

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
California and Nevada Operations
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2606
Sacramento CA 95825

Phone: 916/414-6464
Fax: 916/414-6486

Contact: Alexandra Pitts 916/414-6619

For Immediate Release
May 9, 2006

News Release



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's California and Nevada Operations Website Up and Running

The California and Nevada Operations office has launched a new website that will highlight the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's activities in the two states and the Klamath Basin and provide a resource for regional information on wildlife refuges, fisheries, and endangered species.

The news media, political offices, partners and public in California and Nevada and the Klamath areas are encouraged to periodically check www.fws.gov/cno to quickly access the latest activities and actions in the region. California and Nevada Operations related news releases will now be found at the site's "newsroom" <http://www.fws.gov/cno/news>. All visitors to the website may also elect to automatically receive CNO news releases through the list server at <http://www.fws.gov/cno/News/listserve.htm>.

The Service established the California and Nevada Operations Office (CNO) in 1998 in recognition of the unique natural resource challenges facing California, Nevada and the Klamath Basin. Many of these challenges evolve from the inherently rich biodiversity of this area, coupled with many of the fastest growing communities in the Nation. Through the CNO, decision-making is placed at the local level, where managers are in a better position to develop partnerships with external groups and organizations.

####

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.