

# National Wildlife Refuges Centennial 1903-2003: Protecting America's Fish and Wildlife

President Theodore Roosevelt established the first wildlife refuge in 1903 at Pelican Island, Florida. Since 1903, the system has grown from one five-acre refuge to nearly 94 million acres and 538 refuges. March 14, 2003 will mark the 100th Anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance



Left: USFWS, right: Fred Youngblood

## Did you know?

- There are 28 national wildlife refuges and one national fish hatchery in Florida.
- These refuges protect more than 977,000 acres in Florida primarily for fish and wildlife.
- Almost three million people visit Florida's national wildlife refuges each year.
- National wildlife refuges provide some of Florida's best hunting and fishing opportunities.
- 1764 citizens volunteered at national wildlife refuges in Florida last year.
- Florida's refuges are important for the economy—over \$74 million in recreational spending annually.

Treasure your National Wildlife Refuges in Florida!  
Web site: [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov) and <http://southeast.fws.gov>

