

# On the Wild Side

## WILDLIFE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



USDA  
FOREST SERVICE

MAY/JUNE 2004



**RETURN OF THE RED EYE** - They're back! Like a Spielberg spectacular, or real live 'FEAR FACTOR', the worlds largest insect emergence in 2004 is happening in 14 eastern states. The periodical cicada brood X nymphs emerge from their 17-year below ground seclusion to begin another 2 month reproduction cycle. These unique red-eyed cicadas are found only in North America, where we may observe their phenomenal emergences perhaps 4 or 5 times in a lifetime. We encourage you to pursue the following links to gain a greater understanding and appreciation for these mysterious creatures <http://www.entm.umd.edu/> or

<http://collections2.eeb.uconn.edu/collections/cicadacentral/index.html>.

## FROM THE DIRECTOR, WATERSHED, FISH, WILDLIFE, AIR AND RARE PLANTS

Jim Gladen  
Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants  
Forest Service Headquarters  
Washington, DC

**June 11, 2004** - Today is my last day as Director of Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants for the USDA Forest Service. It seems impossible that I have been in this position for two years and now am leaving both this position and the Forest Service. Like most of you, National Forest lands and resources have been a major factor in my life. I have now reached the point where I pass what I have been entrusted with on to others to carry the leadership and stewardship responsibility forward for these truly unique resources.

It has been my privilege to work with some really outstanding people over my career. This has been especially true of the Washington Office WFW staff, and field staff, who have shown such passion, creativity and commitment to excellence in public land management. I have learned so much from all of you. The future of our National Forests is certainly in good hands. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of that with you...jim

**Note:** Jim Gladen is retiring from the Forest Service, and taking an appointment with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in Missoula, Montana. This is an exceptional opportunity for Jim and the Rocky Mountain

Elk Foundation; and, we are proud and pleased that he is staying in the wildlife conservation arena. The WFW Staff wishes Jim and Lorin all the best on their new adventure and life in Montana – WFW, Wash, DC

## **NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR FOREST SERVICE WATERSHED, FISH, WILDLIFE, AIR AND RARE PLANTS PROGRAM, WASHINGTON, DC**

Anne Zimmerman (formerly Forest Supervisor of the Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee), is now the Deputy Director of the Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Program, Washington DC. A native of Virginia, Anne's Forest Service career began in 1977 working summers in the Washington Office for research. She began her field tenure in 1978 as a summer seasonal employee becoming permanent in 1979 as a wildlife biologist on the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, in Virginia. Since then, Anne has held the following positions:

- Forest Supervisor, Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee
- Deputy Forest Supervisor, Cherokee National Forest, Tennessee
- District Ranger, Seeley Lake Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, Montana
- Deputy District Ranger, Nine Mile Ranger District, Lolo National Forest, Montana
- Wildlife Biologist/Timber Management Assistant, Conecuh National Forest, Alabama
- Wildlife Biologist/ORA, Caney Ranger District, Kisatchie National Forest, Mississippi
- Wildlife Biologist/Recreation Specialist, Lee Ranger District, George Washington and Jefferson National Forests, Virginia

For five years, Anne has also been a member of the Southern Region's Incident Command Team, the Blue Team. Anne earned a bachelor's degree in forestry and wildlife at Virginia Tech and a master's degree in wildlife ecology from Purdue University.

Anne brings a great deal of expertise and proven leadership skills to this new position, we are very pleased to have her on board. Please join us in welcoming Anne to our staff.

## **PARTNERSHIPS RULE**

### **PARTNERING: THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY AND FOREST SERVICE RENEW MOU**

**Caitlin Burke**  
**The Wildlife Society**  
**Bethesda, MD**

In a renewed commitment to the long-standing partnership between the Forest Service (FS) and The Wildlife Society (TWS), the organizations finalized a Memorandum of Understanding in March 2004 at the 69<sup>th</sup> North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Spokane, Washington. FS Chief Dale Bosworth and TWS Vice President Robert Brown signed the agreement, signaling their pledge to work cooperatively to achieve mutual goals and interests.

The Wildlife Society, established in 1937, is a non-profit scientific and educational organization of professional wildlife scientists, managers, and educators. TWS is dedicated to promoting sound stewardship of wildlife resources and the environments upon which wildlife and humans depend through developing programs that focus on wildlife



research, proper resource management, public conservation education, wildlife policy analysis and development, and professional services.

The FS and TWS renewed a previous Memorandum, which established the groups' interest in collaborating to advance public awareness of wildlife habitat and management, and good stewardship of wildlife resources. The updated agreement expands on those purposes, adding the goals of working together to develop and apply wildlife knowledge and skills; achieve successful stewardship through management, research, and outreach activities; advance excellence in natural resource management; and promote professionalism.

In the Memorandum, the FS pledges to allow employees to participate in activities such as attending TWS conferences, publishing in its scientific journals, and serving in TWS leadership positions. It supports employees interested in obtaining the professional education, experience, ethical and development credentials of TWS' Certified Wildlife Biologist Program. It also will support employees interested in developing an Interagency Personnel Agreement (IPA) with TWS to advance mutual interests of the organizations.

TWS will continue to ensure its annual conferences address the continuing education and professional development needs of FS employees, and it will work with higher education institutions to better prepare students to work effectively within the agency.

FS and TWS will cooperate on numerous initiatives including technical training and professional development sessions, public awareness and education projects, comprehensive wildlife and habitat management planning, enhanced ethical conduct of professionals, independent reviews of wildlife-related programs of the FS, and regular interaction between FS employees and the wildlife community. Both parties believe this agreement will help achieve the common goal of excellence in natural resource stewardship through science and education, and they anticipate seeing measurable benefits for wildlife and habitat conservation.

## **FOREST SERVICE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH BAT CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL**



On April 27, 2004, Dr. Merlin Tuttle, President/Founder Bat Conservation International, Inc. and Deputy Chief Tom Thompson signed a new Service-Wide Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). This MOU recognizes our longstanding partnership and mutual interest in the conservation and management of bats, their habitat and associated ecosystems, and our common desire to expand our cooperative work throughout the country.

Bat Conservation International's (BCI) mission is to protect and restore bats and their habitats worldwide by teaching people to understand and value bats as essential components of ecosystems. BCI advocates protecting critical bat habitats, advancing scientific knowledge about bats and their conservation needs, and the needs of the ecosystems that rely upon them, and facilitating non-confrontational approaches that help both bats and people.

We have a proven track record of working in collaboration with BCI, focusing especially on teaching employees to understand and value bats as essential allies through managing and protecting bat habitats, advancing scientific knowledge about bats, conservation needs, and ecosystems that rely on bats through continuing education, training and cooperative research. We know that by managing for bats and their habitats, we help ensure conservation of our nation's biodiversity, and create a healthier environment for both wildlife and people on our national forests.

I know that partnerships take valuable time, effort and energy; but they are worth it and are in the Forest Service's and the public's interest. Partnerships such as these allow the Forest Service to do more of the important conservation work that benefits the public.

I encourage you to review the enclosed MOU, visit Bat Conservation International's website at <http://batcon.org> and become more involved with BCI.

**James T. Gladen, Director**  
**Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants**  
**Washington, DC**

### **MULTIPLE SPECIES INVENTORY AND MONITORING (MSIM) GUIDE**

The U.S. Forest Service is in the process of updating its policy and direction for resource inventory and monitoring. Over the past two years, five technical guides have been in the process of the development, three of which have gone through a formal agency review (Existing Vegetation Classification and Mapping, Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory, and Aquatic Ecological Unit Inventory). The series of all resource technical guides will be considered standards for the management of National Forest System lands.

Another technical guide is now ready for review, the Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring (MSIM) Protocol. The MSIM protocol is a tool for generating information on the status and trends of populations and habitats of a wide array of wildlife and plant species to inform Forest Service managers, the public, and other interested parties about management effectiveness and desired conditions on National Forest System lands. We are seeking review comments from our partners and collaborators to ensure quality and effectiveness, as well as foster partnerships in inventory and monitoring.

The draft MSIM technical guide and review instructions are at <http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/rig>. Review comments will be incorporated into the final

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### **NRIS DOES BIRDS**

Whether it's for the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), the Christmas Bird Count, nest activity and habitat monitoring (such as BBIRD) or Forest Service management indicator species trend surveys - knowing where we've seen and surveyed birds is a persistent and important part of our job. We've recorded our surveys on paper maps and forms, spreadsheets, GIS, and the Internet. Some of this survey data may survive from one biologist to their successor, yet much is lost forever. We need something to help us capture and use this important data in

our daily jobs, and preserve it for posterity, too. Hey, what about an easy to use, standard GIS database for bird surveys?

Fauna, the wildlife portion of the Natural Resource Information System (NRIS), is busy adding the "National Bird Survey" capability to our NRIS national database. The new addition available this fall will allow easy entry and retrieval of a variety of national surveys. It will include the BBS, the FS National Multiple Species Inventory and Monitoring (MSIM) protocol, and FS regional bird surveys including Region 3's MSIM bird monitoring program, the southeastern region's R8BIRD protocol, and the Northern Region's Landbird Monitoring program.

"The trick is to make it easy for folks to enter the survey information (into a database) and have it readily available for them to accomplish the task at hand. The challenge is providing the tools needed to analyze the data in the variety of ways that meet users' needs – like distribution maps, viability analyses, habitat model validation – and the list goes on. We have to make it a snap to grab the data and go," says Chris Frye, NRIS Fauna team leader.

There is also the issue of how we share some of this data with outside organizations. Take the USGS's BBS for example. USGS is the national "steward" for this data, holding it in a database served up from Patuxent, Virginia via its web site. Chris Frye has been in conversation with Keith Pardieck, coordinator of the BBS, regarding how the Forest Service and USGS might share BBS data. The NRIS Fauna team is now in the design phase for the National Bird Survey addition to the NRIS GIS database. Seona Brown, recently of the WO WFW staff, is leading the National Bird Survey core design team, with John Curnutt (R-9), Margaret Griep (R-8) and Bryce Rickel (R-3) completing the team.

You can help! Please send any bird survey protocols, examples, or ideas on how you conduct bird point surveys to Seona ([sbrown@fs.fed.us](mailto:sbrown@fs.fed.us)) 1755 Cleveland Hwy, Gainesville GA 30501, the sooner the better. NRIS wants the National Bird Survey to work for you. And remember, the information we enter now will survive and be used by the generations of biologists that will have our jobs in the future.

**Chris Frye**  
**Fauna Module, FS NRIS**  
**Gainesville, Georgia**

## **FOREST SERVICE RECREATION PROGRAM RE-ALIGNMENT: MORE EMPHASIS ON WILDERNESS AND WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

On May 27, 2004 the Forest Service announced a realignment of Recreation and Heritage Resources into two areas: Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Recreation and Heritage Resources. Since the early days of Aldo Leopold, Bob Marshall, Arthur Carhart, and other wilderness visionaries, the Forest Service has played a leadership role in wilderness stewardship. Long before the Wilderness Act, the agency protected wilderness values on millions of acres. Today, the Forest Service manages more than a third of the National Wilderness Preservation System and more than 60 percent of it in the lower 48 states. Wilderness makes up about 18 percent of the National Forest System, some 35 million acres. Additionally, the Forest Service administers roughly 38 percent of the miles of river in the National Wild and Scenic River System.

The realignment of Recreation and Heritage Resources into two Director Areas will help the Forest Service reclaim agency leadership in wilderness and wild and scenic rivers, and enable the agency to gain focus, meet challenges, and strengthen relationships in all of these resource areas. The creation of a Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers Directorship will help the Forest Service:

- broaden ownership of the wilderness and wild and scenic river resource, encouraging various staffs to give wilderness and wild and scenic rivers greater integrated management;

- strengthen our relationships with nongovernmental and partner organizations that have long encouraged such a move;
- collaborate with partners and the National Forest Foundation to achieve the “10-year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge;”
- enhance our ability to meet our regulatory and stewardship responsibilities for Wild and Scenic Rivers;
- enhance our capacity for leadership within the National Wilderness Preservation System and within the global movement for protected area management; and
- raise public visibility, understanding, and support for wilderness and wild and scenic rivers.

The appointment and creation of the first National Director of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers takes effect on June 27, 2004. **Dave Holland will continue as the Director of Recreation and Heritage Resources and Mary Wagner will fill the role of Director of Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers.**

**Kristen Nelson**  
**Forest Service/Recreation and Heritage Resources**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
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## **PARTNERS IN FLIGHT RELEASES NORTH AMERICAN LANDBIRD CONSERVATION PLAN (article appeared in Bird Calls Vol. 8, No.1; March 2004)**

Partners in Flight recently completed its North American Landbird Conservation Plan, written by scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Plan provides, for the first time, a continental synthesis of priorities and objectives that will guide conservation actions for 448 species of landbirds in North America. Of particular focus are the 100 species included on the PIF Watch List that face a combination of threats to their habitats, declining populations, small population sizes, or limited distribution. Of these, 28 species require immediate action to protect small remaining population, and 44 others are in need of direct management to reverse long term declines. The Plan also highlights 161 “Stewardship Species” (some also on the Watch List) that are particularly representative of landscape characteristics in each portion of the continent and whose needs should be considered in conservation planning.

Population estimates for all species of landbirds and populations objectives for Watch List and Stewardship Species set forth in the Plan are major advances. These innovations allow all measurable population objectives to be set for direct conservation action at various geographic scales. The Plan stops short of proposing habitat objectives, as these can best be determined by partners working on the ground.

Another novel contribution is an assessment of the adequacy of long-term population trend monitoring data. Species are placed into four categories: those with adequate data, those having inadequate data, species without data and species with inadequate geographic coverage. Important next steps include: 1) devising ways to “step down” the population estimates and objectives to smaller geographic scales for validation with independent data; 2) completing a plan for Coordinated Bird Monitoring to ensure adequate coverage of all landbirds; and 3) expanding the assessment to include another 450 species of landbirds that breed largely in Mexico. The Plan is expected to be available on the Web by the middle of the year.

**Note:** The Forest Service has shipped copies to all Regional Offices and Research Stations for distribution to field units.

### **U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE (USFWS) STRATEGIC PLAN COMPLETE AND BIOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE TEAM CREATED (excerpt from Partners in Flight Newsletter, April 2004)**

“A Blueprint for the Future of Migratory Birds: Strategic Plan 2004-2014” has now been finalized by the USFWS (see <http://www.fws.gov>). The Service will follow this strategic plan with implementation plans that outline specific actions to be taken. The Service also challenged other land management agencies to write analogous plans to bring bird conservation to the forefront of their activities. In a related effort, the Service is creating a Biological Landscape Team that will work to design a cross-programmatic approach to applied science and biological planning. Refuges, Migratory Birds, Ecological Services, and Fisheries will all be involved.

### **SPECIAL ISSUE OF BIRD CONSERVATION MAGAZINE (excerpt from Partners in Flight Newsletter, April 2004)**

The American Bird Conservancy is devoting the next issue of Bird Conservation magazine to the PIF North American Bird Conservation Plan. We'll be taking important excerpts from the Plan to both highlight particular issues and to make the Plan accessible to a more general bird conservation audience. Any partner interested in paying for an additional run of this issue for PIF landbird education and outreach efforts should contact Merrie Morrison at ABC ([mmorr@abcbirds.org](mailto:mmorr@abcbirds.org)).

### **COORDINATED BIRD MONITORING (excerpt from Partners in Flight Newsletter, April 2004)**

Now that the Continental Plan is completed, CBM is the next big product push for Partners in Flight. The Monitoring Working Group has been working steadily for a couple of years now, and numerous aspects of the monitoring framework are coming to fruition. Importantly, Directors of the FWS and USGS are jointly recommending agency participation in an ad hoc bird monitoring technical working group to be established under the IAFWA Science and Research Committee. This working group will address technical and operational issues involved in coordinated bird monitoring, building on efforts by biologists on behalf of PIF, NABCI, and others to date. Contact Jon Bart ([jon\\_bart@usgs.gov](mailto:jon_bart@usgs.gov)) to obtain current draft reports and other information on CBM.

### **NEW SHOREBIRD SISTER PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

**Brad Andres**

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

Sandy Spakoff is the new Shorebird Sister School Program (SSSP) Coordinator for the Division of Education Outreach at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Sandy comes to NCTC from the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex where she held the position of Chief of Visitor Services for the past three years. She has over 10 years experience developing programs and providing education and outreach. Sandy has worked with a wide variety of organizations, schools and agencies, including the Audubon Society (both National and local chapters), San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory, San Jose State University, U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

During her tenure as Environmental Education Specialist at the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Sandy developed education programs and curricula based on resource management objectives and Education Standards for resource professionals and educators. The Trekking the Refuge field trip program she developed, is used as a model by other refuges within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sandy has also been an instructor for the Division of Education and Outreach (Environmental Education Methods course) since 1992. In addition to her Shorebird Sister School Program responsibilities, Sandy will be the Course Leader for media outreach courses offered at NCTC.

Sandy Spakoff can be reached at [sssp@fws.gov](mailto:sssp@fws.gov) or through the SSSP website <http://sssp.fws.gov>.

## **A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE WHSRN COORDINATING OFFICE**

**Charles D. Duncan,**

**Portland, Maine, 5 May 2004**

In late March, the WHSRN Council met in Spokane, Washington, USA, as part of the 69th North American Wildlife Conference. The draft minutes of that meeting can be seen in English and in Spanish on our website at:



<http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN/Council%20Actions/councilactions.htm>

Perhaps the most significant item that occurred at the meeting was the approval of the WHSRN Strategic Plan for 2004-2008, also available in English and Spanish at:

[http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN/strategic\\_plan.htm](http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN/strategic_plan.htm)

This WHSRN Plan grew out of discussion among the Council and others who have long been involved with the Network. A full-day session at the Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Puyehue, Chile (October), was extremely helpful. Four goals (with specific objectives each) are found in the WHSRN document:

1. Ensure that the Network's conservation actions are the effective and appropriate application of the best available information;
2. Implement shorebird conservation action at Network sites throughout the Americas;
3. Create and maintain informed, involved, empowered and interconnected human communities at Network sites; and
4. Become the strongest network of sites possible.

WHSRN is now actively recruiting new sites, especially those that qualify as sites of Hemispheric or International importance. We still require the approval and commitment of the landowners. Nomination forms are available at our website.

WHSRN's organizational structure is changed dramatically with the new Plan. To ensure that the Network meets the on-site needs of the Partner Sites, we are creating a series of National Councils to carry on the Network's activities such as identifying and approving new sites, designing strategies to reduce threats to shorebirds and their habitats and so on. Where groups of countries, perhaps with fewer sites or people involved, or with shared trans-national issues, feel it is appropriate to join forces, International Councils will be formed. In Canada and the United States, the national shorebird conservation plan councils have already agreed to serve as WHSRN-Canada and WHSRN-US. We invite discussions or proposals from recognized leaders or partnerships who may be interested in forming a National or International Council in other parts of the Network.

The Scientific Advisory Committee will continue but with a new format and new tasks. The membership will be greatly expanded, especially to include more expertise beyond the existing strength in Canada and the United States. The committee will meet in its entirety only very rarely. A six or eight person Science

Executive will be formed and much of the work will be accomplished through ad hoc task forces focused on specific issues. The Network will be headed by a Hemispheric Council, the body ultimately responsible for the entire network and matters affecting the WHSRN program as a whole. The Plan states:

"To ensure the effectiveness of the Network, most members of the Hemispheric Council are drawn from the highest levels of governments and influential bodies of their respective regions. Members of the Hemispheric Council ensure that funds are available for core WHSRN activities as well as those associated with the strategic plan. Thus, membership on the Hemispheric Council generally carries a direct obligation to support the Network's core functions financially. Nonetheless, no otherwise qualified Hemispheric Council candidate will be rejected because of an inability to make a financial contribution." We are in the process of transitioning from the existing Council to the new Hemispheric Council. Again, nominations of appropriate people are welcomed.

Finally, let me add a personal note. The last six months since I have had the opportunity to direct the Coordinating Office, have been among the most challenging, exciting and satisfying of my professional life. I have had the chance to work with people of enormous talent and commitment to conservation across the entirety of our Hemisphere and beyond. I am convinced that the collaboration that the Network can foster is exactly the right way to achieve our mission of conserving shorebirds and their habitats across the Americas. While I have learned much in these past months, I am humbled by how much there is yet to learn, and how much we all need to do, together. I welcome your comments and suggestions at [cduncan@manomet.org](mailto:cduncan@manomet.org).

### **SPOTTED: MORE CHECKERSPOTS** (Excerpt taken from, *The Register Guard*, Eugene, Oregon, May 11, 2004)

CORVALLIS, OR. - About 500 rare butterflies were recently found thriving in the hills west of Corvallis thrilling conservationists who hope the colorful Taylor's checkerspot will fight back from near extinction. The new colony, along with roughly 1,000 butterflies on nearby private and county park land, account for about three-quarters of all Taylor's checkerspot known to exist. The rest are scattered across 10 sites in western Washington. "It's extremely exciting, because this is the largest population we have on publicly managed land," said Scott Hoffman Black, executive director of the Xerces Society. The Portland-based invertebrate conservation group has asked the federal government to declare Taylor's checkerspot an endangered species. "We found the population where they're already trying to do habitat restoration," he said. An ecologist found the latest population in some meadows at the county-owned Beazell Memorial Forest north of Philomath late last month. Significant loss of upland prairie in the Willamette Valley over the past century and a half has nearly wiped out the butterfly, Hoffman Black said. Scientists estimate less than 1 percent of this important habitat remains in isolated spots threatened by invasive weeds, encroaching fir trees and development. "As the prairie habitat has gone, the butterfly has gone," Hoffman Black said.

The new population is a pat on the back for Benton County, which has worked to improve habitat and preserve pockets of

#### **PORTRAIT OF A BUTTERFLY**



**Name:** Taylor's checkerspot  
(*Euphydryas editha taylori*)

**Description:** Orange and black checkers with white markings and a wingspan of less than 2 1/4 inches.

**Past range:** Grasslands, prairies and oak woodlands of Vancouver Island, Puget Sound basin and Willamette Valley.

**Present range:** Two populations west of Corvallis and 10 smaller populations near Olympia and Port Angeles, Wash. Only about 2,000 remain altogether.

**Threats:** Primarily habitat loss due to agricultural and urban development, fire suppression and forest encroachment, livestock grazing and invasion by native and non-native plants.

native prairie. The butterflies feed on wild strawberry, hairy cat's ear, rosy plectritis and other native wildflowers. "It's an excellent indicator that we're doing something correctly," county Parks Director Jerry Davis said. "This shows we have some really nice property and what we're doing is not messing it up." The Xerces Society began working to protect the butterfly and its habitat four years ago. It has developed a close partnership with Benton County, which is trying to protect the largest population about 1,000 in and around the parks department's Fitton Green Natural Area, north of Philomath. The plight of the butterfly persuaded the society to pursue its first-ever lawsuit. It recently filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to place Taylor's checkerspot on the endangered species list. The agency lists Taylor's checkerspot as a candidate for the list, Hoffman Black said, but often it takes pressure from environmental groups to compel the agency to formally list a species. Hoffman Black said the species occupied more than 70 sites as recently as the mid-1970s. "We've lost at least 60 populations in the last 30 years," he said. "So we know this butterfly is endangered and needs to be protected. We do not want to sit on our hands."

## **CAL BIOLOGIST SOLVES MYSTERY OF DISAPPEARING SIERRA FROGS**

**David Perlman, Chronicle Science Writer, San Francisco Chronicle**

**May 13, 2004**

Berkeley, CA - The mystery of the disappearing frogs is an old one in the High Sierra, and now a University of California (UC) Berkeley biologist argues he has cracked the case and found a solution to the critters' impending demise. Stocking high-elevation lakes in the Sierra Nevada with hatchery-raised fish began as far back as the 1880s, when miners hauled fingerling trout to the lakes in milk cans on mule-back. By the 1950s, the introductions became large-scale, using planes flying over the lakes to release fish by the hundreds of thousands.

But since then, a species of amphibian, the mountain yellow-legged frog, has declined almost to extinction in most of those lakes, according to Vance T. Vredenburg, a UC Berkeley biologist who has hiked through the early June snows of the High Sierra for the past eight years to learn what's killing them. The frogs were once so abundant on the shores of the Sierra lakes that a Berkeley wildlife survey team reported in 1915 that the surveyors couldn't help stepping on hundreds of them.

A new study by Vredenburg offers the best evidence yet that rainbow trout are primarily responsible for the frog's disappearance from hundreds of high mountain lakes from Susanville in the north, to the Lake Tahoe region, and well to the south of Kings Canyon National Park. In eight years of carefully controlled experiments, Vredenburg used a cluster of lakes as his laboratory in the Sixty Lakes Basin of Kings Canyon National Park east of Fresno. The lakes lie in chains at elevation between 10,000 and 11,500 feet. From early June, after much of the snow melted and made access possible, until October when the snows returned, he and his undergraduate assistants camped at the lakes, making careful counts of trout and frog populations, and watching how their numbers changed. Vredenburg says that when he used gill nets to remove all the trout from any lake where the frogs had almost disappeared, the few remaining amphibians underwent a three-year population explosion.

In lakes that were never stocked, Vredenburg reports, the large populations of frogs remained, but when he and his team moved a few trout into small fenced-off areas where the frogs had laid their gelatinous egg masses, the predatory fish swiftly consumed every one of the newly hatched tadpoles. The results are published this week in the online edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Experts have theorized about other causes: pesticides and herbicides drifting into the mountains from Central Valley farmlands are a known cause of declining frog populations. Global climate change that

may be raising the temperature of the icy mountain lakes could be another cause. And a fungus called chytrid that attacks the mouth parts of tadpoles and kills adult frogs has recently been detected in several species of Sierra amphibians, including yellow-legged frogs. Vredenburg's newest research project is to track the fungal disease and learn what role it may now be playing in their decline.

"There are at least 10,000 lakes in the High Sierra," Vredenburg said. "Ninety percent to 95 percent of them hold introduced species of trout but no more frogs at all. And there may be 200 lakes that have plenty of frogs, but few or no fish. "So the answer is pretty straightforward, and it doesn't get much simpler: with no trout you get an immediate and dramatic response -- the threatened frogs return, and some of the High Sierra's natural biodiversity returns, too."

According to David Graber, science adviser to the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, Vredenburg's study is of major importance. He says park officials have begun a 10-year experiment to see whether removing fish from 11 high-elevation lakes will restore the frog populations there. Six lakes are expected to be free of trout this summer, he said.

But politics always intervenes in environmental questions. Brett Matzke, the western Sierra manager of the statewide angler's organization, CalTrout, agrees that "it appears necessary to remove trout from at least a few lakes in order to create habitat for viable (frog) populations." As a result, he said, it would be appropriate in the next 10 years to eradicate planted trout from up to 10 percent of lakes containing those trout, but imprudent to go beyond that goal. A CalTrout policy statement declares: "A substantial body of research seems to show that trout and frogs cannot co-exist in the high country lakes where frogs are native and trout are not. The dilemma is what to do: keep the recreational fishery or reduce it or eliminate it altogether to save the frogs?"

**E-mail David Perlman at [dperlman@sfchronicle.com](mailto:dperlman@sfchronicle.com).**

## **NEW RESEARCH SUPPORTS THEORY THAT INDIRECT TRANSMISSION OF WASTING DISEASE POSSIBLE IN MULE DEER**

**Contact Name: Todd Malmsbury, Contact Phone: (303) 291-741**

A team of Colorado and Wyoming researchers has reported that chronic wasting disease can be transmitted through environments contaminated by whole carcasses or excrement of animals infected with the fatal illness. The research confirms long-held theories that CWD can be spread through indirect environmental sources. Previous published research that involved two of the authors of the new study has already shown that CWD was either directly or indirectly transmitted through interactions between infected and healthy mule deer.

Funded by the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, the research paper is published on-line in the journal Emerging Infectious Diseases. The authors are Division of Wildlife (DOW) Veterinarians Michael Miller and Lisa Wolfe, Colorado State University Senior Research Scientist Tom Hobbs and University of Wyoming Professor Elizabeth S. Williams. "Based on anecdotal observations over the years, we have long suspected that CWD could be transmitted when healthy deer were exposed to excreta and carcasses of mule deer that had the disease," said Miller, the study's principal author. "Our findings show that environmental sources of infectivity may contribute to CWD epidemics and illustrate how potentially complex these epidemics may be in natural populations."

Williams, who recently received a grant to study CWD transmission mechanisms in greater detail, agreed. "We've had a great deal of circumstantial evidence suggesting that indirect transmission occurs," Williams said. "The experimental findings show that we need to consider several potential exposure routes when attempting to control this disease."

Hobbs, who works in CSU's Natural Resource Ecology Laboratory in Fort Collins, said the research could be important in helping to slow the spread of CWD. "Ultimately, we want to develop models that predict the behavior of the disease," Hobbs explained. "For example, we would like to predict how prevalence changes over time in different areas of Colorado." Hobbs said previous disease models have been based on animal-to-animal contact as the sole source of infection and that disease prevalence was expected to decline as the number infected animals is reduced. "Our findings that contaminated environments can cause transmission means that these declines in infection rates may be much slower than would be predicted by models that only consider animals-to-animal transmission." Miller said that while the research shows environmental contamination is possible in a captive setting, the impacts in the wild are still unknown. "We really can't estimate the relative importance of these different routes of infection from our experiment, but each could play a role in sustaining natural epidemics," Miller said. "Although confinement likely exaggerated transmission probabilities, the conditions we simulated by this experiment do arise in the wild."

The research confined healthy deer in three sets of separate paddocks. In the first set, healthy deer were exposed to another deer already infected with CWD; in the second set, deer were exposed to carcasses of deer that had died of CWD; in the third set, deer were confined in paddocks where infected deer had previously been kept. A few of the healthy deer contracted CWD under all three exposure scenarios over the course of one year. Chronic wasting disease is a fatal neurological ailment of elk, white-tailed deer and mule deer. Most researchers believe the disease is caused by an aberrant prion protein that misfolds in the brain, destroying brain tissues as it progresses. Clinical signs include lethargy, excessive salivation, loss of wariness of predators and slowly deteriorating body condition. The disease is always fatal and there is no known cure or treatment to prevent CWD.

Federal and state health officials have found no connection between CWD and human health. As a precaution, health officials and the DOW recommend that the meat of animals infected with CWD should not be eaten. The Division offers a testing program that allows hunters to have deer, elk and moose check for CWD. More than 45,000 animals have been tested in this way in the past two years in Colorado.

DOW managers have used selective culling to remove animals infected or exposed to CWD in areas where prevalence is highest. The goal is to slow the spread and reduce prevalence to 1 percent or less in each deer and elk data analysis unit in Colorado. "Although live deer and elk still seem the most likely way for CWD to spread geographically, our data show that environmental sources could contribute to maintaining and prolonging local epidemics, even when all infected animals are eliminated," Miller said. He said the appropriateness of various culling strategies may depend on how quickly the CWD agent is added to or lost from the environment. "The dynamics of various transmission mechanisms and their implications for disease management need to be more completely understood," Miller said. "We hope our findings bring us one step closer to that complete understanding."

**Mule Deer Foundation**  
**Terry Wayne Cloutier, President/CEO**  
1005 Terminal Way, #170 Reno, NV 89502  
775-322-6558 [www.muledeer.org](http://www.muledeer.org)

## **ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION AND PARTNERS PROTECT HABITAT JEWEL IN NORBECK WILDLIFE PRESERVE**

**Media Contacts: Mike Mueller, 406-523-4533, [mmueller@rmef.org](mailto:mmueller@rmef.org),  
Maggie Engler, 605-574-3239 [mengler@rmef.org](mailto:mengler@rmef.org)**

CUSTER, South Dakota - Bubbling streams, blooming wildflowers, gobbling turkeys and meandering elk...these are all nature's wonders that Ina Davis wanted to forever remain on her land. Davis died in

January of 2002, but her wish was granted recently when the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) and partners purchased her 278-acre Meeker Creek property at appraised value in January, and conveyed it to the Black Hills National Forest (BHNF) this month. The land is now publicly owned and managed to benefit elk and wildlife habitat and increase public access for recreational opportunities. This project began over 10 years ago when Davis asked the RMEF to help protect her property from development. Mike Lloyd, BHNF district ranger said, "She felt very strongly that the property should be preserved in its natural state and that it not be subdivided or developed. It is especially significant to us since the property lies within the Norbeck Wildlife Preserve, one of only three such preserves in the entire National Forest System.

RMEF volunteers participated in several hands-on projects, mending elk-damaged fence and, just last month, removing that same fence to make the area that much wilder and friendly to wildlife. Davis was very fond of the RMEF and volunteers. She sensed they connected with the land and wildlife like she did. She enjoyed their company and always appreciated the help on the ranch. RMEF volunteers felt the same way about her and were delighted to see her property protected. The Meeker Creek project was identified as the highest priority for the RMEF's Black Hills Conservation Initiative (BHCI) in 2003. The BHCI is a landscape conservation effort based in South Dakota and Wyoming that brings together private and public partners to raise funds and complete projects that benefit the land, people and wildlife. The Meeker Creek property harbors grassy meadows, pine forests.

The project was made possible in part by Congressional support from U.S. Senators Tom Daschle and Tim Johnson of South Dakota. This support ensured that the \$1 million in federal funds needed for the project were appropriated from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and made available to the Black Hills National Forest to acquire the land. Created by Congress in 1965, the LWCF allocates royalties paid by private companies for the privilege of developing offshore oil and gas resources, to protect land and water for recreational uses, open spaces and wildlife habitat. "This is the third time LWCF money has been made available for use in the Black Hills. This project would not have been possible without the leadership and cooperation of the Black Hills National Forest, Senators Daschle and Johnson, and all the support the project received from RMEF partners, members and volunteers" said Mike Mueller, RMEF director of lands. This piece of property was a real gem and it would have been wrong to see it subdivided for residential development. Sometimes it just makes total sense to rally all our resources and support and ensure these areas are conserved for future generations and made public for all Americans to enjoy. The project will be dedicated this year with an onsite celebration. Mueller added "We should all be very proud of what we accomplished here, not only for Ina, but for the Black Hills and all those who will benefit from this in the future."

## **BLM DRAFTING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT ON WIND ENERGY**

The US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land management (BLM) has announced it will prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate issues associated with wind energy development on Western public lands (excluding Alaska) administered by the BLM. The EIS is required to maintain compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which mandates that such a procedure be carried out for major federal actions with potential for significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

As currently envisioned, the EIS will address a number of issues relevant to the establishment of a wind energy program at the Bureau, but will pay special attention to impact on wildlife and wildlife habitat, including avian impacts, and proximity to wilderness and other special management areas. A Public Scoping Comment Period on the EIS ended in December 2003, and a Draft EIS is expected to be published in August 2004. Following the publication there will be a three month public comment period before the Final Programmatic EIS is published in June 2005. For more information visit:

[www.windeis.anl.gov](http://www.windeis.anl.gov)

## **THE NATURE CONSERVANCY EXTENDS PARTNERSHIP TO RESTORE FIRE-ADAPTED ECOSYSTEMS**

**Three-year project will restore Landscapes, Protect Communities, and Broaden Fire and Education**

**April 22, 2004**

**Arlington, VA**—After successfully completing a two-year partnership to restore fire-adapted wildlands across the United States, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) announced they are continuing to work together and extend their innovative partnership for another three years. The collaborative effort, called Restoring Fire Adapted Ecosystems (RFAE), will benefit dozens of local communities and millions of acres across the country by providing regional fire management training, accelerating treatment of fire-adapted landscapes, and helping people understand about the ecological role of fire. The project won a National Fire Plan award in 2003 for having "demonstrated results, innovation, collaboration and commitment to accomplish the National Fire Plan's goals."

Fire is an inevitable and important natural process in many ecosystems. Land management agencies are shifting their emphasis from suppression to managing and maintaining the health of fire-adapted ecosystems to prevent catastrophic fires. "This project represents an opportunity to positively influence the management of millions of acres across the country by engaging a host of state and federal agencies, private organizations, and local communities in a truly collaborative effort to restore health to our nation's forests, grasslands and shrublands," said Ayn Shlisky, Senior Fire Ecologist for TNC's Fire Initiative. "At the same time, we are making communities and fire fighting safer." The new, three-year project will cost a total of \$3.2 million. The federal agencies will contribute about \$2.7 million, and more than \$500,000 will come from The Nature Conservancy. "I'm pleased the project was recognized with a National Fire Plan award," said Janet Anderson, Forest Service Assistant Director of Fire and Aviation Management for Fire Ecology. "The continuation and expansion of this important project certainly benefits federal land managers, but also our important local, state and tribal partners as we work together across landscapes."

During the past two years, the RFAE project has brought together more than 250 public agencies, tribes, community groups and private landowners through its "Fire Learning Network," a group of almost 50 landscape-scale projects encompassing more than 60 million acres. Through structured, facilitated workshops, partners share cutting-edge fire management technologies. The Network has already accelerated ecologically-sound fuels treatments across hundreds of thousands of acres, many funded by the National Fire Plan. RFAE also trained more than 900 federal and state firefighters and ecologists, as well as private landowners, in ecological modeling and fire management. This new three-year extension of the project will reach out to work with even more communities, land managers and state and local government agencies. Under the continuing partnership, the Fire Learning Network will develop up to ten regional networks across the country that will address specific geographic and technical needs. The RFAE will also offer hands-on wildland fire education courses to national and state agency professionals, as well as to non-traditional audiences and non-fire professionals, including key policy makers. The Fire Initiative is playing a leading role in restoring fire-altered ecosystems by working to counter the threats posed to both human and natural communities where the role of fire is severely out of balance. For more information on the the Nature Conservancy's Fire Initiative visit: <http://nature.org/initiatives/fire/>.

## **CARA'S PHOENIX GOES OUTDOORS**

**Kathryn Reis**  
**Wildlife Management Institute**  
**Washington, DC**  
**202-371-1808**

On April 1, U.S. Representatives Don Young (R-AK) and George Miller (D-CA) joined forces once again to generate congressional support for a long-term funding bill that would benefit state wildlife conservation, public land protection, outdoor recreation and historic preservation throughout the United States, reports the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI). The two lawmakers first partnered on this project in 2000, when they introduced the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA). CARA passed in the House with little difficulty, but it struggled in the Senate due to concerns over private property rights. Young and Miller have identified a new way to package the proactive goals of CARA—by promoting outdoor recreation as a way to fight America’s growing problem with obesity.

The Get Outdoors Act (GO Act, HR 4100) contains almost the exact same text of CARA. It would provide over \$3 billion in funding each year to support the following activities: \$1.45 billion for state and local recreation and conservation programs; \$650 million for federal land management assistance; \$350 million for wildlife conservation and related recreation activities; \$350 million to address local community needs near public lands; \$160 million for historic preservation; \$125 million for urban parks and recreation programs; and \$50 million to protect wildlife and rare plants. “This bill is endorsed by a number of organizations nationwide and, more important than simply providing dollars the GO Act establishes new priorities for conservation and recreation funding. It provides policy that is driven by local municipalities and not federal dictates. I’ve worked hard on this concept all my years in Congress because I believe it is good and right for the nation,” said Congressman Young. The GO Act differs from CARA by its direct appeal to human health concerns. “Congress cannot, and should not, tell Americans what to eat, but we can fight the battle of the bulge by investing in local parks, recreation centers, soccer fields, and hiking trails,” commented Congressman Miller. “If we are serious about addressing the long-term cost of obesity-related health problems, we have to recognize the importance of recreation opportunities for children, adults, and families.”

**For more information about the GO Act, visit the websites for Rep. Young, [http://www.house.gov/donyoung/press/p20040401\\_1.htm](http://www.house.gov/donyoung/press/p20040401_1.htm), and Rep. Miller, <http://www.house.gov/georgemiller/press/rel4104.html>, or contact Kathryn Reis (WMI) at 202-371-1808.**

## **MISSOURI TEEN WINS 2004, JUNIOR DUCK STAMP CONTEST**

**May, 2004**

Adam Nisbett, 17, of Saint James, Missouri won the 2004 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest held April 24th in Ocean City, Maryland. Nisbett's acrylic depiction of a pair of Fulvous whistling-ducks was selected over 52 other Best of Show entries from all 50 states, DC, and the Virgin Islands. Over 26,500 students entered the Junior Duck Stamp contest this year. **Learn More** at <http://duckstamps.fws.gov/>.



*"Morning Watch" by Adam Nisbett*

## **COURT UPHOLDS HABITAT MANAGEMENT PROJECT ON JEFFERSON NATIONAL FOREST**

**Ruffed Grouse Society**

**Mark Banker**

**(814) 867-7946**

A Federal District Court has upheld the decision of the Jefferson National Forest to implement the Bark Camp habitat management project. The project had been challenged in court by The Wilderness Society and several local preservationist organizations. The Ruffed Grouse Society intervened in the lawsuit on behalf of the US Forest Service and in support of the Bark Camp habitat project. "Obviously, we are thrilled that the court has recognized the importance of forest management as a tool to sustain healthy forests and to provide a diverse array of wildlife habitats," says Robert Patterson, Jr., Executive Director of the Ruffed Grouse Society. Planning for the Bark Camp habitat project began in 1997 and the original decision by the Forest Service to go ahead with the project was rendered in 2001. Subsequent to this original decision, a severe storm produced significant flooding in portions of the Bark Camp project area. The Forest Service reassessed the original decision in light of the effects of the storm and issued a new project decision in 2002. The plaintiffs then filed suit to halt the proposed habitat management project.

The Ruffed Grouse Society is a nonprofit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to promoting science-based forest stewardship. For more information about the Ruffed Grouse Society, visit their web site: [www.ruffedgrousesociety.org](http://www.ruffedgrousesociety.org).

## **PLAYA LAKES JOINT VENTURE (PLJV) PARTNERS AWARDED 1 MILLION IN NAWCA GRANTS**

In April, PLJV partners received \$971,250 in North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) funding to carry out four projects totaling more than \$3.1 million to protect 4,400 wetland acres in Nebraska and Texas. In Nebraska, *Platte River Basin Environments, Inc. (PRBE)*, was awarded a NAWCA standard grant of \$855,000 for a \$2.9 million project to protect in perpetuity more than 3,000 acres along the North Platte River. The other three awards went to Texas partners - Texas Prairie Rivers, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Pheasants Forever. Texas Prairie Rivers was awarded a \$50,000 NAWCA small grant for a \$124,167 project to restore riparian habitat along the Canadian River by removing invasive vegetation along 516 acres. Riparian areas at the Gene Howe Wildlife Management Area are also being restored with the help of a \$50,000 small grant received by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for an \$113,900 project to remove invasive plant species on 600 acres. The other NAWCA small grant of \$16,250 went to Pheasants Forever, who will use the funds as match for a \$35,809 project to restore 88 acres of playa basins and 75 acres of associated uplands.

The four grants involved more than 20 additional funding partners, including: Ducks Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, Nebraska Environmental Trust Foundation, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory, The Nature Conservancy, University of Nebraska, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and multiple private landowners.

**The next deadline for submitting a NAWCA small grant is December 3 and standard grants are due July 30. For help in applying for a standard grant, review the PLJV's NAWCA Timeline for submitting a proposal. Playa Post: <http://www.pljv.org/newsarchive/PlayaPost/post040401.html>.**

## COMING EVENTS

### THE WESTERN AGENCIES SAGE AND COLUMBIAN SHARP-TAILED GROUSE WORKSHOP

June 28 – July 1, 2004,  
Wenatchee, WA

Two hundred years ago Lewis and Clark led an expedition up the Missouri River, through the Rocky Mountains, down the Columbia River, and back again. Their journals included the first written descriptions of the sage grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. Fifty years ago the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies sanctioned a technical committee to address the management needs of these grouse species. In the intervening years, interest in the biology, behavior, status, and management of sage and sharp-tailed grouse has increased dramatically.

On June 28 - July 1, 2004, the state of Washington will host the 24th biennial Western Agencies Sage and Columbian Sharp tailed Grouse Workshop in Wenatchee, Washington. The purpose of this meeting is to provide researchers, managers, and conservationists a forum to present and share current information. The workshop also will include a day-long field trip to key sage and sharp-tailed grouse areas in north-central Washington.

Wenatchee is a city of approximately 30,000 situated on the beautiful Columbia River in north-central Washington. Because of its warm and dry climate during the summer, the region is renowned for its orchards. This workshop will be at the peak of the cherry harvest and fruit should be abundant. There are also many local activities including fishing, golf, wine tasting, and hiking. Wenatchee is easy driving distance to many spectacular tourist locations including Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument, Mount Rainier National Park, Olympic National Park, North Cascades National Park, Lake Chelan, Grand Coulee Dam, and Dry Falls.

The meeting venue is the Red Lion Hotel at 1225 North Wenatchee Avenue (509-663 0711 or 800-RED LION). More information can be obtained on websites for Wenatchee and Washington. For further information and registration forms you can visit the following web site:  
[http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/research/grouse/grouse\\_workshop04.htm](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/wlm/research/grouse/grouse_workshop04.htm)



### WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES 2004 SUMMER MEETING

July 24 – July 29, 2004, Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, ID

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is proud to host the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies summer meeting at Sun Valley Resort, Sun Valley, Idaho. For more information conference contacts are Steve Barton, (208) 334-3771, [sbarton@idfg.state.id.us](mailto:sbarton@idfg.state.id.us), or Bill Goodnight, (208) 345-0158, [idaholc@aol.com](mailto:idaholc@aol.com).

### WETLANDS AND MIGRATORY BIRDS: PROTECTING AND RESTORING WETLANDS OF INTERNATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

**Second Call for Papers and Invitation to Attend National Symposium, Association of State Wetland Managers, 1434 Helderberg Trail, Berne, NY 12023, 518-872-1804**

October 19-20, 2004 Hilton Kansas City Airport, Kansas City, Missouri With a Field Seminar - Wetlands and Bird Habitat in Living Landscape, October 21-22, 2004 Great Bend, Kansas, (Optional Field Trip)

**Sponsors:** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, International Programs and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

**Location:** The symposium will be held at the Hilton Kansas City Airport on October 19 and 20. The optional field seminar will leave from the Hilton on the morning of October 21 and travel to Great Bend (see description below). It will return on October 22.

**Duration:** The symposium (October 19-20) will be 2 days in length; the optional Field Seminar (October 21-22) will follow the symposium and will be 2 days in length.

**Workshop Directors:** Jon Kusler, Association of State Wetland Managers; Jeanne Christie, Association of State Wetland Managers.

**Audience:** Wetland and bird habitat managers; birders; members of watershed councils and land trusts; staff and members of not for profit environmental organizations; researchers; consultants; academics; private landowners; and staff of state, federal, and local agencies.

**Symposium and Field Seminar Goals:** The major goal of this symposium and field seminar is to build wetland/bird partnerships and provide training and technical assistance to attendees to better protect and restore wetlands of international significance. These wetlands include some of the nation's most vulnerable wetlands including Prairie Potholes, playas, bogs, and coastal salt marshes. The symposium will primarily focus on the protection and restoration of wetlands of international significance in the U.S. However, a portion of the program will be devoted to Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean.

**Call for Paper Topics:** Identifying U.S. Wetlands of International Significance; Wetlands and Migratory Birds; Wetlands and Coastal Fisheries; Wetlands and Internationally Endangered Species; Wetlands and Carbon Sequestration Wetlands and International Rivers; Helping Wetland Managers Better Protect and Restore Bird Habitat; Helping Birders and Bird Habitat Managers Better Protect Wetlands; Using Birds as Indicators of Wetland Health; Managing Wetland Complexes; Closing the Gaps Created by SWANCC; Avoiding Taking Challenges and Other Legal Challenges to Regulations; Establishing Dialogue With Landowners and Adjacent Communities; Developing Techniques for Resolving Conflicts; Establishing and Working With "Friends of", Not for Profits, and Watershed Councils; Establishing Buffers Through the Use of Conservation Easements and Other Approaches; Controlling Incompatible Uses Through Federal, State, and Local Regulations; Using the Ramsar Treaty and Other International Treaties to Define and Help Protect Wetlands of International Significance; Restoring and Enhancing Wetlands; Using Ecotourism to Build Support for Areas; Using "Twinning" Between Wetland/Bird Habitat Communities in the U.S. and Abroad; Developing National and International Constituencies For Protecting Wetlands of International Significance; Using Voluntary Federal and State Programs to Protect Wetlands.

**Abstract Guidelines:** We are seeking speakers for plenary and breakout workshop sessions for the symposium (October 19-20). We are particularly interested in "how to" presentations. Please submit an abstract of 200-400 words by July 1, 2004 on one of the topics listed on the next page.-mail abstracts in Word, Word Perfect, ASCII, or rich text format to Sharon at [abstracts@aswm.org](mailto:abstracts@aswm.org).

Please include the abstract title, author name(s), affiliation, street and e-mail address, and phone number with your abstract. If more than one author is listed, please indicate the person who will be presenting the

paper. Please be sure to include a contact person with address, phone, and e-mail information. Also, please clearly indicate which "topic" listed above, your abstract best fits. You will be notified by July 15 if your abstract is accepted. Exhibits and Poster Sessions: If you are interested in providing a poster or exhibit, please follow the Abstract Submission guidelines above and clearly indicate that your submission is for the poster session. Contact Laura (below) for exhibit information.

**Symposium Fees:** Early Discount Fees: \$145 for Association members, \$160 for nonmembers and \$95 for speakers. This will include breaks, Tuesday evening reception, conference materials, a CD of background materials, and a one year membership in the Association. There will be an additional charge for optional lunches on the 19th and 20th of \$12.00 each. Student fees will be \$95 (this will not include lunch). Partial fee scholarships will also be available to qualified applicants upon request. A one-day registration fee of \$80 (this will not include lunch) will be charged. A printable registration form in PDF format is available at: <http://www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2004/regform2004.pdf>.

**Field Seminar:** Wetlands and Bird Habitat in Living Landscape (optional), October 21-22., Attendance will be limited. We will travel by bus from the Hilton Kansas City Airport to Great Bend, Kansas (about a 4 hour ride) and return to the Hilton. We will visit Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve, the Flint Hills, McPherson Wetlands, Quivira National Wildlife Refuge wetlands, and Cheyenne Bottom wetlands. There will be a \$145 registration fee for the two-day field seminar which will include bus transportation, box lunches on October 21 and 22, dinner on October 21, buffet breakfast on October 22, and lodging at the Highland Motel in Great Bend on the evening of October 21. There will be lectures along the way and at stops. A mixer and dinner will be held in Great Bend on the night of the 21. Local staff of Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira, the Great Bend Tourist Bureau and other groups will be asked to join us and make presentations.

**Hotel Information:** The Hilton Kansas City Airport is offering conference/government rate of \$88 plus tax for single/double occupancy. Please call the Hilton at 1-816-891-8900 to make your reservations by September 27, 2004 and identify yourself as being with the Wetlands 2004 conference. For more information visit: <http://www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2004/agenda2004.htm>.

**Conference Updates and Additional Information:** <http://www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2004/agenda2004.htm>.

**Questions Regarding Program, Call for Papers, and Abstracts, Please Contact:** Jon Kusler, Associate Director, ASWM, 1434 Helderberg Trail, Berne, NY 12023; (518) 872-1804; Fax: (518) 872-2171, [jon.kusler@aswm.org](mailto:jon.kusler@aswm.org); [www.aswm.org](http://www.aswm.org).

**Questions Regarding General Registration, Speaker Registration, Scholarships, and Exhibits, Please Contact:** Laura Burchill, ASWM, 2 Basin Road, Windham, ME 04062; (207) 892-3399; Fax: (207) 892-3089; [laura@aswm.org](mailto:laura@aswm.org).

## TRAINING, TOOLS AND INFORMATION

### WATCHABLE WILDLIFE GRADUATE LEVEL CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

University of Wisconsin – River Falls, Wildlife Recreation and Nature Tourism

E-mail: [watchwildlife@uwrf.edu](mailto:watchwildlife@uwrf.edu) or Web: [www.watchwildlife.com](http://www.watchwildlife.com)

800 228-5607 or 715 425-3256

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls, in partnership with Watchable Wildlife, Inc., has developed a new graduate-level certificate program to help conservationists, community leaders, and recreation and hospitality providers build the skills necessary to effectively preserve the natural resources of and generate jobs and revenue for their communities. The Wildlife, Recreation and Nature Tourism (WRNT)

certificate program was developed in partnership with Watchable Wildlife, Inc. Watchable Wildlife, Inc. is an international organization that is "committed to helping local communities realize the economic potential of nature-related recreation while conserving native plants and animals in their natural habitats." The Staff associated with this program include: Dr. Kelly Cain, WRNT program coordinator, Dr. Mark Bergland, Professor, Dr. Claire Kilian, Professor, and Katrina Larsen, outreach program manager.

This program is the first of its kind offered in the United States. It focuses on the basic knowledge and skills necessary to achieve positive economic impact and enhanced quality of life through the conservation of natural resources and managed tourism. In this program students can:

- Choose to take the courses anywhere in the world via the Internet or face-to-face on the UW-River Falls campus.
- Earn graduate credit and a certificate that may be applied to receiving a Masters Degree.
- Apply knowledge gained in courses to a real community or resource site. A business management plan in the form of a portfolio is developed for the selected site.

**Who Should Enroll** - This program will benefit anyone interested in wildlife viewing and nature-based tourism on a professional or personal level; in particular, individuals working in or interested in the following careers: wildlife professionals, resource and recreation managers, rural, urban, community, and land-use planners; environmental educators and entrepreneurs, recreation hospitality specialists, special events coordinators, tourism operators, local government officials, community leaders and others.

**Program Curriculum** - The 15-credit WRNT graduate certificate is composed of five 2-credit core courses and five credits of directed electives. The courses are: Wildlife Recreation, Nature Tourism, and Sustainability-Based Systems, Wildlife and Visitor Management in Nature Tourism, Hospitality Management for Nature Tourism, Site Planning and Development for Wildlife Tourism, and Wildlife Recreation and Nature Tourism Graduate Capstone.

**Admissions Requirements** - All participants must apply and meet minimum requirements for graduate study at the UW-River Falls before registering for WRNT courses. Among other requirements, applicants must have a baccalaureate degree and academic or professional experience related to nature-based tourism. Computer literacy is expected of all students. For instructions and application forms, class schedules, how to apply and tuition costs contact the Graduate Studies Office at (715) 425-3843 or (800) 228-5607 or send an e-mail to [watchwildlife@uwrf.edu](mailto:watchwildlife@uwrf.edu) or call (715) 425-3256.

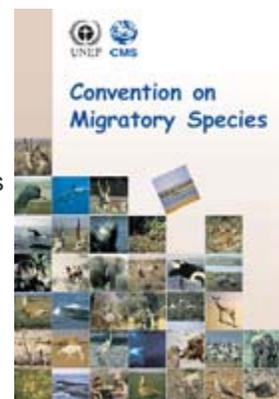
## NEW AMPHIBIAN AND REPTILE CONSERVATION (PARC) NEWSLETTER

Check out the new Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) newsletter. Visit the PARC website for other important herp information! <http://www.parcplace.org/>.

## CONSERVING MIGRATORY SPECIES

The electronic versions of the new CMS Brochure: "Conserving animals on the move" are now available for download on the CMS website in English, French, Spanish and Russian.

The new CMS publication illustrates and explains the aims, purposes and conservation activities of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS). It gives an institutional overview of the Convention and highlights CMS's activities in regard to conserving and promoting the sustainable use of avian, marine and terrestrial migratory species and their habitats throughout their range. The brochure was produced in anticipation of the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the 23rd of June 2004 and was made possible with the kind



financial support of the **German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety**. Visit this site to download the Brochure: <http://www.wcmc.org.uk/cms/>

## UNDERSTANDING MAPS AND MORE

The following is a good resource that sheds some light on the matter of error, accuracy, and precision on maps--good to know and understand as we find our data used across more and more projects, across jurisdictions, and across 'national' applications:

<http://www.colorado.edu/geography/gcraft/notes/notes.html>

**Fred B. Samson, PhD**  
**Regional Wildlife Ecologist, FS Northern Region, Missoula, MT**  
**FSamson@fs.fed.us**  
**406-329-3464**

## HARVARD RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN ECOLOGY, CONSERVATION AND FOREST BIOLOGY

Since 1907 research and education has been the mission of the Harvard Forest, one of the oldest and most intensively studied forests in North America. From a center comprised of 3000 acres of land, research facilities, and the Fisher Museum the scientists, students, and collaborators at the Forest explore topics ranging from conservation and environmental change to land-use history and the ways in which physical, biological and human systems interact to change our earth. There are dozens of publications generated from the research at this site and are available for downloading at

<http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu/publications/pdfarticles.html>

## TRESEARCH LOCATES AND DELIVERS USDA PUBLICATIONS

Tre<sup>e</sup>search is an online system for location and delivering publications by Research and Development Scientists in the USDA Forest Service. Publications in the collection include research and monographs published by the agency as well as paper written by our scientists but published by other organizations in their journals, conference proceedings, or books. Research results behind these publications have been peer reviewed to ensure the best quality science. Presenters will discuss Tre<sup>e</sup>search, and how it ties to other web-based tools – such as science.gov. Visit Tre<sup>e</sup>search at <http://tresearch.fs.fed.us>.

**Hao Tran, Research and Development,  
Forest Service Washington Office**

## Vacancies

**Ecologist/Botanists/Fishery Biologist/Wildlife Biologist, (National Ecosystem Planning Specialist), GS-408/430/482/486-13/14** is now being advertised. The vacancy announcement is WO-0349-04G (TK). This position is part of the Forest Service's Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Program located in Washington, DC. The deadline for applications is June 21, 2004.

**General Biologist, (Appeals and Litigation Specialist), GS-0401-12/13** is now being advertised. The vacancy announcement number is ADS04-WO-WFW-0312G. This position is part of the Forest Service's Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Program located in Washington, DC. The deadline for applications is June 11, 2004.

**Wildlife Biologist, Region 4 Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plant and Animal Species Program Manager (Interdisciplinary) GS-0408-13/13** is now being advertised. The vacancy announcement number is R4-RO-BPR-070-04G. This position is part of the Intermountain Region's

(Region 4) Bio-Physical Resources Staff, located in Ogden, UT. The deadline for applications is June 28, 2004.

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

[http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency\\_search.asp](http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp)

## Hotlinks!

- Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/>
- 2003 News Releases: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2003/releases.shtml>
- FS Today Newsletter: [http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs\\_today/](http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/)
- National Fire Plan: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nfp/>
- Roadless Area Conservation: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>
- Large-Scale Watershed Restoration Projects: <http://www.fs.fed.us/largewatershedprojects/>
- Land and Resource Management Plans: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/nfmalrmp.html>
- Watershed and Air Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/clean/>
- Lands and Realty Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/>
- Road Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/roads/>
- Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage Resources: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/>
- Forest Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/fm/>
- International Programs: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/>
- Research: <http://www.fe.fed.us/research/scientific.html>
- Healthy Forests Initiative: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/HFI.shtml>
- Partners in Planning: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/planning/guide/index.html>
- Landowner Assistance Programs <http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/index.shtml>
- Forest Service's Annual Fall Foliage Hotline <http://www.fe.fed.us/news/2003/releases/09/fall-colors.shtml>

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

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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