

ON THE WILD SIDE

USDA FOREST SERVICE
October 2003



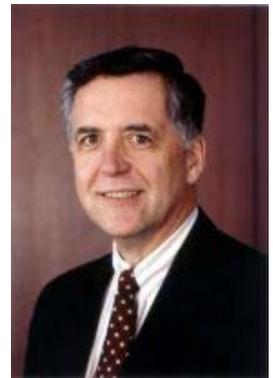
Janice McDougle Retires from Forest Service

After a career of some 33 years in the Federal government, Janice McDougle has retired from the Forest Service. Janice spent the last 14 years of her career with the FS serving in a variety of positions with the National Forest System (NFS) - including Assistant Director of Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants, Programs and Legislation, and State and Private Forestry (S&PF). In recognition of her exceptional leadership skills and extensive knowledge of the FS, she was selected as Associate Deputy Chief for NFS and Deputy Chief for S&PF. Most recently, she had served as the Special Assistant to the Chief. Janice's warm smile and inviting personality will be sorely missed.



My Take on Recent Healthy Forests Initiative and Actions

Things have been busy lately with respect to the Healthy Forests Initiative. In addition to a number of congressional hearings here in Washington D.C. and in the field I joined the President and Secretary Veneman on two HFI-related field visits and the Secretary made a separate trip to California to look at forest health issues on the San Bernardino National Forest.



We now have a wide variety of tools including CEQ guidance on consultation, a model environmental assessment process, a revised administrative appeals process, several new categorical exclusions and expanded stewardship contracting authorities. All these tools can help us expedite hazardous fuels treatment, restoration projects and other forest health activities. An additional proposed tool would authorize land management agencies to make certain consultation determinations under ESA without project-specific consultation with other agencies. Several legislative proposals under consideration by Congress might give us yet more tools.

Individually, each of these new tools might not seem significant but collectively I think they are huge. When I look back a couple of years ago to when we first started to grapple with "process predicament," I think we have really come a long way.

As next year's presidential election approaches, the proposals associated with healthy forests could become highly politicized. The debate in the Congress could also become political as the various proposals are considered.

I know it is going to be difficult to stay above the fray and out of these political debates. Our job is to continue to provide factual information and explain the science that supports what we know needs to be done on the ground for healthy forests and safe communities.

Our actions will speak louder than our words. The new tools give us a golden opportunity to do what we have been saying needs to be done through *demonstrated performance*. We will be watched very closely, and rightly so, to make sure that we use these new tools as intended. The tool or combination of tools to use needs to be carefully chosen to fit the circumstances on a case-by-case basis.

I have confidence that we will use the new tools only as intended, and that we will demonstrate through results on the ground what we have been talking about for so long. If we don't, we could lose not only these tools, but also public trust and confidence and we won't get those back anytime soon. If ever there is an area that I want us both individually and as an agency to under-promise and over-deliver, this is it.

At least that's my take. ~Dale

New Land Acquisition to Provide Public Hunting Opportunities

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 12, 2003

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

Russell Blanford of Rock County, Minn., loved being in the outdoors. Hunting and fishing was a passion that Blanford kept throughout his life and beyond when he left part of his estate to be turned into a Wildlife Management Area.



Blanford bequeathed \$80,000 to the local Rock County chapters of the National Wild Turkey Federation and Pheasants Forever. The money was combined with \$24,000 from the NWTF and Pheasants Forever and \$104,000 from the Minnesota Critical Habitat License Plate fund to purchase 153 acres of prime river bottomland for public hunting.

"This is just another example of hunters proving their commitment to conservation," said Rob Keck, NWTF CEO. "A hunter left money in his last will and testament to ensure the survival of wildlife and the hunting tradition."

The land will be managed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and should be open for public hunting in 2004.

Chuck Van Wyhe, NWTF Rock River Gobblers Chapter, said that Blanford had told him that he was going to remember the NWTF in his will, but was still surprised when the executor of Blanford's estate called about the inheritance and the clauses within the will.

"Russ (Blanford) had around 300 acres in pasture, fields and bottomland," Van Wyhe said. "He left us the money so that we could buy a part of the land from his beneficiaries by adding other funds to his gift. We ended up buying almost a quarter section of land."

The land purchase for the Russ Blanford WMA is the sixth public hunting area opened in Rock County, Minnesota, since 1993. Before that time there was no public hunting land in the largely agricultural and privately owned area.

Since 1985 over \$1 million has been raised and spent by Minnesota chapters on conservation and outreach projects within the state. Included in that figure, the chapters have spent over \$120,000 to purchase 4,424 acres of wildlife habitat to provide additional hunting areas.

Because of his special gift, Blanford will forever be a member of the NWTF's Full Strut Club. The Full Strut Club is how the NWTF recognizes individuals that make a gift of land or securities through a last will and testament. For more information about making a planned gift to the NWTF and joining the Full Strut Club please contact Donna Leggett at 803-637-3106 or dleggett@nwtf.net.

USDA Reallocates Nearly \$60 Million of Farm Bill Funds for Conservation on Private Working Lands

Contacts: Julie Quick (202) 720-4623; Mary Cressel (202) 690-0547
States Receive Funds for Conservation Technical and Financial Assistance

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12, 2003-Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman today announced the reallocation of nearly \$58.6 million to be used for conservation technical and financial assistance. "This reallocation of 2002 Farm Bill funding will allow more producers to make conservation part of their farm and ranch operations," Veneman said. "The Bush Administration remains committed to helping producers achieve good stewardship and conserve natural resources."

The reallocated funds come from unused funds previously distributed to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service state offices, national level reserves, and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) "performance holdback," as called for in the EQIP final rule. This performance incentive is money held back at the national level to be awarded to states that achieve a high level of program efficiency and optimize environmental benefits. Eight states received an EQIP performance incentive due to efficiency demonstrated: Arkansas, California, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina and Texas. This redistribution will help additional producers get the conservation benefits that come from conservation planning and voluntary conservation programs, such as EQIP, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program and Conservation Reserve Program.

In addition to the federal dollars, conservation on private land is supported by contributions from state and local sources, tribes, conservation districts and nongovernmental organizations, as well as from landowners themselves who implement conservation practices and resource management systems.

Visit <http://www.usda.gov/news/releases/2003/09/0314.htm> to view the reallocation amounts for each state.

Graziers Going To Nashville

The Second National Conference on Grazing Lands (2NCGL) is Dec. 7-10 in Nashville and will offer presentations centered on practical grazing management strategies. Nashville, Tennessee will be buzzing with grazing management technologies, strategies and policy ideas Dec. 7-10 when Music City USA hosts the Second National Conference on Grazing Lands (2NCGL). The conference is an effort of the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative with the objective of increasing awareness of the economic and environmental benefits of private grazing lands among producers, land owners and the public. The format for the conference includes nearly 100 presentations about grazing management topics by academia, farmers and ranchers, and

agency personnel. "The strength of this conference is that it offers a cross-section of grazing topics and presenters from across the country. Many share practical experiences from their own operations," says John Peterson, the 2NCGL program and conference manager. For 2NCGL registration information visit www.glci.org <<http://www.glci.org/>> and click on "grazing conference." The early registration deadline is November 1, 2003.

Study: CWD Easily Spreads Among Deer—Officials May Have Difficult Time Controlling Disease

The Associated Press

Chronic wasting disease is transmitted more easily than previously thought, a finding that complicates efforts to curb the relative of mad cow disease as it spreads in populations of deer and elk, according to a new study.

Researchers who previously believed transmission from doe to fawn played an important role in its spread now say that's not the case. Instead, the contagious brain disease is remarkably efficient at spreading from animal to animal, new research shows.

The finding suggests it will be harder to control the fatal disease other than through the drastic thinning or eradication of infected herds, as has happened in parts of Wisconsin.

"Unfortunately, that's what we're left with in the short term. In the long term, we hope something will come along," said Mike Miller, of the Colorado Division of Wildlife and co-author of the new study.

Details appear Wednesday in the journal *Nature*.

Researchers believe the disease spreads in deer and elk when they encounter infected feces or saliva. "Concentrations of the animals, whether in the wild or in captivity, likely encourage its spread, as has the interstate shipment of infected animals," Miller said.

There is no evidence the disease infects either livestock or humans.

Miller and co-author Elizabeth Williams, of the University of Wyoming, Laramie, studied two populations of captive mule deer at a research center in Colorado. One set was born-to-captivity does that had contracted the disease. The second was born in the wild deer free of the disease, but later captured and placed with the first group when 14 weeks old.

"All of the animals in both groups eventually contracted the disease, which discounted the theory that maternal transmission was key to its spread," Miller said.

Judd Aiken, of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, said the study was important but its results were unsurprising.

"It provides further support of what's been apparent, that CWD is a contagious prion disease," Aiken said, referring to the modified proteins thought to cause the disease.

The disease affects the nervous system and is marked by weight loss, stumbling, tremors and lack of coordination. There is no cure.

Chronic wasting disease was first identified in 1967. Until several years ago, researchers thought the disease was restricted to animals living in a small region straddling Colorado and Wyoming. It has since been found in several neighboring states and Canada.



2003 Watchable Wildlife Conference

Titled "Elevating the Value of Wildlife," the next Watchable Wildlife Conference will be located in McAllen, Texas. The conference officially begins on November 11 and ends on November 14.

However, there are a number of pre and post-conference workshops and field trips that include a Marine Wildlife Viewing Workshop, and Birding Trips on the Rio Grande by canoe, and some longer trips to Mexico! You can find all the details on the Conference (and much more!) by visiting: <http://www.watchablewildlife.org>

Excerpts from the October Partners in Flight Newsletter



Partners In Flight National Committee Meetings

The PIF Implementation Committee, Federal Agency Committee, State Agency Committee and Council met before or during the IAFWA annual conference in Baraboo and Madison, WI on 8-12 September 2003. Minutes, decisions and action items will be posted to the PIF web site and to the various listserves as they are finalized. Some key items from the PIF Council meeting include:

FUNDING

PIF needs to establish an annual operating budget to cover the costs of products and support that occur each year. We will be exploring mechanisms whereby partners can commit to a standard annual contribution that will be spent according to a budget approved by the PIF Council. This will eliminate the perennial need to pass the hat to fund every individual need that emerges.

CONTINENTAL COUNCIL TABLED

Formation of a PIF Continental Council was suggested as a body to be "keepers of the plan," analogous to a similar council for NAWMP. The PIF Council decided to table the development of a Continental Council until such a time as it might be deemed necessary. The current PIF Council, with representation from CA, US and MX, might be adequate to meet the identified need.

NEW INTEGRATION WORKING GROUP FORMED

The Council endorsed formation of the Integration Working Group as discussed and proposed by the Implementation Committee. This working group will be comprised of federal, state, NGO, and industry representatives with the purpose being to help assist partners in the integration of PIF landbird objectives into other plans. This was identified as the #1 short-term priority for PIF at the strategic planning session in Winston-Salem in March 2003. Chair of the committee is Eric

Lawton of BLM. If you are interested in participating in this very important new working group, contact Eric at eric.lawton@blm.gov.

JOINT VENTURES

The PIF Council has defined its process for reviewing Joint Venture Implementation Plans. The PIF Council Chair will orchestrate the PIF review process and return comments to the appropriate parties. In a related action, the PIF National Coordinator will attend all future meetings of the Joint Venture Coordinators to continue to build communication links for JV delivery of all-bird conservation.

Stepping Down and Stepping Up Landbird Objectives

The North American Landbird Conservation Plan is providing estimates of continental population objectives for all Species of Continental Importance. A critical next step is for states, BCRs, and other sub-continental units to examine these objectives and determine if these objectives are reasonably accurate AND achievable for their particular part of the continent. Dialogues and workshops have already been held in certain parts of the country to explore this arena and more are scheduled in the near future.

For example, the Western Working Group will devote its Fall Workshop, 3-6 November, in Silver City, NM to this purpose (contact [Carol Beardmore@fws.gov](mailto:Carol_Beardmore@fws.gov)). The Midwest Working Group (contact [Tom Will@fws.gov](mailto:Tom_Will@fws.gov)) has scheduled *Advances in All-Bird Conservation Planning and Implementation in the Midwest: Stepping Down Regional Objectives to Local Scales* to be held on Wednesday, 10 December, as part of the 64th Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (<http://www.midwest2003.com/index.htm>).

I emphasize that the initial population objectives provided in the Continental Plan are only a starting point and that everyone involved in preparing those estimates is eager to receive feedback and work toward more refined numbers that are ever more “real.”—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

Coordinated Bird Monitoring

Also at the recent IAFWA meetings, PIF Monitoring Working Group Cochair, Jon Bart, made presentations at several key committee meetings to explain the vision, progress and needs of Coordinated Bird Monitoring. The CBM approach was developed by the Western Working Group of PIF during 1999-2002 and is being implemented there by the Westwide All-bird Monitoring and Assessment Program. The project to produce a North American CBM Plan was initiated by the US-NABCI Monitoring Working Group in May 2003 and was endorsed by the IAFWA Bird Conservation Committee in September 2003.

A Plan will be prepared for coordinating the initiative-specific, bird monitoring plans and ensuring that results from individual States, Provinces, and regions can be combined to permit evaluation of bird conservation at the continental scale. The Plan will cover waterbirds, shorebirds, and landbirds; discussions are underway with the waterfowl and upland game bird groups to determine whether the initial draft will also cover these groups. The first version will include Canada and the United States; Mexico will be covered in a future version. For further details, contact Jon Bart (jon_bart@usgs.gov).

USFWS Strategic Plan – Comments Sought

The USFWS has prepared a draft Strategic Plan for the Migratory Bird Program entitled, *A Blueprint for the Future of Migratory Birds*, in order to “...recommit to its migratory bird trust responsibilities and set a course for migratory bird conservation over the next decade.” The Service is seeking comments from all interested individuals. The draft can be found at

<http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/mbstratplan/mbstratplan.htm>. Comments can be submitted on line or in writing to: Migratory Bird Strategic Plan Steering Committee, USFWS, 4401 N. Fairfax Dr. ms-4075, Arlington, VA 22203. **Due date is 10 October 2003.**

Playa Lakes Joint Venture Creates New Tools for All-Bird Planning

The PLJV is committed to biological planning for all birds, and has created unique and integrated tools to get the job done. Among these tools are the Species for Management Action (SMA) Database and PLJV Geographic Information System (GIS). The SMA Database is an integrated clearing house of information on birds that occur in the PLJV region. It includes information from national and continental bird plans and regional literature and experts, and identifies specific management actions appropriate for each species. The PLJV also will soon complete the first phase of a new GIS that identifies wetlands and other habitats in the region. The GIS will be made available to partners who will be able to use it to identify, categorize and prioritize areas of special significance to the JV's conservation mission and track projects on a spatially-explicit level. Find out more on the PLJV's new online section (<http://www.pljv.org/conservation01.html>) The PLJV is also launching a new electronic publication, the *Science Circular*, intended for resource managers, technicians and biologists involved or interested in PLJV biological planning. To subscribe, send an email to sciencecircular@pljv.org.

Elk Foundation Helps Protect Historic Utah Ranch

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—September 18, 2003

Contacts: RMEF Utah Regional Director Bill Christensen at 801-254-1922 or bchristensen@rmef.org.

PARADISE, Utah--Key habitat for elk, sharp-tailed grouse, deer, moose and other wildlife has been permanently protected in northern Utah, thanks to several conservation groups including the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Though privately held, the 1,500-acre Brooke Ranch is now publicly accessible and open for hunting through the state 's Cooperative Wildlife Management Unit drawing system.

A conservation easement now protects the working farm and ranch, which also contains key wintering and migratory range for hundreds of elk. The easement transferred all development rights to the Utah State Department of Agriculture and Food. It also enacted permanent restrictions on the use of the land. Certain agricultural activities may continue, but new commercial, residential or industrial structures, oil and gas development, and mineral or water extraction are forever prohibited, permanently ensuring the quality of habitat for wildlife.

The Cache County property contains springs, tributaries and a section of the Little Bear River. Associated riparian zones diversify a landscape rich with upland birds and big game species.

"Brooke Ranch embodies everything the Elk Foundation stands for--partnerships, working landscapes, multiple use of resources, responsible agriculture, permanent habitat protection for elk and other wildlife, and public enjoyment," said Bill Christensen, Utah regional director for the Elk Foundation.

Cache County has lost 30,000 acres of farmland to development since 1986. At present, farmland in that county is vanishing at a rate of a square mile a year. The conservation easement on Brooke Ranch ensures its future economic viability as farm and ranchland.

For a full news release, go to: http://www.elkfoundation.org/press_releases.php3?articleid=213

Fire Ecology and Resource Management Workshop

November 5-7, North Coast Inn, Arcata, CA

Presented by The Wildlife Society California North Coast Chapter

The importance of fire in shaping and maintaining ecosystems is a topic of increasing concern for the natural resources disciplines. This attention is due to a better understanding of the importance of fire to forest health. Changes in the frequency, extent, and severity of fire have altered vegetation patterns and structure. Wildlife species dependent on this structure have been affected by these changes. This has resulted in petitions to list several of the species under the Endangered Species Act. The conservation and management of natural resources through a focus on ecosystem health will continue to affect land management decision and be politically, socially, economically, and scientifically important.

The Wildlife Society, California North Coast Chapter will host a two-day workshop on Fire Ecology and Resource Management. This workshop is intended for professional wildlife biologists, foresters, researchers, land managers, resource professionals, and students. It is intended to provide information on a variety of fire related topics including: fire behavior; effects on ecosystems, wildlife, and resources; historical and cultural influences of fire; management considerations; and legal issues. Presenters will include researchers and managers with expertise in fire behavior, prescribed fire, resource management, landscape ecology, the ecology and management of vegetation structures, and wildlife. Wildlife species groups to be addressed include mollusks, insects, amphibians, fish, birds, and mammals. The workshop will include presentations and discussions on topics of concern such as management and regulatory considerations. Speakers include: James K. Agee, University of Washington College of Forest Resources; Bruce Bury, USGS; Mike Camann, Humboldt State University Department of Biological Sciences; Nancy Duncan, BLM; Luke George, Humboldt State University Department of Wildlife; Lloyd Green, North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District; Greg Giusti, UC Cooperative Extension; Peter Hujik, The Nature Conservancy; Tony LaBanca, CA Dept. of Fish and Game; Shawn McMann, Yurok Tribe; Ken Mierzwa, Earth Tech; Wayne G. Minshall, Idaho State University Department of Biological Sciences; Steve Norman, USFS Redwood Sciences Lab; Lucy Salazar, Six Rivers National Forest, John Stuart, Humboldt State University Department of Forestry; Steve Zack, Wildlife Conservation Society.

Information

FIELD TRIPS – There will be two optional, all-day field trips offered on Friday, November 7, to visit controlled burn and catastrophic fire sites. One trip will be to the Bald Hills area of Redwood National Park, where we will visit controlled burn areas in the prairies and oak woodlands. RNP has been conducting burns in the area for 22 years, and park staff will discuss the program and related studies. The second trip will be to the site of the Megram fire. This fire burned 125,000 acres in August 1999. We will visit different vegetation communities to see the response to and recovery from this fire. Field trips will begin and end at the North Coast Inn. Participants will need to bring a bag lunch, field clothes, sturdy boots, and raingear. Heavy rain will cancel. Availability for both trips is limited; send registration early to ensure space. **DINING** – There will be a social mixer with a no-host bar and hors d'oeuvres provided on Wednesday night (November 5). Lunch buffet will be provided on the first and second days of the workshop (November 5 and 6). **LODGING** – Lodging will be available at The North Coast Inn, 4975 Valley West Boulevard, Arcata, (707) 822-4861. **ADVERTISEMENTS** – Ad space is available in the workshop manual. For rates and other information, contact David Juliano at hawo1@yahoo.com. **FOR MORE INFORMATION** – call Mirjam Brett at (707) 441-5838.

REGISTRATION

Space is limited to 160 attendees. Please register early

Confirmation Notices will be sent to course participants - please include your E-mail address to help us keep costs down.

Provide name, affiliation, fax, email, and phone number

Registration will be allowed at the door depending on space; however, the \$20 late fee will be charged.

Course is limited to 160 participants (minimum of 75 participants required).

Chapter Member # _____ \$185 Student Chapter Member #* _____ \$50

Non Member _____ \$215 Student Non Member * _____ \$75

Late Fee (after October 22) _____ \$20 TOTAL FEES \$ _____

Must be California North Coast Chapter member as of September 15, 2003 in order to qualify for Chapter Membership discounts.

- Students must submit a xeroxed copy of their current student I.D.

Make checks payable to: "TWS – California North Coast Chapter".

Mail registration & checks (No SPO) to: Fire Workshop, TWS – California North Coast Chapter

PO Box 4386, Arcata, CA 95518.

Conference Information provided by Lisa Ollivier, Pacific Southwest Research Station, 1700 Bayview Drive Arcata, CA 95521, (707) 825-2953

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Michigan Implement Study to Assess Impacts of Communications Towers on Migratory Birds

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 17, 2003

Contacts: Albert Manville, 703/358-1714; Craig Czarnecki, 517/351-8470; Steve J. Lewis, 612/713-5473; Nicholas Throckmorton, 202/208-5636

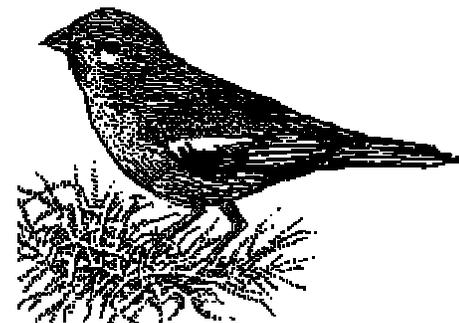
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Service today signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Michigan's Department of Information Technology and the Michigan State Police to study bird strikes at communication towers.

The study is intended to assess the effects of lighting, height, and guy wires on avian collisions at selected towers in the 350-500 foot height range in the State Police System. The variety of types and heights of towers within the system provides conditions that are conducive to measuring the effects of these variables on migratory birds. The study is designed to help identify reasonable and cost-effective measures that might be available to minimize impacts of the towers on migratory birds.

Construction of communications towers (including radio, television, cellular, and microwave) in the United States has been growing at an estimated 6 percent to 8 percent annually. According to the Federal Communication Commission's 2000 Antenna Structure Registry, the number of lighted towers greater than 199 feet above ground level is currently over 45,000, and the total number of towers exceeds 74,000.

The construction of new towers creates a potentially significant impact on migratory birds, especially some 350 species of night-migrating birds. Migratory birds may be confused in low visibility and fly into towers and guy wires. This study will focus on how tower height, construction, and lighting can be altered to minimize collisions. Communications towers are estimated to kill at least 4 million per year.

A Communication Tower Working Group composed of government agencies, industry, academic researchers and non-governmental organizations was formed in 1999 to develop and implement a research protocol to determine the best ways to construct and operate towers to prevent bird strikes. The working group is chaired by the Service. The study will be used by this group.



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 542 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

The Wildlife Society Names a New President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—September 22, 2003

Contacts: Harry Hodgdon, Harry@wildlife.org or Bill Rooney, Bill@wildlife.org

Daniel J. Decker, a professor in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and co-leader of the Human Dimensions Research Unit there, has been installed as President of The Wildlife Society (TWS) at its annual conference in Burlington, Vermont. Decker also serves as director of Cornell's Agricultural Experiment Station and associate dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Dan, as he prefers to be known, has been a TWS member for 28 years. His research and extension background reveals his special interest in the human-dimensions aspects of wildlife management. He is co-editor of the book *Human Dimensions in Wildlife Management in North America*, published by TWS in 2001. His work has appeared regularly in professional journals, including the prestigious *Wildlife Society Bulletin*.

Decker earned his B.S. (1974), M.S. (1976), and Ph.D. (1986)—all from Cornell. He has served the university as a research support specialist, a research associate, and a senior extension associate. In 1988 he was named an assistant professor in the university's Department of Natural Resources, associate professor in 1991, and full professor in 1998. His long history with The Wildlife Society includes stints as President of its Northeast Section and as Northeast Section Representative to TWS Council, and in 2001 he was elected Vice President.

Over the years, Dan has been honored with several awards, among them the Jack H. Berryman Institute Wildlife Damage Management Award, the Distinguished Research and Extension Award from Gamma Sigma Delta, the TWS Best Journal Article of the Year Award, the Daniel L. Leedy Urban Wildlife Conservation Award from the National Institute for Urban Wildlife, the John Pearce Memorial Award from the TWS Northeast Section, and the Young Alumni Achievement Award from Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Decker will serve a one-year term at the helm of The Wildlife Society.

The Forest Service Welcomes a New Assistant Wildlife Program Leader

The Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants Staff welcomes Jina Mariani as the new Assistant Wildlife Program Leaders. Jina currently serves as the Assistant Program Leader for Appeals and Litigation. She brings with her a wealth of experience from the forest and regional levels within the Forest Service. Jina will report in her new position in November. Please don't hesitate to call on her.

World Parks Congress Focuses on Wildlife Health Issues New Program Will Address the Wildlife-Livestock-Human Health Triangle

Contact: John Delaney (IN DURBAN: 082-858-3255; jdelaney@wcs.org) or Stephen Sautner (718-220-3682; ssautner@wcs.org)

DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA (Sept. 15th) -- Held once every 10 years, this year's World Parks Congress has taken on a key issues that affects both conservation and development: the movement of diseases between wildlife, humans and their livestock. In response to this growing problem, the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and other organizations have launched a new program designed to prevent and minimize the ecological and economic damage introduced diseases can cause.

"As the list of diseases affecting domestic animals and people that originate in the wild grows longer, we begin to realize that a more holistic approach is needed to manage the interface between wildlife, livestock and humans," said Dr. William Karesh, head of WCS's Field Veterinary Program and co-chair of the Veterinary Specialist Group of the World Conservation Union (IUCN), the sponsor of the World Parks Congress. "Traditionally, disease is dealt with only after there is a crisis, then you call in vets. But dealing with a crisis is brutally expensive and usually the most difficult way to approach a problem. An ounce of prevention is truly worth a pound of cure."

Beginning with a two-day forum that concluded today at the congress, the AHEAD program (Animal Health for the Environment and Development) brought more than 60 veterinarians, wildlife managers and other experts from around the world to explore the health-related challenges facing conservation and development efforts. Specifically, forum participants focused on several themes of critical importance to livestock and wildlife management, such as competition for grazing and water, disease transmission, local and global food security and nutrition, and other sources of conflict related to land-use planning and resource constraints.

Wildlife diseases such as brucellosis and chronic wasting disease (CWD) cause millions of dollars in damage annually in both Canada and the United States. In South Africa, tuberculosis continues to be a management challenge in Kruger National Park. The primary goal for AHEAD organizers is establishing a multidisciplinary model involving both development agencies and

environmental organizations that combines the traditionally separate fields of conservation and health. "The health of communities throughout the world is inextricably linked to the health of the natural resources around them, yet mainstream conservation often fails to integrate this into its thinking," said Dr. Steve Osofsky, WCS's senior policy advisor for Wildlife Health. "Health and conservation professionals need to take seats at the same table. AHEAD is issuing the invitations."

Fish and Wildlife Service Joins Congressional Foundation, 17 Other Partners in Promoting Access to Hunting and Fishing

September 24, 2003

Contact: Ken Burton 202-208-5657

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation and 17 other public and private partners today, signing a Memorandum of Understanding dedicated to improving and maintaining access to public lands for hunters and anglers.

"This is an important effort for our nation's sportsmen and women," said Service Director Steve Williams. "There are some locations in the United States where the Federal government is the single largest land owner. Public access is critical to allow hunters and anglers to fulfill their vital role in responsible management of our fish and wildlife resources."

The memorandum noted that "some hunters and anglers are reporting that problems with access have taken away from their enjoyment of hunting and fishing," and the agreement seeks to establish a general framework for cooperation between government agencies and private organizations to improve access on Federally-managed public lands for hunters and anglers.

Williams said hunting and recreational fishing account for \$70 billion in spending in the U.S. each year, and state fish and game agencies depend on the sale of hunting and fishing licenses for a significant share of their budget. Additionally, both sports directly or indirectly result in the employment of thousands of people across the country in either manufacturing or retail outlets or service facilities, such as marinas, hotels and motels and restaurants.

Williams said he has made improved access to Service lands where hunting and fishing are already permitted, one of his personal priorities. "Hunters and anglers are some of America's greatest conservationists," Williams said. "They are conscientious about the land and the water. When they are in the field, they can help us see things that we need to know about. We need to make them feel as welcome as we can."

For the new season, the Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed 315 hunting programs and 274 fishing programs on Service National Wildlife Refuges.

Under the agreement, private organizations agree to encourage local chapters and affiliated organizations to contact and meet with appropriate agencies' field offices and to participate in agency land use planning efforts, when plans are open for comment; encourage local chapters and affiliated organizations to provide leadership, services and materials for the maintenance of roads, trails and access points on public lands; inform the agencies of potential grant opportunities that might provide sources of funding for hunting or angling access related projects; provide technology and support to improve the delivery of information about hunting and angling

access and offer support to facilitate the acquisition of easements for roads and trails across private lands that are necessary to improve access to public lands.

Besides the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, partners to the agreement include the **U.S. Forest Service**, the Bureau of Land Management, the American Sportfishing Association, Boone and Crockett Club, Bowhunting Preservation Alliance, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Pheasants Forever, Pope and Young Club, Public Lands Foundation, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, SCI – First for Hunters, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, and the Wildlife Management Institute.



Two New Web Sites to Assist the Management of Forest Bird Populations

Addressing bird population problems associated with reduced breeding success requires land managers have access to breeding biology data for many bird species at multiple locations across their distributional range. To meet this need, the Breeding Biology Research and Monitoring Database (BBIRD) program was established in 1992 to allow comparisons of avian nesting ecology among habitats and geographic locations. Using a standardized protocol, independent investigators from throughout the conterminous United States collect data on nesting success and habitat variables, and submit their data to a central storage database each year. This database currently contains information on 46,000 nests of 234 species from 43 forest and grassland sites. An additional 16,000 new records are still being processed.

The BBIRD database has become a valuable resource for researchers and land managers alike, because it provides detailed data on breeding success for multiple species across multiple landscapes. It can be used to calculate parameters such as clutch size, Mayfield estimates of nest predation, cowbird parasitism rate, and fledging success among species, sites, habitats and years. In cooperation with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit has launched a new web site (<http://report.birdsource.org/BBIRD/Reports>) that now gives public access to these summary data from the BBIRD database. Users are able to lump or split summary data by site, year, bird species, or habitat type. This web tool allows investigation of geographic and temporal trends in nesting success for a given species across or within habitat types. Sample statistics, standard errors, and sample sizes are given for each nesting parameter in the database. Users can also download results of their query into a spreadsheet format for further analysis.

Researchers at the Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit are currently using the BBIRD database to develop a new management handbook that provides detailed data on nest predation, brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird, and nesting success in relation to habitat features across multiple sites for many forest-breeding bird species. Analyses of BBIRD data in conjunction with National Land Cover data are being conducted to determine the spatial scales and features of the landscape that have the greatest influence on breeding parameters such as cowbird parasitism and nest predation, and ultimately on potential population growth rate. This information is being used to develop predictive models of bird demographic responses to forest fragmentation across the United States. In addition, detailed summary of breeding parameters relative to habitat and integration of known information from the literature are used to provide specific management guidance for individual species. An introduction to the analytical

approach being used for the handbook, together with the draft accounts for individual species can be found at the URL: <http://pica.wru.umt.edu/BBIRD/info.htm>

For questions regarding the BBIRD database and program, please contact Alina Niklison at alina@selway.umt.edu. For questions or feedback regarding the management handbook, please contact Penn Lloyd at plloyd@selway.umt.edu.

Vacancies

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

Title	Grade/Series	Deadline	Vacancy #	Location
Wildlife Biologist	GS-0486-11	10/22/2003	R9-2433-03D Rel 2	US-MI-Munising
Wildlife Biologist	GS-0486-11	10/17/03	R807-130-03G	Oxford, Mississippi

Other Vacancies

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS SPECIALIST II

“PARC State Coordinator”

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT DIVISION / PHOENIX BASED

LIMITED POSITION / GRADE 19 (\$27,901 - \$49,021)

ANNOUNCEMENT #23-03ENW / CLOSING DATE 9/19/03

SOURCE CODE- NPCPORT / JOB CATEGORY - #5

Description of Duties: The primary charge will be to coordinate and facilitate state wildlife agencies and other non-federal stakeholders nationwide in efforts to further PARC’s mission. Partners for Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) is an organization formed in 1998 because both amphibians and reptiles were in trouble worldwide. PARC’s mission is to conserve amphibians and reptiles and their habitat through proactive and coordinated public/private partnerships. The position will work with the National PARC Steering Committee Coordinator and Federal Agency Steering Committee Coordinator to facilitate Regional Working Group (RWG) and Technical Working Group (TWG) efforts in furthering PARC’s mission. Secure additional funding for this position and other PARC activities in coordination with the regional and technical working groups. Attend at least one meeting of the RWGs annually and as many TWG meetings as possible. Help fill key positions within each working group and monitor progress of those groups. Maintain regular communication between working groups and provide assistance between visits. Attend all Joint Steering Committee meetings and present recent accomplishments and plans for the coming year. The position will be based in Phoenix under the direction of the Assistant Director of the Wildlife Management Division.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: The ideal candidate will have experience in the following: habitat and wildlife field investigation, management and conservation techniques, species identification and habitat requirements, especially for amphibians and reptiles; grammar and writing techniques; and game and fish and environmental laws, regulations, policies and procedures. The candidate will have experience in verbal and written communications, public relations techniques, problem solving, and promoting positive interpersonal relationships within and outside work group; maintaining a budget; project planning and execution, and work management. The candidate must

be willing to travel, able to work with many different types of agencies and individuals, and have strong organizational skills. Strong communication skills are a must.

How to Apply: A current resume, must be accompanied by a Resume Supplement Form (SF-501), and submitted to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, 2221 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85023, Attention: Human Resources, no later than 5:00 p.m. on the closing date. To obtain an SF-501, visit www.hr.state.az.us/employment, or call (602) 789-3321 to receive one by mail. All applicants must include the Announcement Number on the SF-501. If you are currently a permanent status Game and Fish employee, please also include PROMO GF on the upper right corner of the SF-501.

An equal opportunity, reasonable accommodations employer, the Arizona Game and Fish Department complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. If you need accommodation in the employment process or this document in an alternative format, please contact our office at (602) 789-3326 or TTY 1-800-367-8939, prior to the closing date of the job in which you are interested. The Arizona Game & Fish Department is responsible for managing Arizona's fish and wildlife resource as an enduring public trust. In addition, the Department is charged with promoting safe and responsible use of watercraft and off-highway vehicles. Funding is provided from the sale of licenses and permits; watercraft registration fees; federal excise taxes on firearms, fishing equipment, boats, and other sporting goods; State lottery revenues; donations on State income tax forms; and various contracts and grants. Department policy is set by the Arizona Game and Fish Commission, whose five members are appointed by the Governor. We stand in support of equality for and advancement of all people based on their qualifications and actions alone without regard to color, gender, age, religion, national origin, or disability.

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Seeks Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Plan Coordinator

Closing Date: October 30, 2003

Purpose:

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks (SDGFP) seeks to contract with qualified individuals interested in coordinating and preparing South Dakota's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Conservation Plan (Comp.Plan).

Background:

As a condition of acceptance of Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program and State Wildlife Grants funds, SDGFP must submit a Comp. Plan to address the conservation needs of animal species of greatest imperilment in South Dakota to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by October 1, 2005. SDGFP has received initial training in plan requirements and potential approaches, but the agency does not have the ability to assign a specific individual to complete this task.

Position Description:

The individual is responsible for the following duties.

1. Coordinating and completing the South Dakota Comp. Plan, which includes the following elements:
 - formation on the distribution and abundance of wildlife species, particularly those with low and declining populations;
 - information on key habitats and community types as related to wildlife species of concern;

- problems that may adversely affect identified species or their habitats and research and survey efforts needed for species and habitat conservation;
 - necessary, prioritized conservation actions to enhance identified species and habitats;
 - species and habitat monitoring plans and methods of incorporating new information;
 - procedures to review the Plan at least every ten years;
 - plans for coordinating the plan with other land and resource entities in South Dakota; and
 - public participation strategies (to be handled in coordination with Public Involvement Specialist.)
2. Working with SDGFP staff and private, tribal, and government partners during plan development and with SDGFP Public Involvement Specialist to integrate the technical and public involvement aspects of the SD Comp. Plan.

Work Arrangements and Compensation: SDGFP will provide office space as needed for periodic consultant visits to coordinate with staff and to make other necessary in-state contacts and meeting arrangements. Contract amount to be negotiable depending upon qualifications and terms.

Application Requirements:

Applicants should have the ability to analyze and organize diverse information; ability to communicate effectively in written and oral formats; experience in running productive meetings; ability to work effectively with diverse publics, both internal and external; knowledge of conservation planning methods; knowledge of South Dakota's wildlife species, habitats, and threats to both; ability to complete complex work assignments on schedule, with limited supervision, and with a focus on an acceptable end product; and ability to use computer and common PC-based software.

Applicants must submit the following:

1. Letter describing specific qualifications pertinent to the coordination and preparation of South Dakota's Comprehensive Fish and Wildlife Plan.
2. Copy of official college transcript(s).
3. Resume, including list of professional references.

Agency Contact:

Eileen Dowd Stukel
 Wildlife Diversity Coordinator
 SD Department of Game, Fish and Parks
 523 E. Capitol Ave.
 Pierre, SD 57501
eileen.dowdstukel@state.sd.us
 phone: 605-773-4229
 fax: 605-773-6245

Hotlinks!

- Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/wildlife/>
- 2003 News Releases: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2003/releases.shtml>
- FS Today Newsletter: http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/

- National Fire Plan: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/nfp/>
- Roadless Area Conservation: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>
- Large-Scale Watershed Restoration Projects: <http://www.fs.fed.us/largewatershedprojects/>
- Land and Resource Management Plans: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/nfmalrmp.html>
- Watershed and Air Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/clean/>
- Lands and Realty Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/>
- Road Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/roads/>
- Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage Resources: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/>
- Forest Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/fm/>
- International Programs: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/>
- Research: <http://www.fe.fed.us/research/scientific.html>
- Healthy Forests Initiative: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/HFI.shtml>
- Partners in Planning (**NEW**): <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/planning/guide/index.html>

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

On The Wild Side is a monthly update of activities of the National Forest System Terrestrial Wildlife and Ecology Program of the USDA Forest Service. All information presented is subject to change as projects evolve, opportunities arise and issues unfold. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Debbie Pressman at dpressman@fs.fed.us 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.

"The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation or marital or family status. (Not all bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audio tape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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