

On The Wild Side

WILDLIFE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



USDA FOREST SERVICE



JANUARY 2004

A SPECIAL NOTE

Seona Brown, Ecosystem Planning Biologist, will be joining the FAUNA Staff of the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS) Station, Gainesville, GA. Seona has been the Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, Soil, and Rare Plant Ecosystem Management Planning Biologist since 1999. She has been an enormously positive force for fish and wildlife in planning, law, and policy over the years. She broke new ground and contributed immensely to a number of difficult projects of national significance. Her work has been far-reaching and indelible. Seona is looking forward to moving with her family to Georgia, and will be a great addition to the NRIS FAUNA Module. We will greatly miss Seona and her dedication and expertise here in the Washington Office. We hope you join us in wishing Seona Brown the very best her new adventure!

ENVIRONMENTALIST OF CONSERVATIONIST OR DOES IT MATTER?

Written by Jane Elder, Executive Director for Biodiversity Project in Madison, WI (article originates from a Fall 2003 newsletter for the Biodiversity Project)

When you speak out for environmental protection, are you an environmentalist, or a conservationist, and does it really make that much of a difference? To some people in the field, there is a huge difference, and they will make a considerable effort to distinguish themselves. Usually, it is a conservationist claiming that they aren't an environmentalist; and most self-described environmentalists don't seem to care that much about which label they are assigned. But, before I spark off a huge debate about Pinchot and Muir, and how hunting license fees pay for conservation and all the other things that feed into this well-worn discussion, let me call a time out. Let's not talk about the inside-the-family debate, because I doubt we'll settle it here. Instead, let's look at how the public sees these labels, and how it affects how we should use them in communications.

The public does see a difference between conservationist and environmentalist, but it doesn't necessarily see the distinctions we do. In our focus groups conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart over the last two years we've seen a consistent pattern in how people characterize the two labels. (These observations are echoed in findings from other research projects throughout the U.S.) Here is a quick and cursory overview of general public impressions.

- Environmentalist: Someone whose agenda and work is driven by a set of over-arching beliefs – an ideology
- Conservationist: Someone who is working on a practical solution to a particular problem.
- Environmentalist: The environment is to be saved, preserved, set aside, protected from human abuse.
- Conservationist: The environment is something we use, so we have to conserve it and take care of it, so that others can use it in the future.
- Environmentalist: From somewhere else - a national, international, or state capitol group.
- Conservationist: Local, a neighbor or community member
- Environmentalist: Extreme, radical, impassioned
- Conservationist: Practical, balanced
- Environmentalist: Rarely satisfied
- Conservationist: Pragmatic
- Environmentalist: Gloomy
- Conservationist: Solution-oriented
- Environmentalist: Plays a necessary role - a public conscience and watchdog. Makes a difference.
- Conservationist: Contributes to the community. Makes a difference.
- Environmentalist: Slightly superior/righteous (I don't waste energy, eat GMO food, why do you!?).
- Conservationist: Just one of us
- Environmentalist Stereotype: Greenpeace activist
- Conservationist Stereotype: Local duck hunter

One might think from a comparison like this that it is a simple "no-brainer" to opt for the conservationist label in public communications, but it isn't quite that simple. The public perception is influenced by a level of discomfort with tactics they associate with environmentalists, but many will acknowledge that those tactics can be effective and sometimes necessary. So, in some cases, the public may not warm up to environmentalists but they respect the role environmentalists' play. In other cases, tactics that the public views as extreme and inflammatory overshadow any message. As pollster John Russonello has pointed out in workshops this past year, for the environmental movement, the tactic often is the message, whether we like it or not. So just slapping a conservationist label on an environmental tactic won't succeed.

The public tends to blur all environmental groups together, so the tactics of one color the reputation of others. In focus groups, people can typically name Greenpeace and sometimes Sierra Club when asked to identify environmental groups (there's that "national" notion). Beyond that, name recognition for environmental groups drops right off. For conservation groups, they often name state fish and wildlife agencies, and sometimes a local group, blurring the distinction between agencies and nonprofits.

During focus groups in Wisconsin this summer, we found that prominent state environmentalists were more recognized than the groups they came from. I guess we all have quite a way to go on organizational branding!

So back to this environmentalist label. While it can be problematic, I think it is a mistake for the environmental movement to dispose of this label like a pair of shoes that don't fit anymore. Environmentalist is a term that has power and meaning in our culture, but some of that meaning is negative. We face the challenge of re-claiming it on terms that work for us. Re-staking rhetorical turf isn't easy, but the alternative is to cede the term to those who would seek to marginalize it and the environmental movement as well. Taking back the power of our word will take time and persistence and message discipline.

One step to reclaiming "environmentalist" will be to celebrate and claim the strengths of the term '- our conviction and passion and love for the natural world - while shaking up old assumptions that lead to negative perceptions. We can begin to do this by putting new faces on what it means to be an environmentalist - faces that look as mainstream as our next door neighbors, as diverse as our culture, as fresh as our children, as wise as our grandparents. We can do this authentically, because we all know environmentalists like this, and we're all as American as pumpkin pie. We're not just the stereotypical images that make it on the evening news. (But those old images make better news than thoughtful community leaders engaged in building a better future.).

We can also do a better job of claiming the tactics that have high positives. We work in diverse coalitions and partnerships, and often this means with community groups and businesses. In local coalitions, people get to know each other, and it is amazing how that "wacko" image disappears when you are working shoulder-to-shoulder with neighbors and friends. One of my favorite New Yorker cartoons is a classic. Two women are talking and one says to the other, "He's in the Sierra Club, but he's, not, you know, a 'nut.'

"Environmentalists care about people and solutions too, but we need to do a better job at communicating this. Every poll that we've been involved with over the last two years tells us we need to help people see that there are solutions and explain why they will be effective. We can put a check mark next to gloom - the public wants to know: what can we do about it?

So, does it matter, this environmentalist/conservationist distinction? Yes. By better understanding public perceptions about these labels, we can craft more insightful communications strategies and use the strengths of both terms when we need to draw upon them. We can also put ourselves back in the drivers seat on shaping how we want these terms to be framed in our culture. We can choose to be champions or victims on the rhetorical battlefield, and it is a lot more fun to be in charge of the language and terms of the debate. We may never resolve the internal discussion (I am beginning to dread being confronted at the next conference I attend), but we owe it to our movement to get our public discourse in order. There is power and opportunity in it.

JOINT VENTURES – PARTNERS IN STEWARDSHIP

***Speech Delivered by USDA Forest Service Chief, Dale Bosworth
Los Angeles, CA - November 18, 2003***

Thank you, Fran—and thanks to all of you who have come here this week to explore how we can best work together as partners to care for our nation's public lands and natural resources.

Those of us who work in land management agencies and related fields often feel like we've got some of the greatest jobs in the world. We spend our lives taking care of the great legacy of public lands that are the birthright of all Americans. In doing so, we spend a lot of time in the company of people who share our commitment to conservation and our passion for being outdoors. Most of us fall in love with the land long before we go into the business of caring for the land. I may be Chief of the Forest Service today, but not so long ago I was just a lucky kid whose dad happened to be a district ranger.

As great as our jobs are sometimes, they are not without conflict. There will always be controversy surrounding public land management, heritage preservation, and natural resource conservation. It's frustrating sometimes, but we've got to remind ourselves that it's democracy in action. People in this country care about their natural resources and they voice their concerns, sometimes pretty strongly. That's not going to change. We will never just get it fixed and then move on to something else. As old issues fade away, new ones arise because ecosystems are dynamic living systems.

For example, the problem of wildland fire gets a lot of attention in the media, so the public hears the debate on the subject, especially during fire season. Other equally important threats to forest health—such as invasive species, loss of open space, and unmanaged recreation—rarely get the same amount of attention. That's sometimes a problem when we ask Congress for money to deal with these threats or we ask people to change their behavior to protect fragile ecosystems. It helps when we all come together to communicate a clear message and then work together in partnership to create a better future for our public lands, our communities, and our planet.

Honest public debate also helps us work with people upfront instead of doing our own thing and engaging people later. Many of you know this as “collaboration,” but it is really about working together. In today's world, people expect to be informed and involved in decisions that affect them. They also expect us to work effectively with each other to carry out our respective agency missions. The Healthy Forests Initiative and the stewardship contracting authority are two opportunities the Forest Service has to integrate partnership activities into our daily work. We will look for other opportunities. There are sure to be some bumps along the way; if we are respectful of each other and the public we serve, the bumps may slow us down, but they will not prevent us from reaching our long-term goals of strong communities and ecosystem health. During this conference, you will hear many case studies about the power of the American landscape to inspire people to work together for the benefit of protected areas and other special places. This power of place helps people maintain local parks and green space in urban areas like the Los Angeles Basin. It helps us care for national icons like Yellowstone, and it helps people stay on the land in rural areas when they might be better off materially in some big city. Regardless of whom we work for and where we come from, working in partnership comes down to taking care of the land and taking care of communities. To emphasize this point, I want to take a minute to talk about what is happening during this fire season.

In recent weeks here in southern California, when wildfires were raging out of control, we saw some of the best examples of selfless service and partnership from all of the firefighting agencies, emergency services, and their community partners. There were stories in the media of firefighters who stayed on the line and support personnel who completed their assignments, giving everything they could to protect lives and property, even though their own homes were lost and their families were displaced. Those of us familiar with firefighting see this over and over again—that American tradition of pulling together in the face of great danger or tragedy. It seems to bring out the best of us as a people. In spite of our individual or collective losses, we feel a

need to serve our neighbors, take care of each other, and give something back to our communities.

I salute all the men and women who responded to the emergency here. You deserve the honor of your colleagues and the gratitude of those you have served.

There is still some fire season left in this part of the country; I'm confident we will continue to work through it together. As the fires die down, the restoration work begins. The emergency rehabilitation teams arrived before the fires were completely out to care for the land and put burned ecosystems on the road to recovery. These teams rarely get the same publicity as the firefighters, but their jobs are just as vital, and they are always looking for volunteers. I want to close by giving you my commitment to the Partnership Pledge. I will work with all of the agency heads to improve the way we share information and coordinate programs. We must challenge ourselves to find solutions for the good of the land and provide a seamless system of service to the users of public lands. This conference is more than a chance to sign a pledge, it's an opportunity to move toward those goals.

SECRETARY NORTON URGES INTERIOR CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS TO EXPAND CITIZEN STEWARDSHIP PARTNERSHIPS

Los Angeles, CA - November 18, 2003

Los Angeles, CA - Interior Secretary Gale Norton commended federal and private land managers for the conservation partnerships they have forged with communities and urged them to find new ways to connect citizen stewards with landscapes and habitat. Speaking to the opening session of Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship Conference, Norton said for conservation to succeed in the 21st century, "we must involve the people who live on, work on and love the land."

"The environmental challenges we face today are in many ways more subtle and more difficult than we have faced in the past," Norton said. "This conference will supply the knowledge, skills and tools needed to work with partners and create opportunities."

Noting President Bush's strong support for citizen stewardship initiatives, Norton said the Interior budget the president signed last week contains almost \$120 million for the Cooperative Conservation Initiative in 2004, an increase of about \$19 million over FY 2003. At President Bush's request, more than \$42 million is included in the Department's 2004 budget for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, a 13 percent increase over 2003 levels. This will allow more than 1,000 additional private landowners to participate in the program.

The conference, at the Los Angeles Convention Center, focused on the importance of federal, public-private partnerships and how planning and working together will provide for future success. An estimated 1,500 participants took part in the three-day conference, which has 250 educational sessions. The meeting brought together much of the senior leadership of Interior's National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs; along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Several hundred representatives of state and local governments, non-profit associations, concessionaires, universities and many others who work with federal and state land management agencies participated in the conference. More information is on-line at www.partnerships2003.org.

THE CHIEF'S FOUR THREATS

By Jane Knowlton,

Office of Communication, Washington Office

When the Chief outlined his "Four Threats", Unmanaged Recreation was included as one of the key concerns facing the nation's forest and grasslands today, particularly as it relates to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) use on Forest Service managed lands.

Now, two agency teams are working to address this issue with the goal of developing a new national OHV policy for field use in deciding which roads, trails and areas will be designated for OHV use. The initiative will involve policy changes to federal regulations with a draft rule scheduled for publication in the federal register by early 2004, followed by a public comment period.

Jack Troyer, the Regional Forester for the Intermountain Region, is heading up the National OHV Policy Team. "This is a big undertaking with many different interest groups involved. As a multiple-use agency, we want to offer the appropriate mix of programs and services to our publics," he said.

The Policy Team is focused on three key points for a designated use system to minimize or eliminate the impacts from unmanaged OHV use:

- Wheeled OHV travel will be allowed on designated roads, trails and areas.
- Cross-country travel by wheeled OHVs will generally be prohibited; and
- Decisions of which roads, trails and areas to designate will be made at the field level.

A number of diverse interests – including the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, the Blue Ribbon Coalition, the National Association of Counties and several conservation organizations – have indicated their support for this direction. "Based on the outreach the Regional Foresters and team members have made with these and other key stakeholders on this issue, we're getting a lot of encouragement, support and interest in the initiative. Our goal is to involve them in the policy making process to provide quality OHV recreational experiences while meeting our responsibility to manage and protect natural resources," Troyer added.

An OHV Implementation Team, led by Marlene Finley, the Deputy Director for Recreation from the Pacific Southwest Region, will develop and provide tools, techniques and best practices associated with managing OHVs to assist the field with implementing the new policy. For more information about the policy effort, please contact Jack Troyer at jtroyer@fs.fed.us or Mary Wagner, the Washington Office Assistant Director for Wilderness, at mwagner@fs.fed.us. For more information on the implementation process, contact Marlene Finley at mfinley01@fs.fed.us.

Internal Agency Web Site: http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/2003/dec19/OHV.htm

WILD TURKEY FEDERATION SUPPORTS SIGNING OF LANDMARK FOREST BILL

December 2, 2003

The highly anticipated Healthy Forests Restoration Act (H.R. 1904) has passed both houses of Congress and was signed into law by President Bush during a special ceremony held at the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) South Building in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 3, 2003, at 10:40 a.m.

Passage of the bill involved bipartisan efforts of lawmakers from both houses of Congress, as well as input and support from the American Wildlife Conservation Partners, a partnership of national conservation organizations including the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf). Rob Keck, CEO of the NWTf, will be attending the ceremony to show support for the bill that will improve overall forest health, including wildlife habitat, by allowing active management of the nation's forests. "The NWTf has always been in favor of proper management of wildlife and their habitat," Keck said. "This bill, though not perfect, is a big step in the right direction." Commonly known as the healthy forests initiative, the bill would allow forest managers to remove fallen trees and underlying brush that has grown through years of unnatural fire suppression. This dead wood and brush fuels many of the high-intensity wildfires that destroy millions of acres of forests, not to mention hundreds of homes, every year. The bill also will allow the use of forest thinning and other management tools, and will streamline the management plan approval process that has plagued forest managers in recent years. It also will require judges to consider long-term benefits when determining rulings in lawsuits. "The risks to human lives, personal property and our natural resources have to be considered when forming a forest management plan," Keck said. "We can no longer just sit back and think that everything will work out for the best with no planning or active management. We have to take an active role to manage our national forests, and this bill goes a long way toward incorporating the needs of humans, forests and wildlife into a workable plan."

For more information about the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (H.R. 1904), go to the House of Representative's Web site, www.house.gov, or the Senate's Web site www.senate.gov.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE IN FARMED HERDS

The APHIS herd certification program (HCP) is undergoing final regulatory review and implementation is expected in 2004. This program was developed in coordination with States and the farmed cervid industry and incorporates existing State programs, which meet or exceed national program standards. Once the program is implemented, captive cervid owners can participate in their approved State programs, or they can participate directly in the national program if no approved state program exists. Program requirements include fencing, individual animal ID's, regular inventories, and testing of all animals over 16 months that die for any reason. With each year of successful surveillance, participating herds will advance in status until reaching five years with no evidence of CWD, at which time herds are certified as being low risk for CWD. Interstate movement of animals will be dependent on participation in the program, and additions to herds can impact herd status.

Several states already have CWD monitoring or certification programs for captive herds. To find out more about your states activities related to CWD, visit the State Information page links to state agricultural agencies. Comments can now be submitted on the Proposed Rule concerning CWD Herd Certification Program and Interstate Movement of Deer and Elk. Comments are due on or before February 23, 2004.



See Federal Register: December 24, 2003 (Volume 68, Number 247)]

NEBRASKA NAWCA GETS COUNCIL NOD

PLAYA Post, Vol. 2 Issue 1, January 2004

During its December 9 meeting, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council recommended awarding \$855,000 in matching funds for a \$3 million conservation project that would protect in perpetuity 3,000 acres along the North Platte River in western Nebraska. The project, titled North Platte Basin Project I, was submitted by Platte River Basin Environments, Inc. (PRBE) to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act Standard Grants program.

PRBE is a non-profit conservation partnership made up of federal and state wildlife agencies, national and local conservation and sportsmen groups, based in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The project involves protecting a 3,092-acre wetland and upland complex through acquisition, restoration and enhancement on land that provides important migratory, breeding and wintering habitat for a variety of birds, including northern pintail, western grebe, long-billed curlew, red-headed woodpecker and Swanson's hawk. Partners involved in the project include the Nebraska Environmental Trust, Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, University of Nebraska, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and several private landowners, among others.

"We are very proud of the number of partners we have, and our success depends largely on the guidance and mentoring of the many organizations that have contributed money and expertise to our projects," said Hod Kosman, President of PRBE. "More importantly, we have always relied on good science, biology and information from our partners."

Grants Program Financial Overview for FY 2004

As of the Council meeting, a total of \$34,591,911 in funding remained available for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (Act) Grants Program for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004. Of this amount, \$16,127,446 remained for projects in Canada, \$17,869,472 for projects in the United States (including \$2 million for Small Grants), and \$594,993 for projects in Mexico.

In March 2004, the U.S. Standard Grants proposals the U.S. Migratory Bird Conservation Commission will make the final decision on which other projects will receive NAWCA funding. The Council's next meeting will be held on March 9, 2004, at Grand Kankakee Marsh, Indiana. For a complete summary of the meeting, contact David Buie at (301) 497-5870 or Rodecia McKnight at (703) 358-2266. Both may also be reached via email at dbhc@fws.gov. For more information see: <http://www.pljv.org/index.html>

FOREST SERVICE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES FINAL PHASE OF GALLATIN LAND CONSOLIDATION ACT OF 1988

Press Release, Gallatin National Forest, December 15, 2003

The Forest Service announced that it has successfully acquired the last two Big Sky Lumber (BSL) sections in the Taylor Fork drainage, thereby completing the final phase of the Gallatin Land Consolidation Act of 1998 (Gallatin II). The 1998 Act authorized the Forest Service to acquire and consolidate into public ownership about 54,100 acres of checkerboard ownership lands within the Gallatin National Forest.

Becki Heath, Gallatin National Forest Supervisor, remarked, "The acquisition of the Taylor Fork lands is the culmination of years of stellar efforts by Forest Service personnel and partner organizations such as the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks, Trust for Public Land, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. The unwavering support of the Montana delegation, particularly Senator Burns and his staff, was also key to the successful completion of this project."

Senator Burns was responsible for a key rider to the Appropriations Act of 2004, which gave the Forest Service new tools and authorities to complete the acquisition. The new legislation allowed the Forest Service to borrow Land and Water Conservation Funds (LWCF) to pay off the final balance (\$3.5 million) and then to reimburse the borrowed funds through a variety of mechanisms including excess timber receipts. The legislation also provided for the payment of interest to BSL landowners for the four Taylor Fork parcels that were held in escrow from 1999 to 2003.

"These lands will continue to provide habitat for some of Montana's most recognized populations of elk, deer, mountain goats, moose, bighorn sheep, and grizzly bears," said Kurt Alt, Region 3 Wildlife Manager for Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks. "The rapport of Montana's Congressional delegation and the Governor's Office was vital to the success of this overall land consolidation effort," Alt added.

Ron Marcoux, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's Lands Program Manager, stated, "This final acquisition caps the major efforts of many people over an extended period of time. I want to commend the Trust for Public Land, the Forest Service, and the Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks for their diligent efforts."

According to Alex Diekmann, Project Manager for The Trust for Public Land, "The Trust for Public Land is pleased to hear that the last component of the Gallatin II land exchange is finally complete. The Taylor Fork is an ecological and recreational treasure many people have been trying to protect for more than 15 years, and The Trust for Public Land is pleased to have contributed to this effort."

The parcels acquired in the Taylor Fork represent 10,557 acres of the overall 54,100-acre land consolidation effort authorized by the Gallatin Land Consolidation Act of 1998.

COLLABORATING ON A WILDLIFE HABITAT HANDBOOK

***Deb Beighley, National Transportation Planning Program Engineer
USDA Forest Service, Washington Office***

Although interagency coordination is necessary to successful environmental stewardship, the missions of individual agencies are sometimes at odds. To help solve this problem, an interagency team is developing a shared vision for maintaining the nation's wildlife resources while meeting each agency's unique mission. In October 2002, the team began drafting a Wildlife and Fisheries Policies and Practices Handbook. Participating agencies are learning to understand each other's roles, responsibilities, and processes; share information and data; and establish wildlife-related priorities. The team includes the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and several state Department of Transportation and fish and wildlife agencies. A draft of the handbook is expected to be complete in January. A completed handbook is expected in 2004. The intent is for the handbook to be a helpful tool when working through some of the wildlife/fisheries issues on projects with the FHWA and DOT's.

Tom Pettigrew, Region 1 Director, Engineering; Bill Ruediger, Ecology Program Leader for Highways, Region 1, and Deb Beighley, Transportation Planner, Washington Office, have been active with the interagency team while other folks have been "tapped" for input and specifics. See <http://environment.fhwa.dot.gov/strmlng/newsletters/sep03nl.htm>

ACCESS TO ANNUAL REVIEW JOURNALS

***Carol Lynn Hardy, Forest Wildlife Biologist,
George Washington & Jefferson National Forests***

"I stumbled across this today. The publisher of Annual Review journals is not listed as a vendor on Digitop, our online source to literature (that I can tell), but if you are on a USDA computer, we apparently have access (see link below). The one I use most is the Annual Review of Ecology and Systematics, a yearly publication of invited papers synthesizing current knowledge on ecology and systematics-related topics. These are excellent literature reviews written by top researchers in the chosen topic's field. For instance, the 2001 issue has an article entitled "The role of disturbance in the ecology and conservation of birds", by Jeffrey Brawn, Scott Robinson, and Frank Thompson. You can access the full-text articles in a variety of formats, print it, or save it on your computer, which is very useful to those of us not near University libraries. Click on the link below, than use the pull down menu to select the journal you are interested in. They go back to the 1970s. I have also included the link on Digitop that will take you to vendor sites of other scientific journal publishers providing us access to full-text articles."

<http://www.annualreviews.org>

<http://www.nal.usda.gov/digitop/digitips.shtml#directlinks>

JACK ADAMS, LLOYD SWIFT, AND FOREST SERVICE - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT CONSERVATION AWARDS

January 15 is the due date for nominations to recognize outstanding, sustained employee performance for the Jack Adams and Lloyd W. Swift Senior Awards. This will also be the third year of awarding two joint Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management awards for wildlife, fisheries, and native plant conservation accomplishment. They are the Conservation Partner and Conservation Project awards. These awards recognize an outstanding joint FS-BLM Conservation Project and an outstanding FS-BLM Conservation Leadership Partner. Nominees should exemplify outstanding conservation accomplishments for fish, wildlife, and/or native plants, including their use, enjoyment, and appreciation. A description and criteria for each of these awards are enclosed. The selection committees will be identified by the Director of the Bureau of Land Management's Fish, Wildlife, and Forest Group and the Director of the Forest Service's Watershed, Fisheries, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants Group.

The awards will be presented as part of the Forest Service Chief's and Bureau of Land Director's Management Reception during the 15th-20th of March at the 69th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Spokane, Washington.

Nominations should be submitted through your Regional Forester or Station Director. The WO contact is David Pivorunas, Assistant TES Program Leader at dpivorunas@fs.fed.us (202-205-1213).

FIRST EVER CRAIGHEAD WILDLIFE CONSERVATION AWARD

Outdoor Central.com, Press Releases - December 24-31, 2003

JACKSON, WY – Steve Kilpatrick, Game and Fish Department habitat coordinator in Jackson, was awarded the first ever Craighead Wildlife Conservation Award. The award was presented as part of the first annual Jackson Hole Wildlife Symposium held at the Teton Science School near Kelly recently. Doug Wachob, the school's director of research, presented the award. "This award goes to an individual who goes beyond the call of duty to conserve the species we admire and want to have in the future," Wachob said. "Kilpatrick has gone out of his way, beyond the bounds of his job, to make sure there is a significant wildlife conservation effort in this valley."

The 26-year G&F veteran was recognized for his instrumental work in the recent retirement of the 87,500-acre Spread Creek-Blackrock grazing allotment on the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Kilpatrick played a key role in bringing the partners together and arranging the financial incentive for the Betty Walton family to give up the long-time permit to graze near Togwotee Pass. "Obviously, this was a tough decision for the Waltons," said Kilpatrick. "Mrs. Walton said 'a piece of her heart went with that allotment closure,' which served as a reality check. It was more than economics. We were dealing with individuals' values."

The area has history of grizzly bear depredation, which led to the Walton's not using the allotment in recent years. In addition to grizzly bears, the area serves as important habitat for elk, bison, moose, mule deer, pronghorn, black bear, mountain lion, and more recently wolves. "I definitely think there is a place for grazing on our national forests, but the wildlife values and potential for conflict here proved extraordinary," said Kilpatrick.

The award is named in honor of twin brothers Frank and John Craighead, long-time wildlife researchers and residents of Jackson Hole. They are best known for their early ground breaking research on grizzly bears in the Yellowstone area. "Without the understanding and cooperation of the Walton ranch, the B-T Forest, the National Wildlife Federation and the plethora of financial supporters, the project would not have made it to first base," added Kilpatrick. "As for me personally, without the help of an anonymous co-captain, I too would not have made first base. And, I get an award. I think Betty Walton is more deserving. I can only accept the award on behalf of her and the rest of the team.

"I can remember, as a young farm kid, watching fuzzy black and white images on TV of them catching bears and dreaming of just seeing the wild lands they were in," the Neligh, Neb. native added. "To have an award with 'Craighead' etched on it is beyond belief. It's truly an honor."

PRESIDENT BUSH SIGNS BIG CAT BAN

Outdoor Central.com, Press Releases - December 24-31, 2003

Washington, DC – On December 19, 2003, President Bush signed into law the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, which bars the interstate and foreign commerce of dangerous exotic animals-including lions, tigers, leopards, cheetahs, jaguars, and cougars – for the pet trade. An estimated 10 to 15 thousand exotic cats, such as lions and tigers are kept as pets in the United States. The ban specifically includes any lion, tiger, leopard, cheetah, jaguar, or cougar species, or any hybrid of such species." Representatives Buck McKeon (R-CA) and George Miller (D-CA) introduced the legislation, H.R. 1006, in the House, and Senators James Jeffords (I-VT) and John Ensign (R-NV) introduced companion legislation as S-269. It was recently passed by both chambers of Congress without dissent. Also instrumental in final passage of the bill were Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), chairman of the Senate Environment, and Public Works

Committee, and Representative Richard Pombo (R-CA), chairman of the House Resources Committee.

The Captive Wildlife Safety Act provides exemptions for legitimate wildlife sanctuaries and for those people licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to exhibit these animals. Nineteen states currently have laws that ban keeping big cats as pets. The legislation is backed by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

EVENTS

BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

The 2004 schedule has been finalized. Each workshop offers an unequalled opportunity for in-depth, hands-on training in bat research, conservation, and management. Tuition covers all fees, lodging, meals, and transportation from the local departure city. To register for a workshop or for more information, contact BCI Workshops Coordinator, Andy Moore at amoore@batcon.org or (512) 327-9721. A registration form is attached. If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending please forward this along.

Andy Moore, Conservation Specialist

Bat Conservation International
P.O. Box 162603
Austin, TX 78716 512-327-9721

Arizona Workshops Session 1: June 3-8 (Acoustic Monitoring) Session 2: June 8-13 Session 3 June 13-18, 2004 Tucson, Arizona.

A field-identification extravaganza, this workshop in the Chiricahua Mountains features the catch-and-release of up to 18 bat species in a single evening. This workshop is intended for those who have completed the Bat Conservation Management workshop or have previous bat-research field experience. Learn how to design and implement an acoustic survey and which monitoring system is best for your needs. Each session limited to 12 participants, cost is \$1,195.

Pennsylvania Workshop August 29-September 3, 2004 Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Our popular Pennsylvania workshop offers the opportunity to net and trap bats over trout streams and beaver ponds and watch thousands of endangered Indiana myotis swarming at the entrance to a mine where they will later hibernate. Hands-on training includes mist netting and trapping, radio tracking, night-vision observation, acoustic monitoring, and habitat assessment. Limited to 20 participants, cost is \$1,195.

Kentucky Workshop, September 7-12, 2004

Focused on cave-dwelling bats, this workshop takes us to the heart of America's Karst country at the Cave Research Foundation's Hamilton Valley facility. Fieldwork includes netting and harp-trapping at cave entrances and at nearby feeding and drinking habitats, with hands-on identification of 10 eastern species. We will visit bat gates with their designers and discuss habitat assessment, field research techniques, bat houses, and public health issues. Limited to 20 participants, cost is \$1,195.

2ND ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON COASTAL AND ESTURINE HABITAT RESTORATION

SEPTEMBER 12-15, 2004 IN SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Suzanne L. Giles, National Policy and Science Director
Restore America's Estuaries
(T) 703.524-0248, (F) 703 524-0287.
For more information, go to: www.estuaries.org

Restore America's Estuaries is thrilled to announce the Second National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration, September 12-15, 2004 at the Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle, Washington. Last April, more than 800 members of the restoration community met at the Inaugural National Conference in Baltimore, Md. to share successes, discuss lessons learned, and plan for the future of restoration. Participants came from all corners of restoration, including field practitioners, businesses, community leaders, consultants, scientists, program managers, regulators, educators, and others who are involved in every aspect of coastal habitat restoration. Building on this tremendous momentum, the Second National Conference will again advance the knowledge, pace, practice and success of coastal and estuarine habitat restoration. While addressing restoration challenges and successes around the country, the Second National Conference will also highlight the unique resources and restoration efforts in and around the Pacific Northwest.

The conference will provide an unparalleled opportunity to communicate your experience and talent; connect with leaders and peers involved in coastal and estuarine habitat restoration; learn successful strategies for all aspects of habitat restoration (planning, implementation, outreach and community involvement). You will also get to learn about the latest products, tools, practices, and services available to you from businesses, government agencies, community and non-profit organizations, and others who will exhibit at the "Restoration Expo."

If you are interested in exhibiting at the Restoration Expo or becoming a Conference Sponsor, please contact: Rick Bates, Development Director, rickbates@estuaries.org, 703-524-0248. For more information, please contact: Nicole Maylett, Conference Coordinator, nmaylett@estuaries.org, 703-524-0248, or Steve Emmett-Mattox, Vice President and Program Director, sem@estuaries.org, 703-524-0248.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDRENS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT SEEKING DELEGATES

Excerpt from EarthVision Environmental News, 12/12/03

New London, CT, December 12, 2003 - The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) 2004 Tunza International Children's Conference, has issued a call for children between the ages of 10-13 years old to apply as delegates for this major international event, which is being held in New London, CT from July 19 to 23, 2004.

Organized by the International Coalition for Children and the Environment, the Conference is a signature event of the United Nations agency for the environment (UNEP). The Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation is the founding sponsor. The International Children's Conference is the largest U.N event dedicated to bringing children from around the world together to discuss the environment and learn about their rights and responsibilities as stewards.

ICC04 is open to children who will be between 10 and 13 years old by the conference's opening day, July 19th, 2004. The conference is scheduled to take place at Connecticut College in this historic seaport city. In addition to the age requirements, delegates must be nominated by a school or community group and be involved in an environmental project or interested in

environmental issues. Complete details can be found on the Conference website:
www.icc04.org.

First initiated as a result of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit when governments advocated the participation of children in the decision making process on issues of the environment and sustainable development, the conference has been held 4 times already (twice in England, Kenya and in Canada.) Beginning with the 2004 conference, the event was renamed Tunza International Children's Conference on the Environment. "Tunza" in Kiswahili means, "to care with affection." Kiswahili is a language spoken in East Africa.

The Conference will focus on the following areas during its four-day duration: Extinction and Biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples' and their Environmental Ways, Oceans, Rivers and Waterways, and Energy-Save It, Renew it, Recycle It.

The delegates, from as many as 100 countries, can look forward to presenting environmental projects, asking questions to environmental experts and recommending and challenging governments and people of the world to address their environmental concerns and issues. This year out theme is Indigenous Peoples and their Relationship to the Environment.

Dr. Jane Goodall, an internationally renowned environmentalist who is widely known for her pioneering research of chimpanzee behavior in the wild, is serving as an honorary chairman of the event. Her Foundation's Roots & Shoots program is affiliated with the children's conference.

HOW TO APPLY: Registration is as easy as logging on the website: www.icc04.org and clicking on APPLY NOW. Further information may be obtained via postal mail by writing: ICCE, 305 State Street, New London, CT 06320 USA. Registration cost is US\$350 per delegate or adult chaperone. The price does not include airfare to the United States. The application deadline is January 15, 2004. For more information browse for: [International Children's Conference on the Environment](#).

CHANGES IN NATIONAL FOREST LEADERSHIP

Dr. Ann Bartuska will become Deputy Chief for research and development. Dr. Bartuska will replace Dr. Robert Lewis, who has led research and development since April 1997.

Christopher Pyron will become Deputy Chief for business operations. Chris Pyron follows Dr. Thomas Mills, who has served as Deputy Chief for business operations since April 2002.

Associate Chief, Gail Kimball will become Regional Forester for the USDA Forest Service Northern Region, Missoula, Montana.

Dr. Jim Sedell will become Director of the Southwest Pacific Station; Jim is currently the Director of the Wildlife, Fish, Watershed, and Air Research Staff.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2003/releases/11/national-leadership.shtml>

Vacancies

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

Hotlinks!

- Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/>
- 2003 News Releases: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2003/releases.shtml>
- FS Today Newsletter: http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/
- National Fire Plan: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nfp/>
- Roadless Area Conservation: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>
- Large-Scale Watershed Restoration Projects: <http://www.fs.fed.us/largewatershedprojects/>
- Land and Resource Management Plans: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/nfmalrmp.html>
- Watershed and Air Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/clean/>
- Lands and Realty Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/>
- Road Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/roads/>
- Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage Resources: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/>
- Forest Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/fm/>
- International Programs: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/>
- Research: <http://www.fe.fed.us/research/scientific.html>
- Healthy Forests Initiative: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/HFI.shtml>
- Partners in Planning: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/planning/guide/index.html>
- Landowner Assistance Programs **(NEW)**
<http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/index.shtml>
- Forest Service's Annual Fall Foliage Hotline **(NEW)**
<http://www.fe.fed.us/news/2003/releases/09/fall-colors.shtml>

IMPORTANT NOTE: Once you select a link, please be sure to hit the “Refresh” button to ensure that you are loading the most current version of the web page!

On the Wild Side is a monthly update provided by the National Forest System Wildlife Program of the USDA Forest Service. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Debbie Pressman at dpressman@fs.fed.us or Jina Mariani jmariani@fs.fed.us no later than the 25th of each month. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity and brevity.

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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