

On The Wild Side

WILDLIFE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



**USDA
FOREST SERVICE**

MARCH - APRIL 2005

EDITORS NOTE

This will be the last issue of *On the Wild Side* in its current format. The Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Staff is currently exploring options for a new, integrated, newsletter to share news and information across all of our staff resource areas. You will find a survey attached to the email in which you have received this newsletter. We are seeking your input on content and format so please complete it and return to us at your earliest convenience.

We hope that *On the Wild Side* has served you well, and look forward to your continued readership as our staff moves towards its new integrated communication vehicle.

~Debbie and Jina

FAREWELL TO BILL REUDIGER



In January, Bill Reudiger retired after 35 years with the US Forest Service. Bill spent the majority of his time tackling issues related to wildlife. He held a number of positions in the agency working in Regions 1 and 6 as the Regional Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species Program Manager.

Most recently, Bill spent time working with agency engineers and other federal and state agencies on providing wildlife and fish safe passage across or under highways and roads across the Nation. Bill was one of the first to recognize the conservation issues surrounding wildlife passage across highways and other impediments to connectivity.

During his distinguished career, Bill pioneered management application of scientific research on northern spotted owls, lead grizzly bear conservation efforts in the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem, developed a systematic, documented approach to the listing of sensitive species in the Northern Region, organized (and for many years chaired) the Western Forest Carnivore Committee and the list goes on.

Congratulations Bill, we'll miss you!

THE INTERMOUNTAIN REGION WELCOMES A NEW WILDLIFE PROGRAM LEADER

We are pleased to announce that Danielle Chi has been offered and has accepted the R-4 Wildlife Program Manager position (vice Brian Ferebee). Danielle is currently working with the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service in California. Danielle has held several positions in both the public and private sector in the Western US, and we are welcoming her back to Utah -- she received her Doctorate degree in Wildlife Biology from Utah State University. Danielle will officially be reporting to her new position about the third week in May. Welcome Danielle!

BLM DIRECTOR/USDA FOREST SERVICE CHIEF AWARDS RECEPTION AT THE 71ST NORTH AMERICAN CONFERENCE

The annual BLM Director / USDA Forest Service Chief Awards Reception were held March 16, 2005 during the 71st North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Virginia.

TWO PROJECTS SELECTED FOR BLM/FS "CONSERVATION PROJECT" AWARD



The first awarded was given to the **Western Snowy Plover Working Team**. This team has been a model for a successful interagency working group that has made significant contributions to the conservation and recovery of both the habitat and populations of Western Snowy Plover. The team has coordinated and implemented extensive habitat restoration efforts, with success measured in birds actually moving in and nesting in the improved habitat. The team's dedicated efforts over the past ten years have directly influenced fledgling survival, and have ultimately resulted in an increase in the population. Accepting on behalf of the project were Kerrie

Palermo, of the BLM-Coos Bay District, and Carl Frounfelker of the Siuslaw National Forest, and Cynthia Burns, also of the Siuslaw National Forest.

The second award was presented to the Interagency **Conservation Strategy Team for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Area**. The Interagency Conservation Strategy Team of the Forest Service, BLM, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Idaho Fish and Game, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, and Wyoming Game and Fish Department, overcame high profile controversy and culminated 10 years of collaborative effort with the completion of a comprehensive Conservation Strategy for grizzly bear management in the Greater Yellowstone Area. This conservation strategy, which incorporates State management plans for the State of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming, as well as guidance for Federal land management agencies, is a critical step towards delisting the Yellowstone population of grizzly bears. It ensures that adequate regulatory mechanisms will be in place to conserve grizzly bears once they are removed from the Federal endangered species list. Accepting on behalf of the project was Chuck Schwartz, Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team Leader of the United States Geological Survey, Chris Servheen, Grizzly Bear Recovery Coordinator of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bob Summerfield, Grizzly Bear Habitat Coordinator for the Forest Service.



ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION HONORED WITH “CONSERVATION PARTNER” AWARD

This year's recipient of the Conservation Partner award was the **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation**. Accepting on behalf of the Foundation was Jim Gladen, Vice President of Lands and Conservation.



The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was founded in 1984 and has been working under national partnership memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management since 1987. Under these MOUs, the partnership has included stewardship, conservation education, land acquisition, land easement, research, and elk restoration projects. This organization was started by people that strongly support multiple uses of our public lands. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has a membership base of 150,000 members and is widely regarded as the organization to go to when you

need to get things done, anywhere in elk country. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has helped fund a total of 2,280 projects and contributed over \$15, million dollars. These projects have protected or enhanced more than 3 million acres over the past 20 years.

JACK CAPP RECEIVES LLOYD SWIFT SR. AWARD



The Lloyd Swift Senior 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 national 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.

During his exceptional career, Jack has been on the forefront of many important projects and programs. In the International Forestry arena, Jack has led Forest Service participation in conservation of Siberian tiger habitat in Russia, Panda habitat

in China, and the bush meat issue in Africa. He is also a former Director of wildlife in the Alaska Region. Jack is actively involved in the North American Bird Conservation Initiative which is the coordinating body composed of Federal, State and NGO partners to conserve birds.

GRANT GUNDERSON PRESENTED JACK ADAMS AWARD

Grant Gunderson was presented with the Jack Adams Award for his exemplary work during his career with the Forest Service.

The Jack Adams Award is presented annually to a Forest Service wildlife biologist, fish biologist or botanist who, over their career, has exemplified 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 of the national forests and ensuring that wildlife, fisheries and rare plants needs are fully reflected in all management decisions.



Recently retired, Grant is a wildlife biologist who championed the integration of the best available science when applying the Northwest Forest Plan, and provided leadership, support and mentoring to Forest Service wildlife, range and grassland programs.

2005 WINGS ACROSS THE AMERICAS BIRD CONSERVATION AWARDS

On March 17, 2005, the USDA Forest Service and its partners celebrated the first annual Wings Across the Americas 2005 Bird Conservation Awards. The ceremony was hosted during the 70th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Arlington, Virginia. Partnerships were a key attribute of selected recipients. Awards were given to those projects that reflected a partnership between the USDA Forest Service and partners. Awards were given in the following categories: Research and Management, Habitat Conservation (2) and International Cooperation (2).



Research and Management Award



The **Research and Management Award** was presented to the **Kirtland's Warbler Research and Training Program**. Awards were presented to the following USDA Forest Service employees and units: Dr. Joe Wunderle, Kenneth Ennis, Phil Huber, the International Institute of Tropical Forestry and the Huron-Manistee National Forest. Partners awarded include the Puerto Rico Conservation Foundation, the Bahamas National Trust and The Nature Conservancy.

The Kirtland's Warbler Research and Training Program is an outstanding example of recovery of a species through the collaboration of diverse partners across large landscapes and

international boundaries. Professionals in Michigan are restoring the breeding habitats needed and controlling competing species while research scientists in The Bahamas are determining the Warbler's locations and requirements during the 9 month non-breeding season.

Habitat Conservation Award

The **Habitat Conservation Award** was presented to **The Southern Region Bird Conservation Strategy and Partnerships**. Awards were presented to the following USDA Forest Service employees: Tom Darden, Dave Wilson, Ernesto Garcia, Tim Mersmann, Paul Hamel, John Kilgo, Gary Peters, Laurel Moore, Eddie Morris, Margaret Griep, Carol Hardy, Frank Thompson, Bill Lisowsky, Steve Rickerson and Glen Gaines. Partners awarded include the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture, and Central Hardwood Joint Venture.

The Southern Region Bird Conservation Strategy and Partnerships developed and implemented an outstanding landbird conservation strategy resulting in new partnerships and habitat improvement projects on the ground. This partnership has also established more than 5,000 bird point count stations and bird watching sites. Information collected at these stations has been used to create an effective database from which the Southern Region's 16 national forests, national grasslands, and partners are using information to design land management to sustain birds.



The second **Habitat Conservation Award** went to the **Ouachita Native Flora and Fauna Restoration** project. USDA Forest Service employee Larry Kendrick and the Ouachita National Forest were both presented with awards for their efforts. Partners awarded include Oklahoma State University, National Wild Turkey Federation, Quail Unlimited, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Arkansas Audubon Society.

Through an integrated ecosystem restoration approach and community outreach, the Ouachita National Forest and its partners have advanced bird conservation. Through re-establishing early succession habitat and sustaining older forest conditions, 68 species of birds have benefited significantly.

International Cooperation Award



The **Western Boreal Forest Initiative** received the **International Cooperation Award**. USDA Forest Service employees Dan Logan and Chris Iverson were presented with awards. Ducks Unlimited also received an award for their involvement with this special partnership.

Through this Initiative, over 20 research projects have been conducted, 100 million acres of forested wetlands have been inventoried, 25 million acres of priority habitat are now protected, and over 20 million acres are now under sustainable use agreements with natural resource development corporations.

The second **International Cooperation Award** went to the **Conserving Grassland Bird Habitats In Mexico** project. USDA Forest Service employees awarded include Skip Kowalski, Dan Svingen, Tim Byer and John Sidle. Partners awarded included The Nature Conservancy, Pronatura Noreste, Mexico and the University of Chihuahua, Mexico.



For this project, partners from Mexico, Canada and the US formed a new coalition. They are sharing data, plus land management expertise and field techniques to inventory birds, prairie dog colonies, and improve habitats in all three nations. The grassland birds of North America are showing the greatest decline of any group of bird species on the Continent. There is a particular need for understanding migratory bird use and improving habitats in Mexico where these birds spend the winter after breeding in the United States and Canada.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION PRESENTS 2004 ELK COUNTRY AWARDS



The 2004 Elk Country Awards were held this past February in Portland, Oregon during the 21st Annual Elk Camp Convention. Awards were presented in the following areas: Land Protection, Habitat Management, Conservation Education and Individual Achievement.

Land Protection

The Land Protection award was presented to the **Greater Yellowstone – Taylor Fork – Taylor Fork – Land Conservation** project. Bob Dennee (Gallatin National Forest, Lands), John Allen (Deputy Forest Supervisor Gallatin NF), Ron Erickson (USFS Region 1, Lands) and Kurt Alt (MT Fish, Wildlife and Parks) received awards.

From 1993 to 2004, the Forest Service worked in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and with local residents, conservation and sportsman groups, the Montana Congressional delegation, and the landowners to acquire and conserve over 11,000 acres of private lands in the wildlife-rich Taylor Fork area of the Gallatin National Forest. The Taylor Fork project represents another chapter in the long-term partnership between the FS, RMEF, FWP and the National Park Service to conserve critical elk habitat north of Yellowstone National Park.

Habitat Management

The **Tusayan and Williams Ranger Districts, Kaibab National Forest** was presented with the Habitat Management award. Recipients included Paul Webber (Kaibab NF) and Steve Best (District Ranger-Kaibab NF). From 1995 to the present, Paul Webber, a Forest Service Range Specialist, has worked in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and others to enhance habitat for elk and other species on the Tusayan and Williams Ranger Districts of the Kaibab National Forest in northern Arizona. During this time, Paul has been involved in reconstructing 14 water sources in elk habitat and in restoring over 20,000 acres of grassland habitat.

Conservation Education

The Conservation Education award was presented to the **Protecting Elk Winter Range Educational Program**. Dale Dawson (Bridger-Teton NF) and Kniffy Hamilton (Supervisor Bridger-Teton National Forest) accepted the awards. In 1990 the Bridger-Teton National Forest approved a winter travel plan which closed areas of crucial winter wildlife habitat to all human presence between December 1st and May 1st. On the Jackson Ranger District, approximately 112,000 acres are closed to all human presence (16% of the district). With rapid growth in backcountry skiing, snowmobiling, and walking on packed trails, violations of the wildlife winter range closures were becoming increasingly common. Concern about increasing violations led federal and state agencies to partner with local non-profit conservation organizations to develop a public education campaign to raise awareness about the need to respect wildlife winter range closures entitled "Don't Poach the Powder".

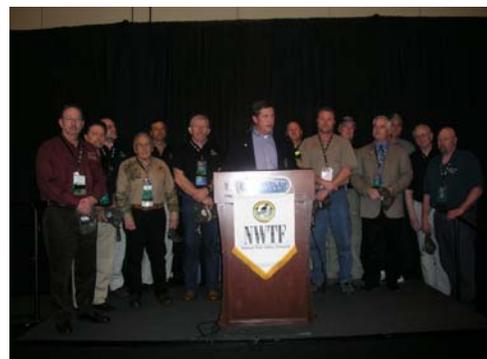
Individual Achievement

USDA Forest Service employee **Michael D. Feiger of the Pacific Northwest Region**, Oregon, Malheur and Ochoco National Forests received the individual achievement award in recognition of his long term success in rallying volunteers for elk habitat restoration work in Region 6. Mike's dedication and commitment to wildlife restoration has made his projects among the most successful volunteer based projects in Region 6. Mike has a knack for stretching conservation dollars through the wise use of volunteers. He is seen as an expert in the development of Challenge Cost Share Partnerships. Folks in the Forest Service and RMEF know that when they see a proposal from Mike, it will be well planned, cost effective, and implemented in a timely fashion.

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION'S MAKING TRACKS AWARD

The National Making Tracks Awards were presented during the NWTF's 29th Annual Convention and Sport Show in Nashville, Tennessee this past February. The National Making Tracks awards recognize outstanding USFS and BLM employees for their accomplishments that best incorporate conservation education, partnerships and active wild turkey management into ecosystem management projects across our national forests and grasslands.

Robert Abernethy, NWTF's Director of Agency Programs, and Anne Zimmerman, USDA Forest Service's Acting Director of Wildlife, Fisheries and Watershed, presented the



awards to the following individuals:

- Habitat Management Projects - Terri Malone and Steve McClendon, Ozark- St. Francis National Forests
- Habitat Management Programs - The Grandfather Ranger District, National Forests in North Carolina and these North Carolina NWTF chapters: The First Light Chapter, The Foothills Chapter, The Wingbone Chapter, The Appalachian Gobblers Chapter and the Linville Chapter
- Habitat Management Programs - Mark Twain National Forest
- Conservation Education - Liz Caldwell, Chattahoochee –Oconee National Forest
- Partnership Achievement - Jerry Wood, Chattahoochee –Oconee National Forest



MULE DEER CONSERVATION AWARD PRESENTED TO THE LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST



At the Fifth Annual Mule Deer Foundation Convention and Exposition the **Lincoln National Forest** of Alamogordo, New Mexico, was presented with the Mule Deer Conservation Award for their project entitled “Lincoln National Forest Habitat Stamp Program for Mule Deer.” The convention was held January 14-16, 2005 in Reno, Nevada.

The Lincoln National Forest has contributed \$1.7 million dollars to mule deer projects in Southeastern New Mexico since the start of the Habitat Stamp Program in 1988. In fact, the Lincoln was one of two pilot forests for this program in the State of New Mexico. Due to the

successes during the initial years of the program on the Lincoln, the Habitat Stamp Program went state-wide in 1990.

One common, consistent thread through the past 16 years has been the Habitat Stamp Coordinator for the Lincoln National Forest, Mr. Danny Waldon. Danny has dedicated himself to ensuring that the Habitat Stamp Program remains a model and example for Mule Deer habitat projects in the state of New Mexico. Danny works hard to ensure that every partnership dollar is spent for on-the-ground project implementation. In addition, he also contributes his own personal time and money to support our partners by attending banquets for the Mule Deer Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

FOREST SERVICE SIGNS NEW MOU WITH THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

On March 17, 2005, in conjunction with the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, the Forest Service and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) renewed their commitment to working together during the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Together, through an outstanding partnership and the tireless efforts of chapter volunteers, the Forest Service and RMEF have partnered on over 1,700 projects, resulting in the conservation of over 2 million acres of elk country. The Forest Service manages over 80 million acres of elk habitat on 83 national forests and 6 national grasslands—with approximately 800,000 elk spending all or a



portion of their lives on National Forest System lands. The new MOU renews a national commitment to partnership—first signified by the original MOU between the Forest Service and RMEF, signed in 1987. Together, through efforts like the Measure and Prioritize Program (MAPs), the Forest Service and RMEF are focusing on the most important lands to protect and enhance for elk. Both the Forest Service and RMEF look forward to many more years of productive collaboration.

FOREST SERVICE RELEASES ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTION FOR NEW PLANNING RULE

Contact: Press Office, (202) 205-1134

Date: March 17, 2005

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service issued the proposed administrative policy for implementing its new planning regulation, which governs the 155 national forests and 20 grasslands. The public will have 90 days to comment on the policy.

The interim “National Forest System Land Management Planning Directives,” a summary of which will be published in the Federal Register in the next several days, can be found in the Forest Service Manual and the Forest Service Handbook, essentially internal “how to” guidebooks. The directives detail procedural requirements and responsibilities for forest and grassland managers to implement the new planning rule, which became effective Jan. 5.

“This policy direction will provide consistent overall guidance to our line officers as they begin to revise their forest plans using the new planning rule,” said Forest Service Associate Chief Sally Collins. “These instructions are essential for realizing the vision outlined in the new rule—to provide future generations with healthier forests, cleaner air and water, and more abundant wildlife while sustaining a variety of forest uses.”

The policy includes guidance on how to develop an Environmental Management System tool to improve performance and accountability, afford the public with improved public participation opportunities, provide for species protection by taking into account the best available science, and develop guidelines on forest activities, such as hazardous fuels reduction.

Forty-two forests will revise their forest plans in the next several years; several units are slated to begin this year. The new rule and the proposed directives are available at www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/.

Instructions for Submitting Comments

E-mail: planningdirectives@contentanalysisgroup.com. Include “RIN 0596-AC02” or “planning directives” in the subject line of the message. **Fax:** (801) 397-2601. Please identify your comments by including “RIN 0596-AC02” or “planning directives” on the cover sheet or the first page. **Mail:** USDA Forest Service Planning Directives, c/o Content Analysis Group, P.O. Box 2000, Bountiful, UT 84011-2000.

The final planning directives, which will take into account public comments received during the 90-day comment period, will be released within 18 months.

Editors Note: On March 23, 2005, the notice of issuance of agency interim directives and request for comment was published in the Federal Register (Vol. 70, No. 55, pg. 14637).

NORTON NAMES MATT HOGAN ACTING DIRECTOR OF U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Contact: Hugh Vickery, 202-501-4633

Date: March 13, 2005



Interior Secretary Gale Norton today named Matthew J. Hogan to be acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until a new director is nominated by President Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

Hogan has served as the Service's deputy director for the past three years. He will assume the duties of FWS Director Steve Williams, who announced his resignation last week to become president of the Wildlife Management Institute.

"Matt Hogan has played a major role in furthering the President's commitment to cooperative conservation through partnerships with states, tribes, local communities, conservation groups and others," Norton said. "He will provide continuity and skillful leadership to the Service during the period of transition to a new director."

Before joining the Service in 2002, Hogan, 37, spent four years as conservation policy director of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, serving as a liaison between the hunting, fishing and conservation communities and the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. Prior to that, he was government affairs manager for Safari Club International and legislative director for Congressman Pete Geren of Texas. He graduated from LeMoyne College in Syracuse, New York in 1990.

THE WILDLIFE HABITAT COUNCIL

The Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) works to be good stewards of the land and the wildlife and natural resources in our care. Over 100 companies are members as well as more than two dozen conservation organizations, plus numerous supporters and contributors. Wildlife habitat enhancement, employee participation and public outreach and involvement are the primary objectives. At the local level, a site can have a tremendous effect on public interest, education and support, while providing critical habitat for species. At a regional level, multiple partnerships are linking conservation corridors to create a system of safeguarded areas.

For example, WHC's new Northwest Indiana – Southeast Chicago Office is working with United States Steel Corporation's Gary Works and the City of Gary Dept. of Environmental Affairs to develop and support a model collaborative approach to sound conservation of urban-industrial savanna and forest in Gary, Indiana, using 30 acres of ecologically significant black oak savanna for ecological restoration and remediation. This initiative will address the ecological viability and connectivity of lands while providing access for educational activities for elementary school, high school and adults who are learning about land restoration. Funding and technical assistance comes from the USDA Forest Service's State Urban and Community Forestry Program and Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Forestry plus other local partners. <http://www.wildlifehc.org/indiana/index.cfm>



The Wildlife Habitat Council is a nonprofit, non-lobbying organization dedicated to increasing the quality and amount of wildlife habitat on corporate, private and public lands. For more information, visit www.wildlifehc.org. You can e-mail questions to Whc@wildlifehc.org or call 301-588-8994.

NEW XERCES SOCIETY WEBSITE



The Xerces Society is an international non-profit organization dedicated to protecting biological biodiversity through invertebrate conservation. The Society advocates for invertebrates and their habitats by working with scientists, land managers, educators, and citizens on conservation and education projects. Their core programs focus on endangered species, native pollinators, and watershed health. For the three decades since its inception in 1971, the Society has been at the forefront of invertebrate conservation, harnessing the knowledge of scientists and the enthusiasm of local citizens to implement education and conservation programs. Past accomplishments include:

- Protecting overwintering habitat of monarch butterflies in California;
- Working with local villagers in Costa Rica to conserve forests by establishing butterfly farms; and
- Collaborating in biodiversity research and training that helped create the Masoala National Park in Madagascar.

Visit their website for more information: <http://www.xerces.org>

MULE DEER FOUNDATION SHATTERS RECORDS AT ANNUAL AUCTION

January 19, 2005 Reno, NV – Three special hunting permits helped raise more than a quarter million dollars for wildlife conservation efforts in Utah, Colorado and Arizona during the Mule Deer Foundation's Annual Convention in Reno, NV. The record-setting bids, which were the highest ever for each of the permits, were received January 15th during the organization's annual banquet and auction.

The Arizona Statewide Mule Deer Tag sold for a record \$134,000, eclipsing the old record by \$8,000. The Colorado Statewide Deer Tag sold for \$105,000, \$25,000 more than ever before, and the Utah Statewide Deer Tag sold for an unprecedented \$82,000—an all-time high for any tag ever sold in Utah, for any game species. The proceeds will be used to fund mule deer management and habitat enhancement efforts in the respective states.



"We are extremely excited about the projects we will be able to fund to enhance mule deer in Arizona, Colorado and Utah," said Pat Juhl, Chairman of the Mule Deer Foundation's Board of Directors. "We were honored to be able to raise these critical funds at our national convention, and look forward to working closely with these states to improve mule deer habitat."

For more information about the Arizona tag contact Todd Rathner at (520) 404-8096 or by e-mail at trathner@muledeer.org. For more on the Colorado tag contact Bob Muelengracht at (303) 907-8702 or muelengracht@muledeer.org. Details on the Utah tag are available by contacting Tony Abbott at (801) 885-1274 or tabbott@muledeer.org.

The Mule Deer Foundation is a national non-profit 501c3 organization, with over 10,000 members dedicated to stopping the decline of mule deer. For information about the Mule Deer Foundation or to join please call 1-888-375-3337.

US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PUBLISHES FINAL LIST OF NON-NATIVE BIRD SPECIES

Contact: Nicholas Throckmorton, (202)208-5636

Date: March 15, 2005

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today published in the Federal Register a final list of the bird species to which the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) does not apply because they are not native to the United States and have been introduced by humans everywhere they occur in the nation. The list is required by the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act of 2004.

Most migratory bird species in the United States are protected by the MBTA, which prohibits take of protected species, their nests and eggs except as permitted by regulation. The MBTA implements treaties for the protection of shared migratory bird resources signed by the United States with Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia. "By declaring that the MBTA does not apply to nonnative human-introduced species, the Reform Act has restored the historic status of the MBTA and enabled State and Federal Agencies to resume effective management of native wildlife populations," said Service Director Steve Williams.

Williams noted that the publication of today's final list is for public information purposes only as required by the Reform Act and has no legal effect.

The actual list of migratory birds protected by the MBTA is published in the Code of Federal Regulations (Title 50, Part 10.13). When it became law late last year, the Reform Act excluded any species from protection not specifically included on the Title 50, Part 10 list. Of the 125 species on the final list of species exempt from MBTA regulation, only 17 are known to have established self-sustaining breeding populations in the United States. Only one of the 125 species has ever been treated as federally protected under the MBTA. The mute swan was afforded protection beginning in December 2001 by order of a Federal court. Other prominent and well-known species on the list are the Eurasian collared-dove and rock pigeon.



The exclusion of these species from the MBTA does not change the protections that they might receive under other laws or treaties such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Endangered Species Act, or the Wild Bird Conservation Act. In addition, States and communities may protect nonnative, human-introduced species at their discretion.

Numerous other introduced species--including such widely distributed species as ring-necked pheasant, European starling, and house sparrow--don't belong to families covered by the MBTA and thus are not affected by this notice. The notice is available on the Internet at <<http://migratorybirds.fws.gov>>.

AMPHIBIANS FALLING FASTER AND FURTHER

Alarming Trends Signal Extinction for Frogs

by William Stolzenburg

What experts have long feared is now confirmed in the most comprehensive survey on the world's amphibians. One in three species of frogs, toads and salamanders are in danger of going extinct, with hundreds of species likely to be gone within the decade. And they are dying in places considered pristine, in ways that bode poorly for life itself.

Of the 5,743 known species of amphibians, 1,856 are now threatened with extinction, according to a survey of 500 experts. As many as 122 may have disappeared since 1980.

High on the list of threats are the usual culprits of habitat destruction and hunting. More insidiously, disease and global warming have emerged as stealth killers of the amphibians. "Since most amphibians depend on fresh water and feel the effects of pollution before many other forms of life, including humans, their rapid decline tells us that one of Earth's most critical life-support systems is breaking down," says Simon Stuart, leader of the amphibian study, which appeared last fall in the journal *Science*.

The boreal toad is one of scores of troubled amphibians. The toad breeds in ponds in the western United States—or used to. It has vanished from the vast majority of its haunts, its disappearance attributed to lethal combinations of disease and environmental toxins. Its ailments further compounded by the stress of global warming, the boreal toad defies conventional conservation.



"There probably isn't much we can do directly," says Chris Pague, a Conservancy scientist in Colorado. On the other hand, he adds, the toad is another good reason for us "to engage on the bigger issues such as climate change, with the goal of changing the way people feel and act about the conservation of life on Earth."

Additional information available at:

[Status and Trends of Amphibian Declines and Extinctions Worldwide](#)

Science, Vol 306, Issue 5702, 1783-1786, 3 December 2004

The first global assessment of amphibians provides new context for the well-publicized phenomenon of amphibian declines.

[The Global Amphibian Assessment](#) (GAA)

This web site presents results of the global amphibian assessment, including listing threatened species, range map, ecology information and other data for every amphibian species.

RESEARCHERS CLAIM 'SPECTACULAR PROGRESS' TOWARDS RECORDING ALL OF EARTH'S LIFE

Published online: 15 March 2005; | doi:10.1038/news050314-6

By Mark Peplow

Species list reaches half-million mark



An online catalogue of all known life on Earth now has half a million species in its freely available database The Catalogue of Life Programme began in 2001 as a collaboration between Species 2000, a project based at the University of Reading, UK, and the Integrated Taxonomic Information System in Washington DC. The two groups each host part of the online directory. Since then, many universities and natural history institutions have opened up their dusty card catalogues of species to contribute to the digital resource.

"The Catalogue of Life is just like the yellow pages for species," explains Paul Kirk, an expert in fungi at CABI Bioscience, a non-profit agriculture and biodiversity research organization, based at Egham, UK, that is one of the project's collaborators. "You can't understand biodiversity without a system of communication, and it's fundamental that we have this directory of names," he says. The catalogue is useful in any situation where researchers want to keep track of living organisms, says Kirk. For example, a definitive list of all the species within a particular genus can help with evolutionary studies.

The resource will also provide a starting point for conservation efforts in remote parts of the world where 'parataxonomists', untrained in biology, can use the catalogue as a reference to help monitor biodiversity. Many species are known by different colloquial names in neighboring countries, and the catalogue hopes to eliminate the confusion this causes.

Bacteria to blue whales

Biologists estimate that about 1.75 million species, from bacteria to blue whales, have already been identified on Earth. But there may be anywhere between 3 million and 12 million more yet to be discovered, says Kirk. For each known species, the catalogue lists its different names, along with details of where it is found, the names of relevant experts, and links to other online resources. "We need a catalogue of life, so I'm very much for it," says Charles Godfray, an evolutionary biologist at Imperial College London. "But this is just a means to an end," he adds.

More than a list

Ultimately, biologists need a catalogue that is full of information about each species, rather than a mere directory of names, he says. "What worries me is that people aren't producing those information-rich sites," says Godfray.

USDA RESEARCH MEASURES CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM'S IMPACTS ON CRITICAL BIRD POPULATIONS

Ed Lloyd: (202)720-4623

Brenda Chapin: (202)690-4585

WASHINGTON, March 17, 2005- Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced that USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are providing \$367,000 in funding for research to examine the effects of USDA's Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) on duck, northern bobwhite quail and pheasant populations.

"With a current enrollment of almost 35 million acres, CRP is restoring, protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat nationally," said Johanns. "By documenting the increases in wildlife populations through this research, we will be able to quantify CRP accomplishments and improve the program's accountability."



Johanns made the announcement in keynote remarks at the National Agriculture Day Luncheon at the National Press Club. The luncheon launched the National Agriculture Day Celebrations and Natural Agriculture Week (March 20 to 26), during which local, regional and national events mark the significance of U.S. agriculture to our national and global economy. Johanns noted that USDA is currently projecting agriculture export sales in 2005 of \$59 billion, a record net cash farm income of \$78.1 billion and a record for farm equity of \$1.25 trillion. In addition, President Bush's fiscal year 2006 budget proposal makes clear that conservation remains a priority by including \$3.8 billion dollars to continue implementation of the conservation programs authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill.

Today's grant by FSA and NRCS will be awarded to three institutions that will carry out the wildlife research projects. The agencies awarded \$150,000 to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the University of Montana to estimate increased duck populations, \$138,000 to Mississippi State University to estimate increased northern bobwhite quail populations and \$79,000 to West, Inc., to estimate increased pheasant populations. Each project will also examine CRP's impact on songbird populations.

These projects will help provide USDA with insight into increasing the environmental benefits of CRP and are in line with the President's Management Initiative to measure performance, improve service to the American public and better explain how conservation protects our nation's natural resources. Ducks, quail and pheasants are critical wildlife species that embody our national heritage. Increases in their populations reflect enhanced wildlife protection offered by programs like CRP.

This research is part of a five-year USDA Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) to quantify the environmental gains of USDA conservation programs on agricultural land. CEAP is designed to assure that USDA applies consistent, scientifically rigorous performance measures when documenting the conservation benefits achieved.

FSA and NRCS are applying \$1 million of the CEAP funding to develop a national framework to monitor and estimate the wildlife impacts of CRP in terms that have real meaning to the public. CEAP research efforts reflect a shared philosophy of cooperation and teamwork that will help FSA and NRCS set CRP goals and measure progress toward meeting these goals.



As part of the CRP CEAP project, in 2003 FSA and NRCS teamed with the United States Geological Survey and Department of Energy to identify and estimate the environmental functions gained from restoring croplands to wetlands. FSA is also supporting research conducted by Oklahoma State University that evaluates the effect of CRP haying and grazing on vegetative vigor, grassland ecosystems and the economics of grassland management systems.

In addition, FSA is helping Iowa State University perform research to identify and estimate the amount of cropland suitable for wetland restoration in order to better filter nutrient runoff from cropland. This research will provide a background to address problems associated with hypoxia, a loss of oxygen occurring in certain bodies of water.

Other potential subject areas for research include estimating CRP's role in increasing other wildlife populations and furthering CRP's benefits using Geographic Information System/Global Positioning System technologies to influence selection criteria.

More information on CRP is available at local FSA offices and online at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crp.htm>. Further information on CEAP is available online at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/nri/ceap/>.

COMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE! WELL, SORT OF - GET WILD PARTNERS MEETING AT THE NEW ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION FACILITY

Summer 2006, Missoula, Montana

Please keep in mind that for the next Get Wild Partners meeting, we'll be heading to the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's new facilities in Missoula, Montana. RMEF is making calls to determine the best date for all partners.

BATS AND MINES SYMPOSIUM: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF MINES AND THE BATS THAT DEPEND ON THEM

May 3-5, 2005, Reno, Nevada



Sponsors: Bat Conservation International, Christopher Newport University and the University of New Mexico.

This symposium is devoted to redefining the fundamental foundations on which bats-and-mines conservation will build in the future. They are committed to a frank and innovative re-examination of efforts thus far and their impacts on bat conservation. Through collaborative thinking and discussion, they hope to identify the past and present successes and failures – and future goals – of bats and mines programs.

Please visit the following website for registration and draft agenda information: <http://www.batcon.org/>

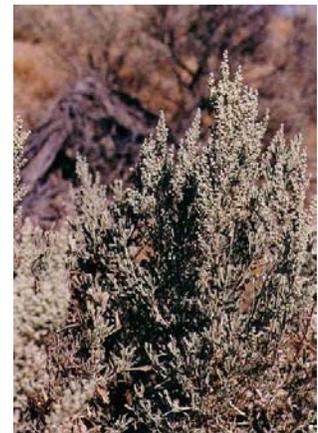
ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF PINYON-JUNIPER AND SAGEBRUSH COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE

May 16-19, 2005, The Pavilion, Montrose, Colorado

Sponsor: The Uncompahgre Project, which is a partnership between Public Lands Partnership, USDI Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

The conference will discuss a variety of issues concerning the Ecology and Management of Pinyon/Juniper Communities including:

- Sagebrush Ecology and Management;
- Weed Ecology;
- Collaborative Management Programs;
- Progress in Land Management Issues Through Cooperation;
- Fuels, Fire Ecology and Management of Pinyon/Juniper Communities; and
- Wildlife Habitat Management and Restoration.



Please visit the following website for registration and a full detailed agenda: <http://www.upproject.org/Main%20Assets/EcologyManagement.htm>

2ND INTERNATIONAL CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SYMPOSIUM

July 12-14, 2005, Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison, WI.



Sponsors: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, USGS National Wildlife Health Center, USDA-APHIS Veterinary Services, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the CWD Alliance.

Sessions: Biology of Prions, TSE Diagnostics, Environmental Contamination, Disposal & Disinfection, Management and Control of CWD, Regulatory Agencies and CWD, Human Dimensions of CWD, Ecology and Epidemiology of CWD, CWD Policy and Administration, CWD and Other Species, State & Provincial Updates on CWD Management

Conference information is available and updated frequently at:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/whealth/issues/CWD/conference.htm>

TRAINING, TOOLS AND INFORMATION

“WILDLIFE ON YOUR NATIONAL FORESTS” AVAILABLE ONLINE

The new USDA Forest Service “Wildlife on Your National Forests: Working Together for Wildlife” brochure is now available for download on our website. The brochure can be found at the following link:

http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/wildlife/wild_forest_2005.pdf

PIF CONTINENTAL PLAN AVAILABLE ONLINE

We are pleased to announce that the Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan (Rich et al. 2004) - otherwise referred to as the PIF Continental Plan - is now available on-line in downloadable form on the Partners in Flight website (<http://www.partnersinflight.org>).

The PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan (the Plan) provides a continental synthesis of priorities and objectives that will guide landbird conservation actions at national and international scales. The scope for this Plan is the 448 species of native landbirds that regularly breed in the U.S. and Canada. Fully 100 of these species warrant inclusion on the PIF Watch List, due to a combination of threats to their habitats, declining populations, small population sizes, or limited distributions. Of these, 28 species require immediate action to protect small remaining populations, and 44 more are in need of management to reverse long-term declines.

This Plan also highlights the need for stewardship of the species and landscapes characteristic of each portion of the continent, identifying 158 species (including 66 on the Watch List) that are particularly representative of large avifaunal biomes, and whose needs should be considered in conservation planning. Taken together, the pool of Watch List and Stewardship Species represent the landbirds of greatest continental importance for conservation action. Although the recommended actions may vary from region to region, no area in North America is without a conservation need for landbirds.



The Plan is accessible in four sections using two PDF versions (one for web viewing and one higher quality version for printing). You can go to the PIF website and click on the picture of the plan cover (upper right hand box) and it will take you to this new resource. Or you can go to it directly at http://www.partnersinflight.org/cont_plan.

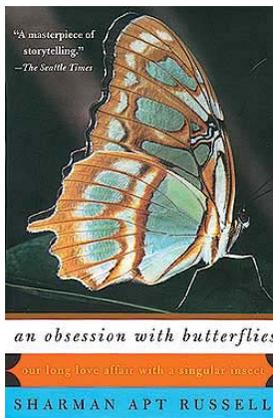
TEAM STANDARD BIODIVERSITY MONITORING PROTOCOLS

To meet the need for current, comprehensive information about the status of biodiversity in tropical forest ecosystems, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has provided major support to begin the TEAM (Tropical Ecology, Assessment, and Monitoring) Initiative for the Center for Applied Biodiversity Science (CABS) at Conservation International (CI). Over the next 10 years, the TEAM initiative will establish and coordinate a network of approximately 50 field stations in terrestrial tropical forests.

Visit the following link: <http://www.teaminitiative.org/application/resources/index.html#introduction>
For more information about this document, please contact [Dr. Thomas Lacher, Jr.](mailto:t.lacher@conservation.org) at t.lacher@conservation.org

AN OBSESSION WITH BUTTERFLIES: OUR LONG LOVE AFFAIR WITH A SINGULAR INSECT

Author: Sharman Apt Russell



Sharman Apt Russell again blends her lush voice and keen scientific eye in this marvelous book about butterflies. From Hindu mythology to Aztec sacrifices, butterflies have served as a metaphor for resurrection and transformation. Even during World War II, children in a Polish death camp scratched hundreds of butterflies onto the walls of their barracks. But as Russell points out in this rich and lyrical meditation, butterflies are above all objects of obsession.

From the beastly horned caterpillar, whose blood helps it count time, to the peacock butterfly, with wings that hiss like a snake, Russell traces the butterflies through their life cycles, exploring the creatures' own obsessions with eating, mating, and migrating. In this way, she reveals the logic behind our endless fascination with butterflies as well as the driving passion of such legendary collectors as the tragic Eleanor Glanville, whose children declared her mad because of her compulsive butterfly collecting, and the brilliant Henry Walter Bates, whose collections from the Amazon in 1858 helped develop his theory of mimicry in nature. Russell also takes us inside some of the world's most prestigious natural history museums, where scientists painstakingly catalogue and categorize new species of Lepidoptera, hoping to shed light on insect genetics and evolution.

A luminous journey through an exotic world of obsession and strange beauty, this is a book to be treasured by anyone who's ever watched a butterfly mid-flight and thought, as Russell has, "I've entered another dimension."

Paperback, 238 pages; 2004 (2003) **\$14.00**
ISBN: 0738206997

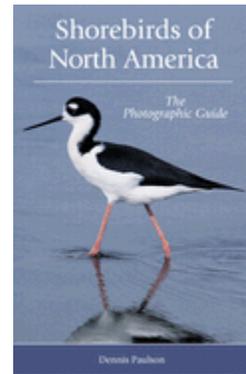
<http://www.basbleu.com/stores/1/index.cfm>

SHOREBIRDS OF NORTH AMERICA: THE PHOTOGRAPHIC GUIDE

Identifying shorebirds can be a challenge--and having a field guide specifically devoted to the species gives any birder an edge. Yet until now, no guide has illustrated or described the complete range of North and Central American shorebirds.

Dennis Paulson's book more than corrects that deficiency. This beautifully illustrated volume represents the first complete guide to North and Central American shorebirds ever published.

Unlike other guide books, which have traditionally relied on paintings to represent shorebirds, this one contains an extensive series of striking photographs--most never published before. More than 530 photos illustrate all shorebird species in their varied plumage, and are accompanied by text that points out the variation within common species.



The book also includes identification tips and ways for distinguishing shorebirds from all similar species, at rest and in flight. Brief descriptions of voice, behavior, habitat, and range are given for each species.

- First complete guide to North American and Central American shorebirds
- More than 530 striking photos
- Identification tips
- Descriptions of voice, behavior, habitat, and range

Paper | 2005 | \$29.95 / £18.95 | ISBN: 0-691-12107-9

<http://www.pupress.princeton.edu/titles/7825.html>

Dennis Paulson is Director of the Slater Museum of Natural History and teaches biology at the University of Puget Sound. He has written or co-authored more than 70 scientific papers and six books, including *A Guide to Bird Finding in Washington*, *Exotic Birds*, *Shorebirds of the Pacific Northwest*, *National Audubon Society Field Guide to the Pacific Northwest*, *Dragonflies of Washington*, and *Alaska; The Ecotravellers' Wildlife Guide*.

Vacancies

CHUGACH GS-12 WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST VACANY

The Chugach National Forest may advertise a GS-12 Wildlife Biologist position in the Anchorage Supervisors Office in the near future. This position serves as the Forest's Wildlife Program Leader with responsibility for providing professional and technical wildlife expertise, advice and assistance in the planning, administration and implementation of the Forest's wildlife program.

Interested individuals should contact Michael Novy at 907-743-9517 or mnovy@fs.fed.us by April 29th.

Federal job announcements can be found at: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>.

Hotlinks!

Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/>
Working with Partners for Bird Conservation: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/>
2004 News Releases: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2004/releases.shtml>
FS Today Newsletter: http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/
National Fire Plan: <http://www.fireplan.gov>
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.fs.fed.us/research/scientific.html>
Healthy Forests Initiative: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/HFI.shtml>
Partners in Planning: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/planning/guide/index.html>
Landowner Assistance Programs <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/index.shtml>
Forest Service's Annual Fall Foliage Hotline: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/fall-colors.shtml>, or call:

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 at 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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To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."