

ON THE WILD SIDE

USDA FOREST SERVICE
February 2003



Tree of Faith: Global Partnerships for Conservation

The following is the speech given by Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth at the Jewish National Fund Centennial in Washington, D.C. — January 27, 2002

Mr. Ambassador ... JNF President Ron Lauder ... and the JNF Board of Directors: Thank you for inviting me to share in this Tu B'Shevat Program, which honors the 100th anniversary of the Jewish National Fund.

My own agency, the USDA Forest Service, will celebrate its centennial in 2005. We both have a long and proud history. The New Century of Service pins you received help symbolize our past contributions and the fresh spirit of service we want to bring to our mission of "caring for the land and serving people."

Before I continue, let me introduce my colleagues who will be part of this celebration:

- Sally Collins, the Associate Chief of the Forest Service.
- Val Mezainis, Director of our International Programs
- Thomas Hoekstra, Director of the Inventory and Monitoring Institute as well as Manager of our Middle East Program.

I know I speak for all of us when I say we are honored to be guests at this special event.

Shared Goals

In some of my discussions last fall with Gideon Witkon, Russell Robinson, and Zevi Kahanov, I learned a lot about the JNF's role in Israel during the last 100 years.

Your work includes land acquisition and management, tree planting, soil and water conservation, and land development for new settlements. That's quite a range of responsibility for a single organization.

Three Chiefs before me have been to Israel; I hope to be the fourth. I recently accepted an invitation to visit Israel in early May and see firsthand what you've accomplished there. I'm also interested in seeing the fruits of our partnership.

In North America, we are blessed with abundant, diverse forests and woodlands. Managing this land to provide valuable renewable resources has its challenges.

I understand that you are facing some of the same challenges in Israel in the face of increasing public scrutiny.

My colleagues and I know a lot about public scrutiny. Don't we?

We'll be happy to share our experience and our pain — there's plenty of both to go around. Perhaps you can't acquire the first without experiencing a lot of the second. But I'm not discouraged. I believe we'll come together at some point, as Americans, and focus on what unites us instead of what divides us. Personally, I applaud the intent of our environmental laws; but the people who actually do the work on the land will tell you that all the laws, regulations, and procedures can make it hard to do good resource management on the land.

Our goal at the Forest Service is to work with our fellow Americans to strike the right balance between social, economic, and ecological sustainability. In this way we can meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs — and make their own informed choices.

We must get together as Americans to restore the national forests to health. The tragic events of September 11 reminded us again how Americans pull together in times of crisis. The Forest Service is leading an initiative to create four living memorials for the victims of that terrorist attack. A network of state, local, and nonprofit groups will bring people together to plant and care for the memorials in New York, Pennsylvania, northern Virginia, and Washington, D.C. We invite you to join us in that work

Global Relationships

Our relationship with the Jewish National Fund, now 15 years old, is a good model of how two organizations can work together for the benefit of everyone. The roots of our collaboration began with technical exchanges on the subject of fire. We continue to share our experience and technology in this area.

The global causes and consequences of fire are increasingly visible, from Siberia to Southeast Asia. In Siberia, an outbreak of fires can cover millions of acres; in 1915, smoke plumes from Siberian fires combined to form a cloud the size of Europe. The consequences of fire on this scale can affect global climate, perhaps long-term.

Another example: In Indonesia in the late 1990s, the effects of El Niño resulted in a severe drought. Annual burning done by farmers and others as part of their agrarian traditions resulted in huge fires that destroyed native forests. The smoke generated by the fires closed airports and scorched lungs for months.

It benefits all of us to share what we know. Parts of Siberia are already benefiting from U.S. prescribed fire techniques for land management. International fire studies in the Amazon, where fires often burn for months, can help the Brazilians protect their forests and grasslands.

And the United States benefits from other countries. During our 2000 fire season, one of the most severe ever, some 800 international firefighters came here from Australia, Canada, Israel, Mexico, and New Zealand.

Besides working together on fire, JNF and the Forest Service have carried out more than 100 technical exchange missions on a full range of natural resource management subjects. We co-developed a forestry education program where Israeli foresters can come to the United States for training. They can even earn a master's degree in forestry or a related field of study.

The JNF — in cooperation with some Israeli universities — is working with Forest Service researchers on some of the arid land problems that face both countries. These studies include fire, insect and disease problems, and landscape management of Mediterranean oak.

Let's not forget water. The arid landscape of Israel has a lot in common with the southwestern United States. We both know that healthy watersheds give us clean water. We have long-term studies underway to strengthen the scientific basis for watershed protection and restoration. In the years ahead, we expect the National Fire Plan to let us move forward with even more projects to maintain and restore watershed function. I see opportunities for collaboration and information sharing on water; I'm sure you do, too.

One of JNF and the Forest Service's most recent collaborations here in the United States is the celebration of Tu B'Shevat. As we celebrate here today, the Tonto National Forest and the JNF office in Phoenix are cosponsoring a celebration in Phoenix for the second year. They are planting a tree, enjoying the fruit, and dancing — all of the wonderful things that go with Tu B'Shevat.

The Tonto is a major urban-use forest, and JNF is an important local partner there. Three years ago, the Angeles National Forest in California had a similar event. With your continued help and friendship, we hope to expand the program across the country.

Tree of Faith

You know, speaking of trees, Barbara Walters once got into a lot of trouble because she asked one of her guests, "If you were a tree, what kind of tree would you be?" Well, I'm not on TV, so I'm going to risk an analogy here, and it involves a tree.

Our partnership keeps growing stronger, branching out to new locations and new activities. It's working, I think, because both sides bring a lot of faith to the table. The dictionary defines faith as "confident belief in the truth, value, or trustworthiness of a person, idea, or thing." That certainly applies here. Our partnership is a tree of faith; may it live forever.

In closing, let me say again how honored we are to be here. Thanks for listening.



Ducks Unlimited 2003 Wetland Conservation

Achievement Awards

Ducks Unlimited has announced the 2003 Ducks Unlimited Wetland Conservation Achievement Awards Program. The awards will be the featured event on the March 28th during the Ducks Unlimited Breakfast at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Each Year DU proudly recognizes the achievements of individuals who have made exceptional contributions to wetlands and waterfowl conservation in North America. These partners, colleagues and leaders are usually individuals who have made long-term contributions to the conservation of these vital resources. However, extraordinary accomplishments over a shorter period of time are often recognized too.

Nominations can be submitted by letter or email (preferred) by February 14, 2003 to Dr. Bruce D.J. Batt/Ducks Unlimited, Inc., One Waterfowl Way, Memphis, TN 38120-2351 or bbatt@ducks.org. Nominations usually consist of up to two pages of single-spaced text that highlights the nominee's contributions to waterfowl and wetlands conservation. Nominations can be further supplemented with two additional letters of support.



North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Proposals

What are the 2003 deadlines? March 7 and July 25, 2003.

What is a NAWCA Proposal? A North American Wetlands Conservation Act standard grant proposal is a 4-year plan of action supported by a NAWCA grant and partner funds to conserve wetlands and wetlands-dependent fish and wildlife through acquisition (including easements and land title donations), restoration and/or enhancement, with a grant request between \$51,000 and \$1,000,000. Small grants (up to \$50,000) are administered separately. Match must be non-Federal and at least equal the grant request (referred to as a 1:1 match). Match is eligible up to 2 years prior to the year the proposal is submitted and grant and match funds are eligible after the proposal is submitted and through the project period.

Who can I contact? Contact a North American Waterfowl Management Plan Joint Venture Coordinator. Contact Bettina Sparrowe via email at: bettina_sparrowe@fws.gov or David Buie (david_buie@fws.gov) if you have any questions. Please leave any suggestions for improvement, comments or questions with the North American Wetlands

Conservation Council Coordinator at dbhc@fws.gov, 703-358-1784(p) or 703-358-2282(f)

More Information? <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov>

Forest Service Eastern Region (R9) Web Based Literature Database Released

Following a comprehensive analysis of information needs in the Forest Service R9 Regional Office and on the National Forests, the Natural Resources staff and the regional webmaster unveiled the first version of a web-based scientific literature database accessible through the R9 intranet homepage.

This system is unique in that it allows an "Up Front" literature search using keywords and other terms that take the user directly to the USDA National Agriculture Library DigiTop Desktop Library for checking availability of online publications.

The literature database contains technical information on topics such as species viability, forest health, air quality, and watershed management. Much of this information can be useful for broad-scale, mid-scale, or project-level analysis and planning. Search for Literature on Historic Vegetation and Fire Regime Effects is one of the many features of the new web-based system.

Literature search profiles for Natural Resource staff program areas were developed with keyword search terms acquired from R9 Regional Office and Forest resource specialists. Search terms were then compiled into profiles. Student volunteers from Wisconsin Lutheran College conducted the literature searches and integrated data into bibliographic databases.

Copies of the literature databases are posted on the R9 Intranet site and can be browsed using special software. When all searches are posted, the system will support up to 10 databases and over 10,000 references.

Planning on Your National Forests and Grasslands – A Forest Service Guide on Avenues to Participation

A participation guide <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/planning/guide/intro.html> has been prepared to help people become familiar with how national forests and national grasslands (hereafter referred to as national forests) revise, amend, and implement their land and resource management plans. The guide will help interested parties more effectively interact with local Forest Service staffs about planning on national forests.

The guide is tailored for people who are interested in forest planning as it affects watersheds, fish, wildlife, air quality and rare plants on the National Forest System lands. It is hoped that the guide will encourage participation in revising and/or amending plans for the national forests and grasslands, and will be useful in enhancing understanding of

how plans are subsequently implemented on a project-by-project basis. This guide has been designed to help long-standing Forest Service partners, as well as new partners, understand how and when their participation can be most effective in planning for places and resources they care about.

To help parties more effectively interact with Forest Service staff during public participation and outreach efforts, the following recommendations may be helpful:

- **Have realistic expectations.** The Forest Service is legally bound by statutes and regulations that guide the agency's decision making. Getting ideas and input considered in planning takes time, patience, and good communication by you, the Forest Service, and other interested citizens, nongovernmental organizations, and tribal governments.
- **Be prepared to do some homework and learn as you go.** The current forest plan sets the foundation for how your national forest is managed. You can obtain a copy from your local national forest office. Read it over to become familiar with the forest's goals and objectives, forest-wide management requirements, specific management area direction-including standards and guidelines for watershed, fish, wildlife, air and rare plant resources.
- **Get to know your Forest Service leadership and forest resource staff.** The responsible officials who effect change on your national forest are the District Rangers and the Forest Supervisor. Ask to meet with them to introduce yourself and obtain a copy of the forest plan. You can reach your local Forest Service managers and their resource staff through the Forest Service web site which you can access at <http://www.fs.fed.us>

The guide is considered a work in progress, and the Forest Service welcomes your suggestions for improving it. For more information or comments on the guide contact USDA Forest Service, Attn: Seona Brown (sbrown@fs.fed.us, 202-205-1262), Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air & Rare Plants Staff, Re: Partners in Planning—A Guide, Stop Code-1121, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1121

Note: Using the transitional language of the 2000 planning rule, forests are currently amending and revising forest plans under the provisions of the 1982 planning rule. This guide is written, therefore, in the context of planning under the 1982 rule. This guide does not address in detail any of the proposed changes to the 2000 planning rule. Information about the status of the proposed new planning rule may be found at the following web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/index1.html>. This guide will be updated periodically as new information becomes available in order to accurately reflect the Forest Service's most current implementing regulations for land and resource management planning.

The E. Alexander Bergstrom Memorial Research Award from the Association of Field Ornithologists

E. Alexander Bergstrom (1919-1973) was Vice-President of the Northeastern Bird-Banding Association (now AFO) and the Editor of Bird-Banding (now JFO) for 21 years. This fund is named to honor his memory and is intended to further research on birds, which he promoted and to which he was so dedicated.

Purpose of the Award: To promote field studies of birds, by helping to support a specific research or analysis project. In judging among proposals of equal quality, special consideration will be given to those on avian life history, that use data collected all or in part by amateurs or that employ bird banding or other marking techniques. Both Domestic (US & Canada) and Latin American work is eligible for support.

Eligibility: The Domestic awards are aimed at people beginning their research or those with limited or no access to major funding. They are restricted to amateurs, undergraduates, and Masters degree students for individuals based in and working in the United States or Canada. In contrast, all researchers based in Latin American countries (amateurs, undergraduates, Masters and PhD degree students) are eligible for the Latin American competition.

Frequency and Amount: Approximately five Domestic awards (maximum \$1000 each) and two or three Latin American Awards (maximum \$1500 each) will be awarded annually. Applications may be made for a grant of AFO mist nets in lieu of a cash award.

Application for Year-2003 Awards: Applications may be submitted in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. Applicants must submit, by February 15, 2003, a completed application form, a one-page CV, one letter of reference, and a research proposal (maximum 3 single-spaced pages). The 3-page research proposal should include: purpose of the study, methods to be used, literature citations, and a budget outlining total costs and other sources of funding received or applied for. Please do not exceed the 3-page limit.

The Committee considers need, so a statement can be included as to the probability of the project's completion if the Bergstrom Award is not received. Applicants for mist nets must supply evidence that the appropriate permits are in hand. The original application and two photocopies must be submitted hardcopy by mail. No email submissions can be considered.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE MAILED TO: Cecilia Riley, Bergstrom Awards Committee, Gulf Coast Bird Observatory, 103 West Highway 332, Lake Jackson, TX 77566. Phone: (979) 480-0999. CRILEY@GCBO.ORG

American Birding Association - Opportunities for Birders

The American Birding Association - OPPORTUNITIES FOR BIRDERS directory is now available. A simple, on-line version (with various



institutional roles... and links) is now on the ABA web site (<http://www.americanbirding.org/opps/>).

The American Birding Association will be developing (over the next couple of months) a sophisticated interactive site, with the ability to ask for month, agency, species, and/or location to find the project that fits the volunteer's individual interests. The ABA is aiming to make these pages the site for effective bird-volunteers! The good thing about this next set of improvement is that ABA will have the ability to nurture these pages throughout the year and can also distribute it to agencies and individuals as a CD if they so desire.

If you have any questions, please contact: Paul J. Baicich (301-839-9736), Director of Conservation and Public Policy, American Birding Association, P.O. Box 404, Oxon Hill, MD 20750.

Check out the American Birding Association web site: <http://www.americanbirding.org/>

International Bicknell's Thrush Partnership

Bicknell's thrush is one of the least-known breeding birds in North America. In the summer, it occupies a very restricted and highly fragmented breeding range in areas of Quebec, Canada, New York State's Catskill Mountains; Vermont's Green Mountain National Forest; New Hampshire's White Mountains; and two small sections of Maine. During the winter months, it inhabits an even more limited range in eastern Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica.

Bicknell's thrush only number around 50,000 worldwide and are considered by the Partners-In-Flight Conservation Plan Management to be of extremely high priority for conservation action. Yet, thrush homes are becoming increasingly threatened due to poor forestry practices and human expansion.

In July 2001, The Forest Service International Programs sponsored an exchange between Bicknell's thrush experts from the Green Mountain National Forest, the Dominican Republic, and the Vermont Institute of Natural Science. At the meeting, stakeholders formed a new partnership dedicated to conducting fieldwork to study and conserve thrush habitats emphasizing protected area management, forest management practices, and bird population monitoring.

NATIONAL 2002 FARM BILL IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP - MARCH 14-16, 2003

On May 13, 2002, the Conservation Security and Farmland Protection Bill was signed by President Bush. In the signing of this law, \$17.1 billion was made available to implement a variety of conservation programs like CRP, WRP, WHIP, EQIP, etc. The intent was to contribute to Congressional objectives for enhancing soil, water and wildlife. Because of the voluntary nature of these programs, producers would be able to "sign up" and receive cost share dollars to address land management goals. There are a number of changes that have been made since the 1996 version. Some examples include: (1) Integration of third party providers, (2) New programs like CSP and GRP, (3) Increase dollar allocation

for programs, and (4) Increased expectations by landowners, the public and Congress.

So what will it take to successfully implement the programs of the 2002 Farm Bill Conservation Security Title?

It has been mentioned, by USDA leadership over the recent months, that to be successful in delivery of programs, decisions will need to occur at the local level. Rules have been created that are “lean and local” giving decision-making authority to the state level. Knowing this, there will be a need to create partnerships and collaborative working relationships between Federal, State, NGO’s, commodities, agribusiness, third party providers, and others who are responsible for delivering and implementing conservation programs.

The National 2002 Farm Bill Implementation Workshop will enable those who are involved to come together to discuss: (a) Enhancing or improving state delivery systems, (b) Increasing educational opportunities and, (c) Improving the collaboration amongst the “players” involved.

The workshop structure will be guided via presentations, offer question and answer sessions, give case studies, along with small group discussions to assist with the development of a game plan for future endeavors back home.

The workshop will be attended by individuals from: Agribusiness, commodity organizations, conservation NGO’s, congressional staffers, environmental representatives, Federal and State agriculture, fish and wildlife, extension, soil conservation agencies and forestry departments, local conservation districts, private landowners, RC&D’s, State conservationists, third party providers, Tribal representatives, and water utilities. Those who attend this workshop have a vested interest in developing successful delivery of programs that will contribute to soil, water, air and wildlife objectives. To that end, how well the participants collaborate with each other will have a lot to do with the future success of meaningful conservation contributions on the land.

The workshop, hosted by the **Wildlife Management Institute**, will be held on March 14-16, 2003 at the Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20001-1527. For more information, call 202-371-1808 between 8 am and 4 pm EST.

ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW SHOREBIRD MANAGEMENT LISTSERVE

A shorebird management listserv is now available where questions, comments or discussion are posted, and where professional wildlife managers can seek and share information from each other or other participants in the listserv. But beyond this, the listserv will be monitored, and where prudent advice is not forthcoming, the monitor would route questions to qualified shorebird management experts. Brian Harrington, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, has secured the services of numerous shorebird management experts who will fulfill this role. Of course, we urge subscribers to provide comments on any query. There is a lot of collective wisdom about wetland

biology, wetland management, and shorebird biology, which if brought together, will provide a powerful resource to managers, and powerful benefits to shore and other birds. We think a professional listserv will help bring this "collective wisdom" to bear on management applications. Specifically, the listserv will provide users with:

- a forum to discuss approaches to managing shorebird habitats
- information on shorebird management resources
- answers to specific, regional management questions
- a forum to discuss regional-scale projects
- technical advice on monitoring shorebirds

The listserv is a cooperative effort of partners of the U.S. and Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plans and is maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Messages and responses will be archived for future syntheses and analyses. Information on the conservation plans can be found at: <http://shorebirdplan.fws.gov> and http://www.cws-scf.ec.gc.ca/birds/sh_or_e.cfm.

To subscribe, send an e-mail indicating a wish to subscribe to Brad_Andres@fws.gov

Questions or general comments about the list should be directed to:

Brad Andres
 National Coordinator, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Migratory Bird Management
 phone: 703/358-1828; e-mail: brad_andres@fws.gov

Vacancies

The following job announcements are just a sample of the job opportunities that can be found at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

Title	Grade/Series	Deadline	Vacancy #	Agency	Location
<u>WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST</u>	GS-0486-09/11	Feb 21, 2003	R417-015-03G	FOREST SERVICE	Las Vegas, NV
<u>WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST</u>	GS-0 486-11/11	Feb 24, 2003	R303-032-03	FOREST SERVICE	Cheyenne, Oklahoma, OK
<u>WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST</u>	GS-0486-09/11	Feb 24, 2003	R410-013-03G	FOREST SERVICE	Ferron, UT
<u>REGIONAL SUBSISTENCE GROUP LEADER</u>	GS-0486-14/14	Feb 12, 2003	R10-03-0285	Forest Service	Anchorage, AK
<u>WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST</u>	GS-0486-11/11	Feb 10, 2003	R512-0860-03G	FOREST SERVICE	San Bernardino Cty, CA

<u>WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST</u>	GS-0486-09/11	Feb 10, 2003	R810-26-03	FOREST SERVICE	Mountain View, AR
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Hotlinks!

- Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/>
- 2002 News Releases: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/news.html>
- 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 (**NEW**): <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/HFI.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 of activities of the National Forest System Terrestrial Wildlife and Ecology Program of the USDA Forest Service. All information presented is subject to change as projects evolve, opportunities arise and issues unfold. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Debbie Pressman at dpressman@fs.fed.us or Ron Archuleta at rarchuleta@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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