# ON THE WILD SIDE

USDA FOREST SERVICE
*March 2003*

## NatureServe Website Adds County and Watershed-Level Distributions of At-Risk Species

**For Immediate Release January 31, 2003**
**Contact:** Rob Riordan, NatureServe, 703-908-1831 or rob_riordan@natureserve.org.

*Arlington, Virginia.* NatureServe, a conservation organization is a leading source for information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems, has launched a completely redesigned website that is a major biodiversity information resource for those in the conservation, scientific, and education communities. The new website, www.natureserve.org, includes the popular NatureServe Explorer web product, a searchable database offering detailed information on more than 50,000 plants, animals, and ecological communities of the United States and Canada. NatureServe Explorer now provides county and watershed distributions for more than 5,000 at-risk U.S. species-information never previously available online.

"NatureServe's new website organizes in one place our network's vast online data offerings. It's a rich trove of biodiversity data, particularly for scientists and natural resource professionals," said Dr. Bruce Stein, NatureServe's Vice President for Programs. According to Dr. Edward O. Wilson, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Future of Life*, "NatureServe has established an impressive record of accomplishments in the area of biodiversity information. There is no other information resource comparable to its authoritative database of species occurrences, compiled over 25 years by natural heritage programs."

Development of NatureServe's new website was made possible through support from the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII), which is coordinated by the U.S. Geological Survey. Online access to county and watershed distributions was supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In addition to greatly improved graphic design and ease of use, the website has a number of features that will make it a valuable online destination for the scientific and conservation communities, including:

- A portal to the online data offered by the 76 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers in the U.S., Canada, and Latin America that comprise the NatureServe network. These include numerous searchable biodiversity databases, local, state, and province-level data on at-risk species, and extensive information on ecological community classifications [see Get Data].

- Searchable databases providing conservation information for U.S. and Canadian plants, animals, and ecosystems [see NatureServe Explorer <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>] and for the birds and mammals of Latin America [see InfoNatura <http://www.natureserve.org/infonatura>]. Distributions for at-risk species at county and watershed scales are now provided in text format; funding is being sought to provide the data through an Internet map server that can be directly queried and downloaded.

- A monthly feature providing biodiversity insights and analyses through informative maps and charts. The first feature is a state-by-state view of U.S. species at risk [see Biodiversity Insights http://www.natureserve.org/conservation/usSpeciesatRisk.jsp].

- Technical details of NatureServe's standards and protocols for biological inventory and information management, including system diagrams and data dictionaries for the network's core data management software, Biotics [see Natural Heritage Methodology http://www.natureserve.org/prodServices/heritagemethodology.jsp].

- Access to ecological classification and mapping work, including the U.S. National Vegetation Classification [see Ecosystem Mapping http://www.natureserve.org/prodServices/ecomapping.jsp].

- A directory to the more than 800 staff working across the NatureServe network, with links to every natural heritage program home page [see Local Program Websites http://www.natureserve.org/visitLocal/index.jsp].

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**NatureServe** is a non-profit conservation group dedicated to providing the scientific information and tools that form the basis for effective conservation action. NatureServe represents a network of 76 natural heritage programs and conservation data centers in the United States, Canada, and Latin America that collect and analyze information on plants, animals, and ecosystems. NatureServe is a leading source for detailed scientific information about rare and endangered species and threatened ecosystems. Visit us on the web at www.natureserve.org <http://www.natureserve.org>.

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Identifies Birds of Conservation Concern in New Report

**For Immediate release February 10, 2003**

Emphasizing the need to conserve declining species long before they require the protection of the Endangered Species Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released its Birds of Conservation Concern 2002 report on February 10, 2003. The report identifies more than 100 bird species that deserve prompt conservation attention to stabilize or increase populations or to secure threatened habitats.

The report will assist efforts by Federal and State agencies, conservation organizations, private companies, and landowners to protect and restore bird habitat and reduce the

impact of their activities on species of concern. In addition, species included in this report can be given priority consideration for funding for research, monitoring, and management.

"We need to do more to protect declining species before they become threatened or endangered," said Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton." This list will help the Fish and Wildlife Service work in partnership with states, conservation groups, and others with an interest in bird conservation to take action now to keep species from declining to the point of requiring listing under the Endangered Species Act. It provides a road map for conserving hundreds of bird species across the country that have suffered habitat and population losses."

Developed in consultation with the leaders of ongoing bird conservation initiatives and partnerships such as Partners in Flight, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the list prioritizes species based on the threats they face and the declines they have suffered. Species that are currently declining or uncommon, have small ranges, and/or face significant threats to their future survival were included on the list. The list will be used by a broad array of agencies and organizations to shape spending and research priorities, habitat acquisition and restoration needs and to minimize the impacts of their activities on identified species.

"The Federal government needs to take the lead in efforts to conserve migratory birds. Release of this report will guide ongoing efforts to avoid impacts to migratory birds, and enhance migratory bird conservation," said Service Director Steve Williams.

Release of the 2002 report takes on special significance for Federal agencies. Executive Order 13186 directs all Federal agencies taking actions having or likely to have a negative impact on migratory bird populations to work with the Service to develop an agreement to conserve those birds, focusing on species identified in the Birds of Conservation Concern 2002 report. As a result, the Service is currently developing memoranda of understanding (MOUs) with dozens of Federal agencies that will help guide future agency actions and policy decisions; renewal of permits, contracts or other agreements; and the creation of or revisions to land management plans. In addition to avoiding or minimizing impacts to bird populations of conservation concern, agencies will be expected to take reasonable steps to restore and enhance habitats, prevent or abate pollution affecting birds, and incorporate migratory bird conservation into agency planning processes whenever possible and to the extent that these actions are compatible with their primary missions.

The development of an "early warning" list of bird species in potential trouble is mandated by a 1988 amendment to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980. The number of such species has grown from 30 in 1987, to 122 in 1995, to 131 in 2002. This growth partly reflects the addition of eligible species in Hawaii and other U.S. Pacific Islands. Scientists also know more about the status of some bird species and that knowledge has increased the pool of eligible species. Publication of the 2002 report is

expected to prompt heightened efforts to improve habitat conditions, conduct monitoring, and initiate status assessments for some of the highest priority species.

The newly revised report is actually a series of 45 individual lists that identifies bird species of concern at national, regional and landscape scales. The lists include a principal national list, seven regional lists corresponding to the Service's regional administrative units, and species lists for each of 37 Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the U.S. designated and endorsed by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. The BCR lists will help focus on-the-ground conservation actions on the highest priority species. The 1987 and 1995 reports did not identify species at the BCR level, thus limiting their effectiveness for identifying species that may be relatively abundant nationally or regionally but in steep decline in smaller but still ecologically significant areas such as BCRs.

Copies of the Birds of Conservation Concern 2002 may be obtained by writing to the Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop 4107, Arlington, VA 22203-1610, ATTN: BCC 2002. It is also available for downloading on the Division of Migratory Bird Management's web page at http://migratorybirds.fws.gov.

- FWS -

Nicholas Throckmorton
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Public Affairs
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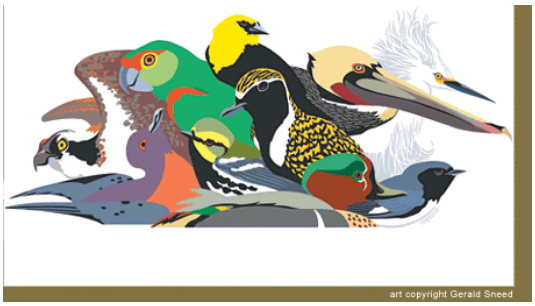
## Celebrate IMBD 2003




International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), to be celebrated on May 10, 2003, is an invitation to celebrate and support migratory bird conservation. In addition to being a day to foster appreciation, Partners In Flight (PIF) created IMBD as a call to action. Although it has become the hallmark outreach event for PIF, IMBD provides educational opportunities for all migratory bird initiatives. Events and activities held in honor of IMBD, as well as the nationally coordinated suite of products and messages, need not be limited to landbirds, nongame birds, or neotropical migrants. This is reflected in the theme and artwork for IMBD 2003: *Birds: Catalysts for Conservation*. This theme explores how birds have been the inspiration for some of the most significant conservation actions in the Americas, and highlights ten species – a full taxonomic variety –symbolic of these actions. If you are interested in the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats, support and celebrate IMBD! Activities can be large or small, target any number of audiences, highlight almost any conservation issue, and be scheduled for whatever date or season best fits your locality. Raising awareness and concern for any group of migratory birds and their habitats will ultimately benefit them all.

For more information on IMBD, please contact Jennifer Wheeler, IMBD@fws.gov, or Susan Bonfield, MigratoryBirdDay@aol.com, or visit the IMBD web site at http://www.birdday.org ~Excerpted from the All-Bird Bulletin

## National Making Tracks Awards Presented at Annual Convention

The second edition of the Making Tracks Awards highlighted the Invitational Leadership Luncheon and Workshop at the Annual Convention of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) held recently in Nashville, TN. Jim Gladen, Director of Watershed, Fisheries, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants in Washington, DC, and Bob Jacobs, Regional Forester for the Southern Region, assisted Robert Abernethy, Director of Agency Programs with the NWTF in making the presentations.

The National Making Tracks Awards recognize people for their leadership in improving and restoring wildlife habitat, strengthening conservation partnerships, and promoting conservation education. The awards also honor specific projects that exhibit the cooperative spirit of the Making Tracks program and meet specific wildlife management goals. This year, the awards were presented in three categories with two going to Forest Service employees and one going to an outstanding group of National Wild Turkey Federation and Forest Service volunteers.

The **Habitat Management Programs Award**, an award that recognizes program accomplishments that benefit wild turkeys over multiple years, was presented to **Mike Spanel** in recognition of his many years of improving wild turkey habitat on the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois. Mike has worked as a wildlife biologist on the Shawnee National Forest in Illinois for over 20 years and has been a volunteer for the National Wild Turkey Federation for over 10 years. During this time he worked to develop strong partnerships with local chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and others to improve wild turkey habitat on thousands of acres on the forest. When budget cutbacks occurred within the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Mike developed the “Adopt a Wildlife Opening” program. By utililizing volunteers and the Illinois NWTF Super Fund, maintenance continued on many wildlife openings. More recently, Mike developed the Powerlines for Poults and Gaslines for Gobblers projects that brought together corporate managers and the Saline County Strutters of the NWTF to develop wild turkey habitat within energy rights-of-way. Mike has worked hard to figure out ways to get things done during a time when active management of our national forests, especially on Shawnee, has been highly controversial.

The **Partnership Achievement Award** was presented to **Karen Hayden**, District Ranger for the Sierraville Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest, in recognition of her accomplishments in strengthening and expanding the partnership between the Forest Service and the National Wild Turkey Federation in California. Karen has been an active participant in the Making Tracks partnership for over 10 years and has served as the Regional Emphasis Area Leader in California since 1996. Karen has a long history of working for the wild turkey in California and has helped to implement a wide variety of projects ranging from translocations, monitoring, habitat improvements, and conservation education. More recently Karen has worked diligently to improve and expand the partnership in California. Her work has helped to establish clear and open lines of communication at all levels, and has helped to identify habitat management and other partnership opportunities. Karen is currently on a one-year assignment as District Ranger and will return to her position as Forest Biologist on the Tahoe National Forest when it is completed.

The **Habitat Management Projects Award** was presented to **the Middle Rio Grande Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation** in recognition of their work in habitat management projects in the Middle Rio Grande area near Tome, New Mexico. The Middle Rio Grande Chapter is a dedicated group of volunteers that has provided assistance to all land management agencies in the general vicinity of the Middle Rio Grande Valley to improve wildlife habitat. In addition to the projects that have been completed on the Cibola National Forest, numerous projects have been completed on lands administered by the USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDI Fish and Wildlife Service, the New Mexico Game and Fish, and New Mexico State Trust Lands. Lee Darlington, a local NWTF volunteer was on hand to receive the award for the Chapter. While wild turkeys are the focus of their efforts, their work in restoring wet meadows, exclosure fencing, installation of guzzlers, and development of natural springs has improved wet meadow habitats and the availability of water for turkeys and numerous other wildlife species. The chapter has completed a total of 26 projects with a value of around $40,000 and their contributions have helped to enhance wildlife habitat on over 15,000 acres in the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

These are only a few of the folks who have dedicated a significant portion of their lives to wildlife conservation, have a strong belief in what they do and deserve to be recognized for their accomplishments. Without a doubt, there are many others equally worthy of

recognition. To all the people, including volunteers, state and federal employees, and other conservation organizations that help to improve wildlife habitat and preserve our hunting heritage, we at the National Wild Turkey Federation and the Forest Service, say thanks.

## Ducks Unlimited/Responsive Management Research Results on Public Opinion on Wildlife and Property Rights

**For Immediate Release February 19, 2003**
**Contact:** Mark Damian Duda, Executive Director; Responsive Management

**Conservation Easements An Important Property Right**

A recent survey conducted by Responsive Management found that North Dakota residents value private property rights and support the freedom of landowners to sell or donate easements to conservation organizations. The results of this survey reflect the viewpoints of North Dakotans based on a telephone survey of 511 state residents conducted in January 2003.

The study centered around North Dakotans and their views on property rights and easements. Easements are contracts in which a landowner voluntarily agrees to restrict some types of land uses. Easements are popular tools used to protect valuable farm and grazing lands, scenic vistas, wildlife habitat, and other natural features that are compatible with landowners' operations and desires. Future owners of the land are alerted to an easement before buying the property and are obligated to comply with the terms of the easement if they choose to purchase the land. These actions provide voluntary, long-term protection of natural and agricultural habitats. In many states, cattlemen associations and agricultural land trusts are advocates for, and holders of, perpetual easements. North Dakota is the only state that currently places restrictions on the rights of landowners to sell perpetual easements or land to conservation organizations.

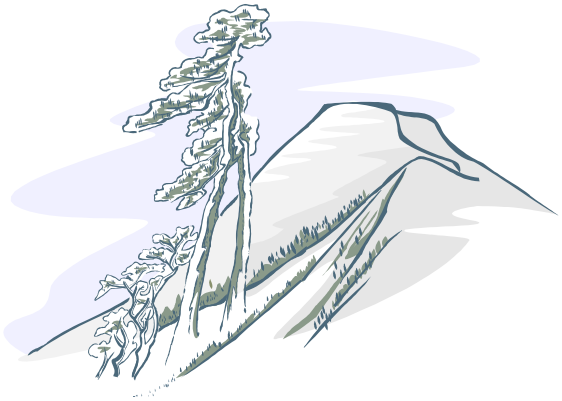
Responsive Management asked citizens of the state whether landowners should have the right to sell perpetual easements or land to conservation organizations under state law. Sixty-five percent of respondents felt that landowners should be able to sell conservation easements to protect wetlands and grasslands on their land. Nearly 80% of respondents felt that property owners should be able to sell their land to anybody they choose without government interference. Over 70% of respondents thought that landowners should be able to determine how long an easement will last, whether from just a few years to forever. Rural residents and those who owned agricultural land were the most supportive of the right of landowners to choose the length of an easement.

"We were very pleased with the design of the survey and the willingness of North Dakota residents to complete the survey," says Mark Damian Duda, Executive Director of Responsive Management. "The survey showed that nearly three-quarters of the respondents valued wildlife refuges, state game areas, and other conservation lands because they are important to their quality of life. This perspective, along with the

support of private property rights, seems to correspond with support for expanded use of conservation easements."

**Responsive Management** is a Virginia-based public opinion polling and survey research firm specializing in natural resources, fisheries, wildlife, outdoor recreation and environmental issues. Surveys are conducted with scientific rigor according to the standards of the Council of American Survey Research Organizations. A comprehensive report on the North Dakota private property rights survey can be viewed at the website http://prairie.ducks.org./

## An Aspen Delineation Project Workshop



**Developing Tools for Aspen Management**
**Vic Fazio Yolo Wildlife Area**
**Davis, California**
**Thursday, May 8, 2003**

### SPONSOR

The Aspen Delineation Project, a collaborative effort of the Forest Service, BLM, and California Department of Fish and Game, was created to assess the state of knowledge and management efforts regarding aspen on public lands in the Sierra Nevada and Warner Mountains. The project focuses on how agencies have identified, mapped, treated, monitored, and studied aspen habitats. It also explores challenges, issues, and roadblocks surrounding aspen management on public lands.

### THE WORKSHOP

The agenda will center on:

- Inventory and assessment
- Stand regeneration
- Monitoring browsing of aspen on rangelands
- Adaptive management

This conference will showcase efforts of groups that are working on one or more of the above areas. Issues addressed will include assessment, implementation and effectiveness monitoring protocols, field crew training programs, data entry support, data analysis, and access to data sets.

### WORKSHOP WEB PAGE

**http://www.r5.fs.fed.us/eldorado/news/aspen.htm**

## IMPORTANT DATES

March 7: Second Workshop Announcement (Agenda included)
March 20: Early Registration Deadline
April 18: Final Registration Date
April 23: Pre-workshop /Logistic Announcements
May 8: The Workshop

## POSTER SESSION

Posters covering a wide range of aspen projects in California and Nevada will be on display. Note: Those interested in presenting posters are asked to contact the Aspen Delineation Project: peregrines@prodigy.net for details.

## REGISTRATION

Space is limited. Reserve now.
To register, send name, email address, and mailing address to peregrines@prodigy.net

## FOR ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP INFORMATION

David Burton
Aspen Delineation Project
P.O. Box 348, Penryn, CA 95664
(916) 663-2574, peregrines@prodigy.net

## Western Forest Managers Say Active Management Key to Reducing Risks of Wildfire and Restoring Forests

**For Immediate Release February 3, 2003**
**Contact**: Jay Jensen, 303-445-4366 www.wflccenter.org/

The Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC), a 34 member State-Federal partnership, released a policy statement today on *Forest Health and Wildfire,* underscoring the need to actively manage forests to reduce the risk of fires in and around our communities and at the landscape-level to protect our valuable watersheds.

"The fires we've experienced over the last three summers are a promise of more to come," says Jim Hubbard, State Forester for Colorado and State-lead for the WFLC. "We have over 89 million acres of forest land at moderate to high risk of catastrophic wildfire - inaction is not a choice."

The WFLC members actively developed and are helping to implement the National Fire Plan and 10-year Comprehensive Wildfire Strategy with particular focus on rehabilitation/restoration and community assistance. Additionally, they partnered with the USDA, Forest Health Technology and Enterprise Team to report on the Western Bark Beetle epidemic sweeping the western forests. They also coordinated the distribution of fire assistance monies to local and rural fire departments - over $89 million in Fiscal Year 2002.

The WFLC members have focused on projects that over the past several years reduced hazardous fuels, restored forests and burned areas, and assisted communities located in the Wildland Urban Interface. They maximize federal-state financial investments by working with communities leveraging resources and partnerships across jurisdictional boundaries.

"Amidst the many priorities facing our country, we remain focused on our chief responsibility reducing the risks to communities and landowners from unwanted wildfire, and restoring our forests to a more natural condition," said Brad Powell, Regional Forester for the Northern Region and Forest Service-Lead for the WFLC.

Last year over 68,000 fires blackened nearly 7.1 million acres in the U.S. nearly doubling the 10-year average. Research on these catastrophic events shows that thinning is beneficial in many forest types.

"The lessons we learned over the last three summers point to the need to actively manage our forests if we want them to survive these catastrophic events," says Marcia Patton-Mallory, Director for the Rocky Mountain Research Station and Research-lead for the WFLC. If drought conditions continue and the public doesn't address this issue on a large scale, more homes will be lost, watersheds burned, and acres blackened by unwanted wildfires," she said.

The **WFLC** represents the State & Private Forestry interests of some 34 Members: 23 western State and Territorial Foresters and from the USDA Forest Service: 7 western Regional Foresters; 3 western Research Station Directors; and 1 Forest Products Lab Director.

# # #

## New Shorebird Website Launched

The division of Shorebird Research & Conservation at Manomet has launched its new website to provide public access to field research reports and updates. The site is dedicated to promoting understanding and awareness of the natural history of shorebirds, the enormous conservation challenges they face throughout their migratory ranges and the cooperative, international research and conservation efforts underway to help ensure their survival. Visit the new site at http://www.shorebirdworld.org/

## Bat Conservation International Seminars

*From BCI:* Western bats are emphasized at our **Arizona** workshop in the Chiricahua Mountains. The Chiricahuas are located at a crossroads between distinct tropical and temperate, desert and mountain biotas where 5 Life Zones merge, offering a unique biodiversity unequalled anywhere else in North America. Our field activities are commonly interrupted by such rarities as trogons, coatis, and ring-tailed cats, not to mention that you will not only see, but capture and handle as many as 18 bat species in a single evening, capped off by watching endangered long-nosed bats visiting hummingbird feeders at your front door. BCI expert, Janet Tyburec, and her well

trained crew, including biologists from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, will share a wealth of knowledge covering all aspects of species identification (including by echolocation calls), bat conservation, management, education, public health nuisance issues, artificial habitats, etc. Participants will stay at the American Museum of Natural History's famous Southwestern Research Station (http://research.amnh.org/swrs), where they will have opportunities to enjoy superb cooking while meeting researchers from around the world. $1195 (May 22-27, May 27-June 1)

In **Pennsylvania**, we highlight eastern bats and their habitats. Participants will net and trap bats over trout streams and beaver ponds, observe thousands of endangered Indiana bats swarming at the entrance to a mine where they will later hibernate, will have a chance to see more than 20,000 little brown bats in their spectacular dawn return to roost in a restored church attic, then get to enter and observe them close up, and much more. Workshop Co-leader, Cal Butchkowsi, of the Pennsylvania Game Commission, has some 20 years of experience and is a leading expert on censusing and radio-tracking Indiana bats, not to mention being America's most successful builder of bat houses and other artificial roosts. Workshop participants will learn his personal success secrets while viewing thousands of bats close-up in his bat houses. He and BCI expert, Janet Tyburec, will share a wealth of knowledge covering all aspects of bat conservation, management, education, public health and nuisance issues, and much more, including identification of species by their unique echolocation calls. Home cooking is just one of the many unexpected treats at the historic Greene Hills Lodge where we'll be headquartered. $1195 (August 19-24)

To enroll in either workshop, please visit the BCI website http://www.batcon.org/trips/workshops03.html for more information, itineraries and to download an application. The cost of the workshops includes tuition, lodging, meals and round-trip transportation from the departure city.

## Economic Growth and Wildlife—Are They Compatible?

**For Immediate Release February 25, 2003**

**Contacts**: David L. Trauger, Chairman, Technical Review Committee, dtrauger@vt.edu; Thomas M. Franklin, Wildlife Policy Director, TWS, tom@wildlife.org

Throughout this nation's history, our economy has grown steadily, fueled by technological progress and human desires. Because economic growth ultimately requires the liquidation of "natural capital," it has been accompanied by a general decline in the habitats and populations of wild creatures. Is there an alternative to this fundamental and inevitable conflict?

That far-reaching question, and some findings that point to potential answers, are the subject of *Relationship of Economic Growth to Wildlife Conservation*, a 22-page Technical Review about to be published by The Wildlife Society, the international scientific organization for wildlife professionals. The study is thought to be the profession's first substantial speakout on this broad-spectrum but vital subject.

The Technical Review, an outgrowth of a recent TWS symposium and a series of articles in the prestigious journal *Wildlife Society Bulletin*, probes the relationship of economic growth to consumer trends, social values, human population, ecological principles, technological progress, and wildlife conservation. Finally, acknowledging that the United States public values human welfare more than it does wildlife conservation, and that renewable natural resources provide the foundation on which the economy stands, the study's authors advocate the advancement of a system of "ecological economics," which could lead to a steady-state economy with stable human population and per-capita consumption--and eventually to conserving wild creatures over the long term.

The *Relationship of Economic Growth to Wildlife Conservation* will be published in early March. The contacts listed above can provide the press with an electronic copy of this Technical Review.

**The Wildlife Society**, founded in 1937, is the association of professionals dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. It works to develop and maintain professional standards, advance professional stewardship of wildlife and its habitats, and increase public awareness and appreciation of wildlife management. It has members in more than 70 countries.

Bill Rooney, Managing Editor, The Wildlife Society, 5410 Grosvenor Lane, Bethesda, MD 20814-2197
Phone: 301-897-9770; Fax: 301-530-2471; http://www.wildlife.org/

## Subscription to Conservation Ecology is Free!

*Conservation Ecology* is a free online Journal available to anyone with Internet access. Subscribers to the Journal receive additional benefits including: 1) notice of the Table of Contents of new issues, 2) notice of notable integrative papers or special features, 3) notice of competitions, and 4) invitiations to Policy Dialogues.

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You may unsubscribe at anytime. To update your email address, simply unsubscribe using your old address and then subscribe again with your new address. Visit their website at: http://www.consecol.org/Journal/subscribe/index.html

## The First Annual Mule Deer Conservation Award

In 2002, the Forest Service and the Mule Deer Foundation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to reinvigorate their existing partnership. As a part of this “reinvigoration,” the Forest Service and Mule Deer Foundation identified a desire to annually recognize Regions within the Forest Service for providing leadership in the conservation of mule deer/black-tailed deer and their habitat.

During the recent annual Mule Deer Foundation Convention in Reno, the Mule Deer Foundation and Forest Service were pleased to recognize the **Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5)** of the Forest Service, through the leadership of **Adam Rich**, Regional Emphasis Area Leader, with the first Annual Mule Deer Conservation Award. Adam worked closely with the Mule Deer Foundation and the California Department of Fish and Game to increase partnership efforts to improve deer habitat on all eighteen National Forest in Region 5. Various partners, including MDF, California Department of Fish and Game, and California Deer Association, with an additional $90,525 worth of in-kind services, spent an estimated $127,610. Additionally, Adam developed a programmatic agreement between Region 5 and the Mule Deer Foundation (which made the financial side of projects simpler), gave talks on "*How Chapters Can Partner with the Forest Service On Hands-on Projects*" at the 2002 Mule Deer Foundation Annual Convention, and arranged a presentation by California Department of Fish and Game on their State Deer Tag Fund to help the Mule Deer Foundation raise funds for mule deer.

We are hopeful, in the future, that all western Regions will be recognized for their commitment and dedication to the conservation for mule deer/black-tail deer and their habitat!

## 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST TRAINEE** | GS-0486-05/07 | Mar 25, 2003 | DEMO-TRAINEE-2003 | FOREST SERVICE | ASHEVILLE, NC; BOONEVILLE, AR |
| **WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST TRAINEE** | GS-0486-05/07 | Mar 28, 2003 | MPP-ENTRY TRAINEE-2003 | FOREST SERVICE | ASHEVILLE, NC; BOONEVILLE, AR |
| **WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST (INTERDISCIPLINARY)** | GS-0486-11/ | Mar 20, 2003 | R111-087-03G | FOREST SERVICE | WEST YELLOWSTONE, MT |
| **WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST** | GS-0486-11 | Mar 13, 2003 | R9-901-03G (TEMP PROM) | FOREST SERVICE | MEDFORD, WI |
| **BIOLOGIST (FOREST ANALYST)** | GS-0401-11/ | Mar 27, 2003 | R9-911 (B)-02D REL 2 | FOREST SERVICE | ESCANABA, MI |
| **INTERDISCIPLINARY (BIOLOGIST)** | GS-0401-11/ | Mar 14, 2003 | PN-257-03D Full Time,Term appt, NTE 2 yrs | FOREST SERVICE | PORTLAND, OR |

## 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 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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