

On The Wild Side

WILDLIFE PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



USDA
FOREST SERVICE

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2004

*With great sincerity we wish all of you
A Happy and Peaceful Holiday Season - the Editors*



News



GRANT GUNDERSON

Grant Gunderson, the Regional Wildlife Program Leader for the Forest Service Pacific Northwest, is retiring at the end of December, 2004. Grant unequivocally has been the great of champion for wildlife and their habitats in the Pacific Northwest. Although he is doing his best to leave without fanfare we can't really let it happen like that. For Grant is someone we have all come to love and respect, and a person whose absence will truly be felt.

Grant began his career with the Forest Service as the District Wildlife Biologist on the Snow Mountain Ranger District, Ochoco National Forest, where he was (we hear) an innovative and effective biologist right from the start. Grant went to the Regional Office in 1986 to serve on the Northern Spotted Owl EIS Team; then shortly thereafter became the Regional Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive (TES) Species Program Manager. He was always steadfast in his commitment to interagency coordination and collaboration and in maintaining open communication with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

Grant played a key role on the Interagency Scientific Committee that developed the Conservation Strategy for the Northern Spotted Owl (better known as the "Thomas Report") that was published and adopted in 1990. Subsequently he served on the Scientific Analysis Team (SAT) that completed the "Viability Assessment and Management Consideration for Species Associated with Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forests of the Pacific Northwest" (March 1993), and the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Team that produced the "FEMAT Report." These efforts all led to the development of the Northwest Forest Plan.

In 1999, Grant became the Region 6 Wildlife Program Manager and continued to help lead the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. He provided critical support and guidance for the development of the "Dec AID Dead Wood Advisor" tool, and took the lead in applying the information into "dead wood retention" guidelines for salvage operations in the region's wildfire areas.

Of course we have not covered all of Grant accomplishments here, for they really are many. The important things are this: Grant's passion for wildlife, his professional guidance, support, and patient demeanor touched hundreds of biologists (and other professional) both inside and outside the Forest Service. Grant is an extraordinary biologist and human being who always had the protection and betterment of fish, wildlife and rare plants as his uppermost objective. His absence will leave a void, however, it is without hesitation we can say that Grant leaves a legacy for us, from his many enduring accomplishments and in the people he inspired and touched.

Grant – thank-you for being the best! Have fun and enjoy your new journey....Sincerely – from all of us.

WAYNE OWEN, NAMED WO ECOSYSTEM PLANNING SPECIALIST

I am pleased to announce that Wayne Owen has accepted the position of Ecosystem Planning Specialist for the Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants staff in the Washington Office. Wayne was formerly on our staff in the position of National Botany Program Leader. Wayne's return with his energy and experience will fill a tremendous need in our planning related activities, and he will work closely with the Ecosystem Management Staff. His effective date was October 17, 2004.

Welcome back, Wayne – WFW Staff

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PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRDCOUNT ON YOUR NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS

(Editors Note: The web link for this event will in the "Spot Light" on the Forest Service National Forest Service website).



During the **President's Day weekend of February 18--21, 2005**, people across the North American continent will be getting outside and counting birds and reporting them over the Internet as part of the 8th Annual **Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)**. This is one of the world's largest volunteer efforts of its kind. In 2004, more than 100,000 birdwatchers submitted more than 50,000 checklists over four days, counting more than four million birds of 512 species. The event lasts just four days over a holiday weekend, so the possibilities of securing participation are good.



Photo@RobertShantz.com



Whether counters are novices or experts, their participation is an important way of helping North America's birds. What is different this year is that the organizers of the event, the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, are encouraging people to go into America's Great Back Yard, their local National Forest or Grassland, National Wildlife Refuge, National Park, and other federal wild lands, to report the birds they see, in addi-

tion to their own backyard. Around 730 million acres of land, or around one third of the land area of the United States) is held in trust by Federal Agencies. The Forest Service, together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the National Park Service, Department of Defense, and Bureau of Reclamation are among the stewards of lands that support significant populations of wild birds.

You may think it odd to invite people to your forest or grassland to take part in an event called the Great Backyard Bird Count. A 'backyard' however, can be anywhere you choose; a schoolyard, a local park, the balcony of a high rise apartment, a wildlife refuge or a FS National Forest or Grassland. By promoting and participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, you can reach a better understanding of changes in bird distributions and numbers in your area, help researchers better understand bird population numbers and distribution across the continent, and increase visitation during a relatively quiet time of year, and perhaps incorporate the GBBC into your own education efforts. GBBC is a great way to involve people locally in a continent wide activity.

Taking part in the Great Backyard Bird Count takes as little or as much time as participants wish -- the important thing is to get people outdoors to count birds, and enjoy North America's Great Backyard and then have fun indoors through the internet.

Tips on how to participate

Instructions for participating can be found at www.birdsource.org/gbbc/. There is no fee or registration. The Great Backyard Bird Count website is a great educational resource to help anyone prepare for their



trip to count birds. The web site is full of tips of all kinds, including information on bird feeding; how to use binoculars; how to make your yard bird-friendly; and on how to identify birds, especially those tricky, similar-looking species. It even includes sound clips to help with identification by vocalizations. There are even tips on how to be a bird-friendly family. Educators and parents alike will find the bibliography, vocabulary, and geography sections useful and handy, and there are suggestions on how to conduct the count with groups of children. If you enjoy the

GBBC, you can customize the e-Bird website www.ebird.org to accept data from your site year round, a good way to capture checklist information for sites in your area.

Finally, any one can explore previous years' results through the innovative web site www.birdsource.org/gbbc with animated maps to show trends in distribution and numbers between years. For example, 2004 brought significant irruptions of Common and Hoary Redpolls from the north. We saw the continued spread of the Eurasian Collared Dove, some recovery of the American Crow population in the east, following the deaths from West Nile Virus. For any species of interest, anyone can customize results through the website. Our results pages also allow for the putting together of tables of top places submitting records, most commonly seen species, and so on.

Participants without their own internet access may try contacting their local library or Wild Birds Unlimited stores, where storeowners online will be accepting observations made by their customers. Libraries, businesses, nature clubs, Scout troops, and other community organizations interested in promoting the GBBC or getting involved can contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at 800/ 843-2473 (outside the U.S., call 607/254-2473), 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, New York 14850, or the National Audubon Society at citizenscience@audubon.org or (215) 355-9588, Ext 20, Audubon Science Office, 545 Almshouse Road, Ivyland, PA 18974.



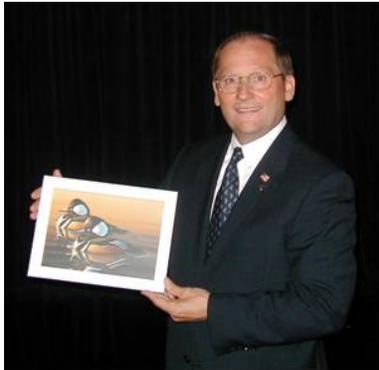
The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a nonprofit membership institution interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds.

Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our Citizen Science programs for bird enthusiasts, and advocacy on behalf of Important Bird Areas, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in positive conservation experiences.

DUCKS UNLIMITED PRESIDENT HELPS CHOOSE FEDERAL DUCK STAMP

Contact: Laura Houseal
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DU President John Tomke with the 2005-2006 Federal Duck Stamp by Mark Anderson.



Washington, D.C. October 6, 2004 – The 2005-2006 Federal Duck Stamp will depict a pair of Hooded Merganser drakes resting on sun-lit water. The painting by wildlife artist Mark Anderson, which will be used to create the stamp, was chosen from 224 entries in the Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

John Tomke, President of Ducks Unlimited, was one of five judges who evaluated all 224 entries and picked the winner after intense competition. This marks the fifth time that a DU representative has judged the competition. “It was truly an honor to have Ducks Unlimited involved once again in judging the stamp contest and it was a personal pleasure for me,” said Tomke. “The result of duck hunter support to

assure the future of waterfowl populations is tangible in DU’s habitat projects and through the Duck Stamp program, too. Both will be valuable for generations to come.”

Anderson has won fifteen state conservation stamp contests, is a Heritage Sponsor of Ducks Unlimited, a sponsor of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and a member of Pheasants Forever. “When I started painting about twenty years ago, I had two goals in my life,” says Anderson. “One of them was to win the federal duck stamp contest. The other I haven’t achieved yet, and that’s to become Ducks Unlimited’s International Artist of the Year.” While he hasn’t yet claimed that title, Anderson has a long history of winning state DU competitions. He was named DU Artist of the Year for South Dakota in 1992, ’93, ’94, and 2005. He was named Iowa’s Artist of the Year for 2002 and 2003, Michigan’s DU Sponsor Stamp Artist of the Year in 2003, and is now Oklahoma’s 2005 Artist of the Year.

“Of all the conservation groups, DU is my biggest one because I can see where the money goes. I can drive anywhere within 40 miles of where I live and see a DU sign sticking out of a marsh,” Anderson explains. “I hunt the public areas of South Dakota, and the dollars for those habitats were generated by Ducks Unlimited. The thing is, the ducks have given back to me. It’s because of ducks that I’m able to be a full-time artist, so whenever I can do something for DU, I do it. I’m giving back to the ducks because they’re giving back to me.” Anderson annually donates original paintings to local DU events. He tries to attend each event when his art is auctioned. “I do about 20 fundraising events per year,” says Anderson, and his paintings have raised nearly \$4 million for DU’s habitat conservation work; this Federal Duck Stamp will mean even more funding for habitat conservation.

Since 1934, the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, popularly known as the Federal Duck Stamp, has been sold to hunters, conservationists, and stamp collectors. In that time, stamp sales have generated more than \$670 million that has been used to acquire more than 5.2 million acres of important wetlands and associated upland habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

In August, Ducks Unlimited signed an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage the Federal Duck Stamp Licensing Program. Under the agreement, DU uses its expertise to expand and manage how Federal Duck Stamp images are licensed to manufacturers who place the images on a wide variety of consumer products. Like DU's current licensing programs that raise money for waterfowl and habitat, royalties generated from the sale of products with the stamp images will be dedicated to waterfowl conservation efforts. "DU and its members share our strong commitment to wetlands conservation, and understand the values that the Duck Stamp represents," said Service Director Steve Williams. "The Service has a long history of partnership with DU on wetlands conservation projects, and we look forward to deepening this partnership through our licensing program."



The stamps, which feature images of waterfowl painted by some of the nation's most prominent wildlife artists, are valued for their beauty. Recognizing the stamps' popularity with the public, Congress authorized the Service to license stamp images for use on a variety of products in 1984, with proceeds going to acquire additional habitat for the Refuge System. Since that time, dozens of licensed products ranging from embroidered hats and sweatshirts, to knives, key chains, and prints have been successfully marketed by private companies across the country.

"When water fowlers purchase a product depicting a Federal Duck Stamp image, they're not only supporting a great conservation program and tradition, they're enabling the manufacturer of that product to donate important funds to habitat conservation, as well. Everyone wins," said Don Young, Executive Vice President of DU. By engaging the professional marketing and licensing expertise of DU, the Service hopes to take full advantage of the valuable stamp images to generate more money for conservation and raise public awareness of the Duck Stamp itself. "We're excited to have DU manage our Duck Stamp licensing program and the potential it will have to provide even more money for wetlands conservation," Williams added. "I am confident that this agreement will help us fulfill the goal announced by President Bush of conserving three million acres of wetlands across the nation over the next five years."

For more information on the Duck Stamp Program and how Duck Stamp funds have benefited a refuge in your state, visit the Duck Stamp home page at <http://duckstamps.fws.gov>

SECRETARY NORTON SIGNS UPDATED NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT PLAN

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In New Gloucester, Maine, on October 6, 2004, Interior Secretary Gale Norton signed the 2004 update of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), reaffirming the United States' commitment to the continental conservation Plan with Canada and Mexico. Ducks Unlimited's President, John Tomke, was invited to speak at the ceremony by Secretary Norton.

"This Plan is the science-based roadmap that will help take our continent to the 'net-gain' vision for North America's wetlands and waterfowl habitats," said Tomke. "It is the best hope for ducks, geese, and other wetland-associated wildlife, and for those people who appreciate and value them. The NAWMP was the first real Plan for habitat conservation on a continental scale, and it has become the template after which many other efforts are being modeled."

The NAWMP, first signed in 1986 between the U.S. and Canada, is an international agreement that establishes goals for rebuilding and maintaining waterfowl populations at the levels seen in the 1970s. In

1994, the Plan was updated and its continental scope fully realized when Mexico joined the agreement. The Plans' goals and direction were refined then, and again in 1998, the last time the NAWMP was updated. Ducks Unlimited has been instrumental in the evolution and implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Dr. Scott Yaich, DU's Director of Conservation Programs in the U.S., and Dr. Mike Anderson, DU's Director of the Institute for Wetland and Waterfowl Research in Canada, both served on the 2004 NAWMP drafting committee, lending their waterfowl and wetland expertise in updating the Plan. DU's Senior Vice President for the Great Lakes/Atlantic region, Ron Rich, also attended the ceremony.

Photo@RobertShantz.com



"The NAWMP is a critical guide for wetland and waterfowl conservation today. Because it is international in scope, it provides conservationists the foundation from which to address all the life-cycle needs of North America's waterfowl – from breeding grounds to wintering grounds, and everywhere in between," said Yaich. The Plan, while international in scope, is implemented at regional and local levels. "The success of the NAWMP relies on partnerships known as Joint Ventures to collectively achieve the goals of the Plan," explains Yaich. There are currently eleven

habitat Joint Ventures in the United States, and three in Canada endorsed by NAWMP; Ducks Unlimited is a partner in all seventeen NAWMP Joint Ventures.

About Ducks Unlimited

With more than a million supporters, Ducks Unlimited is the world's largest wetlands and waterfowl conservation group. The United States alone has lost more than half of its original wetlands – nature's most productive ecosystems – and continues to lose more than 100,000 wetland acres every year.

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ELK FOUNDATION HONORS L. JACK LYON WITH OLAUS J. MURIE AWARD

**Media Contact: Dan Crockett at 406-523-4568 or crockett@rmef.org
September 3, 2004**



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(Editors Note: I missed including this piece in October but I am pleased to include it here. Jack Lyon is not only a significantly notable researcher, but a very down-to-earth person with inspirational character, amazing integrity, and great passion for wildlife conservation. I would venture to say that some aspect of Jack's research on elk has been used in nearly every FS land management plan in the Northern Region, and probably beyond - jina).

MISSOULA, Mont.—Retired Forest Service wildlife biologist L. Jack Lyon spent nearly 35 years devoted to bettering elk and elk habitat and helped shape the way that both are currently managed. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation has recognized Lyon's commitment to elk by presenting him with its Olaus J. Murie Award. The award recognizes a wildlife or land management professional who has made significant contributions for the betterment of wild, free-ranging elk through research, management or by conserving and enhancing habitat.

“Jack Lyon has helped drive other wildlife biologists toward a deeper examination and understanding of big game and habitat management,” said Elk Foundation president/CEO J. Dart. “Through his research, ideas and personal influence, he has led the way in showing the wildlife profession how to make a real difference on the ground for elk.”

Olaus J. Murie was the first and most notable scientist to raise the bar on how we understand elk and translate that understanding into conservation. He worked extensively on the National Elk Refuge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Murie’s time there resulted in the publication of his classic, *Elk of North America*, which helped him earn the nickname “father of modern elk management.” Through the Olaus J. Murie Award the Elk Foundation is able to recognize those, like Lyon, who have continued to keep Murie’s legacy alive through both conserving and researching elk and elk habitat. With a long list of diverse accomplishments as a scientist and wildlife advocate, Lyon, exemplifies the spirit of Murie and is a natural choice for the award. He was nominated and selected by his peers and colleagues for his extensive research and passion toward ensuring the survival of elk and elk habitat.

Photo by Robert Shantz



“I am greatly honored by this presentation. Throughout my research career, the greatest satisfactions have involved studying elk habitat and associating with other biologists who share this interest,” said Lyon. After graduating from the Colorado State University with a master’s in wildlife management in 1951, he received his doctorate in wildlife management from the University of Michigan. In 1962 he moved to Montana to work for the Forest Service’s Intermountain Research Station as a research wildlife biologist and project leader, where he developed a research program in big game habitat management. His research plans were published in a 1996 paper entitled “Problems of Habitat

Management for Deer and Elk in the Northern Forests.” Throughout a 15-year research project, the Montana Cooperative Elk-Logging Study, Lyon studied the correlation between declining elk populations, logging activities, ease of access and loss of tree cover. With support from the project partners Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, University of Montana, Bureau of Land Management and Plum Creek Timber Company, Lyon showed that the more miles of roads opened to traffic, the less elk will use the habitat surrounding those roads, and the fewer bull elk will survive—especially bulls older than 2 ½ years old.

Lyon has also researched the effects of fire on big game populations and helped create a partial glossary of elk management terms to help biologists understand each other. Lyon lives in Missoula, Mont., and has continued to be an advocate for elk since retiring from the Forest Service in 1996. He has helped campaign against captive big-game ranches in Montana and for the establishment of open spaces, including nearby Mount Jumbo, an area that winters nearly 100 elk each year.

In 2004, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. Founded and headquartered in Montana, the non-profit Elk Foundation has permanently protected more than 1,000 square miles of critical elk habitat and enhanced another 3.3 million acres of elk country. In addition, the Foundation has funded more than 1,000 projects to promote conservation education and North America’s hunting heritage. To help pass on an elk country legacy for future generations, visit www.elkfoundation.org or call 800-CALL ELK.

THE OUTDOOR CHANNEL GETS 2005 NWTF TV LINE UP

Contact: James Powell or Allison Kotowski, 803-637-3106 or visit the pressroom website http://www.nwtf.org/nwtf_newsroom/press_releases.php?id=11286

October 27, 2004



Starting in January of 2005, the only place you can see all new episodes of the National Wild Turkey Federation's award-winning shows is on The Outdoor Channel. "The NWTF has been looking for a home for our outdoor programming, and we have found the right place for getting our conservation message to viewers is The Outdoor Channel," said Rob Keck, NWTF CEO. "The Outdoor Channel speaks our language, and they have committed to more than airing the NWTF's award winning programs. They support us through our national convention, outreach programs and conservation efforts. They have been exemplary in showing what real partnership is about."

Beginning in January 2005, Outdoor Channel viewers can rediscover America's hunting heritage on the NWTF's flagship series, *Turkey Call*, which will air Sunday at 7:00 p.m. Check out *Turkey Country* Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. for real turkey hunting adventure and learn how to attract wildlife to your land by watching *Get in the Game* Fridays at 9:00 p.m.

Since 1993, The Outdoor Channel has blazed a trail in the cable industry as the first full-time cable network with a focus on compelling outdoor pursuits like hunting and fishing. As of Sept. 2004, The Outdoor Channel has approximately 26.3 million cable subscribers, making the channel available to approximately 64 million households. "We develop partnerships because it's good business, and also because we like to see our partners win," said Jake Hartwick, executive vice president for The Outdoor Channel. "There is an understanding that we must be a credible source for sportsmen. Credibility is job one at The Outdoor Channel, and it is evident the NWTF believes the same."



The exciting NWTF shows can be seen on The Outdoor Channel through cable television, DISH Network and DIRECTV. For more information about the NWTF, call 1-800-THE-NWTF or visit the web site at www.nwtf.org

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NWTF CHAMPIONS NATIVE GRASSLANDS

Contact: James Powell or Jonathan Harling, 803-637-3106, or visit their press room website

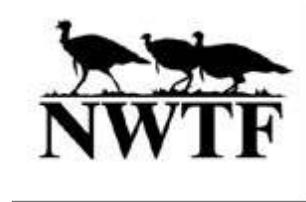
http://www.nwtf.org/nwtf_newsroom/press_releases.php?id=11286

November 8, 2004

Native grasslands in Illinois are disappearing at an alarming rate and the Illinois State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is working with state, federal and private partners to help reverse that trend. The state chapter has partnered with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (ILDNR), Illinois Department of Corrections and Quail Unlimited to restore 65 acres of brood habitat on the 1,047 acre Cypress Pond State Natural Area near Goreville, Ill. The project is estimated to cost more than \$47,000. This year the Illinois State Chapter of the NWTF donated almost \$10,000 for Phase I of the project, which will create wildlife openings by clearing 24 acres and sowing them with winter wheat. Next spring, the openings will be treated with herbicide, than be sown with native grasses that make great turkey habitat. Phase II of the project will repeat the process on an additional 41 acres of the property. Most of the state-owned area is covered with loblolly pine and hybrid poplar trees planted for paper production. Turkeys and other wildlife are present on the property. However, nesting and brooding habitat on and around the

property could be improved. "When the project is completed, wild turkeys and other ground nesting birds there will have a luxury they haven't had in a while," said John Burk, NWTF regional biologist. "Hens will feel secure when they nest and travel with their broods, and that is critical to the success of birds that make their nests on the ground." Since 1985, the Illinois chapter has spent more than \$2.28 million on a variety of conservation, education and hunting projects. This year, they have spent more than \$180,600 to:

- Enhance wildlife habitat.
- Introduce children to hunting and the outdoors.
- Offer scholarships to high school seniors interested in hunting and conservation.
- Provide education boxes to teach conservation and the comeback story of the wild turkey to schools.



To learn more about the NWTF and its relocation and habitat improvement efforts in Illinois call 803-637-3106, or go online at http://www.nwtf.org/in_your_state/lists.php?STATE=IL.

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 nonprofit organization with nearly 525,000 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.

A THANKSGIVING FEAST IN BLACK AND WHITE

Are your Thanksgiving meal plans still up in the air? Stop worrying. The members of the National Wild Turkey Federation have come to the rescue. Folks from across the country share their favorite recipes to make a complete Thanksgiving feast.

Visit: http://www.nwtf.org/nwtf_newsroom/press_releases.php?id=11311

BAYOU ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PROJECT ON THE OZARK-ST. FRANCIS NATIONAL FOREST

John Andre (USFS) submitted a superb article which outlines how the national Fire Learning Network advanced the work of the Bayou Ecosystem Restoration Project on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forest, and how the South Central Regional Fire Learning Network, in turn, is now applying the proven FLN process to engage many more fire restoration projects in the South Central region. This Regional Network is very successful largely because of the strong and productive internal and external partnerships they have forged through the FLN process, their commitment to developing projects from a foundation of strong science and a commitment to integration, monitoring and adaptive management. We're very fortunate to have folks like John, Dwayne, Mark, Steve and others, involved in the FLN and excited to share this demonstration of how in working together we can accelerate on the ground landscape scale fire restoration. Please share this with your colleagues and we welcome any feedback that you might have - Lynn

Link to the November FLN Dispatch article: http://tnc-ecomangement.org/images/dispatch_11_04.pdf.

Lynn M. Decker Director, U.S. Fire Learning Network

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WESTERN GOVERNORS RESOLVE TO INCREASE USE OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

(Excerpt from Frontline Newsletter, Fall 2004, by Leslie Gaines)

<http://www.wyomingoutdoorcouncil.org/index.php>



In late June, the Western Governors' Association (WGA) announced that it is working collaboratively to ensure adequate energy supplies and electricity for the region in the future. Much of this energy will come from renewable sources—solar, wind, geothermal, even improved efficiency—if the governors have their way. With its Clean Energy Initiative, the WGA set a goal of 30,000 megawatts of clean energy by 2015, and a 20 percent improvement in energy efficiency by 2020. "The time has come to effectively increase the use of the West's vast renewable resources while we create cleaner technologies for using coal and other traditional resources," said New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, the outgoing Chairman of the Western Governors' Association and the leader of the Clean Energy Initiative with California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Time to Shift Our Energy Focus

Scott Kane, a WOC board member and the owner of Creative Energies, a Lander-based designer of sustainable energy systems, was enthusiastic about the WGA's resolution. "Now, with fossil fuels costing more than at any point in history, this is an excellent time for an increased examination of how we use energy. Both utility-scale wind power and small-scale solar power have recently made great gains in cost effectiveness and dependability," he said. "Efficiency also needs to be the headline topic in this discussion," he continued. "All forms of power generation—including renewable sources—have their environmental costs. There is one way to fulfill our power requirements that actually improves the environment—efficiency." Wyoming's governor, Dave Freudenthal, has also expressed support for the resolution. "Western governors recognize that both traditional and non-traditional resources will play an important role in meeting the energy needs of the West," Freudenthal said. "This region has a unique opportunity to develop clean energy to fuel our growing economy," said Gov. Richardson. "We have an enormous potential to improve the efficiency of energy use. The West also has the highest quality solar, wind, and geothermal resources in the nation and this clean-energy initiative will determine the steps needed to take advantage of this unique opportunity."

According to the WGA, the Clean Energy Initiative will stress incentive-based, non-mandatory approaches that will help states achieve their clean and diversified energy goals, and will consider federal programs that could assist in the development of clean and diversified energy in the West. A WGA working group is being formed to explore these goals and come up with a plan for implementing the resolution. The working group will have balanced representation that includes state, local and Native American leaders; environmental organizations; state and tribal air quality agencies; the private sector; federal agencies; and representatives from Mexico and Canada.

Importance of Renewable Energy Growing

Although the United States has only about 5 percent of the world's population, Americans use 25 percent of the world's energy to produce about 25 percent of the world's Gross Domestic Product. Currently renewable energy supplies only two percent of the nation's energy needs, but the growth in the U.S. re-

renewable energy generation over the past decade has been impressive—increasing approximately 30 percent since 1990. This trend is expected to continue.

"It is clear that this sustainable energy initiative will require some dedication on the part of the states involved. It will require at least a decade of dependable subsidies to cause a shift in our power generation and transmission system," Kane added. The Western Governors' Association's Clean Energy Initiative's commitment to produce 30,000 megawatts of clean energy by 2020 will meet 15 percent of the current demand in the region. More traditional energy sources and improved efficiency are expected to meet the rest. The Clean Energy Initiative has given the western states an official position that could turn citizens who support alternative energy sources into more than just dreamers whose ideas on sustainability have for decades blown idly into the wind.

Resources

"A Balanced Energy Plan for the Interior West", produced by Western Resource Advocates, www.westernresourceadvocates.org, 303-444-1188. A copy of the Western Governors' Association resolution is available on the Web at www.westgov.org. Department of Interior, Office of the Secretary, Contact: John Wright, 202-208-6416. For more information about the Interior Department's renewable energy initiative go to www.doi.gov.

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SPOTLIGHT ON THE NATIONAL ZOO SCIENCE: A BRIGHT LIGHT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

November 12, 2004

Washington, DC

Information from compiled from: <http://neoninc.org/> and <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Conservationandscience/SpotlightOnScience/>



The National Zoo and other Smithsonian scientists are helping to plan NEON—a vast project to shed light on the causes and consequences of environmental change. NEON will allow scientists to develop a predictive understanding of the relationship between environmental change and biological processes.

What is the greatest challenge humanity faces today? Many agree that it is learning how to manage the Earth in a sustainable way. In response to this grand challenge, scientists in the United States have embarked on a grand endeavor to provide the knowledge necessary for a sustainable future: the National Ecological Observatory Network, or NEON (neoninc.org).

Still in the planning stage, NEON will create the first national ecological observation system. A network of field and laboratory sites across the United States, including Puerto Rico and Hawaii, equipped with cutting-edge technology and integrated via state-of-the-art communications, will comprise NEON. Scientists will use NEON to conduct ecological studies at all levels of biological organization, from genomes to the biosphere, in real-time and over long periods of time, and over geographical scales from regions to the entire continent—and share their data and results immediately.

From these studies will emerge the ability to both understand the natural world and predict how natural and human activities will change our human-dominated environment. The results of these studies will also provide decision-makers with a sound scientific basis for action. Moreover, recognizing that fostering environmental literacy among the public is essential, NEON will offer formal and informal educational op-

portunities for adults and for students at all levels from kindergarten through college and beyond. Smithsonian scientists from the National Zoo, the Museum of Natural History, and the Environmental Research Center are participating in NEON's development.

Last winter, they helped lay the groundwork for a two-year cooperative agreement between the National Science Foundation and the American Institute of Biological Sciences to set up an office to develop a blueprint for NEON and plan its implementation.

The Zoo's Francisco Dallmeier, along with Bob Gardner of the University of Maryland Appalachian Lab and Eric Nagy of the University of Virginia, leads planning for the Mid-Atlantic Region Ecological Observatory (MAREO), a subset of NEON. Staff at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center is leading NeoNEON—the South Florida and the Caribbean portion of NEON. Two NEON-related workshops have been held at the Zoo's Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal, Virginia, with another one scheduled there for February 2005.

Just some of the big issues that NEON will focus on:

- Understanding the ecological effects of climate change and developing the ability to predict climate variation and its effects on biodiversity, ecosystems, and human society.
- Understanding the relationships between biodiversity, the number and kinds of species in an ecosystem, and how an ecosystem functions, and how human activities may change—and be changed by—all three.
- Understanding how changes in land use patterns affect ecological and human systems.
- Understanding the evolution, ecology, and control of infectious diseases, especially those with the greatest effects on people, livestock, and wildlife.
- Understanding the causes and consequences of the spread of invasive species and learning how to control or eliminate them.

If you would like more information about this project, or any of the Zoo's conservation and science programs, please contact the National Zoo's Office of Public Affairs.

FOREST SERVICE ANNOUNCES NATIONAL STRATEGY TO COMBAT INVASIVE SPECIES

Press Release Number FS-0512

Contact: Heidi Valetkevitch, 202-205-1089



On October 28, 2004, in Prineville, Oregon, the Forest Service unveiled a national strategy to prevent and control the threat of invasive species and non-native plants in the United States. This action is part of the President's Healthy Forests Initiative to restore forest and rangeland health, protect communities from wildland fire, while supporting the President's Executive Order to promote cooperative conservation. "This national strategy will help to prevent, find and contain the spread of invasives while working to rehabilitate and restore ecosystems." "Millions of acres of public and private lands are at risk from non-native species. Each year the United States loses 1.7 million acres to the spread of these invasives, in addition to spending billions of dollars on control measures," said Agriculture Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment Mark Rey at the site of the Forest Service's new threat assessment center.

The National Strategy and Implementation Plan for Invasive Species Management focuses on four key elements: preventing invasive species before they arrive; finding new infestations before they spread and become established; containing and reducing existing infestations; and rehabilitating and restoring native habitats and ecosystems. The Forest Health Protection Research and Development programs will work to minimize the spread of established invasive species, lessening the damages caused by native and non-native insects, pathogens and plants. The Forest Service is establishing two environmental threat assessment centers to cover both the eastern and western United States; the western center will be located in Prineville, OR. The Centers, slated to open next year, will develop user-friendly technology and cutting edge research on invasive species.

The cornerstone of the strategy is cooperative conservation: working with public and private organizations through partnerships. For example, the Forest Service recently signed an agreement with The American Chestnut Foundation to restore the beloved American chestnut tree, which was once a dominant tree species in the eastern United States before chestnut blight nearly wiped it out. An estimated 70 million acres of public and private lands are at serious risk from 26 different insects and diseases nationwide, most of which are non-native. An invasive species is defined as a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. They take advantage of their new surroundings to crowd out or kill off native species, destroying habitat for native wildlife. They can also cause significant tree mortality creating an increased risk of catastrophic wildfire to communities.

To learn more about the Forest Service's National Strategy and Implementation Plan for invasive species management, visit www.fs.fed.us, and www.invasivespecies.gov.

WATCH FOR BANDED BURROWING OWLS

Monday, November 1, 2004

From: Helen Trefry, Helen.Trefry@EC.GC.CA



In the summer of 2004, 6000 burrowing owls were banded in the United States, Canada and Mexico. Each bird is wearing a color metal band on one leg and an aluminum Fish and Wildlife band on the other. Some bands are butt-ended while others are lock-on bands with a flange. Every color band has an alpha-numeric code which can be difficult to read but it is possible with a scope. If you see a banded owl, please record the color of the band, the code, whether there is a line in the middle of the band, and which leg the color band is on. See the attached picture for examples of some of the bands used.

Burrowing owls have been found wintering from Washington State to Texas and Mexico. Recently a banded burrowing owl from Lubbock, Texas, was found in Michigan and another from Saskatchewan wintered in south Texas. We request your help in locating more of these owls. If you locate a banded owl, even if you are not able to read the band yourself, please contact me AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Thank you - **Helen Trefry, Phone: 780-951-8693, Fax: 780-495-2615, helen.trefry@ec.gc.ca**

DON MCKENZIE TAKES OVER BOBWHITE QUAIL INITIATIVE COORDINATION

(Excerpt from *Outdoor News Bulletin*, Wildlife Management Institute, Volume 58, October 15, 2004, Number 10, Richard E. McCabe, Editor)

<http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/pages/news/news.html>

Wildlife Management Institute, Suite 700, 1146 19th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036, Phone: 202-371-1808, Fax: 202-408-5059

Don McKenzie, Southeastern Field Representative for the Wildlife Management Institute, has accepted a 1.5-year term appointment as the new Coordinator for the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI). The Initiative, published by the Southeast Quail Study Group in 2002, is the first-ever national-level bobwhite recovery plan. The NBCI goal is to restore bobwhites across the species' range to 1980 population levels, by restoring or enhancing some 80 million acres of habitat. The previous Coordinator, Breck Carmichael, recently stepped down following his promotion to Deputy Director of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.



The coordinator position was created in early 2003 by the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA). It was initially funded for three years by a multi-state grant from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, annual assessments from each of the 16 SEAFWA states, and an annual contribution from the Natural Resources Conservation Service. McKenzie's role for the last half of the grant period is to continue promoting, facilitating and catalyzing aggressive and effective implementation of the NBCI among the 22 core bobwhite states covered by the Initiative. For more information about the NBCI, contact Don McKenzie at 501-941-7994, or e-mail: wmidm@ipa.net.

LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND

(Information from website

<http://www.epa.gov/adopt/linkinggirls/natprograms.html>)

Linking Girls to the Land (LGTTL) is an interagency partnership between Girl Scouts of the USA's (GSUSA) Elliott Wildlife Values Project and federal natural resource agencies. The partnership works toward the vision that every girl will have an opportunity to participate in conservation and outdoor programs. Its purpose is to encourage joint conservation partnerships between 3.8 million Girl Scouts nationwide, and federal natural resource agency representatives on national and local levels. The partnership offers funding, travel opportunities, awards, workshops, and supports projects related to environmental education, volunteer service, outdoor skills development, and career exploration. This interagency effort is unique in the extent to which natural resource agencies and the Girl Scouts have accomplished the design, development, communication, implementation, and evaluation together. Additional collaborators may include non-profit and volunteer groups that offer environmental education and outdoor programs.



Linking Girls to the Land began in 1995 with five federal natural resource agencies:

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of Interior
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Department of Interior
U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Department of Agriculture
National Park Service (NPS), Department of Interior
Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Department of Agriculture

Since its inception the initiative has expanded to include the:

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
United States Geological Survey, (USGS) Department of Interior
National Parks Conservation Association (NPCS) - Americans for National Parks Campaign, a non-governmental conservation organization (ANP)

Get With the Land Patch

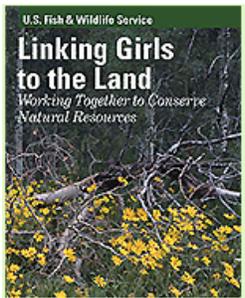


By earning this patch girls will learn about the Linking Girls to the Land partnership. By working side by side with a federal or state natural resource agency professional, they choose an environmental project or activity in which to participate or complete. The patch criteria and order form is available for downloading from linkinggirls@girlscouts.org. This website has a number of other patches that girl scouts can earn.

Contact: Jodi Stewart, Elliott Wildlife Values, Project Consultant Girl Scouts of the USA, 420 Fifth Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2798, Phone: 1-800-223-0624 x8076, Fax: (212) 852-6515, linkinggirls@girlscouts.org or www.girlscouts.org.

LINKING GIRLS TO THE LAND NEW PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

<http://www.epa.gov/adopt/linkinggirls/ordervideo.html>



A new 11-minute highlights this unique partnership and illustrates the value of providing needed conservation and environmental education opportunities for all girls, including those from diverse audiences and underrepresented areas.

Through an in-kind collaboration with the U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service other federal natural resource agencies, an 11 minute promotional video was produced. The video is designed to increase the awareness of, and motivate participation of Girl Scout councils and federal natural resource agency personnel in the Linking Girls to the Land initiative. This video demonstrates some of the benefits and forms that partnerships between Girl Scout councils and federal natural resource agencies can take. It also illustrates the importance of multi-agency partnerships to provide needed conservation and environmental education opportunities for participants from more diverse audiences and underrepresented areas to insure Girl Scouting for Every Girl Every Where.

Contact: Jodi Stewart, Elliott Wildlife Values, Project Consultant Girl Scouts of the USA, 420 Fifth Avenue, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10018-2798, Phone: 1-800-223-0624 x8076, Fax: (212) 852-6515, linkinggirls@girlscouts.org or www.girlscouts.org

Special Section on Awards: Nominations Requested



(Note: Nominations for the following awards must adhere to the guidelines, instructions, and forms corresponding to each award. Do not create additional forms. The deadlines for the *Elk Country*, and *Mule Deer Conservation Awards*, are due around December 3, to the Forest Service liaison identified below for each award.)

Anne Zimmermann, Acting Director, Watershed, Wildlife, Fish, Air and Rare Plants

**US Forest Service, National Headquarters
1400 Independence Ave SW, Stop Code-1121
Washington, DC 20250-1121**

REQUEST FOR ELK COUNTRY AWARD NOMINATIONS

We invite your nominations for the 3rd **Annual Elk Country Awards**. These awards will recognize outstanding projects, programs and individual achievements in the conservation of elk and elk habitat. There is an incredible amount of outstanding work going on in *Elk Country*, so let's recognize people for it. Previous year's recipients have found this recognition inspiring. The existing *Elk Country* program was developed in 1986, largely through the initiative and efforts of individuals that were employed by the FS and RMEF. This is the third year these awards will be given under *Elk Country*, the National Elk program for the Forest Service. Nominations will be accepted in the following categories: Land Protection, Habitat Conservation, Conservation Education and Individual Achievement.

Please include the identity and contributions of the partner in the nomination. Specific criteria and the nomination forms can be obtained from Al Christopherson, **achristophersen@fs.fed.us**, **office phone: 406-329-3588** or **cell: 404 370-1532**; Forest Service employees may be able to retrieve the forms from the controlled correspondence database File Code: 2300/2600, dated October 10, 2004.

The 2004 winners of these awards will be presented during the Conservation Partners Reception, to be held Thursday evening, February 24th, in conjunction with the 2005 RMEF convention in Portland OR, Feb 24-27, 2005. The awards ceremony is an excellent opportunity to showcase the Forest Service Elk Country Program while recognizing the outstanding projects and individuals that contribute to the success of Elk Country Programs.

Let's make it an outstanding opportunity to recognize quality Forest Service employees and their projects.

Nominations should be submitted electronically by Dec 3rd, 2004, via e-mail to: Al Christopherson, achristophersen@fs.fed.us, Forest Service liaison with the RMEF foundation.

Al Christopherson, Forest Service Liaison with the RMEF
U.S. Forest Service, Northern Region
200 E. Broadway, Federal Building
Missoula, MT 59807
Phone: 406-329-3588
Cell: 406 370-1532
Fax: 406-329-3347

REQUEST FOR THE ANNUAL MULE DEER CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

We invite your nominations for the **3rd Annual Mule Deer Conservation Award**. In 2002 the Mule Deer foundation and the Forest Service signed an MOU to re-emphasize the commitment of conserving and restoring mule deer and black-tailed deer habitat in the western United States. An important part of this commitment is the recognition of those Forest Service units, or individuals that have demonstrated outstanding leadership and a high level of excellence in these endeavors.

The Annual Mule Deer Conservation Award recognizes a FS unit or individual for an outstanding project or projects in the conservation of mule deer/black-tailed deer habitat. The award is a traveling beautiful bronze to a new recipient each year. Last year Kreig Rasmussen, Fishlake National Forest, was the recipient.

The 2004 Mule Deer Conservation Award will be presented during the Conservation Partners reception at the Mule Deer Foundation Convention in January, 2005, Reno, Nevada. The award ceremony is an excellent way to showcase the FS Million Bucks Program. **Guidelines and instruction can be obtained from Clint McCarthy, Intermountain Region Wildlife Ecologist, via e-mail to: cmccarthy@fs.fed.us, phone: 801-625-5671 or, Forest Service employees may be able to retrieve the forms from the controlled correspondence database File Code 2300/2600, dated November 8, 2004.**

If your nominee is selected the recipient and all partners will be recognized at the Annual Mule Deer Foundation Convention in January, 2005, Reno, Nevada.

Nominations should be submitted electronically by Dec 3rd, 2004, via e-mail to: cmccarthy@fs.fed.us, phone: 801-625-5671, Regional Wildlife Ecologist.

We look forward to this opportunity to recognize excellence in the conservation of western deer, and encourage your participation in identifying projects to be considered for national recognition.

Clint McCarthy, Regional Wildlife Ecologist
US Forest Service, Intermountain Region
324 25th St.
Ogden, UT 84401
Phone: 801-625-5671
Fax: 801 625-5483
cmccarthy@fs.fed.us

AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE JANUARY 14, 2005 FOR BLM AND USFS EMPLOYEES

Award information and nomination forms are found in the FS correspondence database or can be requested Bill Lorenz, Assistant Fisheries Program Leader at blorenz@fs.fed.us (202-205-7827).

It is time to recognize outstanding, sustained employee performance by preparing nominations for the Forest Service Jack Adams, Lloyd W. Swift Sr., and Karl Urban Awards. Nominees should typify the characteristics and qualities of Jack Adams, Lloyd W. Swift Sr., and Karl Urban as described in the award descriptions.

This will be the fourth year of awarding the two joint Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management annual awards for wildlife, fisheries and native plant conservation accomplishment. They are the Conservation Partner and Conservation Project awards. These awards recognize an outstanding joint FS-BLM Conservation Project and an outstanding FS-BLM Conservation Leadership Partner. Nominees shall exemplify outstanding conservation accomplishments for fish, wildlife and/or native plants, including their use, enjoyment and appreciation. See descriptions of criteria. The Bureau of Land Management's Fish, Wildlife, and Forests Group Manager and the Forest Service's Watershed, Fisheries, Wildlife, Air, and Rare Plants Director will identify the selection committee members for these awards.

All five awards will be presented as part of the Forest Service Chief's and Bureau of Land Management Director's Reception at the 70th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Arlington, VA March 16-19, 2005. The Forest Service has been a supporter of this important conference for many years. I support and encourage Forest Service attendance and participation at the conference as it provides an opportunity to maintain and enhance partnerships and technical skills, and our professional resource management capabilities.

Please submit no more than one nomination for each award from your region, station, area, or institute. Nomination forms and award information is available upon request. **Please e-mail nominations for all**

five awards to Bill Lorenz, Assistant Fisheries Program Leader at blorenz@fs.fed.us, 202-205-7827.

New Global Conservation Assessments

A Note to Our Readers

In the past few weeks we have seen the release of significant international and national conservation assessments (for amphibians and birds), and environmental reports (about the effects of climate change). These landmark assessments carry powerful messages for everyone who works in the field of biological sciences, and for people around the world (entrusted with natural resource management). Although many of the findings are sobering and serious, a remarkable aspect of these conservation assessments was the phenomenal partner collaboration (among scientists, managers and conservationists all over the world) that brought these assessments to light. In this issue, we have provided press releases and web links that will steer you to these reports. There is an astonishing amount of information available in these assessments. We hope you find some of it useful for the many incredible activities you implement (all year-long) to conserve and enhance wildlife and their habitats on National Forests and Grasslands, and beyond.

AMPHIBIANS IN DRAMATIC DECLINE

(This excerpt in its entirety comes from http://www.iucn.org/themes/ssc/programs/gaa/gaa_EN.htm)

Study finds nearly one-third of species threatened with extinction. For additional news pieces go to: <http://www.conservation.org/xp/frontlines/>



14 October 2004 (Washington, DC, USA/Gland, Switzerland) – The world's amphibian species are under unprecedented assault and are experiencing tens of thousands of years' worth of extinctions in just a century, according to the most comprehensive study ever conducted. More than 500 scientists from over 60 nations contributed to the **Global Amphibian Assessment**, the key findings of which were published on-line by Science Express, and will appear in the journal Science. Over the past three years, scientists analyzed the distribution and conservation status of all

5,743 known amphibian species – which include frogs and toads, salamanders, and caecilians. Of these, 1,856 – or 32 percent – are now considered threatened with extinction. In addition, sufficient data are lacking to accurately assess the status of nearly 1,300 other species, most of which scientists believe are also threatened.

Amphibians are widely regarded as “canaries in the coal mine,” since their highly permeable skin is more immediately sensitive to changes in the environment, including changes to freshwater and air quality. “Amphibians are one of nature’s best indicators of overall environmental health,” said Russell A. Mittermeier, president of Conservation International (CI). “Their catastrophic decline serves as a warning that we are in a period of significant environmental degradation.”



Key findings of the study include:

- According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, at least 1,856 amphibian species are threatened with extinction, representing 32 percent of all species. By comparison, only 12 percent of all bird species and 23 percent of all mammal species are threatened.
- At least nine species have gone extinct since 1980, when the most dramatic declines began. Another 113 species have not been reported from the wild in recent years and are considered to be possibly extinct.
- 43 percent of all species are in population decline; fewer than one percent are increasing. Twenty seven percent are stable, and the rest are unknown.
- 427 species are considered Critically Endangered (CR), 761 are Endangered (EN), and 668 are Vulnerable (VU).
- Colombia has 208 threatened amphibian species – the most in the world – followed by Mexico with 191, Ecuador with 163, Brazil with 110, and China with 86. Haiti has the highest percentage of threatened amphibians, with 92 percent of its species at risk of extinction.

“After birds and mammals, amphibians are the third group of species to be completely evaluated on a global scale. This study significantly expands our current knowledge and provides a baseline from which we can monitor our impact on the environment over time,” said Achim Steiner, Director General of IUCN-The World Conservation Union. “The fact that one third of amphibians are in a precipitous decline tells us that we are rapidly moving towards a potentially epidemic number of extinctions.” In the Americas, the Caribbean and Australia, a highly infectious disease called chytridiomycosis has hit amphibians especially hard. New research is showing that in some regions, outbreaks of the disease may be linked to drought years, which scientists are increasingly attributing to the effects of climate change.



But in most parts of the world – including Europe, Asia and Africa – chytridiomycosis is currently less of a problem. Other threats, such as habitat destruction, air and water pollution and consumer demand are leading causes of amphibian decline. Still, scientists are confident that an immediate commitment of resources and effort could reverse many of the present negative trends. Creating new protected areas, captive breeding programs, better community engagement and protection of freshwater systems would enhance amphibians’ chances of survival.

“Since most amphibians depend on freshwater and feel the effects of pollution before many other forms of life, including humans, their rapid decline tells us that one of Earth’s most critical life support systems is breaking down,” said Simon Stuart, Senior Director of the IUCN/CI Biodiversity Assessment Unit, and leader of this research. “We already knew amphibians were in trouble, but this assessment removes any doubt about the scale of the problem,” said Bruce Young, a zoologist with the conservation group NatureServe. “Now we need greater protection of natural areas and accelerated research on amphibian diseases to stem the extinction tide.”



Scientists from CI, IUCN, and NatureServe collaborated on the Global Amphibian Assessment. They analyzed data contributed by more than 500 of the world's leading amphibian specialists, and assessed each species for its level of threat, determined the distribution of each species, and gathered other essential ecological information.

Complete data about each species, as well as country and regional breakdowns, is available in a searchable database at: www.globalamphibians.org.

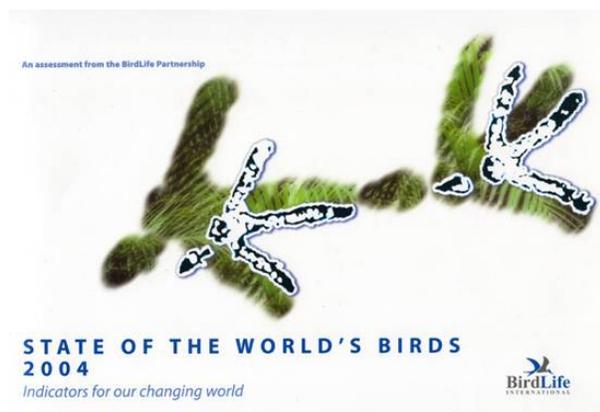
Contacts: Conservation International – Brad Phillips, b.phillips@conservation.org, 202-912-1532; The World Conservation Union – Anna Knee, alk@iucn.org and Andrew McMullin, mcmullina@iucn.org, +41 (0) 22 999 0153; and NatureServe – Rob Riordan, rob_riordan@natureserve.org, 703-908-1831

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BIRDLIFE INTERNATIONALS' STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIRDS 2004: INDICATORS FOR OUR CHANGING WORLD

(Information compiled from <http://www.birdlife.org.uk/index.html>)

BirdLife Internationals' State of the World's Birds 2004, can be downloaded as double-page spreads from the PDF index section of this web site, <http://www.birdlife.org.uk/action/science/sowb/index.html>, or can be purchased in book form online from nhbs.com



State of the world's birds 2004, examines what birds can tell us about the state of biodiversity, the pressures upon it and the solutions that are being, or should be, put in place. State of the world's birds is a synthesis of our knowledge in 2004 and provides a benchmark against which we can assess our efforts to conserve biodiversity in the future. It draws heavily on the knowledge of the BirdLife Partnership, the world's largest partnership of conservation organizations, represented in more than 100 countries. It shows how birds – the best-known major group of organisms – can help us understand the threats confronting global biodiversity. This report is based on data provided by the many, many people – experts

and enthusiasts alike – who study and observe birds across the world. Some of the analyses and case studies provide 'snapshots' of where we are in 2004; others will be updated regularly with new data (and made available on this web site) so that trends can be tracked. State of the world's birds is divided into three main sections:

Some key messages from State of the Worlds Birds

- One in eight of the world's birds — 1,213 species in total — face extinction
- The farmland bird index for Europe has declined by 34% since 1966
- Over 7,500 sites in nearly 170 countries have been identified as Important Bird Areas
- Agricultural expansion and intensification threaten 50% of Important Bird Areas in Africa. Important Bird Areas (IBAs) form a global network of sites that effectively pinpoints other terrestrial bio-

diversity. IBAs are excellent starting points for identifying a full set of key biodiversity areas, especially where information for other taxa is scarce or patchy.

- 64% of Globally Threatened Birds, most of them in the tropics, are threatened by unsustainable forestry
- Alien invasive species impact 67% of Globally Threatened Birds on oceanic islands
- Scaled conservation investment is over 20 times higher in developed than developing countries
- 43% of Africa's Important Bird Areas have no legal recognition or protection
- Conservation actions are underway for 67% of Globally Threatened Birds

The companion publications to this document, *Working Together for Birds and People* and *A Strategy for Birds and People*, respectively set out the current actions of the BirdLife Partnership, and BirdLife's strategy until 2015. Birds help to create positive change, through a public that understands and values biodiversity conservation. They thus play a vital part in bringing about the social and political solutions that we need for a more sustainable world. Their fascinating diversity and behavior have great public appeal. Birdwatching connects people with the natural world around them, and provides a window on the environment. Birds are just one component of biodiversity – and far from the most significant in species numbers or biomass – but they have a substantial role in many economies. In the United States, for example, birdwatching generated an estimated \$85 billion in overall economic output in 2001. The economic contribution that birds make through ecological services such as pest control, pollination, seed dispersal and carrion consumption has never been quantified, but must, in many cases, be enormous.

Citation

BirdLife International (2004) State of the world's birds 2004: indicators for our changing world. Cambridge, UK: BirdLife International.

BIRDLIFE'S NEW TITLE: HOW MUCH, HOW TO – A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO FOREST CONSERVATION is available for free download at www.birdlife.net/action/change/europe/forest_task_force/index.html

AUDUBON'S 'STATE OF THE BIRDS' REPORT REVEALS AMERICAS BIRDS ARE IN TROUBLE

Nearly 30 Percent of North America's Birds are in Significant Decline



New York, NY, Tuesday, October 19, 2004 – The National Audubon Society released the first national “The State of the Birds” report documenting the health and abundance of North America's birds. Appearing in the October issue of Audubon Magazine, “The State of the Birds” paints a disturbing picture. Almost 30 percent of North America's bird species are in “significant decline.” The overall state of the birds shows:

- 70 % of grassland species are in statistically significant declines
- 36 % of shrubland bird species are declining significantly
- 25 % of forest bird species are declining significantly
- 13 % of wetland bird species are declining significantly
- 23 % of bird species in urban areas are declining significantly

According to the “State of the Birds,” these declines are abnormal. Not part of the natural cyclical rise and fall in bird populations, “statistically significant declines” are due to outside factors such as loss of native grasslands, overgrazing of grassland and shrubland, development of wetlands, bad forest management, invasive species, pollution, and poor land use decisions.

"Birds are an indicator of environmental and human health," said Audubon President John Flicker. "Birds signal that we are at risk next." Flicker went on to say, "People created these problems and people can solve them if we act now."



Compiled by Audubon Scientist Greg Butcher, the "State of the Birds" analysis makes the case for private and public action, especially in strengthening, not weakening, existing environmental protections and more rigorously supervising their enforcement.

Based on the report's findings, Audubon is advocating for improved grassland, forest, and wetland protection, stronger pollution controls, partnerships with private landowners, and backyard habitat programs for homeowners. Birds not only serve as reliable indicators of environmental conditions, they also contribute greatly to the U.S. economy. Keeping birds – and their home habitats – in good condition is not only

a good conservation policy, it is also good business.

According to the U.S. Forest Service, 69 million Americans – one-third of all adults in this country - call themselves birdwatchers. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service notes that they contribute at least \$32 billion in retail sales, \$85 billion in overall economic output, and \$13 billion in state and federal taxes, creating 863,406 jobs. An analysis of expenditures is available on a state-by-state breakdown. "Birds also contribute to the bottom line in more subtle ways, providing free pest and weed control, distributing seeds, and pollinating flowers and crops," continued Flicker. "We simply cannot afford to ignore the state of the birds." Audubon's "State of the Birds" summarizes the status of nearly 700 bird species native to the continental United States, focusing on the condition of species in each of five habitat types: grasslands, shrublands, forests, wetlands, and urban areas (the fastest growing habitat type in the U.S.).

A digest of the report was published in the October issue of Audubon magazine. Further analysis is available on the Audubon website, <http://www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds>. High-resolution bird images are available for media at www.audubon.org/bird/stateofthebirds/birdpics.html.



Audubon is dedicated to protecting birds and other wildlife and the habitat that supports them. Our national network of community-based nature centers and chapters, scientific and educational programs, and advocacy on behalf of areas sustaining important bird populations, engage millions of people of all ages and backgrounds in positive conservation experiences.

GLOBAL WARMING: ECOLOGICAL CHANGES IN THE U.S.

Press Release, November 9, 2004

Contact: Katie Mandes, Phone: 703-516-0606

<http://www.pewclimate.org>.

Washington, DC — Over the past century, Earth's average temperature has increased by approximately 1°F. There is now strong evidence that this global warming is largely due to human emissions of greenhouse gases from a growing fossil fuel economy. Unless these emissions are checked, additional warming of 2-10 degrees is projected by the end of the 21st century. There are abundant signs, however, that the warming has already been sufficient to induce significant changes in the ecosystems and wildlife of the United States.



A new report by the Pew Center on Global Climate Change, *Observed Impacts of Global Climate Change in the U.S.*, by Camille Parmesan of The University of Texas at Austin and Hector Galbraith of Galbraith Environmental Sciences and the University of Colorado-Boulder, reviews the broad range of ecological changes that have occurred in response to human induced changes in the global and U.S. climate. “U.S. ecosystems and wildlife are already responding to the warming climate,” said Eileen Claussen, President of the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. “And this is only the beginning. With warming for the next century projected to be

two to ten times greater than the last, we’re heading toward a fundamental and potentially irreversible disruption of the U.S. landscape and wildlife.”

Numerous changes have already been observed and these changes have a range of implications for the United States, its ecosystems, and biodiversity. The responses of plants and animals to a changing climate are indicative of their natural ability to adapt, yet future global warming is likely to exceed the ability of many species to migrate or adjust. Furthermore, one species’ success in coping with climate change may be another species’ failure. The red fox, for example, is expanding into the range of the arctic fox, forcing the arctic fox into an ever-contracting area.

Other observed changes include a long-term trend toward an earlier spring, with earlier flowering and reproduction of plant and bird species. Butterflies on the U.S. west coast are moving north and to higher altitudes in search of tolerable climate conditions, with some populations disappearing altogether from the southern end of their ranges. And perhaps most alarming -- the frozen Arctic tundra is thawing, releasing carbon dioxide to the atmosphere in a feedback loop that could ultimately accelerate global warming. In addition, wildlife attempting to cope with current global warming must also contend with myriad other challenges such as habitat fragmentation, invasive species, water diversion, environmental contamination, and over-exploitation, all of which collectively undermine their ability to adapt.

“What’s happening to our environment is not natural – it’s a problem of our own making. The longer we delay in reducing greenhouse gas emissions the greater the problem will become,” said the Pew Center’s Claussen. The report also highlights actions that can be taken to better manage U.S. natural resources to minimize the effects of climate change.

The full text of these and other Pew Center reports is available at <http://www.pewclimate.org>.

The Pew Center was established in May 1998 by The Pew Charitable Trusts, one of the United States’ largest philanthropies and an influential voice in efforts to improve the quality of the environment. The Pew Center is an independent, nonprofit, and non-partisan organization dedicated to providing credible information, straight answers, and innovative solutions in the effort to address global climate change. The Pew Center is led by Eileen Claussen, the former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

Coming Events

ANNUAL PARTNER MEETINGS FOR 2005

A list of important meetings to note on you calendars!

- **Mule Deer Foundation** - January 14-16, 2005, Reno, NV
- **National Wild Turkey Federation** - February 17-20, 2005 (Making Tracks Steering Committee Meets on February 16), Nashville, TN
- **Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation** - February 24-27, 2005 (professional day is on February 23), Portland, OR
- **Foundation for North American Wild Sheep** - March 2-5, 2005 San Antonio, TX
- **North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference** - March 16-19, 2005 Arlington, VA
- **Quail Unlimited Dove Sportsman Society** - July 28-31, 2005 Atlanta, GA
- **International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies** - September 11-17, 2005 Nashville, TN

The NWTF, RMEF, and QU meetings will feature joint partner/FS awards programs. The RMEF and NWTF will also feature Forest Service Centennial celebrations.

Debbie Pressman, National Wildlife Program Leader

Watershed, Fish and Wildlife Staff, USDA Forest Service, Stop Code - 1121
1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-1121
Phone: 202-205-1281 or Fax 202-205-1599 dpressman@fs.fed.us

THE 29TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

February 17 – 20, 2005, Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center, Nashville, TN



The Making Tracks Steering Committee will be planning to meet prior to the convention on Wednesday, February 16, 2005, in the afternoon. We expect that the rooms at the Opryland Hotel to be sold out quickly so if you plan to attend and would like to stay at the host hotel, make your room reservation as soon as you can. The telephone number for reservations is 615-889-1000. Please let them know that you are attending the National Wild Turkey Federation convention to receive the discounted convention rate of \$145.00 per night for either a king size or two double beds. There is no extra charge for additional occupants per room. The hotel has a cancellation policy of three days prior to scheduled arrival.

We had a great convention recently in Columbus, Ohio, with excellent Forest Service participation and are looking forward to an even better one in Nashville!

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.

70TH NORTH AMERICAN WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES CONFERENCE, MARCH 2005, ARLINGTON, VA

Revision of Special Session 5

At the 70th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference coming in March 2005, in Arlington, Virginia, Special Session 5 has a new title, "Advancing the Cause of Integrated Bird Conservation." The session still will be held on Friday, March 18, 2005, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. David Pashley (dpashley@abcbirds.org) is the chair, and Ashlie Houston, (ahouston@ducks.org), is the cochair. They provided the following refined session abstract:

There has been a tremendous amount of activity in recent years in the integrated bird conservation arena. However, there are imposing challenges to continuing success and there is a lack of consensus in the bird conservation community as to how to overcome those challenges. Special Session 5 is designed first to provide updates on accomplishments in bird conservation, such as the strength of joint ventures and new state wildlife agency programs, and to identify opportunities to advance those efforts further. Second, advice will be provided on navigating the federal budget process as of March 2005, in order to increase resources for bird conservation. And third, new areas of obvious needs will be explored, including opportunities for bird conservation within agricultural conservation programs, for monitoring and for work throughout the western hemisphere. This Special Session will conclude with an urgent call for continued cooperation among conservation partners to advance the cause for bird conservation.

AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY WORKSHOP ON BIRD HABITAT ISSUES IN THE SOUTHEAST

Casey Lott and David Pashley, American Bird Conservancy, and Rich Fischer, US Army Corps of Engineers, <http://el.erdc.usace.army.mil/05feb-birdwksp.pdf>

The American Bird Conservancy and the Army Corps of Engineers invite you to attend a workshop on dredging, beach nourishment, and bird habitat issues along the Atlantic Coast. This workshop will include a range wide summary of non-breeding piping plover conservation and survey efforts.

Where: Jekyll Island, Georgia, at the Jekyll Island Holiday Inn Beach Resort

When: February 1-4, 2005 (Tuesday through Friday)

Photo by Angus Wilson



We are addressing these two topics simultaneously since there are many overlapping issues and many of the same people are involved with both issues. This will be the first of four regional workshops dealing with coastal Corps activities and bird conservation. This first workshop covers the South Atlantic Coast, essentially from the Virginia-North Carolina border to south Florida. Subsequent workshops, to be held over the next two years, will cover the North Atlantic Coast (late summer/fall 2005), the Gulf Coast (winter 2006), and the Pacific Coast (late summer/fall 2006). An additional workshop may be planned to address Inland Waterways. We will focus on three main coastal bird groups at this workshop: waterbirds, shorebirds, and Piping Plovers (which are treated separately due to their conservation and regulatory concern relative to coastal engineering projects). Workshop participants will include a diverse crowd of ornithologists, engineers, project planners, coastal ecologists, geomorphologists, regulators, and others. This meeting will gather together representatives of many different federal, state, and local agencies and non-government organizations.

Objectives of the workshops are to expand capabilities of the Corps to contribute to various bird conservation efforts, to make the bird conservation community aware of opportunities that exist through working with the Corps, and to address and hopefully reduce some areas of conflict. The general schedule of the meeting will be as follows:

Day 1: Non-breeding Piping Plover biology and conservation

Day 2: Beach nourishment and birds

Day 3: Coastal dredging projects and birds and two small concurrent sessions on topics related to Piping Plovers.

Day 4: Break-out discussions on topics related to issues from days 1-3.

We have reserved 120 rooms at a reduced rate of \$59/night at the Jekyll Island Holiday Inn for the nights of Monday, January 31 through Thursday, February 3. These rates will be available until December 24, 2004. To reserve a room, please call 888-868-5397, and Alicia Andrews at the Holiday Inn with any special requests at 912-635-3311, ext. 530. A registration fee of \$25/day will be necessary (paid on your first day of attendance at the meeting) to cover the costs of food for breaks and buffet-style lunches to be provided at the Holiday Inn. Please send an email to Casey Lott of American Bird Conservancy at clott@abcbirds.org to pre-register for this meeting (no cost) so that we can keep track of how many people will be coming and so that we will know how much food to order. If you have any other questions, please feel free to get in touch with Casey by phone at 631-470-5776 or email. We're looking forward to a very productive meeting!

SOUTHEAST PARTNERS IN FLIGHT MEETING, FEBRUARY 16-18, 2005

Please mark your calendars now for the annual Southeast Partners in Flight meeting, which is February 16-18, 2005 in McAllen, Texas. This meeting is not to be missed as it is a terrific opportunity to meet and discuss bird conservation with our colleagues from Mexico. We will be taking full advantage of the location, and attendees will be able to attend the full meeting and enjoy morning and post-meeting field trips.

For current details, please see meeting details at: www.agfc.com/sepif. The webpage will be updated as planning progresses, so check back regularly for details on registration, agenda, and field trips. Please pass along this information to colleagues that may have interest in attending this meeting.

Many thanks, Catherine Rideout

Catherine Rideout, Songbird Program Coordinator, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205, Work: 501-978-7329, Cell: 501-951-2880.

Training, Tools and Information

LEAPING INTO THE FUTURE: PDAS AS FROGLOGGERS



A Green Treefrog (*Hyla cinerea*) auditions for the froglogger microphone.

If a frog calls and there's no one to hear it, does it still make a sound? The answer is yes!

The development of automated recording systems, or "frogloggers," by Charles Peterson and Michael Dorcas in the early 1990s greatly enhanced the ability of researchers to monitor populations of calling anuran (frog and toad) amphibians. Automated recording permits continuous, 24-hour sampling and can be used to monitor several sites simultaneously. Thus, frogloggers are particularly useful for monitoring rare species that may be missed during field visits, and enable extended monitoring of calling anuran communities in remote habitats that are difficult to access.

In 2001, the ARMI team at the USGS National Wetlands Research Center (NWRC) in Lafayette, Louisiana, began improving the analog Peterson-Dorcas frogloggers. NWRC used a series of electronic timers in the circuitry board to trigger hourly recordings and simultaneously register a voice time stamp. They added a

24-hour timer that allowed selection of recording times, and an auto-reversing variable-speed tape recorder to enable longer periods of recording time.

While the analog models opened many doors to monitoring amphibians, even the NWRC-improved devices still had several weaknesses. They were difficult to construct and maintain, cumbersome to carry in the field, and used analog tapes that can stretch, bleed, and break, and are difficult to store. To overcome these challenges, in the spring and summer of 2003 NWRC developed and tested a digital froglogger model. It consisted of a Palm-OS-based handheld computer (PDA) that was operated by proprietary software and included an internal microphone.

The benefits of this digital froglogger are that the PDA requires no construction and is lightweight, and the calls are digitally recorded as .wav files which can be directly uploaded to a computer for review and archiving. When tested in the field, the PDA frogloggers detected calls identifiably at distances at least 10m further than the analog frogloggers. NWRC continues to explore improvements to the digital froglogger. They have been developing and testing customized software on PDAs with external microphone capabilities. They also have been pursuing a more modestly priced option of the Peterson-Dorcas froglogger as a means to increase the affordability of frogloggers for everyone who wishes to monitor calling anurans.

U.S. Department of the Interior, US Geological Survey, EROS Data Center
URL: <http://edc2.usgs.gov/armi/> Maintainer: EDC Web Master

GLOBAL AMPHIBIAN ASSESSMENT (GAA): MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOADING



The following are references for obtaining information about the Global Amphibian Assessment, the status of amphibians worldwide, as a result of a three-year landmark study.

- See the **Global Amphibian Assessment**, news release, background and more: <http://www.natureserve.org/aboutUs/gaa.jsp>
- The **Global Amphibian Database** has information on 5,743 amphibian taxa: <http://www.globalamphibians.org/>
- **Disappearing Jewels:** http://www.natureserve.org/publications/disappearing_jewels.pdf

These would be good resources to use in our land and resource management for this major wildlife group, both on and adjacent to National Forest System lands. Of 261 amphibian taxa in North America, many depend on NFS habitats, including 9 that are listed under the ESA and occur on NFS lands; and 78 with designated sensitive species status on NFS lands - Marc

Marc Bosch
National Threatened, Endangered & Sensitive Species Program Leader
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1400 Independence Ave., SW

Washington, DC
Phone: 202-205-1220, Fax: 202-205-1599

For more information go to: www.iucn.org - International World Conservation Union (IUCN); www.conservation.org - Conservation International (CI); and www.natureserve.org – NatureServe..

Additional Amphibian/Reptile Websites

<http://research.amnh.org/herpetology/amphibia/index.php> - **Amphibian Species of the World**: An Online Reference: Provides systematic information on all amphibian species.

<http://www.amphibiaweb.org/> - **AmphibiaWeb**: Provides information for all amphibians on conservation, population declines, as well as images and other information about many amphibian species.

<http://www.open.ac.uk/daptf/index.htm>- **IUCN/SSC Declining Amphibian Population Task Force** - The Mission of the DAPTF is to determine the nature, extent and causes of declines of amphibians throughout the world, and to promote means by which declines can be halted or reversed.

<http://www.ssarherps.org/default.htm> - **Society for the Study of Amphibians and Reptiles**: An organization established to advance research, conservation, and education about amphibians and reptiles. Publications include the Journal of Herpetology and Herpetological Review.

<http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/cbd/HL/HL.html> - **The Herpetologists' League**: An international organization devoted to studying the biology of amphibians and reptiles. Publications include the journal Herpetological and Herpetological Monographs.

<http://www.frogs.org/>- **Amphibian Conservation Alliance**: nonprofit organization working to protect amphibian wildlife.

WHAT TO DO ABOUT ROAD PIZZAS: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO WILDLIFE AND HIGHWAY INTERACTIONS

**Sandra L. Jacobson, Technology and Management Boundary Spanner
USDA Forest Service**



At ESRU in March, a 3-day course will introduce concepts useful for engineers and biologists faced with highway issues. Highways through public lands are a major cause of habitat fragmentation as well as the more obvious roadkill. A new interdisciplinary field of combined engineering skills and ecological principles has resulted in solutions to these issues that were not available even a decade ago. The course, Innovative Approaches to Wildlife/Highway Interactions, walks engineers, biologists and planners through the issues and solutions regarding highway issues, from an interdisciplinary approach using a wildlife/engineering teaching team.

As an added bonus, a field trip on the third day will visit several of Florida's success stories in reducing highway impacts to wildlife. Paynes Prairie, the Wekiva River black bear underpasses, and others will inspire you. You will learn how to use bridge replacements as a means of increasing wildlife habitat connectivity, and how to recognize if you have a mortality issue that needs to be addressed. You'll also learn how you can fund mitigation projects and how to work with DOT's to take advantage of opportunities.

If you're interested, sign up at the ESRU website: <http://esru.r9.fs.fed.us/>, by December 7, 2004

Course Information

Name: Innovative Approaches to Wildlife and Highway Interactions,

Course Number: TD-NR-264

When: March 7-9, 2005 (includes one day field trip)

Cost: \$24.00

Target Audience: Wildlife Biologists and Engineers (GS9-12), who need information on wildlife and highway interactions.

Course Description: Florida is a leader in the field of innovative approaches to wildlife/highway interactions, and there are a number of exceptional projects within a day of Jacksonville. The field trip will illustrate many of the issues as well as workable solutions that can be applied to challenges on your Forest.

This course will provide participants with skills and resources to deal with highway project planning as well as enabling them to recognize opportunities when projects are already affecting wildlife. Highways as well as low volume roads are one of the main sources of impacts affecting wildlife on our public lands, but most biologists are not well informed as to how to recognize or mitigate those impacts, nor to find resources to enable them to do so. This course will provide participants with information on the state-of-the-art for migration as well as introduce them to networking opportunities within and outside our agency.

The course provides information and tools to mitigate impacts associated with existing highways, and tools to plan mid-to-high volume highway projects with minimum adverse impacts to terrestrial wildlife. Training sessions will be planned to include a mix of disciplines, and are targeted for USDA Forest Service specialists, but most aspects of the training would be applicable to other agency personnel such as CTIP agencies: BIA, FHWA, FWS, and NPS.

Topics covered include:

- Overview of wildlife issues relative to highways or highway project planning.
- Overview of differences in impacts and solutions between low volume and high volume roads.
- Overview of highway project planning process (legal and procedural).
- Structural and non-structural solutions to wildlife mortality and habitat connectivity.
- Introduction to use of available resources for mitigating impacts including the
- "Innovative Approaches to Transportation Guidebook" and the Wildlife Crossings Tool kit developed by San Dimas Technology and Development Center (www.wildlifecrossings.info).
- Using the interdisciplinary process to find innovative solutions to different constraints and issues faced by the engineering and biological professions.

As a result of attending this class students will be able to:

- Discuss how highways interact with terrestrial wildlife.
- Utilize tools to identify and innovatively reduce wildlife impacts from highways.
- Discuss the highway project planning process, including how large scale connectivity analyses can assist in proactive planning.
- Develop interdisciplinary contacts and networking opportunities.

Contact the course coordinator, Sandra Jacobson, Pacific Southwest Research Station, 707-825-2985, if additional information is needed.

Sandra Jacobson, Research, Technology and Management Boundary Spanner, USDA Forest Service Redwood Sciences Lab, Pacific Southwest Research Station, 1700 Bayview Drive, Arcata, CA 95521
Phone: 707-825-2985, Fax: 707-825-2901, Email: sjacobson@fs.fed.us

ANNOUNCING SORA - THE SEARCHABLE ORNITHOLOGICAL RESEARCH ARCHIVE

Submitted by Brad Andres, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Blair Wolf, SORA Coordinator

http://www.audubon.org/news/press_releases/index.html



The SORA project (<http://elibrary.unm.edu/sora>) is an open access electronic journal archive and is the product of collaboration between the American Ornithologists Union, the Cooper Ornithological Society, the Association of Field Ornithologists, the Wilson Ornithological Society and the University of New Mexico libraries and IT department. This archive provides access to an extensive Ornithological literature of international scope, and detailed material documenting the history of Ornithology in North America over the last 120 years. The content of this site includes the following titles: The Auk (1884-1999), The Condor (1899-2000), The Journal of Field Ornithology (1930-1999), The Wilson Bulletin (1889-1999), Pacific Coast Avifauna (1900-1974) and Studies in Avian Biology (1978-1999). The North American Bird Bander will also be available in the near future.

The content is available in searchable and browse able formats and documents can be downloaded as pdf or djvu files. Djvu files rely on an "acrobat" type browser plug-in (www.lizardtech.com) for viewing and are approximately ¼ the size of pdf files for faster downloads. Web browsers must have the ability to read java script (make sure it is turned on). The site is still under development and additional features and journals (JFO browse feature and NABB for example) will be added as the materials become available and the programming is completed. This site is still undergoing some modification and problems (broken/bad links, etc.) can be reported to the SORA Coordinator, Blair Wolf, through the site link. He will not be providing browser support, but is interested in functional issues/ideas relating to the site. We will be providing more detailed information on site operability on the webpage in the coming weeks.

The SORA project is an outgrowth of the Cooper Ornithological Society's efforts to produce an electronic archive of The Condor. The interest and participation of the other North American Ornithological societies has allowed for the creation of SORA. The project was financed solely by the individual societies, and the University of New Mexico Centennial Science Library and IT department invested the time and resources to develop the databases and website. Princeton Imaging scanned the journals, produced the supporting SGML and has provided extensive support towards getting the content online. Dana Gardner kindly painted the attractive banner and Sora for the web page. Enjoy!!!

Best regards, Blair Wolf, SORA Coordinator,

WIND ENERGY PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

Excerpt from **Partners in Flight Newsletter, November 2004**

Proceedings from the co-sponsored American Bird Conservancy (ABC), and American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) and Wind Energy and Birds/Bats Workshops are complete. The proceedings and presentations are posted to the National Wind Coordinating Committee website, www.nationalwind.org, and the ABC website, <http://www.abcbirds.org/policy/windenergy.htm>. The workshop was convened to examine current research on the impacts of wind energy development on avian and bat species, and to discuss the most effective ways to mitigate such impacts. Also, the proceedings will be sent to all workshop attendees on CD.—Rachel Permut (rpermut@resolv.org)

Published Proceedings of the Wind Energy and Bird Workshop 2004 are also available for downloading in PDF from : http://www.abcbirds.org/policy/webb_proceedings.pdf

SCIENCE LOCATOR DATABASE

By Sean Finn, USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center

We are pleased to announce the Science Locator Database, a new product from SAGEMAP and the Great Basin Information Project (GBIP): http://nighthawk.wr.usgs.gov/scilocator_ims/

The Science Locator is designed to be an efficient communication and collaboration tool for natural resource scientists and managers in the Western U.S. If you're not yet familiar with the Science Locator, it is an internet mapping tool themed on natural resource research and management projects in the intermountain west. Our philosophy is that cooperation and collaboration among professionals will be streamlined if there is one central source for information on all proposed and ongoing projects. The science locator gives you one-click access to abstracts, websites, and contact information for work being conducted throughout the west. The Science Locator can also be accessed from the home pages of SAGEMAP (<http://sagemap.wr.usgs.gov>) and the GBIP (<http://greatbasin.nbio.gov>). Instructions for use are on the bottom left of the Locator screen.



Currently we have 70 projects on the Science Locator but we expect this number to increase substantially with time. We'd like to include your project on the Locator too. To start we'll need some basic information including (indicates required info):

- Name, Position Title, Affiliation, Address, Telephone Number, E-mail
- An abstract or summary of the project
- An approximate central location of the project (i.e. lat/long, a town, or some other) landmark
- A GIS polygon coverage or shapefile of your study area
- A URL address for the project
- An image depicting your study animal, plant, landscape, study area, results, etc.

You can e-mail this information to Sean Finn (sfinn@usgs.gov) and I'll add your project(s) to the Science Locator ASAP. Thanks and be sure to give us your feedback -- the website will surely improve with your helpful comments. Also, tell all your colleagues about the Science Locator!

Sincerely,
Sean P. Finn, Wildlife Biologist
Snake River Field Station, Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center
U.S. Geological Survey / BRD; <http://sagemap.wr.usgs.gov>; <http://greatbasin.nbii.gov>
Phone: 208-426-2697; Fax: 208-426-5210

ASSESSMENT OF GRASSLAND ECOSYSTEM CONDITIONS IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES

Finch, Deborah M., Editor. 2004. **Assessment of grassland ecosystem conditions in the Southwestern United States. General Technical Report RMRS-GTR-135-vol. 1. Fort Collins, CO: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, 167 pp.**

This report is volume 1 of a two-volume ecological assessment of grassland ecosystems in the Southwestern United States. Broadscale assessments are syntheses of current scientific knowledge, including a description of uncertainties and assumptions, to provide a characterization and comprehensive description of ecological, social, and economic components within an assessment area. Volume 1 of this assessment focuses on the ecology, types, conditions, and management practices of Southwestern grass-



lands. The second volume, due to be published in 2005, describes wildlife and fish species, their habitat requirements, and species-specific management concerns, in Southwestern grasslands. This assessment is regional in scale and pertains primarily to lands administered by the Southwestern Region of the USDA Forest Service (Arizona, New Mexico, western Texas, and western Oklahoma). A primary purpose of volume 1 is to provide information to employees of the National Forest System for managing grassland ecosystems and landscapes, both at the Forest Plan level for Plan amendments and revisions, and at the project level to place site-specific activities within the

larger framework. This volume should also be useful to State, municipal, and other Federal agencies, and to private landowners who manage grasslands in the Southwestern United States.

Key words: grasslands, ecological assessment, Southwestern United States, ecosystem conditions, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma

EFFECTS OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON GRASSLAND BIRDS: GREATER SAGE-GROUSE

Rowland, M. M. 2004. **Effects of management practices on grassland birds: Greater Sage-Grouse. Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, Jamestown, North Dakota, 45 pages**

This report is one in a series of literature syntheses on North American grassland birds. The need for developing these reports was identified by the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV), a part of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The PPJV adopted a goal to stabilize or increase populations of declining grassland- and wetland-associated wildlife species in the Prairie Pothole Region. To further that objective, it is essential to understand the habitat needs of birds other than waterfowl, and how management practices affect their habitats. The focus of these reports is on management of breeding habitat, particularly in the northern Great Plains.

Other species for which syntheses are available: Burrowing Owl , Horned Lark , Sedge Wren , Loggerhead Shrike , Sprague's Pipit ,



Grasshopper Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Le Conte's Sparrow, Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, McCown's Longspur and Dickcissel.

This publication is available at: <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/literatr/grasbird/grasbird.htm>

Major Funding: Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and U.S. Forest Service.

GRASSLAND BIRD USE OF CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM FIELDS IN THE GREAT PLAINS

Visit <http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/birds/glbuse/litcited.htm>, for a list of thirty plus publications about grassland birds.

SAGE-GROUSE AND ECOLOGY

Adams, B.W., J. Carlson, D. Milner, T. Hood, B. Cairns, and P. Herzog. 2004. **Beneficial grazing management practices for Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) and ecology of silver sagebrush (*Artemisia cana*) in southeastern Alberta.** Technical Report, Public Lands and Forests Division, Alberta Sustainable Resource Development. Publication Number T /049. 60 pp.

This document is available on website: <http://www3.gov.ab.ca/srd/land/publiclands/range.html>

TREE AND SHRUB INVASIONS: IMPLICATIONS FOR BREEDING GRASSLAND BIRDS

Grants, T.A., E. Madden, and G.B. Berkey. 2004. Tree and shrub invasion in northern mixed-grass prairie: implications for breeding grassland birds. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 32(3):807-818.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE GREAT PLAINS

By David J. Wishart, editor, Lincoln Nebraska Press, 2004.

Funded by the National Endowment Foundation, this 919-page book is as vast as the region it covers.

With 1,316 entries contributed by more than 1000 scholars, this ground breaking reference book, captures all that is vital and interesting about the Great Plains – **Review from Montana Outdoors, Nov-Dev 2004.**

WILDLIFE OF NEW ENGLAND FORESTS

Dick DeGraaf and others at our Forest Service NE Research Station have three publications on New England Wildlife that tie to one-another. The first book on Wildlife of New England Forests, newly (and extensively) revised. The second is an extensive revision of a 1989 GTR targeted toward managers. The third is a new publication targeted toward private landowners. These latter two publications will be available in the spring of 2005. I think this series can serve as a model for methods of transferring R&D information to those interested in implementation. Note that maintaining wildlife populations is an important objective for many or most of the small private landowners in the northeastern states.

"Landowner's guide to forest wildlife habitat: management for the New England region".

Beatrice Van Horne, Wildlife Research Program Leader

USDA-FS-R&D/Wildlife, Fish, Watershed and Air

Office Location and Express Deliveries: Rosslyn Plaza C, 4th Floor
1601 N. Kent St., Arlington, VA 22209

ATLAS OF CLIMATE CHANGE: EFFECTS IN 150 BIRD SPECIES OF THE EASTERN US

Matthews, Stephan, N., R. J. O'Conner, L. R. Iverson, and A.M. Prasad. 2004. Atlas of climate change effects in 150 bird species of the eastern United States. General Technical Report, NE-318. Newton Square, PA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northeastern Research Station. 340 p.

The atlas documents the current and potential future distribution of 150 common bird species in the eastern United States in relation to climate and vegetation distributions. Distribution data for individual species were derived from Breeding Bird Survey Data (BBS) from 1981 to 1990; habitat variables from the FS Forest Inventory and Analysis data (FIA). Information for each species is accompanied by maps of current and predicted distributions from different climatic scenarios, and text that summarizes the results. Depending on the global climate model used, as many as 78 bird species are projected to decrease by 25 percent, while as many as 33 species are projected to increase in abundance by at least 25 percent. The development of this atlas was supported by the Forest Service and the University of Maine.

And the Grinch, with his Grinch-feet ice cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling, how could it be so? It came without ribbons. It came without tags. It came without packages, boxes, or bags. And he puzzled and puzzled 'till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before. What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store? What if Christmas, perhaps, means little bit more. ~Dr. Seuss



Vacancies

Regional Wildlife Program Manager, GS-13, Intermountain Region, USDA Forest Service, Regional Office, Ogden, Utah. The OPM Vacancy Announcement Number is ADS05-R4BPR-90G Rev1, and the closing date for applications is 12/03/04.

For specific technical information about this position, you may contact:
Bill LeVere, Phone: 801-625-5669, or email: wlevere@fs.fed.us

For information about the application procedure you may contact: Kathryn Dyer, Phone: 801-625-5297, or email: kdyer@fs.fed.us

<http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/getjob.asp?JobID=25053452&AVSDM=2004%2D11%2D03+18%3A14%3A34&Logo=0&col=dltc&cy=&brd=3876&lid=&fn=&q=>

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/>
2004 News Releases: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/2004/releases.shtml>
FS Today Newsletter: http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/pao/fs_today/
National Fire Plan: <http://www.fireplan.gov>
Roadless Area Conservation: <http://roadless.fs.fed.us/>
Large-Scale Watershed Restoration Projects: <http://www.fs.fed.us/largewatershedprojects/>
Land and Resource Management Plans: <http://www.fs.fed.us/forum/nepa/nfmalrmp.html>
Watershed and Air Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/clean/>
Lands and Realty Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/staff/>
Road Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/roads/>
Recreation, Wilderness and Heritage Resources: <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/>
Forest Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/land/fm/>
International Programs: <http://www.fs.fed.us/global/>
Research: <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/scientific.html>
Healthy Forests Initiative: <http://www.fs.fed.us/projects/HFI.shtml>
Partners in Planning: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/planning/guide/index.html>
Landowner Assistance Programs
<http://www.fs.fed.us/cooperativeforestry/programs/loa/index.shtml>
Forest Service's Annual Fall Foliage Hotline: <http://www.fs.fed.us/news/fall-colors.shtml>, or call:



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

On The Wild Side is a monthly update provided by the National Forest System Wildlife Program of the USDA Forest Service. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Debbie Pressman at dpressman@fs.fed.us or Jina Mariani at jmariani@fs.fed.us no later than the 25th of each month. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity and brevity.

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

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