown, DeGayner). Others interested in participating are welcome.
- Committee formed to review proposed MOU with NABCI (Vojta, Ennis, DeGayner). Others interested in participating are welcome.
- Cheryl Carrothers is the new program coordinator for "Be Bear Aware". Gail Tunberg and Rex Ennis are assisting with the transition (see above story).



L to R/back to front: Shelly Witt, Gail Tunberg, Bill Otani, Ted Schenck, Danielle Chi, Mike Goldstein, Michael Bornstein, Rex Ennis, Melanie Woolever, Skip Kowalski, Christina Vojta, Rex Ennis, Jina Mariani, Cheryl Carrothers, and Clint McCarthy. Timpanogos Cave National Monument, National Park Service.

For detailed meeting notes contact Jina Mariani, [jmariani@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmariani@fs.fed.us).

Submitted By: Gene DeGayner, USFS/WO/WFW

### **Skip Kowalski & Norm Weiland Announce Their Retirements!**

At the May 2007 USFS Wildlife Program Leaders Meeting, Skip Kowalski and Norm Weiland announced their pending retirements. Skip is the Region 1 (Northern Region) Wildlife Program Manager and is retiring within the year. Norm is the R9 (Eastern Region) Wildlife Program Manager is retiring in August. Both are smart and savvy program managers – their expertise will be missed! Congratulations gentlemen and happy trails!

Submitted By: Gene DeGayner, USFS/WO/WFW

## **Coming Events – Conferences & Meetings:**

### **WILDLIFE**

#### **Wildlife/TES Meetings of Interest – Get Ready To Go!**

Ecol. Soc. of America/Soc. for Ecol. Restoration joint meeting

Dates: August 5-10, 2007      San Jose CA

NatureServe Leadership Conference

Dates: October 1-3, 2007      Golden CO

Watchable Wildlife Conference

Dates: October 3-5, 2007      Tucson AZ

#### **Boone and Crockett Club 26<sup>th</sup> Big Game Awards**

June 21 – 23, 2007

Boone and Crockett Club's 26th Big Game Awards Program Banquet and related activities will take place at Cabela's store in Fort Worth, Texas.

[Events Schedule](#)

[Registration Materials](#)

Submitted By: Rhonda Stewart, USFS/WO/WFW

## **Technical Information & Publications:**

### **GENERAL/ACROSS AREAS**

#### **Encyclopedia of Life**

[www.eol.org/home.html](http://www.eol.org/home.html)

The Encyclopedia of Life is an ecosystem of websites making all key information about life on Earth accessible to anyone, anywhere in the world. The goal is to create a constantly evolving encyclopedia that lives on the Internet, with contributions from scientists and amateurs alike. Ultimately, the Encyclopedia of Life will provide an online database for all 1.8 million species now known to live on Earth. Providing depth behind the portal page for each species, the Biodiversity Heritage Library (BHL), a consortium that holds most of the relevant scientific literature, will scan and digitize tens of millions of pages of the scientific literature that will offer open access to detailed knowledge. The BHL has scanned the first 1.25 million pages for the Encyclopedia.

Submitted By: Michael J. Furniss, USFS/PNW & PSW

## **TES - Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species**

### **NatureServe & NG S Collaborate on Online Encyclopedia Project**

[NatureServe](#) & [National Geographic Society](#) are collaborating on a multimedia map-based website (5.17.07). The project aims to increase the pace and effectiveness of land protection investments in the United States by inspiring and informing place-based, collaborative conservation efforts in every state. Harnessing the best available conservation science and information technology, the partners will create an interactive online "encyclopedia" with a state-of-the-art map viewer that integrates detailed maps, text, photos, statistics, audio, and video about America's natural places.

[www.natureserve.org/projects/encyclopedia.jsp](http://www.natureserve.org/projects/encyclopedia.jsp)

**Contact:** Lori Scott, [lori\\_scott@natureserve.org](mailto:lori_scott@natureserve.org) or 703-908-1877

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

## **WILDLIFE**

### **Gone with the Wind: Impacts of Wind Turbines on Birds and Bats**

House Natural Resources Committee hosted a hearing on Wind Turbines Impact on Birds & Bats on May 1, 2007. Witness testimonies can be found at:

<http://resourcescommittee.house.gov/hearings/hearingdetail.aspx?NewsID=61>

Submitted By: Jina Mariani, USFS/WO/WFW

### **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Launches Two New Websites**

The Forest Service's state wildlife and fish agency partners and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies have announced the launch of two new websites. The [www.wildlifeactionplans.org](http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org) website provides detailed information on the recently approved comprehensive State Wildlife Action Plans, and the partnerships forming to ensure their implementation. The revamped [www.teaming.com](http://www.teaming.com) will be the online home for the Teaming with Wildlife coalition and provide information on the need for new and greater funding to prevent wildlife and fish species from becoming endangered.

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

### **Migratory Birds – NFSL Surf Alert!**

National Forest Service Library provides a selection of migratory bird literature in their May 2007 "Surf Alert". Surf Alerts are provided every month.

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/library/alerts/salert0703.htm>

Available only through a Forest Service Intranet (FSWeb) connection.

**Contact:** Julie Blankenburg, [jblankenburg@fs.fed.us](mailto:jblankenburg@fs.fed.us)

Submitted By: Shelly Witt, USFS/WO/WFW

## Training – Tools – Interesting Information:

### Training

#### GENERAL/CROSS AREAS

##### Free SkillSoft Training Available in AgLearn

Full-time USDA employees have access to over 2500 SkillSoft courses via an enterprise license. Employees will now have access to training 24 hours a day, wherever an Internet connection is available. Access to the SkillSoft Library is available at no additional cost at [www.AgLearn.USDA.gov](http://www.AgLearn.USDA.gov).

Four collections:

1. Business Skills, such as project management, leadership, and communication,
2. IT Professional such as internet/network technologies, web design, and software development,
3. IT End User Skills such as MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Project, and Access, and
4. Legal Compliance/Federal Government such as Harassment Issues, HIPPA Privacy Rules and Diversity in the Workplace

Submitted By: Shelly Witt, USFS/WO/WFW

#### WILDLIFE

##### Innovative Approaches to Wildlife and Highway Interactions

**Dates: July 10 – 12, 2007**

The 12th session of [Innovative Approaches to Wildlife and Highway Interactions](#) is open for enrollment. The course addresses planning issues for highway construction as well as mitigation and funding for existing highway impacts to wildlife including loss of habitat connectivity and vehicle-caused mortality.

Of special interest to Forest Service employees will be discussions on the use of statewide habitat connectivity workshops to provide a framework to identify and prioritize linkage areas in an interagency context, and the current transportation bill's mandate to involve the resource agencies in integrating transportation and conservation planning...these are practical ways Forest Service employees can influence the 'loss of open space' and its effects on adjacent national forests. The course is open to everyone.

The Madison course will include a field trip to Horicon National Wildlife Refuge, The Nature Conservancy's Baraboo Hills and/or the (Aldo) Leopold Reserve.

**Contact:** Sandra Jacobson, Pacific Southwest Research Station, Arcata CA, [sjacobson@fs.fed.us](mailto:sjacobson@fs.fed.us) 541-678-5240

Submitted By: Sandra Jacobson, USFS/PSW

## **Yellowstone Carnivore Class**

**Dates: June 11 – 15, 2007**

This Forest Service sponsored class is designed for line officers and program managers. Pertinent issues relating to carnivore management, policy, biology, and landscape-scale management are covered to enhance and facilitate decision-making processes. This class is sponsored by the Northern Region WWFRP.

Registration: Yellowstone Association Institute at 307-344-2294.

Information Contact: Jim Claar, National Carnivore Program Leader, 406-329-3664 or [jclaar@fs.fed.us](mailto:jclaar@fs.fed.us).

Submitted By: Marc Bosch, USFS/WO/WFW

## **Interesting Information**

### **AQUATIC**

#### **Forest Teams up with Ohio State University to Monitor Streams**

By: Rebecca Ewing (R09\_Wayne)

The Wayne National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan calls for the establishment of long-term aquatic ecological monitoring sites that will provide information on the status and change of physical, chemical, and biological aspects of stream systems in the Wayne National Forest. Identifying aquatic ecological parameters that change over time in various geomorphological settings, and that are subject to varying disturbances in the landscape, will aid in the shaping of Forest Service land management decisions and activities to ensure sustainability of aquatic resources.

In 2006, the Wayne and The Ohio State University Research Foundation entered into a participating agreement to install 14 long-term monitoring sites and to collect and analyze baseline physical, chemical, and biological data for each site. The partnership with The Ohio State University enabled some of its students to obtain hands-on field experience necessary for today's workforce. Field data were collected using the Forest Service's Draft Aquatic Ecological Unit Inventory Technical Guide.



Researchers from Ohio State University are planning to use our data to compare stream recovery and change in glaciated/agricultural landscapes and unglaciated/forested landscapes in Ohio. They are also considering the possibility of using our data to develop a watershed assessment tool for use at the county Soil and Water Conservation District level.

#### **Recycling the O'Connor Bridge**

By: Janel Crooks (R09\_Hiawatha)

The abandoned and dilapidated O'Connor Bridge had fallen from one of its bank abutments and was partially within the active channel of the Sturgeon Wild and Scenic River during periods of moderate to high flow. The bridge obstructed Sturgeon River's free flow causing unnatural bank and channel erosion in the area and was a potential hazard to canoeists and an impediment to recreational use. Removal of the bridge would allow a more natural flow regime through the area and enhance the recreational

value of the reach; however, removal of the structure was prohibited by the cost of the operation (estimated cost to be around \$30,000).



In the summer of 2006, the Hannahville Indian Community expressed interest in removing the bridge from the Sturgeon River, restoring it, and using it on a golf course. After ensuring the bridge had very little value and no historical significance, the USDA Hiawatha NF, Rapid River District negotiated an arrangement whereby Hannahville incurred all of the costs associated with removing the structure, thus enhancing free flow of the Sturgeon River through the area. The structure was successfully removed in February of 2007 with no disruption to the bed or banks of the Sturgeon River. Plans are in the works to cooperate with Hannahville to remove the bridge's abutments in the summer of 2007 after the completion of a Section 7 analysis under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

### **From Holiday Cheer to Fish Habitat**

By: Amanda Kunzmann (R09\_Hoosier)

The Tell City Ranger District collected Christmas trees this year, after the holiday season, to put into Tipsaw, Indian, and Celina Lakes to improve available fish habitat. In all, a total of 120 trees were dropped off by Perry County residents and the Tell City Trash Collection Department.

Tell City Ranger District employees Russ Christensen, Todd Dempsey, and Chris Thornton helped to tie the bundles and cinder blocks together while Randy Lutz drove the boat. Approximately 40 trees were submerged in various locations in each of the three lakes. Once submerged, the recycled Christmas trees will offer habitat to enhance feeding and cover for a variety of fish species including largemouth bass and bluegill. Creating more underwater habitat for bass and bluegill fisheries is a means to increase the number of these game fish, and increase the size and quantity of fish available to anglers.



Submitted By: Nick Schmal, USFS/R9/WFRPR

**Edited for space limits.**

[Region 9's: USFS Success Story Reporting System](#) on the FSWeb (FS internet)  
open to all the USFS – submit your “Success Story”

# Vacancies/Employment Opportunities

**Federal job announcements can be found at:**

[http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency\\_search.asp](http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp)

## **NW Directorate of Programs – US Dept of the Army**

The Corps (Northwestern Division) currently has an opening in Planning, Environmental, and Fish Policy Division. Located in Portland, Oregon. The position will be shared between the 3 groups pending priority and need.

GS-0401, 0408, 0482, 0486, 1301-13.

Opens 24 May 2007; Closes 25 June 2007

Posted on CPOL ([www.cpol.army.mil](http://www.cpol.army.mil)) and USAJOBS ([www.usajobs.opm.gov](http://www.usajobs.opm.gov)).

This is a Full Time Permanent position.

**Contact:** Rock Peters, 503-808-3723

## 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 Meteorology) of the USDA Forest Service. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Netta Grant at [agrant@fs.fed.us](mailto:agrant@fs.fed.us) or your favorite Program Leader no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

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

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

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