

On The Wild Side

WILDLIFE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



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News

COPPER RIVER INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD INITIATIVE ANNOUNCES NEW INITIATIVE DIRECTOR

Jack Capp
Special Assistant to the Director
Forest Service International Programs
Washington, DC

We are pleased to announce that Jim Chu is the new full-time Director of the Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative. Jim works for Forest Service International Programs and will be stationed in Sedro Woolley, Washington on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

This is very exciting news because Jim's extensive background and success in conservation partnerships and projects will really pay off for conservation of the migratory birds of the Copper River Delta, Chugach National Forest in Alaska. Jim will establish new partnerships with public and private landowners, conservation organizations, cultural organizations, community leaders, and others, to identify projects that will conserve and protect priority habitat sites and bird species along the Pacific Flyway. Birds that use the Copper River Delta Birds migrate as far South as Panama, stopping along the way in Canada, Washington, Oregon, California, and Mexico. The work will coordinate closely with the Pacific Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Valley, Inter-mountain West, and Sonoran bird conservation joint ventures, as well as the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network.



The purpose of the Copper River Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative is to strengthen conservation of the Copper River Delta's migratory bird resources through effective national and international partnerships and action on the ground. It brings together conservation organizations, communities, and Forest Service professionals from the National Forest System, International Programs, State and Private Forestry, and Research and Development. Forest Service field personnel are directly involved in all projects. Partners in the Copper River Delta Initiative include the Chugach National Forest in Alaska, the Forest Service's Alaska, Pacific Northwest, and Pacific Southwest Regions, the Pacific Northwest Research Station, and International Programs as well as Ducks Unlimited Canada, Ducks Unlimited Mexico, and Ducks Unlimited Inc. Representatives of these organizations form the Steering Committee which guides the Initiative.

The Copper River Delta is an amazing place, and one of the crown jewels in the system of national forests in the United States. The 700,000 acre delta, near Cordova, Alaska, comprises the largest continuous wetland on the Pacific Coast of North America. The Delta and its river channels, marshlands, tidal flats, sloughs, and offshore barrier islands provide habitat for a rich array of in fish and wildlife; over 100 species of birds, and over 5 million shorebirds stop on the Delta during spring migration from South America, Central America, and Mexico. Up to 80% of the world's population of Western Sandpipers and almost 100% of the Pacific Dunlin refuel here on their way to breeding grounds in interior Canada and Alaska. Through an act of Congress Copper River Delta is managed primarily for the conservation of fish and wildlife. The Delta is also designated as a "hemispheric" site under the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. The annual Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival is one of the largest birding festivals in North America. It draws birders, community leaders, and conservationists from throughout the Western Hemisphere. The Delta is also famous for its salmon, the "Copper River Reds" and "Copper River Kings", which are marketed in restaurants and food stores throughout the United States and abroad.

The Copper River Delta Initiative was established in spring of 2001. Dan Logan, on the Cordova Ranger District, was the founding Initiative Director from the spring of 2001 until September 2003. Under Dan's leadership the vision and mission of the Initiative was launched as well as the multi-year action plan. Over 12 Initiative field projects were completed and several projects are in progress.

The Initiative concentrates mostly on coastal habitats in British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, Mexico and Central America. Some inland sites will be targeted where shorebirds and waterfowl from the Copper River Delta stop. Jim will be the primary Initiative contact with the Central Valley, San Francisco Bay, Intermountain West, and Sonoran Joint Ventures. Dan Logan, Chugach National Forest, Cordova Alaska, will be the key Initiative contact for the Pacific Coast Joint Venture.

Conservationists and others are encouraged to contact Jim Chu with their ideas on partnerships and projects.

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HERPY HAPPENINGS - CALL FOR ASSISTANCE

There are several exciting Forest Service milestones relevant to Amphibian and Reptile conservation to watch out for! Questions or comments on any of the following are invited, please contact Ernie Garcia, R8, collect; 404-347-4081.

Stand Up for Your Herps

Are you keenly interested in amphibians and reptiles? Would you like to be more engaged in their conservation? We are now soliciting for one energetic and enthusiastic person, at the District, Forest, or Regional level, to serve as the official Herp Coordinator for each Region. If you have a burning desire to champion herp conservation and bring forth good news to your fellow biologists, now is the time to step forward. Coordinators will facilitate the transfer of vital information on herps and the FS Herp Initiative, help our agency promote PARC (Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation), and help coordinate the review of new tools such as the Habitat Management Guides, Inventory and Monitoring Handbooks, and Training modules, when they become available. It is time for herps to enjoy some priority in our programs - an estimated 5 to 7 days/year is all that is needed. If this is what's been lacking in your life, contact your Wildlife Program Leader before August 16. Selections will be announced in our next newsletter!



Habitat Management Guidelines Available Soon in an Area Near You!

Herp HMG's afford simple alternatives for those intent on practicing herp conservation in managed landscapes - from Industry timberlands to your own backyard. This guidance is long needed and will help fill a critical void as we plow into Forest Plan revisions. Draft HMG's are now well into development and will soon be available for FS review, as tentatively scheduled below:

- Southeast, Early August, 2004
- Northeast, Mid-Late August, 2004
- Southwest, Mid-Late August, 2004
- Midwest Revision, Mid-September, 2004
- Northwest, Late January, 2005

Regions will have at least one full month to provide substantive comments to their Regional Herp Coordinators or Wildlife Program Leaders. Review dates will be assigned, with instructions, when the drafts are released. Pilot Training: Get Your Herp Inventory and Monitoring Programs Off the Ground This fall, the FS Southern Region and the Savannah River Ecology Lab will host the first of five regional Herp Inventory and Monitoring Training courses scheduled for development and testing. The course will be taught by the galactically acclaimed herpetologist, Dr. Whit Gibbons, and others on his University of Georgia staff. The SE Pilot Module is offered primarily to R8 Biologists but room has been made for a guest from each region (Regional Herp Coordinators or Wildlife Program Leaders are urged to consider this invitation, and respond to Ernie Garcia, by August 27). This prototype will serve as a template for the remaining four regional training modules being planned. Curricula will be standardized while course work is styled appropriately to meet regional conditions and needs.

Each course will cover:

- Development of Herp Inventory and Monitoring Programs
- Peer-recommended Survey Techniques
- Herp Identification
- Data analysis

Training is ultimately intended for biologists within and outside the agency, and will be migrated in the future into existing venues such as the FS Continuing Education Program and the USFWS National Conservation Training Center.

The SE course will be held on the grounds of the U.S. Department of Energy's Savannah River Site (SRS) near Aiken, South Carolina, and will begin at noon on Nov. 15 and end at noon Nov. 19, 2004. **Tuition is waived for the pilot, complementary radiation suits will be provided - Ernie Garcia**

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YOU'RE IN THE ARMI NOW! THE AMPHIBIAN RESEARCH AND MONITORING INITIATIVE, THAT IS

Rick Kearney, ARMI Coordinator
United States Geological Survey



Herpetologists have long recognized that continuing declines in amphibian populations are a matter for global concern. In this country, the federal Department of the Interior has responded with a scientific program to evaluate the magnitude of these declines and determine their causes. Now in its fourth year, the Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative, or ARMI, involves researchers and natural resource managers from the U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

The goal of ARMI is to understand the dynamics of amphibian populations, including the factors causing population declines, so that natural resource managers can better implement effective amphibian conservation. To help achieve this goal, ARMI supports a network of monitoring activities that are designed to detect changes in the distribution and abundance of amphibian species over time. ARMI also supports research on a wide range of environmental conditions known to affect amphibians such as contaminants, nonnative species, disease, and other pathogens. Lastly, ARMI provides information to managers, policy makers, and the general public in support of amphibian conservation.

ARMI scientists in the U.S. Geological Survey include herpetologists, hydrologists, chemists, and geographers working together in seven regional teams. These teams collaborate with local partners to carry out amphibian monitoring and research, mostly on federal lands such as National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, and National Forests. In addition to regional efforts, many ARMI scientists provide national-level support in specialized fields such as environmental toxicology, pathology, molecular biology, and genetics.

For all its scientific strengths, ARMI cannot function alone - it needs connections with other amphibian conservation groups. Therefore, ARMI scientists participate in efforts sponsored by Partnership for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC), the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force (DAPTF), and the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program (NAAMP), among others. As a further sign of commitment to these partnerships, ARMI provides financial support for DAPTF small grants program and the citizen science amphibian monitoring effort: Frogwatch.

Those seeking more information can visit the ARMI program website, <http://armi.usgs.gov>, or contact Rick Kearney, ARMI National Coordinator: atrkearney@usgs.gov.

VENEMAN ACTS TO CONSERVE ROADLESS AREAS IN NATIONAL FORESTS

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BOISE, Idaho, July 12, 2004 – Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced the reinstatement of an interim directive to conserve roadless areas and proposed a new rule that continues the cooperative conservation of roadless areas in national forests and grasslands.

Our announcements illustrate our commitment to working closely with the nation's governors to meet the needs of local communities, and to maintaining the undeveloped character of the most pristine areas of the National Forest System."

The prior administration finalized its roadless rule in January 2001. Since then it has been the target of litigation in Alaska, Idaho, Utah, North Dakota, Wyoming and the District of Columbia. In June 2003, a federal court struck down the 2001 roadless rule, concluding that it violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the Wilderness Act.

During an event at the State Capitol with Governor Dirk Kempthorne and Senator Larry Craig to announce the new rule, Secretary Veneman said that the Forest Service would reinstate an interim directive to conserve roadless areas that were afforded protection by the 2001 rule. Even though the Forest Service has not moved to develop these areas, they have not been under a national rule since the District Court for the District of Wyoming permanently enjoined implementation of the 2001 rule last July. The interim directive will remain in effect for a period of 18 months after the finalization of a new roadless rule being proposed today.

The new rule sets a new, straightforward collaborative path to conserving roadless areas by working with the states on state-specific regulations. During the rulemaking process, Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth will maintain interim measures to conserve roadless areas.

The actions are based on five common sense conservation principles as follows:

- Make informed decisions to ensure the roadless rule is implemented with more reliable information and accurate mapping, including local expertise and experience;



- Work with states, tribes, local communities and the public through a process that is fair, open and responsive to local input and information;
- Protect forests to ensure that the potential negative effects of severe wildfire, insect and disease activity are addressed;
- Protect communities, homes, and property from the risk of severe wildfire and other risks that might exist on adjacent federal lands; and,
- Ensure that states, tribes, and private citizens who own property within roadless areas have access to their property as required by existing law.

The proposed rule establishes a process for governors to work with the Forest Service to develop locally-supported rules for conserving roadless areas in their states. While there are 39 states that have “inventoried” roadless areas on National Forest System lands within their boundaries, just 12 states contain 56.6 million acres, or 97 percent, of all roadless areas in the country. Those states are: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

“State governments are important partners in the stewardship of the nation’s land and natural resources,” Veneman said. “Strong state and federal cooperation in the management of roadless areas will foster strong local involvement and support for a final policy.” The new proposal would offer the governors the opportunity to work with USDA on collaborative state-specific rulemakings for the conservation and management of roadless areas. Petitions would identify areas for inclusion, and ways to protect public health and safety, reduce wildfire risks to communities and critical wildlife habitat, maintain critical infrastructure, such as dams and utilities, and assure citizens access to private property.

Once the state finished its petition process, the Forest Service would publish a subsequent rulemaking for inventoried roadless areas within a petitioning state. Each state-specific rulemaking will include the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and input from the public during the notice and comment period. Petitions would have to be submitted within 18 months of the effective date of a final rule. Separately, Veneman also proposed establishing a national advisory committee to provide expert consultation for implementing the state-specific petition rulemaking process. Members of the committee would include experts in fish and wildlife biology, fish and wildlife management, forest management, outdoor recreation, and other relevant disciplines.

The proposed rule is published in the Federal Register available at www.fs.fed.us. There is a 60-day public comment period on the proposed rule. Written comments on the proposed rule may be mailed to: Content Analysis Team, ATTN: Roadless State Petitions, USDA Forest Service, P.O. Box 221090, Salt Lake City, UT 84122; faxed to (801) 517-1014; or e-mailed to statepetitionroadless@fs.fed.us. Comments also may be submitted from: <http://www.regulations.gov>. The Forest Service will issue a final rule after it evaluates public comments.

For more information on the Proposed Roadless Rule visit: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>

MANAGING OFF HIGHWAY VEHICLES

For more information visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/ohv/>

Washington, DC, July 7, 2004 – U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service today released its proposal for managing motorized off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in national forests and grasslands, which will enhance recreational opportunities for the public and better protect the environment by requiring units to establish a designated system of roads, trails and areas.

“OHVs are a great way to experience the national forests, but because their popularity has increased in recent years, we need an approach that will sustain natural resource values through more effective management of motor vehicle use. The benefits of improving OHV use include enhanced protection of habitat and aquatic, soil, air and cultural resources,” said Forest Service Chief Dale Bosworth. “The Forest Service wants to improve its management by balancing the public’s enjoyment of using OHVs with ensuring the best possible care of the land.”



In 2002, national forests and grasslands had more than 214 million visits. Nationally, the number of OHV users climbed sevenfold in the last 30 years--from five million in 1972 to 36 million in 2000. OHV users account for about 1.8 million or five percent of visitors to national forests and grasslands. Currently each of the 155 national forests and 21 grasslands has guidelines regarding OHV use, with some national forests managing use on a designated system of roads, trails and areas, while other do not. As a result, the Forest Service does not have a clear, consistent policy regarding motor vehicle use on national forests and grasslands.

The proposed rule represents a nationally consistent approach to travel management by requiring each forest and grassland to designate a system of roads, trails and areas slated for motor vehicle use. It would allow national forests to denote use of routes and areas by vehicle type and, if appropriate, by time of year. Once the designation process is complete, OHV use would be confined to designated routes and areas, and OHV use off these routes (cross-country travel) would be prohibited. Snowmobile use would continue to be managed as it is currently—allowed, restricted or prohibited on roads and trails and in areas on National Forest System lands.

“While some forests have begun to designate roads, trails, and areas for OHVs, I expect units to make significant progress in improving management of OHVs in the next two years,” said Bosworth. “We want to improve our management of outdoor recreation by having a system of routes and areas offering the best opportunities for OHV use while still meeting our responsibility to sustain National Forest System lands and resources.”

The proposed rule calls for the Forest Service to continue to engage with motorized sports enthusiasts, conservationists, state agencies, local governments, tribal governments, and others to identify routes offering the best opportunities for OHV use while still meeting its responsibility to protect the environment. The public would continue to be allowed to participate in the process of designating roads, trails, and areas or revising designations and would continue to receive advance notice to allow for public comment on proposed or revised designations. The agency has partnered with these groups in the past to provide

enhanced motorized recreation opportunities by constructing, marking, maintaining and restoring trails as well as by providing training and safety instruction to users.

OHVs include motor vehicles that are designed or retrofitted primarily for recreational use off road, such as minibikes, amphibious vehicles, snowmobiles, motorcycles, go-carts, motorized trail bikes, and dune buggies.

There is a 60-day public comment period on the proposed rule ending September 13, 2004. Comments on the proposed rule may be sent by the following methods:

The agency is accepting comments for 60 days after the proposal is published in the Federal Register. The rule text submitted to the Office of the Federal Register is available on <http://www.fs.fed.us/>.

Written comments may be sent to:

**Proposed Rule for Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use
c/o Content Analysis Team
P.O. Box 221150
Salt Lake City, Utah 84122-1150**

Comments also will be accepted by electronic mail [to: trvman@fs.fed.us](mailto:trvman@fs.fed.us) or by facsimile to 801-517-1014. Comments also may be submitted by following the instructions at the federal Rulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>. All comments will be analyzed and addressed in promulgation of a final rule.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE TURKEY FEDERAL EXPERT TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE

July 16, 2004

**James Powell or Jonathan
Harling, NWTF
803-637-3106**

The National Wild Turkey Federation was the only nonprofit conservation organization represented at hearings held before the U.S. Senate's Subcommittee on Forestry, Conservation and Rural Revitalization. The subcommittee heard testimonies from eight industry professionals about the Healthy Forest Restoration Act on



June 24, 2004 in Washington, D.C. Dr. James Earl Kenamer, NWTF senior vice president of conservation programs, was the only representative from a nonprofit conservation organization asked to testify in the three-panel hearing slated as a "Review of Implementation of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003." Representatives from the logging industry, various government agencies and industry associations were also on hand to testify. Kenamer spoke to the subcommittee about his experience in forest management and answered questions based upon written testimony. The subcommittee asked about stewardship agreements with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and about how quickly forests will benefit from the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. He also answered questions about long-term effects on national forests without proactive management. "The exclusion of fire over the past 100 years and the

lack of active forest management over the past 20 years have left an estimated 190 million acres of Federal forests and rangelands in the lower 48 states at risk of large scale insect and disease epidemics,” said Kennamer in written testimony.

“I’m glad to see the USFS and other agencies taking the Healthy Forest Restoration Act very seriously. We believe that forest thinning and prescribed fires through the Healthy Forest Restoration Act will improve the health of our forests, enhance wildlife habitat and protect rural communities,” said Kennamer. After testifying, Kennamer traveled across the Potomac and accepted a special USFS Land Stewardship Award at the USFS National Team Leadership Meeting. This is the first time the USFS has honored a nonprofit organization with this type of special award.

FOREST SERVICE HONORS NATIONAL WILDLIFE TURKEY FEDERATION WITH LAND STEWARDSHIP AWARD

July 24, 2004

**Powell or Jonathan Harling, NWTF
803-637-3106**

A special U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Land Stewardship Contracting Award, the first to be given to a nonprofit organization, was presented to the National Wild Turkey Federation. The award was presented at the USFS National Team Leadership Meeting on June 24, 2004, in Washington, D.C. The NWTF



received the award in recognition of outstanding partnership innovations in stewardship contracting because of Federation’s land management participation with the USFS. Land stewardship agreements are private contracts for managing wildlife habitat on USFS land. Last spring, under the new USFS Stewardship End Result Contracting Program, the two entities partnered for the first stewardship agreement between a non government organization and the USFS. The NWTF was the first stewardship partner to generate excess funds that can be used for future projects.

Dr. James Earl Kennamer, NWTF senior vice president for conservation programs, accepted the award from USFS Chief Dale Bosworth and Deputy Chief Tom Thompson. Leaders from the USFS office in Washington D.C. and from all 9 regional offices attended the ceremony. “The NWTF is a vocal leader in the conservation world and recognizes the potential of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act and our land stewardship program, said Dale Bosworth, USFS chief.” “The NWTF stood beside us when it wasn’t fashionable or even easy to be our partners,” said Dale Bosworth, “Once again we are moving in the right direction and want to show how proud we are of the NWTF’s dedication by presenting them with this recognition in land stewardship contracting.”

Dr. Kennamer said he “accepted this award on behalf of our 525,000 members who have the passion to leave wildlife habitat in our forests better than they found it,” “We were the first nonprofit conservation organization to tackle a land stewardship contract with the Forest Service, and they commended us for our proactive approach to management.”

The pilot programs included tree thinning and prescribed burns on South Carolina’s Sumter and Francis Marion National Forests to improve more than 1,300 acres of wildlife habitat. Instead of leaving the byproducts of the tree thinning the partners sold the 1,500 tons of wood chip that would have otherwise

been wasted. Wood chip sales saved more than \$25,000 and the projects created more than 1,000 hours of work for local labor. "The NWTF is currently planning stewardship contracts with the USFS in six states," said Robert Abernethy, the NWTF's director of agency programs. "These projects will improve more than 15,000 acres of wildlife habitat over the next year." For more information on the NWTF's participation in the USFS Stewardship Contracting program, contact Tina Bevington at 1-800-THE-NWTF or to find out more about the NWTF, visit the web site at 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 6.4 million wild turkeys and approximately 2.6 million turkey hunters. Since 1985, more than \$186 million NWTF and cooperator dollars have been spent on over 27,000 projects benefiting wild turkeys throughout North America. The NWTF is a 525,000 member grassroots, nonprofit organization with members in 50 states and 12 foreign countries. It supports scientific wildlife management on public, private and corporate lands as well as wild turkey hunting as a traditional North American sport. For more information on the National Wild Turkey Federation, call (803) 637-3106, check out our web site at www.nwtf.org, or e-mail questions to nwtf@nwtf.net.

BIOMASS FUEL THE ANSWER TO CLIMATE CHANGE AND DWINDLING OIL

July 7, 2004

This article appeared at http://bobwhitson.typepad.com/howlings/2004/07/biomass_fuel_th.html



Brussels (AFP) - Industrialized countries could dispense with 400 power stations if they used the full potential of clean biomass energy from farms and forests, according to a new report.

Harnessing biomass sources could power 100 million homes, providing 15 percent of the industrialized world's energy needs by 2020 compared with just one percent now, the report said. The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and European Biomass Industry Association (AEBIOM) said this would

reduce emissions of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide by about 1,000 million tons a year. That is equivalent to the combined annual emissions of Canada and Italy, according to the lobby groups.

"Decision-makers have overlooked the potential of biomass to deliver sustainable energy for the future," said Giulio Volpi of WWF's Climate Change Program. "The big advantage that biomass offers over other renewable energy sources such as wind and solar, is that it can be stored and used when needed. It can provide a constant, non-fluctuating supply of electricity," he said. The report said biomass -- defined as all organic matter of vegetable and animal origin -- should be seen as the energy of the future as it comes from renewable and dependable sources. Woodchips to sewage sludge, municipal waste to vegetable oil should be harnessed also to safeguard the world's security of energy supply -- an issue on the front-burner now after oil prices rocketed to record highs.

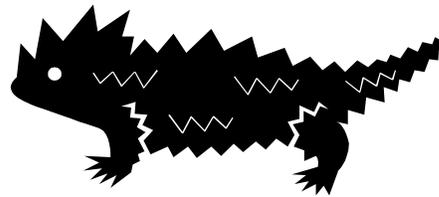
Just two percent of land in the industrialized world would have to be set aside for biomass production, ensuring the needs of food production and nature conservation would not come into conflict, the WWF-AEBIOM report said. The report was based on the energy needs of the 30-nation Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which comprises most of Europe, Australia, Canada, Japan, South Korea and the United States. It was issued a day after the European Commission called on

EU countries to dramatically increase their production of energy from renewable sources if they are to meet self-imposed targets. The European Union hopes to derive 12 percent of its total energy consumption -- and 22 percent of its electricity usage -- from renewable sources by 2010. But only four countries -- Denmark, Finland, Germany and Spain -- are on course to meet the targets, the commission warned.

And environmentalists want the EU to be more ambitious by setting a target to supply 25 percent of its energy demands from renewable sources by 2020. The warnings have mounted a fortnight before the start of an international conference on renewable energy in Bonn, Germany, sponsored by the 87-nation Johannesburg Renewable Energy Coalition. The Johannesburg coalition, which includes the EU, wants to go further than existing international commitments on renewable energy sources. But Greenpeace, while applauding the EU's staunch support of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, has accused the bloc of timidity on environmentally friendly power. "If the EU is to maintain its global reputation for leadership in the climate change issue, it has to attend Bonn with a bang, not a fizzle," Greenpeace campaigner Mahi Sideridou said.

ROADKILL

By David Havlick
Conservation in Practice
Winter, 2004/Vol. 5 No. 1
www.conbio.org/InPractice



Editors Note: This article, although published this past winter in Conservation in Practice (A publication of the Society for Conservation Biology) - is excellent and well worth reading. To read the article in its entirety, visit the web site above or email: jmariani@fs.fed.us. I will send you a copy - jina

Vehicle collisions can be a matter of life or death, not just for individual animals but for entire species. In Florida, ecologists and engineers have devised an elegantly simple statewide solution. The deer is broken, legs akimbo, and lies ragged at the side of the road. Another car passes by, its driver scarcely noticing the carnage. Road kill, after all, is commonplace. On the average day in Michigan, a car brings down a deer once every eight minutes. In 2002, more than 100 black bears died on North Carolina roads; in a single month, a sampling of road kill in just five states counted 15,000 dead reptiles and amphibians, 48,000 mammals, and 77,000 birds.

We know that roads fragment habitat, disrupt migration corridors, and expose sensitive species to a deadly array of hazards. And now, rather than the simple road kill accounts that dominated the literature from the 1920s to 1970s, ecologists are recognizing road kill as part of a larger threat to wildlife. For rare or isolated populations, vehicle collisions can be a matter of life or death—not just at the individual level but also for entire species.

At the University of Florida, Daniel Smith is one of the scientists at the vanguard of the field. Working collaboratively with the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), Smith and his colleagues in the Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation developed a computer-based model that identifies ecological hotspots—sections of road where high quality habitat, vehicles, and vulnerable species intersect—and integrated its use into statewide transportation planning. It's an effort that could help coax species such as the Florida panther (*Puma concolor coryi*), American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) and Florida Key deer (*Odocoileus virginianus clavium*) back from the brink of extinction. Adaptable and easy to use, the highway hotspots model can also help guide conservation strategies that reach far beyond Florida.

Road ecologists are now confirming what many road engineers likely knew all along: that not all roads are equal. In fact, even individual segments of the same road can vary dramatically in how animals perceive, use, or cross them. Some stretches of road are simply more important—and more deadly—than others. From 1976-1999, four of every five black bears killed on Florida highways died on just five roads near the Wekiva River and Ocala National Forest north of Orlando.

The question is why? Higher vehicle speeds, heavier traffic, and wider roads definitely make crossings more treacherous. But another critical factor is where human highways cross wildlife highways. More often than not, road kill peaks where wildlife corridors such as riparian zones or strips of forest intersect with roads: that's where Smith's model comes in. He gathered data on chronic road kill sites, wildlife movement corridors, and eight other key factors and plugged them into a computer to reveal ecological hotspots. Smith then took his results into the field to look at 1,400 sites first-hand to make sure that the streams or forests or roads matched the descriptions that came out of his model. They did. Not only that, but when Smith checked out 290 of these hotspots in-depth—monitoring wildlife movements, tracks, and other signs of activity for a period of two years—he found that animals were actually using the areas much like his model had predicted.

In response, Florida transportation officials are now installing underpasses at dozens of these locations so that everything from black bears and panthers to tree frogs and turtles can make safer crossings. In Wekiva State Park, on either side of a new underpass, a barrier fence extends to block highway crossings and channel wildlife to a safer tunnel. Hidden cameras at the site show that bears not only use the new structure, they seem to remember it. When the fence first went up, bears snuffled along its edge looking for a gap. Now, they tend to make a beeline for the underpass.



The increased ecological understanding of roads has led, in a growing number of places, to elegantly simple solutions. Tapping the insights of engineers and biologists alike, highway planners can use common highway structures such as bridges and culverts to help wildlife cross to safety. Keen-eyed Florida motorists may now spot concrete or metal culverts—the large drainage pipes often installed beneath roads—placed strategically to make roads more porous to both wildlife and water.

By matching road projects up front with one of the 15,000 hotspots that came out of Smith's model, Florida transportation officials can now make conservation a part of routine highway maintenance. The beauty of Smith's ecological hotspots model is that it works at multiple scales—from a statewide program down to individual road projects or even a single culvert. In fact, with technologies such as remote active infrared cameras, hair snares for DNA testing, radio telemetry, and the Global Positioning System, biologists can track an animal's every move. Smith's work is already demonstrating that these measures can allow scientists and road planners to monitor how animals use or avoid road sections, newly installed culverts, fences, and corridors beneath bridges.

Smith and his colleagues in Florida are not alone in their thinking. On a nationwide scale, the Netherlands is at the forefront of efforts to integrate transportation and ecological networks. In a process approved by parliament and passed into law, Dutch planners identify conflicts between transportation and environmental goals by layering maps of the nation's road system over ecological networks such as large

areas of vegetation, wildlife corridors, and wetlands. Where the overlays show a bottleneck—roads intercepting key flows of water or wildlife for example—transportation and conservation officials can change road designs, add culverts, or modify vegetation. Roads still fragment habitat—even with crossing devices. But as road ecology comes of age in Florida and elsewhere, a variant to an age-old question may finally be put to rest: Why did the panther cross the road? Thankfully, it never needed to.

Changing Human Behavior

The effort to make roads less deadly goes beyond underpasses, road fencing, or similar attempts to modify wildlife behavior. On a scenic and road kill-prone stretch of highway in the northwest corner of Yellowstone National Park, Marcel Huijser from the Western Transportation Institute is experimenting with active detection systems that shoot a beam of high-frequency radio waves along roadsides. When a large animal such as an elk, bear, or bison breaks the beam, the system activates flashing lights and audio signals to alert motorists that an animal may be crossing the road in front of them. This approach allows animals to move across roads freely, rather than limiting them to isolated crossing points such as underpasses. But it also means that wildlife and motorists must share the road—which is what causes road kill in the first place. For more information contact: mhuijser@coe.montana.edu.

David Havlick is an instructor for the Wild Rockies Field Institute and author of *No Place Distant: Roads and Motorized Recreation on America's Public Lands*, Island Press, 2002, Washington, DC.

FUNDING SOUGHT FOR SPECIES ASSESSMENT DATABASE

(PIF Newsletter, July 2004)

This Partners-in-Flight (PIF) Species Assessment Database, assembled and managed by the Rocky Mountains Bird Observatory, has been the foundation for PIF State and Regional Bird Conservation Plans, for the PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan, has been an important source for developing the Birds of Conservation Concern list. It has been used by the National Audubon Society and American Bird Conservancy for their Watch List and Green List, respectively. There is a basic need at this time to hire a full-time database manager who can keep up with the increasing flow of data and the increasing requests for information. The web site is currently getting 2000 hits per week and that will only go up as more information – global and step-down population estimates, for example – is added.

Following strong endorsement by the Partners in Flight (PIF) Council of the effort to secure permanent funding for the PIF Species Assessment Database, PIF has worked with the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and other partners to secure a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for this work. We are now seeking non-federal matching funds for this effort. For more information contact Terry Rich, (terry_rich@fws.gov).

BREEDING BIRD SURVEY INVOLVEMENT NEEDED

(PIF Newsletter, July 2004)

The BBS is the largest and longest running multi-species monitoring program for terrestrial species in North America. The value of BBS data is demonstrated by the continual outpouring of planning documents and peer-reviewed publications that use, not only BBS trend information, but also its relative abundance data.

Despite the critical importance of this monitoring program, every year many BBS routes are not run. We have learned that even within resource agencies, certain offices may not support the participation of their capable, professional staff.

As a result, Partners in Flight, the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, and the American Bird Conservancy are developing an outreach strategy with the goal of seeing that all BBS routes are run



every year. If you are a good birder (or supervise a good birder) who is not doing at least one BBS route every year, we need you!—Terry Rich

NAWCA SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM AWARDS



On 9 June 2004, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council reported to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission, identifying 43 projects in 22 states and Puerto Rico that it had approved for funding under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act's Small Grants Program. Project partnerships received a total of \$1.9 million in grants to conserve nearly 12,000 acres of wetland and associated upland habitats. Partners' contributions to the projects amounted to more than \$11 million. Project Flash links, describing projects funded in each state, and a Small Grants Summary Table, summarizing project information, may be accessed at the following web site:

birdhabitat.fws.gov/NAWCA/projects/USprojects/smallgrants060904/USsmallgrantsprojects.html.

CONTINENTAL OBJECTIVES FOR STATES AND BIRD CONSERVATION REGIONS

(PIF Newsletter, July 2004)

At the request of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), Ken Rosenberg and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has produced a guide for each state that steps down priorities and objectives found in the Partners in Flight (PIF) North American Landbird Conservation Plan. The intent of each state report is to summarize the detailed information from PIF bird conservation plans that is most relevant to state planners and biologists as they develop their Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies. Each report has two parts—Part I is a user's guide that explains the standardized set of procedures and assumptions used to develop the data and information for each state. Part II has the actual data and information. The latter includes:



- priority species for each state, based on the PIF continental and physiographic area planning process;
- population estimates for each state, broken into portions of Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) within each state;
- population objectives and numerical targets for each priority species, based on methods defined in the PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan; and
- a cross-referenced list of where relevant conservation issues, management recommendations, research and monitoring needs are found in the physiographic area and state PIF plans.—
Debbie Hahn dhahn@ssso.org

Coming Events

EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT: DEER AND ELK WORKSHOP MAY 16-18, 2005 AND UNGULATE SURVEY WORKSHOP, MAY 19, 2005



These events will be hosted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife, and the Mule Deer Foundation at the Boomtown Hotel and Casino just west of Reno, Nevada near the California border. The Deer and Elk Workshop is sanctioned by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA).



The theme for the workshop is: "Promote and Protect the Value of Deer and Elk Habitat".

Deer and Elk Workshop Schedule

Monday Evening, May 16, - registration and social

Tuesday and Wednesday, May 17 and 18 – paper and poster sessions on pertinent issues to deer and elk populations and habitat management.

Ungulate Survey Workshop

In conjunction with the deer and elk workshop, there will be a one-day workshop on May 19, focused on Ungulate Survey Methods, sanctioned by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA). The workshop will address the issues surrounding standardized methodology for surveying big game, primarily deer and elk across the continent.

There is also a planned field session in critical mule deer habitat during the workshop will evaluate and discuss the challenges in protecting and maintaining deer and elk habitats.

The formal announcement and call for papers will be sent out later this fall, mark your calendar and plan to attend! For more information on the workshops please contact: Mike Cox, Big Game Staff Biologist, Nevada Department of Wildlife, mcox@ndow.org, 775-688-1556.

DAKOTA'S ALL-BIRD WORKSHOP, AUGUST 17, 2004

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department, the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department, and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies are sponsoring this workshop to bring together ornithologists and wildlife professionals with an interest in enhancing programs and habitats for all bird species in the Dakotas. General topics activities, will include current national and state bird conservation planning monitoring programs, and opportunities to incorporate all bird species into state, tribal, private, and national programs.

The workshop will begin with an evening social on Monday, August 16 (time to be announced). The morning informational session on August 17 will be followed by break-out sessions in the afternoon. The North Dakota afternoon session



16 (time to be announced) will be followed by break-out sessions in the afternoon.

led by Sandy Hagen of ND Game and Fish, and the South Dakota session will be led by Eileen Dowd Stukel of SDGFP. Break-out session topics and expected products will be developed with input from participants.

A block of 50 rooms has been reserved at the Ramkota Inn at the following rates: \$55/night (single) and \$65/night (double). The block will be held at these rates until July 16, 2004. Contact the Ramkota Inn, at: phone: 605-224-6877,

Rooms are reserved under South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks. Space will be limited at the workshop, and preregistration will be required. Please fax or email this Eileen Dowd Stukel, SDGFP, for a registration form: fax 605-773-6245, email: eileen.dowdstukel@state.sd.us.

MONITORING SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM, SEPTEMBER, 20 - 24, 2004 DENVER, CO

<http://www.monitoringsymposium.com>

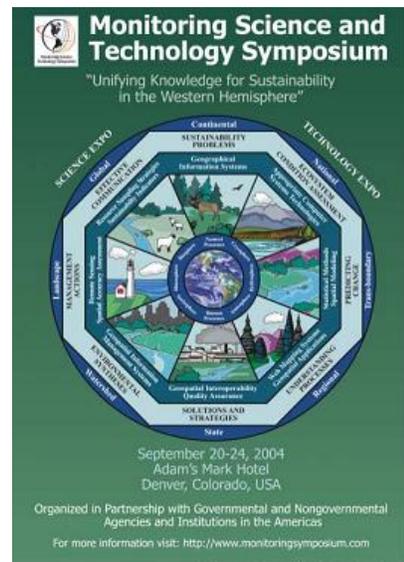
Monitoring Science & Technology Symposium

USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station
NRRC, 2150 Center Ave., Building A
Fort Collins, CO 80526-1891 USA
Phone: 970-295-5961- or- 970-295-5997

The Symposium's central theme is **"Unifying Knowledge for Sustainability in the Western Hemisphere."** It is a concept of the Consortium for Advancing Monitoring of Ecosystem Sustainability in the Americas - a partnership among governmental and nongovernmental organizations and institutions of the Americas.

At this symposium, senior policy makers, resource managers and scientists from many organizations and a wide range of disciplines will address critical needs for unified information and knowledge. The symposium is designed to facilitate how information and knowledge is obtained from monitoring for ecosystem sustainability to assure a sound, defensible foundation for sustainable economic development. Its expected outcome is to identify for decision-makers and stakeholders, at all geographic scales, the nature of the most important messages that need to be communicated about the condition and trends of ecological, economic and social systems, and the significance of those messages to sustainable development.

An impressive list of world-class environmental policymakers and scientists will share their visions for the crucial role of monitoring in the sustainability equation. Currently, early acceptances have been received from the Environment Ministers of Mexico (Alberto Cardenas), Brazil (Maria Silva), and Argentina (Atilio Savino). Other invitees include: EPA Administrator Leavitt, Dr. James Mahoney of NOAA, John Turner of DOS, and Marc Garneau of the Canadian Space Agency.



This symposium engages you in discussions of technological advances and knowledge needs across institutions and disciplines to make monitoring of ecosystem sustainability both effective and efficient. You will be challenged to think outside the box to advance monitoring science through cross-disciplinary presentations and discussion. Note: For all contributors to the symposium, abstracts and papers will be integrated into the website's Knowledge Management System for ready access by interested professionals, anywhere and anytime, and they will also be published in the symposium proceedings. Symposium organizers and session chairs should be contacted for further information. For more information: caguirrebravo@fs.fed.us

The Symposium is hosting a Monitoring Trade Exposition, for vendors to display and promote their monitoring science-related products and services. The sponsors and organizers of this symposium invite you and your colleagues to contribute actively as paper presenters, session chairs, and poster presenters at this hemispheric event. Should you have any questions on how you to participate, you may contact: **Sidney Draggan**, at: 202- 564-6658 or draggan.sidney@epa.gov, Senior Science and Science Policy Advisor, Environmental Protection Agency.

Lawrence R. Stritch, Ph.D.
Botanist, USDA Forest Service
c/o NCTC
E-mail: larry_stritch@fws.gov or lstritch@fs.fed.us
Phone: 304-876-7466, Fax: 304-876-7751

FERMATA'S FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE NATURE TOURISM STRATEGIES

October, 17 – 29, 2004, Cooksburg, PA

Save the date for fermata's first annual Forum on Sustainable Nature Tourism Strategies to be held October 17-20, 2004 in the Clarion River Valley and Cook Forest State Park in Cooksburg, Pennsylvania. We're working on a great program based on your suggestions and will be finalizing the agenda shortly.



Here's a preview of what you can expect:

- The popular Business of Nature and new Matrix of Opportunity
- Site Assessment Training
- Nature Tourism interpretation and guide training
- Case studies and project success stories presented by Fermata partners and clients from across the country addressing topics such as successful fund raising strategies and partnership building.

There will be plenty of network opportunities including a barbeque and dessert reception.

We will take advantage of the beautiful autumn weather in North Central Pennsylvania to visit some Fermata project sites, including elk watching along the new Elk Scenic Drive (yes, there are elk in Pennsylvania), and enjoy some adventures together including paddling the Clarion River, biking the back roads, or walking Pennsylvania Wild's forested trails.

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE SYMPOSIUM

September 11, 2004, Wyndam Hotel, Syracuse, NY

The American Wildlife Conservation Foundation with support from the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance will sponsor the first educational symposium in the northeast on Chronic Wasting Disease.

It will be held September 11, 2004 from 10am - 4pm at the Wyndam Hotel, located in Syracuse, NY, on Carrier Circle off Exit 35, NYS Thruway (I-90).

Chronic Wasting Disease is North America's number one problem facing big game management, deer & elk hunters, and out-of-state hunting by America's sportsmen.

The symposium will feature speakers that will explain the disease, its methods of transmission, impact, preventative measures, and the national plan to deal with its spread. These speakers come from the CWD Alliance, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, NYS DEC, the NYS Deer and Elk Farmers Association, North American Elk Breeders Association, and the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets.

Wildlife professionals, outdoor writers, deer and elk breeders, and sportsmen are all urged to attend to gain a better understanding of the problems associated with Chronic Wasting Disease across North America. For more information visit:

<http://www.americanwildlifeconservationfoundation.org/what's%20new.htm>

Training, Tools and Information

NEW! FOREST SERVICE PUBLICATION, WORKING WITH PARTNERS FOR BIRD CONSERVATION, 2004

The Forest Service has a new publication titled, *Working with Partners for Bird Conservation*. To read this publication and view bird conservation projects the Forest Service has accomplished over the years with our partners visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/>.

We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all the Forest Service wildlife biologists, staff and partners who took the time to prepare their information for this awesome publication!





ALASKA REGION UNVEILS NEW INTERPRETATION AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION WEBSITE

The Forest Service Alaska Region, Interpretation and Conservation Education, (ICE) team is excited to announce the unveiling of the Region's new Interpretation/Conservation Education website. Designed especially to meet the needs of Alaskan employees, the site also contains a number of general interest documents and links which any Forest Service Interpreter or Conservation Educator could use. The site is not finished, and won't ever be, because we intend to continue updating and improving it. We hope you will be as excited about the website as we are! This site can be used over and over to help you plan, develop, and implement your interpretation and education products, programs, etc. We would like to recognize the following people who contributed to the site:

- **Sandy Frost**, Tongass National Forest Conservation Education Coordinator, who developed the site;
- **Curtis Edwards**, our Regional Webmaster, who finalized the site and made sure it all worked;
- **Annette Heckart, Mona Spargo, Lynn Kolund, Sandy Frost and Kristi Kantola**, our Regional ICE team, who identified needed content and submitted documents; and
- **Jen Kevil, Kim Kiml, Kathy Bagley and Kelli Reynoldson**, our field consultants who advised us in the process.

Many thanks to each one, and especially to **Sandy Frost** who pulled it all together! Check it out at: http://fsweb.r10.fs.fed.us/staffs/rlm/interp_ed/index.shtml

Kristen Nelson
Forest Service
Recreation, Washington, D.C.
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STATE ALL-BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVES SPREADING

The All-Bird Bulletin, June 2004, From the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)

State all-bird conservation initiatives are emerging as the lasting results of state all-bird workshops funded by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies since 2001. These initiatives have in common the desire of diverse public and private partners to work in an organized and collective fashion to conserve all priority native bird species that occur within their state boundaries.

The following states have organized initiatives and web sites:

Michigan: <http://www.nabci-us.org/michigan/index.htm>

Missouri: <http://www.mostateparks.com/mobci/index.html>
Montana: <http://biology.dbs.umt.edu/landbird/mbc/mbc.htm>
Nebraska: <http://www.nebraskabirds.org>
Wisconsin: <http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/>

Visit these sites to find out more about these initiatives and their partners and activities, including biological planning, monitoring and evaluation, on-the-ground implementation, an education and outreach. Another state with a fledgling all-bird initiative is Minnesota.

BETTER, STRONGER, CHEAPER – WILDLIFE FRIENDLY FENCE IS EASIER TO BUILD THAN EVER

Federal Way, WA – Forest Concepts, LLC announced the availability of an improved design for their allwood wildlife friendly fence. In 2002, the company redesigned the standard Bureau of Land Management buck and rail fence to be more wildlife friendly and to be made from small wood from National Fire Plan thinning projects. The development effort was successful, and according to Blair Moody of the BLM the demonstration fence is performing well at a site near Ashland, Oregon.



The demonstration fence used Forest Concepts' ELWd® connector system to link the rails and bucks together without any steel bolts or nails. The wooden connectors performed well, but were expensive to make and a bit cumbersome to install in fencing. Jim Dooley, Forest Concepts' president and chief technology officer, began a search for a better connection system without compromising the all-wood content of the fence. Technologists at the USDA Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin provided Forest Concepts with publications and insights into their approaches for building small wood structures. No one existing design met all of the company's objectives. Forest Concepts combined ideas from many places into the design of an innovative all-wood "expansion pin" connector.

The new connector can be made with about one-third less labor and half the cost of the earlier design. Cost is important since there are more than 3,000 of these connectors per mile of fence. Installation time for each connector is less than before, saving fence construction cost. Even better, the new connector is stronger and should have a longer functional life than the ELWd® connector it replaces. The smooth front on the new connector looks more like a wooden nail for applications in the urban interface, recreation sites and residential lots.

Buck and rail fences are preferred for natural areas. Construction does not involve ground disturbance since no post-holes need to be dug. The fence can be disassembled and moved if needed. A small section can be opened to provide new recreational access or for equipment. Forest Concepts' wildlife friendly fence can be manufactured in ready-to-assemble kits and delivered to project sites for installation by volunteer groups, conservation crews and landowners. Production of allwood fencing provides value-added utilization of biomass removed during fuel-reduction and forest health thinning projects. Additional jobs are created in local forest products businesses.

Kathryn Conant
Forest Service Cooperative Forestry,
State and Private
Washington, DC
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ESSENTIAL RESOURCES FOR USE ROADS AND WILDLIFE

www.wildlifecrossings.info. This website is a collaborative site that includes the **Wildlife Crossings Toolkit**, links to other wildlife, transportation projects, photos, and frequently asked questions.

U.S. Federal Highway Administration: www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/wildlifeprotection

Center for Transportation and the Environment: www.itre.ncsu.edu/cte/

A NEW NORTH AMERICA (MAP)

From TRIO - the Newsletter of the North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation Summer, 2004

The North American map is a familiar sight. It hangs in schools, offices and homes across the continent. But this June, a new map will be unveiled that will remain current even as new roads are laid and regional boundaries change. That map, shown on the right, is the first map of North America to be drawn by all three North American countries. It's also the first "living" map of North America to be available online and updated as new information is available. Significantly, an official map of the continent has never before been available online in Mexico. In producing the map, cartographers combined national data and carefully adjusted the line work so that roads and other markers connected at the correct position. The final product, they say, will serve as the foundation for future resource, environmental, social and economic maps. "Gone are the days when maps are dated by the information they inaccurately present," says Carlos Valdés, informatics manager for the CEC. "This map will provide cartographers everywhere with an accurate and current base map so that data from all types of sources can be integrated to help better inform decision makers."

For example, the CEC has used maps to promote shade-grown coffee by showing a spatial relationship between coffee production, and declining bird populations. The North American Terrestrial Ecoregions map (shown) also provided a spatial framework to link existing biodiversity data for areas of common conservation concern. "The digital North America atlas will promote greater public access to environmental information," boasts Valdés. "Institutions and individuals are free to use the map to advance scientific research, environmental promotion and any number of applications."

The four groups behind the map—the CEC, Natural Resources Canada's Atlas of Canada, the US Geological Survey's US National Atlas, and the Instituto Nacional de Estadística Geografía e

Informática—plan to produce 30,000 print editions for distribution to cartographers, geological societies and schools, while an online version would allow general public access. The new North American Atlas is set at a 1:10,000,000 scale. Data includes roads, railroads, populated places, political boundaries, hydrology, bathymetry, sea ice and glaciers.

To see this new map visit: <http://www.cec.org/trio/stories/index.cfm?ed=13&ID=153&varlan=english>



Vacancies

Federal job announcements can be found at:

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

Hotlinks!

- Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/>
- Working with Partners for Bird Conservation <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/>.
- 2003 News Releases: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2003/releases.shtml>
- FS Today Newsletter: http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/
- National Fire Plan: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nfp/>
- Roadless Area Conservation: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>
- Large-Scale Watershed Restoration Projects: <http://www.fs.fed.us/largewatershedprojects/>
- Land and Resource Management Plans: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/nfmalrmp.html>
- Watershed and Air Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/clean/>
- Lands and Realty Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/>
- Road Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/roads/>
- Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage Resources: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/>
- Forest Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/fm/>
- International Programs: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/>
- Research: <http://www.fe.fed.us/research/scientific.html>
- Healthy Forests Initiative: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/HFI.shtml>
- Partners in Planning: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/planning/guide/index.html>
- Landowner Assistance Programs <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 or Jina Mariani at jmariani@fs.fed.us no later than the 25th of each month. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity and brevity.

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

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