

# On the Wild Side

WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER



USDA FOREST SERVICE  
FEBRUARY 2004

*"It is more appropriate to think of resources as managing humans than the converse."*

*-- Donald Ludwig, Ray Hilborn & Carl Walters*

## **Forest Service Debuts National Partnership Office (excerpt from FS Today)**

By Jan Engert, National Partnership Program Manager, Washington Office

The new National Partnership Office of the Forest Service debuted at the Interagency Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship Conference, in November 2003 in Los Angeles, CA, and shared a corporate message of making partnership and collaboration a part of the core business of the Forest Service.

"Partnerships are not new to the Forest Service," said Chief Dale Bosworth at a conference side meeting, "but we have to stop thinking of them as something we do in addition to our real jobs. Let's resolve to make partnerships a key part of how we carry out our core business."



Associate Chief Sally Collins greets visitors at the National Partnership Office display at the Joint Ventures in Stewardship Conference.

Associate Chief Sally Collins highlighted the new National Partnership Office as a commitment by the Forest Service to help build employee and partner skills in working together, as well as improving national policy and guidance on partnerships.

The National Partnership Office is lead by program manager Jan Engert, with an interdisciplinary team of partnership coordinators from Washington Office staffs across all Deputy Areas. A field network of partnership coordinators from the Regions, Research Stations and Northeast Area has also been established, which

will be key to exchanging information, setting priorities and overall program development.

One of the first actions of the National Partnership Office is to disseminate the many partnership tools and products that were developed by the National Partnership Task Force in 2002-03. These products include an optional short-form for cost-share agreements, elimination of the 50% cost share match, clarifying guidance for watershed restoration and enhancement, and the development of core competencies for grant administration and management.

These tools, and more, can be found on the user-friendly on-line resource center: [www.partnershipresourcecenter.org](http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org). The website was developed with the National Forest Foundation to share the latest partnership news, information and networks. For additional information or questions, contact the National Partnership Office, (202) 205-1072, or Jan Engert at [jengert@fs.fed.us](mailto:jengert@fs.fed.us). Please visit the Partnership Resource Center at: <http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/index.shtml>

## **Aspen Ecology: Biodiversity and Its Management Implications**

Western Section-Wildlife Society Conference, Rohnert Park, CA

February 26, 2004

An Aspen Symposium being held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Rohnert Park, California (Santa Rosa Area), Thursday, February 26, 2004, as part of the Western Section-Wildlife Society's Annual Conference.

The symposium keynoter will be Wayne Shepperd of the Rocky Mountain Research Station, and the agenda features presentations on adaptive management, monitoring, remote sensing, as well as habitat and genetic studies being conducted in California and Nevada.

The early registration deadline for the conference is January 24 and registration information can be found on the Western Section-Wildlife Society web page: [www.tws-west.org](http://www.tws-west.org)

For additional information, contact: David Burton, Aspen Delineation Project, 2070 Orange Drive, Penryn, CA 95663; (916) 663-2574

**Thursday, February 26, 2004**

### **Symposium: Aspen Ecology: Biodiversity and its Management Implications**

**Chair: David Burton, Aspen Delineation Project**

8:00-8:40 **Keynote Address: Techniques to Restore Aspen Forests in the Western United States, Wayne Sheppard**

8:40-9:00 **Discussion**

### **An Aspen Restoration Program: Development and Implementation**

9:00-9:20 *Bell Meadow and the Aspen Delineation Project: Implementation of a Rapid Assessment Protocol for Sierra Nevada Aspen, Sky Harrison*

9:20-9:40 *Development and Implementation of an Aspen Restoration Program on the Eagle Lake Ranger District, Lassen National Forest, Tom Rickman*

9:40-10:00 Discussion

10:00-10:20 Break

### **Monitoring for Adaptive Management**

- 10:20-10:40      *Monitoring the Effectiveness of Conifer Removal to Restore Aspen Stands on the Eagle Lake Ranger District, Lassen National Forest, Bobette Jones*
- 10:40-11:00      *Riparian and Water Resource Impacts of Conifer Removal to Restore Aspen Communities in the Northern Sierra Nevada, Kenneth Tate*
- 11:00-11:20      Discussion

### **Aspen Genetics**

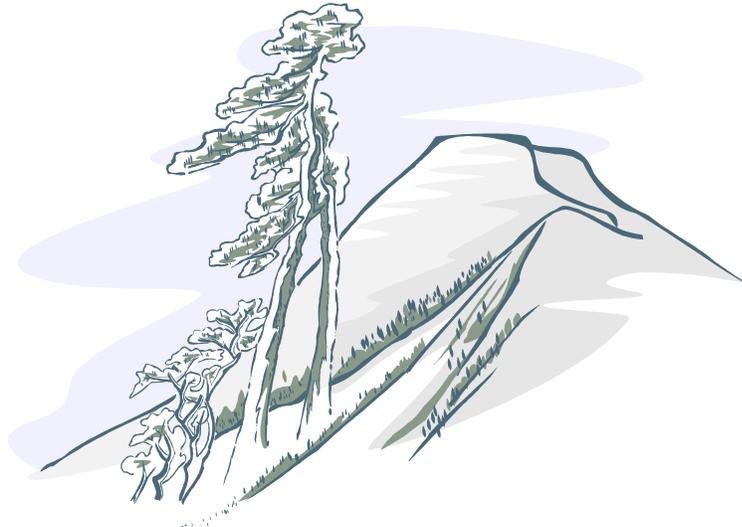
- 1:00-1:20      *Genetic Diversity and Structure of Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) in the Central Sierra Nevada, California (Part 1), Valerie Hipkins*
- 1:20-1:40      *Genetic Diversity and Structure of Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) in the Central Sierra Nevada, California (Part 2), Jay Kitzmiller*
- 1:40-2:00      Discussion

### **Remote Sensing**

- 2:00-2:20      *Aspen Within the Context of Contiguous Vegetation Mapping Using Remotely Sensed Data, Brian Schwind*
- 2:20-2:40      *Mapping Quaking Aspen in Northern Nevada, Paul T. Tueller*
- 2:40-3:00      *Aspen Remote Sensing in the Sierra Nevada, Chris Stermer*
- 3:00-3:20      Discussion
- 3:20-3:40      Break

### **Aspen Habitat Studies**

- 3:40-4:00      *Habitat Selection and Distribution of *Aplodontia* in the Sierra Nevada Range, Nevada, Jennifer Jeffers*
- 4:00-4:20      *Conifer Encroachment Associated with Decrease in Aspen-Nesting Songbirds, Will Richardson*
- 4:20-4:40      Discussion

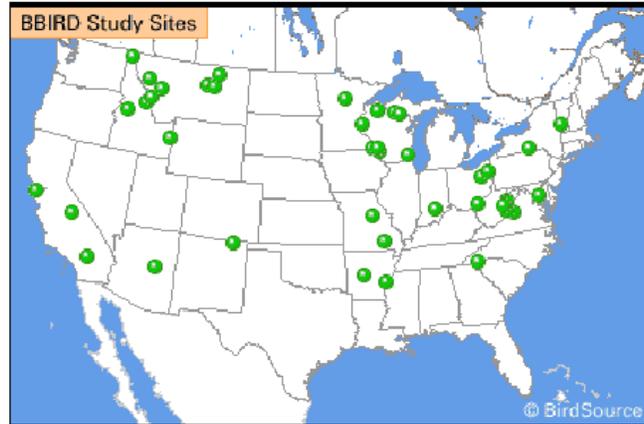


## New Web Site to Assist the Management of Forest Bird Populations

Successful management of avian breeding habitats requires that the causes of reduced nesting success first be identified and then, if possible mitigated. The Breeding Biology Research and Monitoring Database (**BBIRD**) was established in 1992 to provide both land managers and researchers with comparative information to help identify where and how demographic changes may be occurring among bird populations in different habitats across the conterminous United States. Using a standardized protocol, independent investigators collect data on nesting success and habitat variables, and submit their data to a central storage database each year.

This database currently contains information on 40,000 nests of 241 species from 42 sites. An additional 16,000 new records are still being processed.

The BBIRD database has become a valuable resource for researchers and land managers alike. It can be used to calculate parameters such as clutch size, Mayfield estimates of nest predation, cowbird parasitism rate, and fledging success among species, sites, habitats and years. In cooperation with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit has launched a new web site:(<http://report.birdsource.org/BBIRD/Reports>) that now gives public access to these summary data from the BBIRD database. Users are able to lump or split summary data by site, year, bird species, or habitat type. This web tool allows investigation of geographic and temporal trends in nesting success for a given species across or within habitat types. Sample statistics, standard errors, and sample sizes are given for each nesting parameter in the database. Users can also download the results of their query into a spreadsheet format for further analysis.



Researchers at the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit are currently using the BBIRD database to develop a new management handbook that provides detailed data on nest predation, brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird, and nesting success in relation to habitat features across multiple sites for many forest-breeding bird species. Analyses of BBIRD data in conjunction with National Land Cover data are being conducted to determine the spatial scales and features of the landscape that have the greatest influence on breeding parameters such as cowbird parasitism and nest predation, and ultimately on potential population growth rates. This information is being used to develop predictive models of bird demographic responses to forest fragmentation across the United States. In addition, detailed summaries of breeding parameters relative to habitat and integration of known information from the literature are used to provide specific management guidance for individual species. An introduction to the analytical approach being used for the handbook, together with the draft accounts for individual species can be found at the URL: <http://pica.wru.umt.edu/BBIRD/handbook.htm>.

For questions regarding the BBIRD database and program, please contact Alina Niklison at [alina.niklison@mso.umt.edu](mailto:alina.niklison@mso.umt.edu). For questions or feedback regarding the management handbook, please contact Penn Lloyd at [lloyds@new.co.za](mailto:lloyds@new.co.za).

**World Wide Buzz About Biodiversity** (Excerpt from **Conservation Biology**  
Volume 17 Issue 6 Page 1475 - December 2003)  
**ELLIOTT A. NORSE AND JAMES T. CARLTON**

The concept of biological diversity (usually shortened to biodiversity since (Wilson 1988) has fundamentally reshaped conservation worldwide since its original definition (Norse & McManus 1980) and redefinition (Norse et al. 1986). Norse (1996) and Farnham (2002) trace its evolution and its influence on conservation. But what is its influence on global culture today?

Perhaps the best way to gauge biodiversity's "market penetration" is to examine its use on the World Wide Web. We used google on 19 August 2003 to determine how many World Wide Web sites mention biodiversity, along with some other scientific concepts and sciences, as well as some icons of popular culture that provide comparative indicators of "buzz." We searched all compound terms in quotation marks (e.g., "climate change") to preclude inflated counts of sites that mention either or both of the common terms "climate" and "change," but not "climate change."

There are intriguing implications of our findings for conservation biology. Biodiversity is mentioned (3,100,000 mentions) on more web sites than scientific concepts or sciences such as molecular biology (1,550,000), climate change (1,460,000), or oceanography (624,000), and, more remarkably, more than popular cultural markers including the Beatles (2,800,000), George W. Bush (2,580,000), Tiger Woods (664,000), or Arnold Schwarzenegger (495,000). Although it could be argued that relativity (917,000) was the most powerful scientific idea from the twentieth century, biological diversity is now cited more than thrice as often.

As the diversity of the world's genes, species, and ecosystems declines, it is all too easy for conservation biologists to become discouraged, to think that nobody is listening to us. A simple, verifiable, quantitative measure of "buzz" concerning biodiversity and other terms on the Web suggests that conservation of biodiversity generates far more worldwide interest than might be generally thought and that a scientific idea can achieve cultural prominence even greater than the politicians, entertainers, and sports figures who dominate the airwaves and newspapers. Given the phenomenal growth of the Web and rapid changes in peoples' interests, it would be interesting to review these numbers in years to come.

### **Elk Foundation Celebrates 20th Anniversary in 2004**

**Contact:** Steve Wagner, Vice President of Communications, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, 406-523-4542; swagner@rmef.org

MISSOULA, Mont. — What began 20 years ago as a glimmer of energy and ideals has, with fuel from thousands of supporters, become a shining star in conservation. Today the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is protecting and enhancing habitat for elk and other wildlife at a pace exceeding a square mile every 24 hours.

Founding President and CEO Bob Munson, one of four hunters who conceptualized the organization back in 1984, admits he's still overwhelmed by the exceptional growth, accomplishments and the astonishing enthusiasm and dedication that drives the group.

"I still marvel at the incredible commitment and energy of our volunteers and partners," said Munson. "These people really care a lot about what they're leaving behind for their kids and future generations. They love elk, they love wildlife, and they love getting out in wild country."

More than 96 percent of them are hunters, and their love for the land and wild animals comes from a very direct relationship with nature."

The Elk Foundation was incorporated in May 1984 in tiny Troy, Mont. It has remained in Montana, now headquartered in Missoula, but its accomplishments have spread across North America. Two major highlights include nearly 4 million acres of elk habitat permanently protected or enhanced, and wild elk herds restored to native ranges in Wisconsin, Kentucky, Tennessee and the Great Smoky Mountains.

Full news release posted at [http://www.rmef.org/pages/press\\_releases.php3?articleid=225](http://www.rmef.org/pages/press_releases.php3?articleid=225)

## Are Sagebrush Habitats and Their Birds Teetering on the Edge?

**U.S. Department of the Interior U.S. Geological Survey News Release**

**November 3, 2003**

**Contacts:** Steven Knick, (208) 426-5208 or David Dobkin, (541) 382-1117

Sagebrush landscapes -- a scene familiar to many of us from our travels in the west -- are changing rapidly, resulting in the rapid decline of many native shrubland and grassland bird species, including the Sage Grouse and Brewer's sparrow, according to a just-released article in *The Condor* by science experts from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the High Desert Ecological Research Institute, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the University of California, Riverside. The authors are members of the Cooper Ornithological Society Committee on Conservation of Sagebrush Ecosystems.



The report, "Teetering on the edge or too late? Conservation and research issues for avifauna of sagebrush habitats," was published in the November issue of the international peer-reviewed science journal *The Condor* and reviews the problems facing sagebrush habitats and the challenges facing native birds that depend on this habitat for survival.

Warnings began appearing over a quarter of a century ago about overuse and loss of native sagebrush habitats in the western United States and the consequences for birds that depend on this habitat for all or part of their livelihood each year. Steve Knick, USGS scientist and lead author on the article, noted that many of the troubles facing this ecosystem are not easily perceived. "The reality is," said Knick, "that almost all sagebrush habitats are suffering consequences of heavier use than they can take. At present, we don't have a handle on how to address the problems existing in this habitat because they are so diverse and widespread."

David Dobkin, Director of the High Desert Ecological Research Institute in Bend, Ore., and another author on the report, noted that when habitats change, wildlife populations also tend to change. Today, he said, populations of many species of shrubland and grassland birds are declining, some severely. The Gunnison sage-grouse, for example, is a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act, and the greater sage-grouse is also being considered.

The causes underlying the changes and loss of sagebrush habitats are largely human-related, according to the article. Because less than 3 percent of the entire sagebrush habitat is protected in parks or reserves, the resources in almost all sagebrush ecosystems are heavily used. Some

uses, such as mining, energy development, urbanization, or conversion of sagebrush habitats to agriculture cropland, vary regionally, but others, such as livestock grazing, are widespread across the entire range of sagebrush. These uses, without proper management, can significantly affect sagebrush birds by fragmenting or completely removing their habitats, the authors noted. They write that restoring these habitats will be difficult or, in some cases impossible, either because the habitat has already been converted or because many of the essential components required by birds, such as cover to protect nests against predators, are no longer present.

The paper also points out that individual land uses often interact synergistically, compounding their negative effect on habitats and birds. For example, land uses that cause spread of fire-prone invasive plants, such as cheatgrass, can result in increasing the size and frequency of fires that ultimately convert even more sagebrush habitat to grasslands.

The authors recommend four primary areas in which future research should be focused to improve the chance of conserving birds living in sagebrush ecosystems. "First and most critical, we need to know precisely how our use of sagebrush habitats affects the dynamics of these systems," said Knick. "All uses, whether livestock grazing, mining, energy development, or even treatments by land managers to improve habitats, influence the way the system functions. These uses are not necessarily negative, but conducted improperly can create habitats that are unsuitable for native birds and other native wildlife."

Three other research areas recommended were to identify those habitat components most critical to birds, to design better survey methods and techniques to estimate bird population trends, and to determine the importance of wintering grounds and migration pathways for these birds. David Dobkin, the Editor-in-Chief of *The Condor* said, "We hope that this broad but detailed analysis will be a crucial step toward raising awareness in the scientific community, among land managers, and ultimately of the American public, about the potentially overwhelming challenges to ecological integrity and function faced right now by these vast western landscapes."

The published abstract of *The Condor* paper is accessible on-line at <http://www.cooper.org> (follow the links to *The Condor* and then to Forthcoming Issue).

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To receive USGS news releases go to [http://www.usgs.gov/public/list\\_server.html](http://www.usgs.gov/public/list_server.html)

### **USFWS Rejects Petition to List Sage Grouse (excerpt from Inside IAFWA newsletter)**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rejected a petition by the Oregon-based Institute for Wildlife Protection seeking federal protection for the eastern sage grouse. On Jan. 5, 2004, the agency's regional director in Denver, Ralph Morgenweck, found that, "new biological information indicates that the eastern sage grouse is not a valid subspecies of the greater sage grouse, nor does it merit listing as a separate population," according to the Salt Lake Tribune.

Significant conservation work is already ongoing, independent of a decision whether or not to list sage grouse as a threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. IAFWA is

currently supporting a project to identify, aggregate, and integrate data on sage grouse and sagebrush habitat in partnership with USGS NBII, SAGEMAP, and Utah State University. It is generally agreed that sage grouse populations are declining, in large part due to habitat loss. There is debate over what to do about it. Project partners hope to see population declines reversed without having the sage grouse listed. It is believed that federal listing would drastically limit management flexibility, narrow State, and local options, and could severely hamper relationships with local partners.

Last February, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regional office in Portland rejected a petition to put the western sage grouse on the endangered list. By March 29, the agency must rule on a petition filed late last month by a coalition of 21 environmental groups, one of which is the Salt Lake City-based Wild Utah Project. The 400-page petition argues that the Endangered Species Act should protect the greater sage grouse because the bird's range has shrunk by more than half in the past 20 years. In Canada, the bird is considered endangered. Links for more information: [Salt Lake Tribune 1/7/04 Article](#) and [Sage Grouse Conservation Project - Team Resources](#).

## Idaho to Chair, Arizonan to serve on New National Panel Exploring Wildfire Suppression Costs

**January 29, 2004**

**Contacts:** Paul Orbuch (303) 623-9378

Idaho Gov. Dirk Kempthorne and Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano today named the Western state representatives to a national, blue ribbon panel that will review the costs of fighting wildland fires and determine what steps could be taken to contain those costs.



Kempthorne and Napolitano are the Western Governors' Association's leads for wildland fire management issues, and Kempthorne serves on the national Wildland Fire Leadership Council. Jim Caswell, Director of the Idaho Governors' Office of Species Conservation, will chair the council's newly created Strategic Issues Panel on Fire Suppression Costs. Arizona State Forester, Kirk Rowdabaugh, will represent Gov. Napolitano, and the National Association of State Foresters. "Idaho is very pleased to be chairing this national panel on fire suppression costs," Kempthorne said. "We will explore the relationship of large fires to land management plans and practices and whether new strategies would improve forest health and contain fire suppression costs." Governor Napolitano said, "It is key that we not shift costs to the states, tribes or local governments."

This panel will develop new recommendations and guide implementation of existing ones, including those identified in the Governors' 10-year strategy for reducing the risks of catastrophic fires. Lynn Scarlett, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget, chairs the Wildland Fire Leadership Council. It is a cooperative, interagency organization dedicated to coordinating and implementing the goals, actions and policies in the National Fire Plan and the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy among the federal, state, tribal and county agencies responsible for wildland fire management.

In October 2003, Assistant Secretary Scarlett announced that the blue ribbon panel would be created to examine how to contain the costs of large fires while protecting people and resources, particularly in "wildland urban interface areas."

"I will look forward to getting advice on what measures should be implemented from the Idaho and Arizona experts as well as other panel representatives from state, local, federal and tribal governments," Scarlett said. The panel is expected to begin meeting in February and to issue recommendations in late spring.

The report, at a minimum, will include findings, specific actions and recommendations on:

- The barriers and obstacles to cost containment,
- The strategies for cost containment success,
- The impediments to equitable sharing of suppression and cost apportionment among all jurisdictions,
- The criteria to measure cost containment success, and
- The relationship of fire management plans and resource management plans to suppression costs.

The panel will take a collaborative approach in seeking information from a broad range of stakeholders and in developing its findings and recommendations. The Council includes representatives from WGA, state foresters, the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture, Federal Emergency Management Agency, National Association of Counties, Intertribal Timber Council and International Association of Fire Chiefs. Additional information on the council can be found on the Web at [www.fireplan.gov](http://www.fireplan.gov).

*The Western Governors' Association is an independent, nonprofit organization representing the governors of 18 states and three U.S.-flag islands in the Pacific. Through their Association, the governors identify and address key policy and governance issues in natural resources, the environment, human services, economic development, international relations and public management.*

## Chronic Wasting Disease Surveillance in 2003

APHIS has supported State surveillance for CWD in captive herds by providing adequate laboratory support and paying for testing since 1997. This support has increased annually. During the 2002/2003 hunting season, APHIS funded the testing of more than 90,000 samples. In order to receive testing assistance, States were asked to provide a surveillance plan that included objectives, population/subpopulation description, justifications for defining population/subpopulations and sampling estimates. In addition to assisting individual States in determining whether CWD was present in their wild population, the information collected in this effort also would provide a better idea of the national distribution of CWD in wild cervid populations. A total of 91,636 samples were submitted for APHIS-funded testing. Of these samples, 302 were positive. No new areas of CWD infection were detected. APHIS now has 26 laboratories available as part of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network to assist in testing for CWD. Surveillance efforts in wildlife will be continued next year with funding provided to State for management as well as surveillance activities via cooperative agreements. Additional funds will be provided for management in States where CWD has been detected in wildlife. Visit <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/naahps/cwd/wild-cwd.html>, for the complete story and other information.

## Forest Service National Burden Rate (excerpts from FS FY 2004 Program Direction)

The Forest Service FY 2004 National Burden Rate (NBR) has been established as **19.2** percent. The NBR was calculated by dividing FY 2003 total indirect costs by total direct costs. For the purpose of calculating the NBR, the following qualifications are applied:

1. Expenditures for Working Capital Fund (WCF) are excluded; otherwise total obligations would be overstated because program funds are expended to fund WCF.
2. Emergency and Supplemental funds, including fire suppression, are excluded because they are outside our normal operating funds.
3. Payments to States funds are excluded because they are "Pass Through" funds.
4. Reimbursable funds are included because they are a normal part of our operating program.

The NBR is intended to cover the full cost of a project or agreement, including administrative costs. The NBR is to be applied against the total estimated direct costs and used when negotiating. Although some statutes require payment by the cooperator for all costs associated with a project, others allow some latitude. When this is the case, every attempt should be made to negotiate and recover Forest Service overhead costs.

It is a high priority within the entire Forest Service to continually work to reduce indirect costs and thereby increase funding available for on-the-ground accomplishment.

#### **Exemptions from Requiring Payment of a Burden Rate**

Exemptions may be granted when a cooperator states that any funds they will contribute must fully go to performance of on-the-ground work, and if the work being performed could reasonably be expected to be part of a planned program of work to be completed by the Forest Service with available funds in the foreseeable future.

If an exemption for applying the national burden rate by the cooperator is granted, it must be clearly stated in the agreement and documented for audit purposes. Exemptions from applying the national burden rate shall be the exception rather than the rule and carefully documented, reviewed and recommended by the unit's Budget and Finance Officer and approved by the R/S/A Director before allowed.

## **Federal Agencies Announce Guidelines for Stewardship Contracts and Agreements**

### ***Key Element of Healthy Forests Initiative Will Improve Forest and Rangeland Health While Increasing Collaboration***

**BLM Contact:** Laura Ceperley, (202) 452-5029

**USFS Contact:** Heidi Valetkevitch, (202) 205-1089

**WASHINGTON, D.C., January 15, 2004** -- The Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service today announced guidelines to develop and implement stewardship contracts and agreements. Part of the President's Healthy Forests Initiative, stewardship contracting will improve the health of the land, ensure thriving landscapes and contribute to the development of dynamic economies by assisting land managers to enhance and restore forest and rangeland health while strengthening the role of communities and others who contribute to such efforts.

"Stewardship contracting allows federal land managers to achieve land management goals, including fuels reduction activities, for public lands at high risk to catastrophic wildfire while

meeting local and rural community needs," said Mark Rey, USDA under secretary for natural resources and environment. "The severe fire seasons of the last few years have emphasized the need to reduce fire risk on federal lands and have underscored the need for a new way of doing business."

The guidelines reflect public comments received in response to interim guidelines released in June 2003.

Stewardship contracting, which Congress approved last year, will help the agencies achieve key land-management goals to:

- improve, maintain, and restore forest and rangeland health;
- restore and maintain water quality;
- improve fish and wildlife habitat;
- reestablish native plant species and increase their resilience to insects, disease and other natural disturbances; and
- reduce hazardous fuels that pose risks to communities and ecosystem values through an open, collaborative process.

The contracts will allow private companies, communities and others to retain forest and rangeland products in exchange for the service of thinning trees and brush and removing dead wood. Long-term contracts foster a public/private partnership to restore forest and rangeland health by giving those who undertake the contract the ability to invest in equipment and infrastructure. This equipment and infrastructure are needed to productively use material generated from forest thinning, such as brush and other woody biomass, to make wood products or to produce biomass energy, all at a savings to taxpayers.

Directives, sent today to BLM and Forest Service offices to implement the guidelines, delineate:

- project design goals and objectives;
- office roles and responsibilities;
- direction for use of value offset and excess receipts;
- how to submit a project, report accomplishments and track finances;
- how to engage in third-party monitoring, coordination, and collaboration.

"Stewardship contracting will demonstrate a 'new environmentalism' - land stewardship based on partnerships and common ground rather than litigation and confrontation," said Rebecca Watson DOI assistant secretary. "It is part of a new culture of communication, cooperation, and consultation, in the service of conservation - a culture that Secretary Norton calls the 'Four C's.'"

A notice will be published in the Federal Register later this month. The BLM final guidelines are posted on agency web sites at [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov). Final guidelines for the USDA Forest Service will be posted later this month at [www.fs.fed.us](http://www.fs.fed.us). More information on stewardship contracts and agreements guidelines can be found at: [http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/forest\\_initiative/stewardship\\_contracting/](http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/forest_initiative/stewardship_contracting/)

## Vacancies

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

[http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency\\_search.asp](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/](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  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/index.shtml>
- Forest Service's Annual Fall Foliage Hotline  
<http://www.fe.fed.us/news/2003/releases/09/fall-colors.shtml> (NEW)
- Partnership Resource Center: <http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/index.shtml> (NEW)

**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, National Wildlife Program Leader at [dpressman@fs.fed.us](mailto:dpressman@fs.fed.us) or Jina Mariani, National Assistant Wildlife Program Leader at [jmariani@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmariani@fs.fed.us) no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity and brevity.

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