

# ON THE WILD SIDE

USDA FOREST SERVICE  
May 2003



## 93rd Annual Meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Mark your calendar to attend!



*"There are some who can live without wild things,  
and some who cannot"*



*Celebrating the Leopold Legacy*  
International Association  
of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting

September 10–13, 2003  
Monona Terrace Community & Convention Center  
Madison, Wisconsin

### Minnesota Lynx Study—Superior National Forest

Until recent years, the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) was considered extremely rare to totally absent in Minnesota. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service listed the species as *threatened* in March 2000. About the same time, the frequency of sightings and photos of lynx began to increase in northeast Minnesota. After initial hair snare surveys failed to detect lynx in two seasons, the Superior National Forest, in the winter of 2001-2002, began following potential lynx tracks in an attempt to gather DNA samples. When a scat was located it was collected as a source of DNA. Hair from daybeds was also collected for DNA analysis. By early March, the forest had collected suspected lynx DNA samples that were sent to the Rocky Mountain

Research Station – Carnivore Genetics Laboratory in Missoula Montana. By the end of March, the lab had confirmed lynx DNA from our samples. We intensified our efforts to collect DNA samples until the tracking snow melted in April.

The initial lab analysis was done using a technique that uses mitochondrial DNA to test to the species level. We also asked the lab to do the more intensive techniques that use nuclear DNA to identify lynx down to the individual lynx, including a sex test that determines the sex of the individual lynx. Lab results proved that we had multiple lynx of both sexes at several locations on the forest. Over the summer and fall, we collected additional DNA samples from road and railroad killed lynx. From the first season's efforts, the labs had analyzed 40 lynx DNA samples from the forest, of which 13 to 21 individual lynx been detected. The variance in numbers is because the data can be interpreted very strictly or less strictly in defining what constitutes enough of a difference to identify an "individual."

After the initial lynx work, we developed a relationship with several local residents, who in turn, began reporting more of their sightings to us. Within a few months, a local resident provided a video showing an adult lynx with a kitten. This is strong evidence we have lynx reproduction on the forest.

During winter of 2002-2003, we continued to collect DNA samples on the forest, and adjacent areas. Currently a new batch of samples is being tested at the Carnivore Genetics Lab. We expect to substantially increase the information on lynx in Minnesota from these samples and from the field data collected in this project.

We have also worked with other forests, State Agencies, and the National Park Service to get additional DNA samples by providing protocols and sample collection kits. We also worked with Ontario MNR local trappers and taxidermists in adjacent areas in Ontario to get lynx tissue samples for analysis by the lab. We are beginning to develop a genetics database for this population of lynx and do some analysis of lynx genetic variation, if any, between Ontario and Minnesota lynx.

Also, with assistance and information from the National Lynx Biology team, the Regional Office, and local resources, we provided a grant, equipment, and personnel assistance to the Natural Resources Research Institute at University of Minnesota in Duluth to establish a Canada lynx habitat relationships and ecology study. To date, they have been successful in capturing two lynx and have radio collars on both animals. They have also developed lynx snowmobile track survey routes that can be redone annually to help develop an index of lynx population on the forest. The Joint Forest Service and Natural Resources Research Institute lynx project will continue throughout the next several years to help determine lynx distribution, fecundity, mortality, density and habitat use on the Superior National Forest. Future plans include the use of GPS and satellite collars on additional animals. A plan for long term monitoring of lynx on the Superior National Forest is also being developed to address the question of persistence of lynx in Minnesota over the lows of the cycle.

We have made amazing progress in the 16 months since we started this project. – ***Submitted by Edward L. Lindquist, Forest Wildlife Biologist and Eastern Region Lynx Survey Coordinator***

## The Wildlife Society Ungulate Policy FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Stephen Demarais,  
[SDemarais@CFR.MsState.Edu](mailto:SDemarais@CFR.MsState.Edu);  
Thomas M. Franklin, [tom@wildlife.org](mailto:tom@wildlife.org)



The growth of an industry that raises captive ungulates (hoofed mammals) within managed properties to meet the demand for hunting and sale of the animals and their products is a controversial issue with numerous biological and social ramifications. Though the use of high fences (avg. 7.8 feet) to confine ungulates may have specific and legitimate uses in the industry, and in wildlife management and research, it also carries the potential for significant adverse impacts. Recognizing this, The Wildlife Society, the international scientific association of wildlife professionals, has developed an official policy statement on the *Confinement of Wild Ungulates Within High Fences*.

Background for the policy statement is drawn largely from a technical review published in 2002 by The Wildlife Society, titled *Biological and Social Issues Related to Confinement of Wild Ungulates*. That publication covers the growth of the industry, the fences themselves, diseases associated with confinement (including Chronic Wasting Disease), confinement's effects on genetic diversity and population demographics, ownership of wildlife, hunting ethics, and domestication of wild creatures.

Briefly, the policy of The Wildlife Society with respect to ungulate confinement is to: oppose further conversion of the public's wildlife to private ownership; oppose high-fence enclosures if they exclude free-ranging wildlife from critical habitat; support and encourage regulations, cooperative efforts and management practices that reduce the negative impacts of ungulate confinement; and support a moratorium on construction of new high-fenced facilities until tests are available to detect and monitor infectious diseases.

Policy statements of The Wildlife Society are carefully prepared expositions on matters that have direct or indirect effects on wildlife populations, habitats, or the public's perception of wildlife. These statements contain the Society's recommended courses of action on wildlife issues, based on general agreement of members of The Wildlife Society.

*Confinement of Wild Ungulates within High Fences* is now available on The Wildlife Society website, [www.wildlife.org](http://www.wildlife.org).

## Continuing Education Program for Natural Resource Professionals

The Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants Staff is currently accepting nominations for the FY 2004 Continuing Education Program for Natural Resource Professionals (CE-WFW). The CE-WFW has served over 2,300 participants since 1987 from a broad array of natural resource disciplines and agencies.



CE-WFW Coordinators will manage the FY 2004 workshop nomination process within each region. Nominees and their alternates should be submitted to the Washington Office Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Director by July 22, 2003. Copies should also be sent to the National Continuing Education Program Leader, Shelly Witt ([switt@cc.usu.edu](mailto:switt@cc.usu.edu)). Include each

nominee's, email, postal mailing address, and phone number. Visit the CE-WFW website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/education/index.html>

## May is Be Bear Aware Month

May is the time to remind Americans how to enjoy our wildlife, especially bears, safely and responsibly. May is also the time when bears emerge from their winter dens, kids once again start exploring our great outdoors, and families begin making their summer travel plans to visit our refuges, forests and parks.

The [Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign Committee](#), comprised of federal and state wildlife and land management agencies, The Wildlife Society, The Wildlife Management Institute, Center for Wildlife Information, Bear Trust International, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and their regional chapters has designated May as [Be Bear Aware Month](#). This is being implemented as part of a national educational outreach program dedicated to reminding visitors of the importance of not approaching or feeding wildlife, especially bears.

During the month of May we are encouraging teachers and youth group leaders to take the time to educate their students about **appropriate safety techniques** to use when **hiking, camping, hunting, and living** in bear country. The campaign also emphasizes techniques for **viewing and photographing** wildlife, especially bears, **safely and responsibly**. Members of state and federal agencies along with members of The Wildlife Society, Center for Wildlife Information and members of youth groups, hunting, fishing, outfitting and guiding associations are available to assist you in hands-on training programs.



Key messages of the [Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship](#) program are:

1. Keep wildlife and humans safe
2. Don't feed, approach, or touch wildlife
3. A fed bear is a dead bear
4. All wildlife can be dangerous
5. Don't get between a mother bear and her cubs
6. Wildlife + distance=safety
7. Food and odors attract bears
8. Make noise while in bear country, don't surprise them
9. Secure all food and smell-ables out of reach of bears

The [Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign](#) can provide you with supporting brochures, posters, videos, CD-ROMs or slide sets, and may be able to put you in contact with a wildlife society student chapter at a college near you. We have developed a unique hands-on learning experience that has college students teaching high school students who in turn teach their peer group and younger students on a simulated hiking trail. The trail includes signs of bear

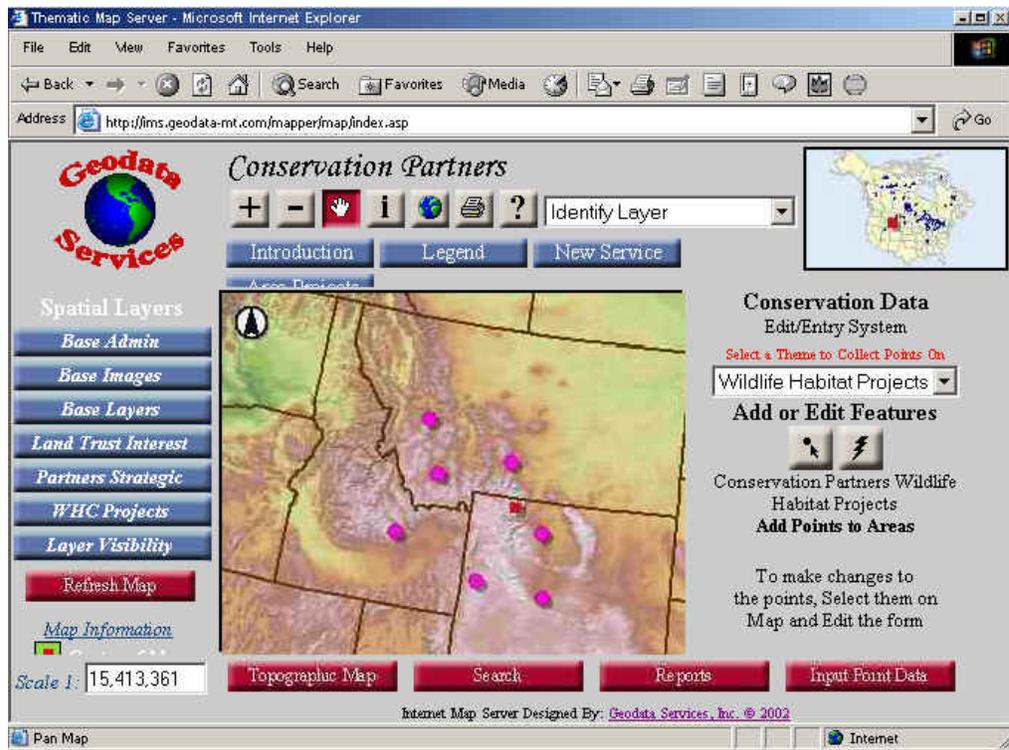
activity such as diggings and claw marks. The trail also includes examples of an improper campsite that may attract a bear, and one following **appropriate safety techniques that minimize bear attractants**.

To learn more about [Be Bear Aware and Wildlife Stewardship Campaign](#) or to inquire how you can make a difference, visit our website at: [www.bebearaware.org](http://www.bebearaware.org)

## National Wildlife Habitat Project Registry

The Wildlife Management Institute, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Geodata Services, Inc. launched a web based national wildlife habitat project registry this week. The registry is an important keystone in an effort to spawn powerful on-the-ground applications of GIS under the leadership of Partners for Fish and Wildlife, an informal group of conservation organizations and state and federal wildlife management agencies. Conservation groups, wildlife biologists and land owners

annually conduct thousands of habitat improvement projects, often leveraging limited project funding with volunteer donations of time and materials. Usually these projects are administered and evaluated individually. They occur opportunistically with no “big picture” view of their collective effectiveness.



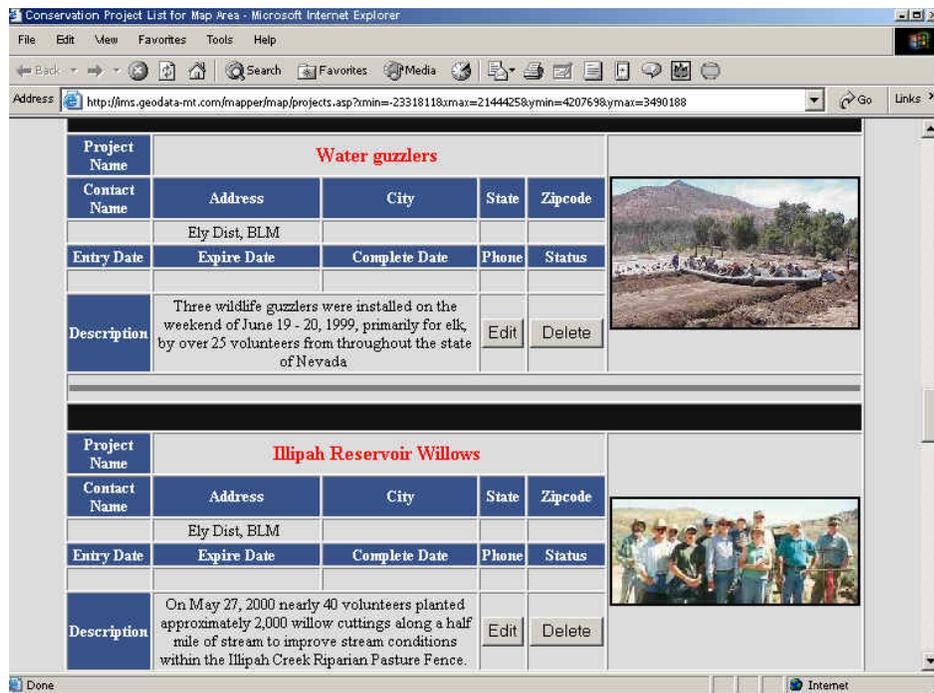
Many occur through partnerships between an agency and conservation group, or community group, but there is no means for broader awareness and participation. Often these are targeted at one species, though they may indirectly benefit multiple species or systems. The registry sponsors observed a direct need for a central clearinghouse and network for partners to document and quantify on-the-ground projects, monitor long term trends, and view collective wildlife project work within broader landscape and regional strategic planning contexts.

Goals of the project include using mapping technology to identify those areas most important for habitat restoration and protection; identifying focus areas where partners can combine financial, organizational, and political support to achieve on-the-ground habitat work most effectively and efficiently; and identifying additional tools and expertise that can be shared and applied to priority habitat restoration and management. Project cooperators hope to create a system that will accurately depict the locations, and especially overlaps, of such features as key big game wintering areas, concentrated shorebird and waterfowl production areas, targeted invasive plant

control areas; key watershed restoration and protection projects; and regions where conservation organizations, watershed groups and agencies are partnering on habitat improvements, protective easements and conservation partnerships.

The web tool provides access to enter new habitat projects or search for existing projects for any area in the U.S. through Internet browsers such as Internet Explorer and Netscape. No special software or licensing is required. A central server is accessible to all the participating agencies and partners using the services at their own offices, a school or public library, or any location with an Internet connection. The web mapping is based on a customized version of ArcIMS by Environmental Systems Research Institute (ESRI), and incorporates state-of-the-art web services providing rich map content such as National Geographic's topographic shaded relief maps combined with national, regional and local data to map habitat projects. The prototype includes the ability for any cooperator to enter a project description and contact information, map the location, and attach an optional photo or project sketch map. A user can locate any area in the country and return a detailed list of the habitat projects in the vicinity.

Documenting projects is time consuming and difficult to maintain. To achieve any success in a collaborative effort, the system must adapt to each agency or non-governmental organization's own project tracking system. It is hard enough to get participants to prepare documentation and metadata, without asking them to duplicate data in multiple systems, so crosswalks are being



developed with internal project reporting systems at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, BLM and several state wildlife agencies. The prototype was launched and data loading is underway for approximately 3,000 habitat projects conducted by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, corporate wildlife projects submitted by the Wildlife Habitat Council, contributions by several wildlife

conservation groups and input from the High Schools for Habitat project, a network of 40 schools in the country sponsored by RMEF to involve students in wildlife habitat projects.

Project sponsors released the prototype and have begun a three-month testing and evaluation period to build the initial projects database. Funding proposals have been submitted to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and other sources to build crosswalks between existing project tracking systems, extensions such as custom searches and reports, and to expand the network of agency and NGO cooperators, and training in administering the system. The initial public web site is expected to launch in October 2003. Those interested in learning more about the registry, and assisting in building the initial projects database are urged to contact Ken Wall, Geodata

Services, Inc. at [kwall@geodata-mt.com](mailto:kwall@geodata-mt.com). More information can be obtained at [www.geodata-mt.com](http://www.geodata-mt.com).

## **Certified Wildlife Biologists to Help Farmers Conserve Wildlife**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Thomas M. Franklin or Caitlin Burke; (301) 897-9770

**Winston-Salem, NC** – Certified Wildlife Biologists will provide conservation assistance to America's farmers and ranchers under an agreement signed in late March by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS).

TWS-Certified biologists will work as Technical Service Providers to help farmers, ranchers, and other private landowners protect and restore resources through conservation planning in wildlife and habitat management. This agreement officially recognizes that an individual who has met the stringent educational, experience, and professional conduct standards of the Society's Certified Wildlife Biologist program also meets NRCS standards for providing wildlife conservation assistance. It will allow Certified Wildlife Biologists to become certified by NRCS and be placed on the list of NRCS-approved Technical Service Providers.

The 2002 Farm Bill requires USDA to provide technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, and forest owners participating in Farm Bill conservation programs, and authorizes the agency to approve individuals who can provide technical assistance. With the landowner demand for participation in Farm Bill conservation programs likely to increase, this agreement will help NRCS carry out its mission of providing quality conservation assistance to its customers.

Professionals certified by TWS are authorized to help agricultural producers develop management plans that benefit wildlife and habitat on their land. Private lands comprise 69 percent of the nation's acreage and support more than 70 percent of the nation's wildlife. So this agreement offers an unprecedented opportunity for Certified Wildlife Biologists to conserve creatures and habitat; protect open space; enhance soil, water, and air quality; and improve quality of life for millions of Americans.

Taking part in the signing were Bruce Knight, Chief of NRCS, and Dr. Robert Warren, President of The Wildlife Society. Before becoming Chief in May 2002, Knight was Vice President of Public Policy for the National Corn Growers Association, and earlier served on the staff of Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, helping to develop the conservation title of the 1996 Farm Bill. Warren is Professor of Wildlife Ecology and Management in the School of Forest Resources at the University of Georgia. His research interests include the ecology and management of wildlife populations, especially in parks and urban/suburban areas.

The Wildlife Society is an international scientific and educational association comprised of nearly 9,000 professional wildlife biologists and managers dedicated to excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education. Its mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources for the benefit of society.

## **Sportsmen Join Department of Interior Secretary as Charter Partners of Take Pride in America - National Volunteer Program to Benefit America's Public Lands is Launched**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 17, 2002**

**Contact:** Jodi Stemler, 202-543-6850

(Washington, DC) - The Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, along with leading hunting and fishing organizations, including the American Sportfishing Association, Bass Pro Shops, the Bowhunting Preservation Alliance, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, SCI, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance demonstrated their support and commitment to public lands yesterday by becoming Charter Partners in the new Take Pride In America program. The groups joined Interior Secretary Gale Norton to support the national partnership initiative aimed at increasing volunteer service on our nation's public lands.

"Millions of Americans hunt and fish on our nation's tremendous public land resource. Since sportsmen and women have repeatedly committed their time and money to conserve fish and wildlife habitat, the participation of the hunting and fishing community in Take Pride In America is a natural connection," stated Melinda Gable, Executive Director for the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation.

"By working with volunteers, young and old, we lend our hands to heal our land, one acre at a time," announced Secretary Norton at the National Press Club Newsmaker Luncheon yesterday. "Take Pride In America will empower volunteers from every corner of America to restore and improve our parks, refuges, recreation areas and cultural and historical sites. The program inspires citizen stewardship through a bold and innovative public communications campaign."

CSF helped to coordinate the involvement of sportsmen's groups to become charter partners of Take Pride In America. Working together, these partners will help to ensure that hunters and anglers will be able to continue to play a lead role in being good stewards of our public land resources through volunteer efforts.

For more information about the Take Pride In America program, the Department of Interior has created a website [www.TakePride.gov](http://www.TakePride.gov) that outlines program goals and offers ideas for citizen, group and corporate involvement.

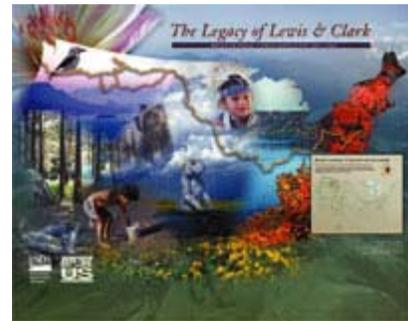
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About CSF: Established in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation works on behalf of current and future generations of Americans to protect the right and increase the opportunity to hunt, fish and trap by serving as the sportsmen's link to Congress. CSF provides this link by acting as the conduit between sportsmen, wildlife conservation organizations and the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), a bi-partisan caucus that supports wildlife conservation, professional wildlife management, hunting and fishing. For additional information, visit the CSF website at [www.sportsmenslink.org](http://www.sportsmenslink.org).

## Forest Service Commemorates the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial

(By Jane Knowlton, Office of Communications, Washington Office)

The legendary expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark from 1803 to 1806 to explore lands west of the Mississippi River in search of a transcontinental water route is one of our nation's greatest stories. As Lewis and Clark journeyed forth to the Pacific Coast exploring the uncharted West, their experiences yielded rich chapters in our early American history: new adventures, scientific discoveries, mapping the unknown, forming new partnerships of trust, friendship and respect, establishing trade and cultural exchanges. Their journals are filled with tales of great courage and perseverance.



"It is also a Forest Service story," says Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth. "We share much in common with these early explorers. For more than a century, we've been engaged in the pursuit of new scientific knowledge as well as effective partnerships to guide our way in caring for the land and serving people," he said. "Now, we have an opportunity to share our successes and challenges and to continue sustaining and building new partnerships in the spirit of Lewis and Clark as our participation in Bicentennial events take place."

Since 1998, the Forest Service has been involved in planning and coordination of the Bicentennial with communities, tribes, states and national forest and grassland units most closely associated with the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. Communities and tribes have received assistance through the Forest Service's State and Private Forestry grant programs for projects and land acquisition in support of tourism and public safety concerns.

The Forest Service is participating in the 21-member federal consortium observing the nationwide [Lewis and Clark Bicentennial](#) Commemoration from 2003 to 2006. According to Kristen Nelson, the National Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Coordinator, the Forest Service is working in cooperation with other federal agencies, states, tribes, local communities and the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial during the next four years to promote educational, cultural and interpretive opportunities for citizens and visitors. "We've designed our programs to help people learn more about the natural, historical and cultural resources that are part of the Lewis and Clark story," she said.

Lewis and Clark's journey crossed through or passed by lands that would become 16 national forest and grasslands in 9 states: Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Margaret Gorski, the Forest Service's National Bicentennial Field Coordinator based in the Northern Regional Office in Missoula, said nearly 1,000 miles of the 3,700 mile Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail either cross or are in view of lands managed by the Forest Service with the greatest association in the states of North Dakota, Montana and Idaho. "As people travel to visit Lewis and Clark sites and events, we'll be promoting stewardship of the land," she added.

The commemoration kicked off in mid-January at Monticello-Jefferson's historic home - in Charlottesville, VA. The event recognized President Thomas Jefferson's confidential letter written to Congress on January 18, 1803, asking for \$2,500 to fund an expedition to the Pacific Ocean.

President George W. Bush led the nation's formal recognition of the Bicentennial with a presidential proclamation in June 2002. In a recent announcement, First Lady Laura Bush has agreed to serve as Honorary Chair of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial and will be working with the National Council of the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial.

## **The National Wild Turkey Federation Releases Gould's Wild Turkeys in Arizona**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 16, 2003**

**Contact:** James Powell or Jonathan Harling, 803-637-3106.

With the wind under their outstretched wings, 39 Gould's wild turkeys descended upon their new home in the Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona this morning at 10:00 a.m. (Mountain time), April 16, 2003, and thus wrote another chapter in the wild turkey's success story.

The wild turkeys were released from a holding facility and relocated to the Arizona mountains from Central Mexico.

"This is an important step in bringing wild turkeys back to their natural habitats across North America," said Dr. James Earl Kennamer, National Wild Turkey Federation senior vice president for conservation programs. "The Gould's is staging a comeback in Arizona. This project will give the Gould's population a boost and allow us to learn more about this little-known subspecies."

Called ***Go for the Gould's***, the project began in Sonora, Mexico in mid-March. The 39 wild turkeys were captured using rocket nets and transferred to a special quarantine facility in the Chiricahua Mountains. The turkeys were then held in quarantine for 30 days.

During that time, the turkeys were aged, divided by sex into 12 gobblers and 27 hens and fitted with leg bands. They were also inoculated for Exotic Newcastle Disease, an infectious and deadly poultry disease.

In addition, 20 of the birds were equipped with radio transmitters. These turkeys will be observed to determine their home ranges, habitats they use and factors that affect nesting success and mortality rates.

"We plan to learn a lot about the Gould's wild turkey," Kennamer said. "By using the radio transmitters, this gives us the opportunity to observe them from a distance."

The Gould's subspecies was nearly extirpated from the United States in the early 1900s and now occupies only a few remote mountain ranges in Arizona and New Mexico. Depending on continued funding and partnerships, the NWTF is expected to trap more birds in Mexico and release them in Arizona over the next five years.

**More about the Go for the Gould's Project.** For centuries, wild turkeys played an important role in the traditions and culture of the American Indians in the southwest. For some tribes, the wild turkey was sacred and not eaten while in others it was a main source of food. In addition, turkey feathers were used to decorate clothing, fletch arrows and were used in religious ceremonies.

The Gould's wild turkey was also an important food source for those who settled and worked the rugged lands of southern Arizona. Between the Civil War and World War I, miners working in this

region killed Gould's wild turkeys for their next meal. By the time Arizona set legal hunting seasons in 1929, the Gould's wild turkey had already disappeared.

Today's regulated hunting opportunities will benefit Gould's populations. For example, in 2002 a New Jersey man purchased the right to be the first person to hunt the Gould's wild turkey in the United States in modern times. The winning bid of \$17,500 at the NWTF's 2002 Grand National Auction is being used to help fund Gould's restoration efforts.

As the populations continue to increase and stabilize, the *Go for the Gould's* project will provide economic benefits to local community businesses such as hotels, restaurants and gas stations as additional hunting opportunities become available.

The NWTF's Making Tracks Program--*Go for the Gould's* project is part of the NWTF's larger Making Tracks program, which is a cooperative effort between the NWTF and state, federal and provincial wildlife agencies to restore wild turkey populations to all suitable habitat in North America. The reintroduction of the Gould's wild turkey has always been part of the NWTF's turkey restoration plan; however, recent developments have made the international transfer a reality in 2003.

The *Go for the Gould's* project was made possible through the work of the NWTF, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, WingShooters Lodge in Mexico, the Mexico Secretariat of Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife, the NWTF Arizona State Chapter and the NWTF Tucson Local Chapter.

For more information about the *Go for the Gould's* project or about the NWTF, call 1-800-THE-NWTF or visit the website at [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org).

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 NWTF's many volunteers and partners, today there are an estimated 5.6 million wild turkeys and approximately 2.6 million turkey hunters. Since 1985, more than \$168 million NWTF and cooperator dollars have been spent on over 22,000 projects benefiting wild turkeys throughout North America. The NWTF is a 450,000-member grassroots, nonprofit organization with members in 50 states, Canada and 11 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. For more information on the National Wild Turkey Federation call (803) 637-3106, check out our web site at [www.nwtf.org](http://www.nwtf.org) or e-mail questions to [nwtf@nwtf.net](mailto:nwtf@nwtf.net).

### **Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship Conference**—November 17-20, 2003, Los Angeles, California

Changing demographics, environmental factors, economics and community values require leaders to find new ways to forge new and innovative connections between people and places. Protection of our natural and cultural treasures along with the places set aside for recreation and education, demands shared responsibility and leadership.

Across the United States, the formation of successful partnerships offers the possibility of creating a nationwide network of public places. The elements of the network come in many forms — among them local, state and federal parks, refuges, forests, preserves, historic places, waterways, rangelands and private land trusts. The benefits of working in partnership and

collaboration are many. They can provide efficient service, engage new resources to accomplish shared stewardship objectives, share skills and knowledge, and expand recreation opportunities.

To further explore and shape these ideas of partnership and a nationwide network of public places, the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs are engaging the federal family of land managing agencies to convene the Joint Ventures: Partners in Stewardship conference on November 17-20, 2003 in Los Angeles.

Participants will include a broad cross-section from federal, state and local governments, the business community, tribes and indigenous communities, non-governmental organizations and the educational and scientific communities. The convening agencies will invite fully half of the 2,000 participants from outside the federal sector, and are working with a widening group of partners to plan the conference content. Conference participants will have opportunities to examine models of shared leadership, influence the emerging nationwide network of public places, interact with agency and partner leaders, learn new skills and hear nationally recognized speakers.

### Conference Session Proposal Information

Explore the changing nature of communities, examine models of shared leadership, build skills needed to nurture and cultivate partnerships, and influence the emerging nationwide network of public places. During this conference, a diverse body of public and private sector attendees will have the opportunity to delve into both the theory and practice of partnerships, and to share experiences and ideas with colleagues involved in partnership activities ranging from traditional to state-of-the-art.

Proposal were solicited for a conference sessions in one or more of the topic areas, including:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| *Adaptive Management                        | *Planning   |
| *Arts and Humanities                        | *Recreation & Health                                |
| *Building Community Connections             | *Science  |
| *Building Partnership Competencies          | *Shared-Management/Government Models                |
| *Communications, Marketing, & Branding      | *Sustainable Practices                              |
| *Corporate Stewardship                      | *Technology   |
| *Creative Public/Private Funding Approaches | *Tourism  |
| *Cultural and Natural Resource Stewardship  | *Trails and Greenways                               |
| *Education                                  | *Transportation                                     |
| *Engaging New Audiences                     | *Tribal Governments Responsibilities & Partnerships |

\*Green Infrastructure

\*Visitor Services

\*Heritage

\*Volunteerism

\*Other Topics

\*Working Landscapes

For more information, visit the conference website at:

<http://www.partnerships2003.org/home.html>

## **Invasive Species Symposium—Call for Papers**

Accidental and Purposeful Introductions of Animals: Investigating Species Interactions at Different Trophic Levels                      October 14-16, 2003--Sacramento, California

NOTE: Updated information, including program and plenary schedules, will be posted the Western Section TWS web site (<http://www.tws-west.org/>) as it becomes available.

This symposium will examine both intended (purposeful) and unintended (accidental) animal invasions in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. Introduced vertebrate species and their interactions with native animal and plant species will be the central theme of the symposium. Animal invaders can have roles as competitors, predators, herbivores, and granivores. In turn, the distribution, abundance, and population dynamics of the invader can be affected by these same relationships, as well as by changes in habitat structure from invasive plants. Outcomes of these interactions are often considered harmful; others are considered acceptable or, in some cases, even beneficial.

Not only do introductions have ecological implications, they are further complicated by sociological, political, economic, and cultural influences. Although many animal introductions are accidental, some introductions are deliberate. Purposeful introductions that are done as part of commonly accepted land-and resource-management programs are ongoing in most parts of the world. This symposium will examine both types of introductions from ecological, conservation, and policy perspectives, with views encouraged from areas throughout the world.

Presentations will address invasive-species characteristics, invaded communities, invader impacts, and positive and negative outcomes of control programs in sequential, rather than breakout, sessions. Because of the nature of the sequential sessions, only a limited number of oral presentations will be accommodated.

Contributed posters will be an essential part of the program. A special evening poster session and reception with authors present will allow plenty of extended discussion among conference participants. Symposium proceedings will be published and distributed to all registrants.

### **Abstract Format**

Abstracts should be in 12-point, Arial font, no more than 300 words, and submitted with associated information as an electronic-mail attachment in "rich text format" (.rtf) to Cynthia Graves Perrine, symposium chair, at [cperrine@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:cperrine@dfg.ca.gov) for the following sessions:

- Invader Characteristics
- Community Characteristics and Susceptibility to Invasion
- Control Methods/Trials
- Impacts on Native Ecosystems, Populations, Processes

**Abstracts for contributed posters and oral sessions must be received no later than 5 p.m. (PST) Saturday, June 15, 2003.** Successful abstracts will be assigned a session by the program committee. All submitting authors will be notified no later than August 1, 2003.

The following information should accompany submissions.

1. Author to contact
2. Institution
3. Complete mailing address (street address, city, state, country, zip/postal code)
4. Phone number
5. E-mail address (Important note: if your e-mail address is incorrect, you will not receive notification of acceptance or other information)
6. Person presenting the paper (must be a registered participant in the symposium)
7. Session of interest
  - a. Invader Characteristics
  - b. Community Characteristics and Susceptibility to Invasion
  - c. Control Methods/Trials
  - d. Impacts on Native Ecosystems, Populations, Processes

Students: Please write "student" at the top of your abstracts.

**NOTE: An online abstract-submittal form is available.**

#### **Hotel and Travel Information**

We have reserved a block of rooms at the Sacramento Radisson Hotel, 500 Leisure Lane, Sacramento, California, at the special rate of \$84.00 per night.

To reserve your room at that rate, please call the hotel at 916/922-2020 and identify that you are with The Wildlife Society-Western Section symposium in October. Do NOT call the "800" number to make your reservations.

**IMPORTANT:** We expect a large crowd at this symposium so please make your hotel reservations as early as possible to ensure that a room is available.

We've made special arrangements with Southwest Airlines for discounted rates for those attending this symposium. To receive up to a 10% discount on airfares, please use the following ID code and telephone number to make your reservations (you cannot receive the discount using Southwest's online reservations):

ID Code: L0152

Telephone Number: 1-800-433-5368

#### **Preliminary Schedule**

##### Tuesday, October 14th:

Registration begins at 11:00 a.m.

Plenary Session: 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Welcome Reception: 5:30-8:30 p.m.

##### Wednesday, October 15th:

Symposium Contributed Papers

Poster Session with Authors

##### Thursday, October 16th:

Symposium Contributed Papers

Symposium Panel Discussion to 5:00 p.m.

## Vacancies

**The Assistant National Wildlife Program Leader Vacancy has been extended until May 9, 2003.** Qualified individuals are encouraged to apply for position. The full vacancy announcement can be found at: <http://jsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/summary.asp?OPMControl=IM0371>

Questions may be directed to Debbie Pressman, National Wildlife Program Leader, 202-205-1281; [dpressman@fs.fed.us](mailto:dpressman@fs.fed.us).

Vacancy Announcement Number: WO-0185-03G (TK)

Opening Date: 03/26/2003

Closing Date: 05/09/2003

Position: WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST (ASST. NATIONAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM LEADER)

Series/Grade: GS-0486-12/13

Salary: \$57,421.00 - \$88,770.00 per year

Promotion Potential: GS-13

Duty Location: 1 vacancy at WASHINGTON, DC

USDA Forest Service; National Forest System; Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Staff located in Washington, D.C.

### **WHO MAY APPLY:** Government-Wide

Veterans who are preference eligibles or who have been separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after three years or more of continuous active service, Veterans Readjustment Act eligibles, disabled veterans with a 30% or more disability, persons with severe disabilities, Peace Corps volunteers, and Vista volunteers, may apply and will be considered. The applicant must furnish required proof or certification of eligibility. Additional information on special employment authorities may be obtained from the office issuing this announcement.

Persons eligible for noncompetitive reinstatement, reassignment, or change to a lower grade may apply and will be considered.

Applicants covered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP) or Intergovernmental Career Transition Program (ICTAP) may apply and will be given priority consideration if determined to be in the quality group as defined under the Method of Evaluation.

### **MAJOR DUTIES:**

The incumbent serves as the principle assistant to the National Wildlife Program Leader in coordination, development, implementation, and administration of the wildlife habitat management program. Advises, plans, and/or reviews specific problems, programs, or functions and develops new or improved techniques and solutions related to wildlife conservation. Develops and recommends national program policies, standards, and procedures to address specific natural resource management issues. The incumbent establishes partnerships and works with the private and public sectors to support the

management of vegetation to provide a variety of values and uses within ecosystem capabilities.

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

Title	Grade/Series	Deadline	Vacancy #	Location
<a href="#"><u><b>DIRECTOR, COPPER RIVER INTL MIGRATORY BIRD INITIATIVE</b></u></a>	GS-0486-12/12	May 12, 2003	R10-02-1912	Cordova, AK
<a href="#"><u><b>ECOSYSTEM STAFF OFFICER</b></u></a>	GS-0486-12/13	May 14, 2003	R509-08-03	Alturas, CA
<a href="#"><u><b>PLANNING STAFF OFFICER</b></u></a>	GS-0486-12/12	May 12, 2003	R519-052-03(G)	South Lake Tahoe, CA
<a href="#"><u><b>WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST</b></u></a>	GS-0486-07/09	May 7, 2003	R602-19-03G	BLY, OR
<a href="#"><u><b>WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST</b></u></a>	GS-0486-11/11	May 13, 2003	R517-5671-03(G)	Sierraville, CA

### Hotlinks!

- Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/>
- 2003 News Releases: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2003/releases.shtml>
- FS Today Newsletter: [http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs\\_today/](http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/)
- National Fire Plan: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nfp/>
- Roadless Area Conservation: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>
- Large-Scale Watershed Restoration Projects: <http://www.fs.fed.us/largewatershedprojects/>
- Land and Resource Management Plans: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/nfmalrmp.html>
- Watershed and Air Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/clean/>
- Lands and Realty Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/>
- Road Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/roads/>
- Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage Resources: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/>
- Forest Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/fm/>
- International Programs: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/>
- Research: <http://www.fe.fed.us/research/scientific.html>
- Healthy Forests Initiative: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/HFI.shtml>
- Partners in Planning **(NEW)**: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/planning/guide/index.html>

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

**On The Wild Side** is a monthly update of activities of the National Forest System Terrestrial Wildlife and Ecology Program of the USDA Forest Service. All information presented is subject to change as projects evolve, opportunities arise and issues unfold. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Debbie Pressman at [dpressman@fs.fed.us](mailto:dpressman@fs.fed.us) no later than the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity and brevity.

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."