

On the Wild Side

WILDLIFE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



USDA FOREST SERVICE

Don't Forget Earth Day - April, 22, 2004



MARCH/APRIL 2004

Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain - Henry David Thoreau

THE VALUE OF WILDLIFE

Recently, wildlife conservation organizations have been holding their annual conventions, raising millions of dollars for wildlife habitat management, conservation, and environmental education. At these events, partnerships are fostered among hundreds of private interests, small and large corporations and state and federal agencies. Thousands of volunteers and professionals spend thousands of hours to make these events successful. As astonishing as some of the national conventions are, it's even more remarkable that fund raising efforts occur throughout the year, when local chapters hold special events and banquets on home soil. It is at these events members and attendees are willing to pay, through auctions and activities, for efforts to help conserve wildlife and their habitats, be it for hunting opportunities, viewing, or just for the satisfaction of knowing they are contributing the conservation of wildlife and their habitats

Over the years, the U.S. Forest Service **GET WILD!** programs, have benefited enormously from the efforts of conservation organizations across the nation. Year after year, support from our wildlife conservation partners is consistently delivered, even during lean years. This March/April Newsletter highlights just some of the conventions, events and accomplishments of our partners.

FNAWS CONVENTION IN RENO, NEVADA: BIGHORN SHEEP TAG AUCTION REVENUE

Melanie M. Woolever
National FULLCURL Coordinator and
Wildlife Program Manager
USDA Forest Service, Rocky
Mountain Region, 303-275-5007
voice, 303-275-5075 fax



The Foundation of North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS) held their 27th annual convention in Reno, Nevada, January 13-17, 2004. Auctions at the convention this year grossed \$3,900,000 that will be used to benefit bighorn sheep. Special fund raising tags, commonly called "Governor's Tags" raised

\$1,708,000! As in years past, the auctioned sheep permits bring in a significant portion of the funds raised. The total value of the 10 sheep permits auctioned that are National Forest System land based was \$684,000. Melanie Woolever, Wildlife Program Leader for the Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region, and National FULLCURL coordinator said, "Seeing someone bid tens to hundreds of thousands of dollars for just the chance to harvest a big ram really drives home the wildlife value question"! The Forest Service manages 95% of all bighorn sheep habitat, and 30% of desert bighorn sheep habitat. Virtually 100% of all Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep harvest occurs on National Forest System lands. Interestingly enough, bighorn and desert sheep occur only in 11 western states, but most FNAWS members reside in the northeastern and southeastern regions of the United States, with the largest chapters occurring in the northeast. Governor Frank Murkowski was honored as Statesman for his "long-term support for wildlife conservation and his commitment to hunter's rights in Alaska." FNAWS additionally recognized Governor Murkowski for his "advocacy for scientific wildlife management in Alaska."

| | Price Sold at Auction |
|---|------------------------------|
| Wyoming Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep License* | 42,500 |
| El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve Desert Bighorn Sheep Tag (Mexico) 1st | 46,000 |
| Utah Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Permit | 43,000 |
| Nevada Desert Bighorn Sheep Tag | 87,500 |
| New Mexico Desert or Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Permit | 100,000 |
| State of California Desert Bighorn Sheep Permit (0% to FNAWS) | 59,000 |
| Idaho Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Tag (5% to FNAWS) | 46,000 |
| Arizona Desert or Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Permit (0% to FNAWS) | 65,000 |
| Colorado Bighorn Sheep License | 75,000 |
| Tiburon Island Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt (Mexico) 1st | 110,000 |
| Alberta Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep License (15% to FNAWS) | 160,000 |
| El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve Desert Bighorn Sheep Tag (Mexico) 2nd | 59,000 |
| Oregon Bighorn Sheep Permit | 86,000 |
| Utah Desert Bighorn Sheep Permit | 52,000 |
| Alaska Dall Sheep Permit | 15,000 |
| Washington Bighorn Sheep Permit | 51,000 |
| British Columbia Sheep Permit | 135,000 |
| Montana Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep License | 160,000 |
| Tiburon Island Desert Bighorn Sheep Hunt (Mexico) 2nd | 117,500 |
| Navajo Nation Desert Bighorn Sheep Permit | 31,000 |
| Texas Private Land Desert Bighorn Hunt Permit | 56,000 |
| Total Sheep licenses sold at auction at FNAWS convention | 1,596,500 |

The Wyoming sheep license is the only fully donated license to FNAWS, most others (unless noted) donate 10% of the revenues to FNAWS, and the remainder is used for wild sheep management in the respective State, Province, or Country.

NATIONAL WILDF TURKEY FEDERATION CONVENTION BRINGS TENS OF THOUSANDS TO DOWNTOWN COLUMBUS, OHIO

NWTF Communications Department

(803) 637-3106, or visit

http://www.nwtf.org/nwtf_newsroom/press_releases.php?id=10156&SUBSITE=nwtf.

The National Wild Turkey Federation is flying high from its annual convention in Columbus, Ohio, where turkey fans celebrated 31 years of conservation. This was the Federation's fourth visit to the capitol city in seven years. The conservation organization, with more than 500,000 members in the United States and 11 foreign countries, including Canada, first visited Columbus in 1997, returning in 2001. Ohio is often advertised as one of the best turkey hunting states in the Midwest. Events held at the convention helped

celebrate that heritage. As always, the aisles of the exhibit hall swarmed with convention-goers shopping for the latest hunting gear at nearly 300 booths. At the end of the weekend, nearly 28,000 people had poured through the doors of the convention center with nothing on their minds but the wild turkey.

Tourism officials also estimate that visitors to the event (Feb. 20-22) spent slightly more than \$17.4 million in four days, a figure that includes money for food, lodging and merchandise at downtown shops. Rooms at five of six hotels within walking distance of the Greater Columbus Convention Center were sold out.

Representatives report that near-record attendance helped the nonprofit group raise more money for the wild turkey than ever before. About the NWTF: In 1973 when the National Wild Turkey Federation was founded, there were an estimated 1.3 million wild turkeys and 1.5 million turkey hunters. Thanks to the work of wildlife agencies and the Wild Turkey Federation's many volunteers and partners, today there are 6.4 million wild turkeys and approximately 2.6 million turkey hunters. Since 1985, more than \$183 million NWTF and cooperator dollars have been spent on over 26,000 projects, benefiting wild turkeys and their habitat throughout North America.

Nearly two and a half days of technical meetings were held at the convention. NWTF biologists and volunteers, and biologists from a number state fish and wildlife agencies, the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), among others, gathered to report on a variety research and management projects concerning wild turkey populations and habitat use across the nation (and Canada). Updates were made on the Federation's habitat management initiatives and programs, including the Super Fund, Energy for Wildlife, Conservation Seed Program, Wild Turkey Partnerships, Making Tracks, Conservation Education, Wheelin' Sportsmen, Jakes, the Outdoor Channel's Turkey Country, and Outdoor Life Network's Turkey Call television shows.

Sally Collins, Associate Chief of the Forest Service, spoke during the technical meeting and assisted with the signing of an MOU between the NWTF and Region 5.

The NWTF is a half million-member grassroots, nonprofit organization with members in 50 states and 12 foreign countries. It supports scientific wildlife management on public, private, and corporate lands as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional North American sport.

CONSERVATION LEADERS HONORED, NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION CONVENTION, COLUMBUS, OHIO

**Dennis Daniel, National Coordinator
Making Tracks with the Forest Service
P. O. Box 530, 770 Augusta Road, Edgefield, SC 29824
Office: 803 637 3106 or 1-800-843-6983
ddaniel@fs.fed.us**

The National Making Tracks Awards recognize people for their leadership in improving and restoring and 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. One partnership in North America has garnered another gold star. The NWTF and U.S. Forest Service are celebrating 18 years as partners, bringing volunteers together for the benefits of wildlife and habitat.



Certain individuals and groups continue to lead the charge in finishing projects and strengthening relationships that remain catalysts for future goals. This year, at the NWTF's national convention and sport show in Columbus, Ohio, Making Tracks Awards highlighted the conservation arena. Sally Collins, Associate Chief of the Forest Service, and Randy Moore, Regional Forester for the Eastern Region, assisted Robert Abernethy, NWTF Director of Agency Programs, in making the presentations.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS AWARD

For more than 15 years, volunteers of the NWTF's Michigan State Chapter and the Huron-Manistee National Forest have improved wild turkey habitat on the forest. The accomplishments include the creation of more than 2,000 acres of wildlife habitat, 16 water holes, and other improvement structures. The Michigan State Chapter has matched and contributed more than \$124,500 to help the Huron-Manistee National Forest finish these projects for the benefit of wild turkeys and other wildlife species.

PARTNERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ken Day, Forest Supervisor for the Hoosier National Forest is this year's recipient of the Partnership Achievement Award. Mr. Day has shown great leadership in executing the habitat management program designed by the Hoosier Forest Land Management Plan. Through Mr. Day's persistence, thousands of acres have been treated to improve habitat for wild turkeys and other wildlife. Ken Day has served on the Making Tracks team with the Forest Service Steering Committee for more than four years, and has been especially active at the national and regional levels of the Forest Service to champion the Forest Service and NWTF partnership.

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PROJECTS AWARD

Linda Angerer from the Mendocino National Forest in Willows, California, has worked as a Forest Service wildlife biologist since 1988, and her devotion to the wild turkey is second to none. Ms. Angerer is the primary architect of the Oak Ridge Habitat Improvement Project on the Forest, which includes more than 4,000 acres of improved wild turkey habitat. The project focused on oak woodland development, opening maintenance, riparian habitat restoration and water source development. Linda Angerer is an avid and accomplished turkey hunter, and a champion project manager on the Mendocino National Forest.

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS AWARD

Doug Watson and Mitzi Cole from the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests in Georgia received the Conservation Programs Award for their outstanding contribution to the Soque (soo-kwee) River Outdoor Classroom. The outdoor classroom demonstrates a watershed-based approach to conservation. The Soque River Outdoor Classroom provides outstanding local and regional opportunities to educate community leaders and conservationists on watershed management and environmental ethics. Long-time NWTF member and Forest Service Wildlife Technician, Doug Watson, hosts seminars on wild turkey habitat, locating tracks and other sign in the fields. He also participates in the local JAKES event for area youngsters.

These award recipients are only a few of the conservation leaders who have dedicated a significant portion of their lives to wildlife conservation; because of their affiliation with the NWTF, the organization will move forward in confidence. 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 U. S. Forest Service, say **"thank you."** - **Dennis Daniel, National Wildlife Turkey Federation**

THE 29TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION, FEBRUARY 17 – 20, 2005, NASHVILLE, TENNESSE

Dennis Daniel

National Coordinator, Making Tracks with the Forest Service

P. O. Box 530, 770 Augusta Road, Edgefield, SC 29824

Office: 803 637 3106 or 1-800-843-6983

Cell: 678 640 1574, Fax: 803 637 0034

The 29th Annual Convention of the National Wild Turkey Federation will be held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center in Nashville, TN, February 17 – 20, 2005. The **Making Tracks Steering Committee** will be planning to meet prior to the convention on Wednesday, February 16, 2005, in the

afternoon.

We expect that the rooms at the Opryland Hotel to be sold out quickly so if you plan to attend and would like to stay at the host hotel, make your room reservation as soon as you can. The telephone number for reservations is 615-889-1000. Please let them know that you are attending the National Wild Turkey Federation convention to receive the discounted convention rate of \$145.00 per night for either a king size or two double beds. There is no extra charge for additional occupants per room. The hotel has a cancellation policy of three days prior to scheduled arrival.

We had a great convention recently in Columbus, Ohio, with excellent Forest Service participation and are looking forward to an even better one in Nashville!

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION CELEBRATES 20 YEARS: 1984-2004

Steve Wagner, Media Contact

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Ph: (406) 523-4542

swagner@rmef.org or <http://www.rmef.org/>

Al Christopherson, National Elk Country Coordinator

USDA Forest Service and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

achristopherson@fs.fed.us

“On behalf of the one million elk hunters in America, and the multi millions of other people who enjoy the mystique of wild things and wild places, congratulations to all who’ve been part of this great conservation success story.” - **Peter Dart, CEO, and President, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**

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 (RMEF) 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.

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. To date, total fundraising by the RMEF exceeds \$496 million, and 3,886 conservation and education projects have been completed. The RMEF has received the Chevron Conservation Award for 1991, United Nations Environment Award, The Wildlife Society's Group Achievement Award for 1996; and an overall efficiency “A” rating by American Institute of Philanthropy, and highest rating (4 Stars) by Charity Navigator, among others.

The Forest Service is the Elk Foundation’s longest and most key partner, since 80 percent of elk in the U.S. spend all or part of their lives on Forest Service land. Since 1986, the foundation, Forest Service, and other partners have pumped more than \$89 million into 1,481 projects, conserving and enhancing more than 1.7 million acres of habitat on 92 national forests and grasslands, and national recreation areas across the U.S. for elk and other wildlife.

From tiny communities to major metropolitan areas, more than 500 Elk Foundation chapters contribute substantially to the organization’s mission. Dollars from local banquets and benefit auctions fund conservation projects that are carefully reviewed and approved by the organization’s Project Advisory Committees. These committees include state and federal land managers, wildlife biologists and resource experts, ensuring that Elk Foundation efforts center on the best available science and professionalism.

Volunteers for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation provided more than \$18.1 million in services during 2003. The calculation is based on hourly standards for volunteerism set by U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics: \$16.05 per hour applied to 1.13 million hours donated by 10,958 Elk Foundation volunteers—all for the purpose of ensuring the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat. The estimate of 1.13 million hours is a conservative number based on average time invested by all volunteer positions within the Elk Foundation. It includes time spent organizing chapter big game banquets, coordinating district, state, provincial and regional fundraising efforts, and board activities. It does not include extra hours spent on special events, annual conventions, or on-the-ground habitat projects.

Current President and CEO Peter J. Dart, who took the organization's helm in 2003, says, "I'm a longtime life member and supporter, and I've watched the growth and mission successes of the Elk Foundation for many years. I've been so impressed by its accomplishments". Still, according to Dart, "there is much more to do." The rate of habitat loss in the West is staggering, threatening to outstrip the efforts of conservationists. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, more than 3.2 million acres of Western rangeland have been carved up for other uses, mostly new neighborhoods and shopping malls, in just the past 20 years. The human population in the West is growing much faster than the national average. Even people who live elsewhere are buying second homes or vacation getaways near western forests and mountain meadows. Now the American Farmland Trust reports that 11 percent of remaining prime rangeland—as much as 8.8 million acres of classic elk wintering range—in the Rocky Mountain states could be converted to residential development by 2020. **For the full story, visit www.rmef.org.**

ELK COUNTRY AWARDS PRESENTED IN RENO, NEVADA

Steve Wagner, Media Contact

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

Ph: (406) 523-4542

swagner@rmef.org or <http://www.rmef.org/>

Al Christopherson, National Elk Country Coordinator

USDA Forest Service and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

achristopherson@fs.fed.us

This year's Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) convention drew the largest crowd ever in Reno, Nevada. Dale N. Bosworth, Chief of the USDA Forest Service, made the presentation to RMEF celebrating its 20th year, and was enthusiastically received by the audience. The Elk Country awards (jointly sponsored by the RMEF and Forest Service) were presented to deserving individuals who put forth significant effort into elk management and conservation.

The Elk Country **Individual Achievement Award** went to Jim McGowan, Forest Biologist on the Colville Forest, Pacific Northwest Region. Jim McGowan has consistently brought high quality projects to the Washington Project Advisory Committee for funding, and spends much of his personal time donating his skills, knowledge, and passion to helping conserve and enhance elk habitat. For many years, McGowan served as a volunteer for his local Elk Foundation chapter, helping to raise funds, recruit new members, and develop support for new projects. Additionally, McGowan serves as a Forest Service representative at the foundation's annual national convention, helping staff the Forest Service booth and displays there.

This year's **Habitat Conservation Award** went to the Powell Ranger District, Dixie National Forest, and Intermountain Region for the Adams Head Ecosystem Restoration Project. Jose Noriega and Kim Soper were key players in the execution of this project. Partners include the Elk Foundation and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, as well as many local hunters and volunteers. The Adams Head Ecosystem Restoration project involved a combination of prescribed burns and seeding to enhance summer and winter ranges on the Sevier Plateau. Prescribed burning and seeding occurred from 2000 through 2003, improving more than 70,000 acres of habitat for the Mt. Dutton elk herd. Other projects in the area include improving over 20 ponds and protecting spring sites for livestock.

The Land Between the Lakes (LBL) National Recreation Area in Kentucky recently received the **Conservation Education Award**. The LBL was recognized for its outstanding efforts to educate over

135,000 visitors annually about elk, their habitat, and the restoration of the Kentucky Barrens prairie ecosystem. LBL's showcase is its visitors' center, which displays exhibits and information on elk habitat and management. LBL employees Steve Bloemer and Scott Ray are most closely associated with the award. "They have shown great leadership, enthusiasm, creativity and determination in developing and maintaining the LBL elk herd as a premier educational opportunity," said Tom Toman, conservation programs director for the Elk Foundation.

This year's **Land Protection Award** went to the Black Hills National Forest, and the Rocky Mountain Region Lands Staff for their outstanding efforts on the Black Hills Conservation Initiative, Homestake Land Acquisition effort. Craig Lundorff, Glenn Kostelecky, Steve Rinella and Nancy Hollenkamp were all instrumental in working with partners to bring this project to completion. "The project also received support from U.S. congressmen Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson of South Dakota, Homestake Mining Company, South Dakota Game and Fish Department, Lawrence County commissioners, Lead-Deadwood Sanitary District No. 1 and real estate representatives," said Mike Mueller, a lands program manager who coordinated the project for the Elk Foundation.

The Forest Service had eight exhibits at Elk Camp this year. These exhibits shared information about projects and initiatives for the California Tule Elk, Pacific Southwest Region; Black Hills National Forest, Rocky Mountain Region; Little Missouri National Grasslands, Elkhorn Mountains, and Absarokee Mountains, Northern Region, Wildland Fire Use, Clearwater National Forest, Northern Region; Land Between the Lakes, Southern Region; and a national display about highways and their effects on wildlife. Genny Wilson, Forest Biologist, Humbolt-Toiyabe National Forest, Intermountain Region did an outstanding job coordinating the Forest Service booth at the convention. The workshop on highways and their effects on wildlife was very well attended and received. Bill Ruediger did an excellent job coordinating the agenda and guest speakers for this workshop.

A big thank-you to all the Forest service employees who assistance and presence at the convention helped to make it so successful. – Al Christopherson

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION, AN AMERICAN OUTDOORS EXPERIENCE, BRISTOL SPEEDWAY, JUNE 11-13, 2004, BRISTOL, TN

**Tony A. Schoonen, Senior Vice President
Marketing & Communications
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**

The next Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation event, an American Outdoor Experience, will be hosted at the Bristol Speedway, Bristol, TN, in June 11-13, 2004. This will be a huge outdoor sport show, and 50,000 attendees are expected. Although there is much to accomplish till then, no one puts on a better event than the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Currently, meetings are taking place involving content, sponsorship sales, and developing staff and volunteer task lists are being developed. A Southeastern Initiative is also in the works that will be formally launched at this event, bringing more mission focus to the region. With the help of co-hosts, Champion Sports Group and Bristol Motor Speedway, volunteers and staff in the Southeast Region, the American Outdoor Experience promises to meet the highest standards of an Elk Foundation event.

It will be an enjoyable, educational, and interactive event for the entire family. A couple facts are noteworthy relative to the location and the potential of a very tight tie to NASCAR.

- NASCAR fans are far more likely than the average population to hunt, fish and otherwise enjoy the great outdoors. For example, 17% of NASCAR fans hunt as compared to 7.2% who are non-fans. Fishing is even higher at 30.2% as compared to 16.2%. The demographics of NASCAR fans overlap with those of our core constituency, and Bristol is a very popular NASCAR venue.
- States within a 300-mile radius of Bristol have a hunting population of 3.5 million and a fishing population of 9.3 million.

- In the same 300-mile, radius, hunters, and fishermen and women are major components of the regional economy spending some \$12 billion annually.

At this time, several groups and organizations that have stepped up to help sponsor this event. They include the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Bass Pro Shops, Tracker Marine and Olin Winchester to name a few. Many others are very interested and will no doubt come on board. There is now a website specific to this event. Please visit the website at: <http://www.americanoutdoorexperience.com>. This website will give you a good understanding of the magnitude of this magnificent event. You can also access this site through the RMEF website link www.elkfoundation.org. We hope you enjoy the website and there will be periodic updates as we proceed with the planning and implementation of this event.

MULE DEER FOUNDATION (MDF) CELEBRATES HEARTS FOR HABITAT AT ANNUAL CONVENTION

Crystal Parrish, Mule Deer Foundation

Brian Ferebee, Regional Wildlife Program Manager and National Coordinator, "A Million Bucks" USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region

Mule deer enthusiasts gathered over Valentine's Day weekend, February 13-15, 2004, in Reno, Nevada, to celebrate Hearts for Habitat at the Mule Deer Foundation's (MDF) 4th Annual Convention and Exposition. Around 3,500 hunters and conservationists ventured through the MDF's exhibit hall, which featured wildlife art, outfitters, hunting and outdoor equipment.



The convention was well attended by the Forest Service, which also had an exhibit and booth for a second year in a row. The Mule Deer Working Group, chartered by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) met for two days to discuss issues concerning mule deer, habitat, and the continued decline of this species throughout the west. Convention highlights included the awarding of the **Second Annual Mule Deer Conservation Award**. The award went to the Forest Service Region believed to have contributed the most to the conservation of mule deer and mule deer habitat. The recipient this

year's award was the Intermountain Region for the Dixie Harrow work on the Fishlake National Forest. Kreig Rasmussen, Forest Biologist, Fishlake National Forest, accepted the award from Robert Vaught, Forest Supervisor Humbolt/Toiyabe National Forest, and Bill Burbridge, Mule Deer Foundation Board of Directors.

The convention featured three fundraising auctions, which grossed more than \$287,000. Of these proceeds, nearly \$160,000 was raised through the auction of five special state tags from Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Wyoming. State natural resource agencies, conservation groups, and businesses pledged more than \$740,000 towards mule deer-related projects in Utah, enhancing more than 48,000 acres of critical mule deer habitat in the state. Proceeds from the following tags benefit mule deer and other wildlife in their respective states.

- Colorado Statewide Deer Tag \$45,000
- Montana Mule Deer Tag \$6,250
- Nevada Wildlife Heritage Deer Tag \$60,000

- New Mexico Deer Tag \$35,000
- Wyoming Governor's Deer, Elk or Antelope Tag \$13,000

The MDF looks forward to its 5th Annual Convention and Exposition, which takes place January 14-16, 2005, at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center in Reno. For more information, please contact Crystal Parrish at (888) 375-3337 or cparrish@muledeer.org.

AWARDING OUR PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES



The regional watershed, fish, and wildlife directors met in Washington, DC 13-15 of January. On January 14th, national partner representatives were invited to an afternoon meeting with the Directors. During the reception that followed Mark Rey, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment, presented **Dr. James Earl Kennamer**, Senior Vice President, National Wild Turkey Federation, and **Tom Darden**, Director of Biological Resources for the Southern Region, awards in recognition of “outstanding leadership in support of wildlife habitat enhancement on National Forests and Grasslands.”

At this reception, **Chris Iverson**, National Assistant Director for Watershed, Fish, and Wildlife, was also recognized “for outstanding leadership in helping to develop the new Forest Planning Rule.”

FOREST SERVICE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AWARD AGENCY BIOLOGISTS

**Jim Gladen, Director, Watershed, Fish, and Wildlife
USDA Forest Service Headquarters, Washington, DC**

Each year the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and USDA Forest Service (FS) host an awards reception at the North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference to recognize outstanding individual achievements by natural resources professionals in each agency. This year, the Chief of the Forest Service, Dale N. Bosworth, and Director of the Bureau of Land Management, Kathleen Clarke, presented seven awards at the 69th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, in Spokane, Washington.

JERRY MCLLWAIN RECEIVES THE FOREST SERVICE LLOYD W. SWIFT SR. AWARD

This year's recipient of the **Lloyd W. Swift Sr. Award**, Jerry Mcllwain, received this award for his leadership, dedication, and commitment to fish and wildlife conservation over a 36-year career with the Forest Service. Jerry Mcllwain's accomplishments are many and legendary. Probably the most enduring legacy of this individual is his mentoring of hundreds of biologists, botanists, and natural resource managers, that went on to assume leadership positions, influence management of millions of acres of habitat, and execute major conservation programs. His strong conservation ethic, honest approach, and unique ability to engage people enabled him to tackle complex issues. Jerry conquered many significant bio-political challenges in his career with outstanding results; he has left a distinguished example for us to follow.



Jerry Mcllwain broke new ground as the first USFS Regional Threatened and Endangered Species Program Manager in the Forest Service (Pacific Southwest Region), and he went on to provide outstanding leadership as the National Endangered Species Program Leader. During Jerry's tenure in Washington, DC, he also was the Chairman of the Department of Agriculture Endangered Species Work Group, and Chairman of the USDA International Wildlife Subcommittee. Jerry helped develop the sensitive species policy which is largely still in place, and helped established the Forest Service as a conservation leader by extending protection and conservation efforts to a much greater group of species.

Serving as Director of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Range for the Forest Service Southern Region, Jerry Mcllwain's tackled many tough issues, including Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) recovery. He led a team that developed a recovery strategy for these birds on national forest lands. The RCW strategy still provides an outstanding example of ecosystem management; allowing for species recovery, restoration of broad ecosystems, and a sustained flow of forest products. The RCW Strategy put the bird on the road to recovery, and is a remarkable success story for endangered species management.

In 1995, Jerry Mcllwain transferred to the Pacific Northwest to take on the new position of west coast Sensitive Species Coordinator. In this position, he worked for three Forest Service regions and two Forest Service Research Stations. This position eventually evolved into a position entitled Program Manager for Ecological Relationships, and spanned all aspects of the President's Northwest Forest Plan dealing with ecological resources among the three effected regions and two research stations.

The **Lloyd W. Swift Sr. Award** is presented to a current or past Forest Service employee in the field of wildlife, fisheries and rare plants, who exemplifies the characteristics, accomplishments, and qualities of Lloyd W. Swift Sr., a wildlife biologist, and the first national wildlife director for the Forest Service (1928-1963). Awardees must have demonstrated a lifetime of dedication, commitment, and leadership in management of the wildlife and fisheries resources of the United States.

STEVE LOW RECEIVES THE FOREST SERVICE JACK ADAMS AWARD

Steve Loe, this year's recipient of the Jack Adams Award, has been exemplary in helping others succeed, by mentoring many biologists and botanists during his Forest Service career spanning over 30 years. Steve has built a strong multi-disciplinary Forest-wide wildlife, fish, and botanical program from grassroots



beginnings. Repeatedly, Steve has provided an inspiration and example for broad collaboration on wildlife, fish and rare plant projects, involving mitigation, habitat connectivity, and implementation of conservation strategies. Steve's focus on partnerships is a showcase for the Pacific Southwest Region. As an integral part of the Southern California Conservation Strategies, Steve helped to ensure protection, enhancement, and restoration of wildlife, fish, and rare plant habitat in the forests of southern California.

Steve has made significant contributions to the development of Land and Resource Management Plans at both the Forest and multi-forest levels, including the development of the San Bernardino Land and Resource Management Plan. He is currently a key player in the revision of the four southern California Land Management Plans. His efforts are making certain that wildlife, fish, and plant resources are adequately addressed, within the true context of collaborative natural resource stewardship.

This award is presented annually to a Forest Service wildlife biologist, fisheries biologist, or botanist who exemplifies the characteristics and qualities of Jack Adams, wildlife biologist for the Forest Service (1961-1984). These characteristics include steady hard work and dedication to balanced resource management while ensuring that wildlife, fisheries, and rare plants needs are fully reflected in all management decisions.

JOINT FS-BLM, KARL URBAN “CELEBRATING WILDFLOWERS” AWARD

This year's recipient of the Carl Urban Award went to Joan Seevers, whose dedication and leadership helped build the most active botany program in the BLM. Joan has made immeasurable contributions to botany in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest region, and has discovered (conservatively) thousands of rare plant sites on the Medford District. The event that most demonstrates Ms. Seevers commitment to botanical resources is the annual Celebrating Wildflowers program she developed and sponsors with the Oregon Zoo, Portland.

At the local, state, regional, national, and international levels, Joan has made significant contributions to promote wildflowers. Locally, she has been President of the Ashland Chapter of the Oregon Native Plant Society for two years. Regionally and for over 22 years, Joan has been involved in the history of conservation of rare plants in Oregon. At the national level, she was instrumental in designing the BLM's original threatened and endangered species conservation training course, which is still in use. Internationally, Joan Seevers represented the BLM at the opening ceremony of the Millennium Seed Bank with the Kew Botanical Gardens in England, November, 2000.

The Celebrating Wildflowers program was developed as a collaborative commemoration with the USDA Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the National Park Service to promote the importance of conservation and management of native plants, and native plant habitats on public lands.

JOINT FS-BLM CONSERVATION PARTNER AWARD

The joint award FS / BLM Conservation Partner Award is presented to a partner group that has been working with the BLM and FS to achieve conservation goals. This year the award went to the Upper Snake River Conservation Team. The Team is a partnership among The Nature Conservancy, Teton Regional Trust, and the Conservation Fund.

This partnership is working to preserve a 42,000-acre area, along the river corridors of the South Fork, Henrys Fork, and Main Snake Rivers. The area includes majestic mountains, canyons, meadows, and the vast farmlands of the Snake River plains in fact a 1980 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service evaluation rated this area the most valuable, biologically diverse, and unique ecosystem in the state of Idaho. The partners work cooperatively to accomplish common conservation goals. Conservation is accomplished through acquisitions and easements. To date 13,300 acres valued at 27 million dollars have been secured through conservation easements, and fee-title acquisitions.

Mike Elsbree, Director for the Conservation Fund, Alan May, Program Director for The Nature Conservancy and Michael Whitfield, Executive Director for the Teton Regional Land Trust, were all on hand to accept the award.

FOREST SERVICE NATIONAL NATUREWATCH AWARDS 2003

Don Virgovic
USDA Forest Service
National NatureWatch Coordinator
dvirgovic@fs.fed.us

The 2003 National NatureWatch Awards clearly show the exemplary work, creativity, and talents of individuals and groups of individuals that help make the Forest Service NatureWatch Program the success it is. Awards will be presented (or mailed) at upcoming field visits, meetings, or conferences as time and travel permits. The award nominations process was coordinated with our WFRP database/management system. I would like to thank and recognize the folks that volunteered to assist with the award selection process. Their work was excellent, and **congratulations** to all the award recipients. – Don Virgovic

National NatureWatch Exemplary Program Awards, Forest-Level - *"In recognition of exceptional program management skills in developing a balanced and effective Forest NatureWatch Program."*
Boise National Forest, Intermountain Region, and the Ouachita National Forest, Eastern Region

National NatureWatch Exemplary Program Award, District-Level – *"In recognition of exceptional program management skills in developing a balanced and effective District NatureWatch Program."*
Sandia Ranger District, Cibola National Forest, Southwestern Region

National NatureWatch New Innovations Award - *"In recognition of extraordinary creativity and dedication to improving ways for children and adults to view aquatic resources underwater."*
Underwater Video: How to Build an Underwater Camera, McKenzie River Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, Pacific Northwest Region

National NatureWatch "New Viewing Site" Award - *Songbird Garden and Riparian Restoration Greenhouse Project*, Supervisor's Office, Klamath National Forest, Pacific Southwest Region

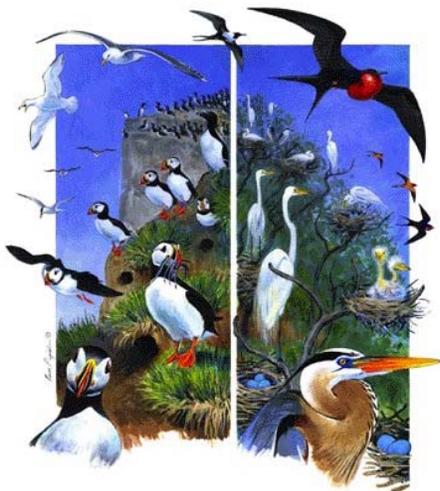
National NatureWatch "Just Like New" Award - *Hi Mountain Wildlife Lookout*, Santa Lucia Ranger District, Los Padres National Forest, Pacific Southwest Region

National NatureWatch Exemplary "Presentation" Award - *Choccolocco Field School*, Shoal Creek Ranger District, National Forests of Alabama, Southern Region

National Naturewatch Photography Awards – Wildflowers
Yosemite Onion, Trumbull Peak Tour 2003
Groveland Ranger District, Stanislaus National Forest, Pacific Southwest Region

National Naturewatch Photography Awards – Wildlife
Osprey Family, Eyes on Wildlife Bella Vista School Adopt-a-Bald Eagle Project #11, Shasta Lake Ranger District, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Pacific Southwest Region

National Naturewatch Photography Awards – Fisheries
Family Fun #2, Colusa Flyfishers Kids Fishing Derby, Grindstone Ranger District, Mendocino National Forest, Pacific Southwest Region



INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY MAY 8th, 2004

www.BirdDay.org

International Migratory Bird Day

P.O. Box 934

Silverthorne, CO 80498

1-866-334-3330

International Migratory Bird Day celebrates the incredible journeys of migratory birds between their breeding grounds in North America and their wintering grounds in Mexico, and Central and South America. The event, which takes place on the second Saturday of May each year (May 8, 2004), encourages bird conservation and increases awareness of birds through hikes, bird watching, information about birds and migration, public events, and variety of other education

programs. This year's theme is "Birds of a Feather...nesting together."

Please note the following web site, phone number, and address for the new International Migratory Bird Day (2004) catalog. At this web site, you can order a catalog, or any number of items from the catalog to

help promote and enhance your event, or that can be used as educational materials for other educational events you may have during the year. A number of websites are available for your use. To register your event go to: <http://birds.fws.gov/imbd>; for more information call the IMBD Information Center, (703)-358-2318 or visit IMBD@fws.gov.

PARTNERS IN FLIGHT (PIF) CONSERVATION AWARDS

Richard A. Fischer, Ph.D.
Chair, Partners in Flight Awards Committee

Several groups and individuals were elected to receive a national PIF award by a committee of their peers. Each of the recipients received awards and honored during the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, USFWS Director's Reception March 18, 2004, in Spokane, WA. The American Birding Association, and Swarovski Birding jointly sponsored this year's awards.

Please take time to congratulate the winners for a job well done!

C.J. Ralph, for the amazing and productive Klamath Demographic Monitoring Network.

Marjorie Schock Derrick, whose work facilitated making the *USFWS Communication Tower Construction Guidelines*, into County law to save birds.

Steve Lowrimore for Conservation of Swallow-tailed kites in the Gulf Hammock region of Florida and the Southeast.

Merrie Morrison for Bird Conservation Magazine.

Tim Burr for conservation, protection, and management of sensitive avian species on military lands in the western United States including Hawaii.

Peter Blancher for technical and mapping contributions to the North American Landbird Conservation Plan.

The Institute for Bird Populations for developing and implementing landbird conservation strategies by modeling.

Kirtland's Warbler Training and Research Project for conserving the Kirtland's Warbler, the Bahamas' most elusive bird.

THE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE, LINCOLN UNIVERSITY, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

Della Streaty-Wilhoit, Human Resources Manager, (573) 681-5369, USDA FS/APHIS
Lianne Hibbert, Assistant Human Resources Manager, (573) 681-5859, USDA APHIS

The Wildlife Management Initiative is a partnership between Lincoln University and two U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Forest Service. The partnership was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 1993, which outlined the general goals and commitments. The Initiative envisions that Lincoln University will become nationally and internationally known for its innovative academic excellence in specialized aspects of wildlife management. The Wildlife Management Initiative is now in its eleventh year and significant progress has been made in the program. A minor in wildlife management was formally added in the fall of 2001. The Initiative is now working to encourage the development of Wildlife Management as a major within a broader academic program at Lincoln University.

Dr. Russ Reidinger (now retired) was the Director of the Initiative, and served as a member of the University's strategic planning advisory team and a number of Departmental Committees. Dr. Reidinger was also an academic advisor for students in natural resources, and teaches a number of wildlife management courses. Lincoln University hired Dr. Michael Heard in 1999, as a Special Assistant to the President for Research, Extension, Federal Programs, and 1890 Land-Grant Administrator. Dr. Heard is now the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Natural Sciences, and works directly with the Wildlife Initiative. A component of the Initiative is to strengthen academic programs at Lincoln University so those students graduating will have strong research and academic backgrounds in areas of particular interest to the partnering agencies.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has assigned to Lincoln University a full-time senior federal manager position to coordinate the Initiative, and a full time human resources manager position to provide policy guidelines and implement appropriate Federal procedures to ensure successful recruitment, retention, and placement of students. Ties have been made between the Center of Excellence Initiative in Wildlife Management and other University research, extension, and academic projects including Capacity Building Grants, individual agency programs, and third party public and private sector programs.

The Missouri Department of Conservation and APHIS biologists contribute substantively to wildlife management classes that cover topics such as wildlife damage management, pond and stream ecology and management, deer aging, electro fishing, and fire ecology. The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS), Environmental Contaminants Laboratory in Columbia, Missouri teaches a laboratory on heavy metal and pesticide contaminants research in fisheries management. The Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) teaches GIS applications to wildlife management.

The Wildlife Initiative team continues to work with the University to ensure understanding of the program among the Deans and Departmental faculty. With the support of the Initiative, Lincoln University signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for cooperation in enhancement of the wildlife curriculum, student internships, and career opportunities in wildlife management. The Wildlife Initiative team continues to work with National and Regional Leadership of the Fish and Wildlife Service and with Lincoln University leadership to help facilitate participation in the wildlife academic program on campus.

An important goal of the Wildlife Initiative is to recruit, provide training, and place minority students in the field of natural resources and wildlife management. A culturally diverse group of over 80 students have graduated from the University with strong training in wildlife management and GIS applications. These students have participated in Initiative experiences since they were first offered in the summer of 1994, and have traveled to different parts of the United States to participate first-hand in a broad range of research activities. These include studies on coyote behavior and their management, management of wildlife problems at major airports, wildlife contraception and bird repellents. Over 55 of the 80 students have worked in state and federal roles related to wildlife management throughout the country, based on data from 1993 to present.

Twenty students have graduated from the Wildlife Initiative program since 1998, giving the program an 87% student retention rate. Of those graduates, one student has earned an advanced degree. In 1999, the Summer Career Educational Program (SCEP) was added to the Wildlife Management Initiative. Currently, there are 12 students in the program. In 2003, four students were placed with the Forest Service and three students were placed with APHIS; student worksite assignments include Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Wisconsin.

Currently, there are graduates of the Wildlife Initiative program who are seeking wildlife management or research positions. Upon request, a resume can be made available - Della Streaty-Wilhoit, Human Resources Manager

SOCIETY FOR CONSERVATION BIOLOGY MEMBERS ENGAGE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE (excerpt from Society for Conservation Biology Newsletter - Volume 11, Issue 1 - February 2004)

Straddling the snow-laden forests of the Rockies and the grasslands of the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountain Region of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is a winter paradise. Bighorn sheep and White-tailed ptarmigan are at ease in the biting cold, whereas Mountain lady slipper and Yellow widelip orchid will remain in hiding for several more months. The Rocky Mountain Region includes 24 National Forests and Grasslands and is home to more than 200 sensitive species of animals and plants.

During 2003, more than four-dozen SCB members worked to improve agency management of the species in the Rocky Mountains through a partnership between USFS and SCB's global network of conservation experts. This relationship was fostered by one of the first systematic applications of SCB's Expertise Database. "It was a delight to find the world's experts on a particular species with a quick search in our database," said SCB's Executive Director Alan Thornhill. The database, initiated less than two years ago, has proven invaluable for identifying reviewers for species assessments produced by the U.S. Forest Service's Species Conservation Project (SCP).

The SCP reflects efforts by USFS to create new and comprehensive approaches to conservation at the national level. Designed to ensure standardized and thorough evaluation of species viability and ecosystem integrity at a range of temporal and spatial scales, one of the project's primary aims is to produce formal scientific assessments for more than 200 species of fishes, wildlife, and plants throughout the Rocky Mountain Region. Unlike traditional agency "white papers," regional and national scientific experts author SCP species assessments. The assessments thus serve as scientific products that assist managers in designing conservation programs for individual species. Adding an additional layer of credibility, each report receives two structured peer reviews--and SCB is helping to provide those reviewers.

SCB received glowing praise for its complete and timely reviews of 48 assessments for USFS in 2003. "We continue to be impressed by the quality and thoughtfulness of the reviews [SCB] has provided," noted Greg Hayward, Regional Wildlife Ecologist and one of the leaders of the Species Assessment Team for the SCP. Authors of the SCP reports also have been pleased with the reviews; many indicated that reviews received through the USFS / SCB collaboration provided some of the most helpful feedback they ever have received on technical manuscripts. In addition, the Species Assessment Team was impressed with the level of expertise of SCB peer reviewers.

This year (2004) is the second of collaboration between SCB and USFS, and other groups are taking notice. The Executive Office has received several inquiries from national agencies in the United States and international agencies suggesting future relationships in which SCB will facilitate direct participation of members in critical conservation activities. Thornhill noted, "The Forest Service partnership is a first step, and the membership has responded marvelously--there will be more opportunities!" More information on the SCP, and the first set of assessments completed through SCB's partnership with USFS, are available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/>. During 2004, SCB will help review assessments for at least ten species of plants, ten species of invertebrates, and 18-24 species of terrestrial vertebrates.

FEDERAL AGENCIES SIGN AGREEMENTS TO CONTINUE SPECIES PROTECTION, IMPLEMENT FOREST HEALTH PROJECTS

**Forest Service, Heidi Valetkevitch
Department of Interior, Hugh Vickery
Department of Commerce, Dan Nelson**

WASHINGTON, Mar. 23, 2004 —The departments of Agriculture, Interior, and Commerce announced they have signed agreements to implement new regulations announced in December that will expedite fuels

reduction and other forest health projects while ensuring the protection of threatened and endangered species.

Under the Endangered Species Act, federal agencies are required to consult with either Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or Commerce's NOAA Fisheries whenever they authorize, fund or carry out an action that may affect a listed species or its designated critical habitat. The new regulations will improve the process by allowing trained biologists within these federal agencies to make the initial determination of whether there is likely to be an adverse effect.

"The long-term solution to decreasing the impact of catastrophic wildfires is to more effectively reduce hazardous fuel levels and return forests and rangelands to healthier conditions," said Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman. "By improving the health of our forests, we can improve wildlife habitat." The agreements announced today provide a mechanism for training USDA biologists to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to monitor implementation of the regulations.

"The agreements we are announcing are the final step in implementing these new regulations that will allow land managers to better protect communities and wildlife habitat from catastrophic fires," Interior Secretary Gale Norton said. "At the same time, they will free our endangered species biologists from routine and often duplicative informal consultations and allow them to focus on proposed actions that are likely to have a more significant impact on listed species."

"We've worked closely with USDA and DOI to make sure this new process will help eliminate the chances of harming threatened or endangered species," said Commerce Secretary Donald L. Evans. "This proposed approach will allow our agencies to focus resources on those consultations that will have the greatest benefit for the species."

The types of projects involved may include prescribed fire, mechanical fuels treatments, emergency stabilization, burned area rehabilitation, road maintenance and operation activities, ecosystem restoration, and culvert replacement actions.

While the new regulations will accelerate reviews, they do not change any standards used for determining whether an action will have an adverse impact on a listed species. Listed species will receive the same level of protection.

The expedited review is critical to restoring forests to health and preventing catastrophic fires. An estimated 190 million acres, an area twice the size of California, of federal forests and rangelands in the United States face high risk of catastrophic fire. Years of natural fuels buildup, coupled with drought conditions, insect infestation and disease make forests and rangelands in many areas throughout the country vulnerable to intense and environmentally destructive fires. Many ponderosa pine forests are 15 times denser than they were a century ago. Where 25 to 35 trees once grew on each acre of forest, now more than 500 trees are crowded together in unhealthy conditions.

In August 2002, President Bush announced the Healthy Forests Initiative pledge to care for America's forests and rangelands, reduce the risk of catastrophic fire to communities, help save the lives of firefighters and citizens and protect threatened and endangered species while upholding environmental standards and encouraging early public input during review and planning processes. The National Fire Plan is intended to reduce risk to communities and natural resources from wildland fires through rehabilitation, restoration, and maintenance of fire-adapted ecosystems, and by the reduction of accumulated fuels or highly combustible fuels.

A NEW USGS PRODUCT AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND MANAGERS: GIS TOOLS FOR CONSERVATION PLANNING

Melinda G. Knutson, Ph.D.

Wildlife Biologist

USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center

Public and private land managers desire better ways to incorporate landscape, species, and habitat relations into their conservation planning processes. The USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center presents three tools, developed for the Environmental Systems Research Institute's ArcView 3.x platform, applicable to many types of wildlife conservation management and planning efforts. These tools provide managers and planners with the ability to rapidly assess landscape attributes and link these attributes with species-habitat information. To use the tools, the user provides a detailed land cover spatial database and develops a matrix to identify species-habitat relations for the landscape of interest. The tools are applicable to any taxa or suite of taxa for which the required data are available. The user also has the ability to interactively make polygon-specific changes to the landscape and re-examine species-habitat relations. The development of these tools has given resource managers the means to evaluate the merits of proposed landscape management scenarios and to choose the scenario that best fits the goals of the managed area.

The National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) layer is now available through The National Map. If you want to go straight to the viewer and zoom in to see for yourself, the direct link is

<http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/viewer.htm>. Software, a manual, and sample data are available at the following web site:

http://www.umesc.usgs.gov/management/dss/gis_tools_for_conservation_planning.html.

RIPARIAN BIRD CONSERVATION PLAN

Kim Kreitinger, California Partners In Flight Coordinator

PRBO Conservation Science

tel: 415-868-0655 ext. 320, fax: 415-868-9363

The second version of the Riparian Bird Conservation Plan is now available for downloading at the CalPIF web site: www.prbo.org/calpif. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this latest accomplishment of California Partners in Flight!

Vacancies

Federal job announcements can be found at:

http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp

Hotlinks!

- Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/>
- 2003 News Releases: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2003/releases.shtml>
- FS Today Newsletter: http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/
- National Fire Plan: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nfp/>
- Roadless Area Conservation: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>
- Large-Scale Watershed Restoration Projects: <http://www.fs.fed.us/largewatershedprojects/>
- Land and Resource Management Plans: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/nfmalrmp.html>

- Watershed and Air Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/clean/>
- Lands and Realty Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/>
- Road Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/roads/>
- Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage Resources: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/>
- Forest Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/fm/>
- International Programs: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/>
- Research: <http://www.fe.fed.us/research/scientific.html>
- Healthy Forests Initiative: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/HFI.shtml>
- Partners in Planning: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/planning/guide/index.html>
- Landowner Assistance Programs **(NEW)**
<http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/index.shtml>
- Forest Service's Annual Fall Foliage Hotline **(NEW)**
<http://www.fe.fed.us/news/2003/releases/09/fall-colors.shtml>

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

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

Positions listed are for outreach purposes only and are not full announcements. Interested individuals should contact the forests referenced or consult the USAJOBS website.

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