



We Are Region 8

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Budding biologist Sophia Jorgenson

Changing Times: Communication Is Critical To Our Future Success

My pending retirement in August illustrates the other “climate of change” in the California and Nevada Region. Change has been a constant here since the earliest days of CNO, and will continue for some time.

When I arrived here in 2001, the CNO staff totaled 20. Today, as Region 8, the regional office totals more than 80. The change reflects the growing demands on our organization since 2001 and we’ve added staff where necessary. While the phrase “lean and mean” has defined our organization, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to bring resources and focus to the field.

Regardless of your job, or where you are located in this region, you have an important role in an organization that is performing great things for the wildlife and people of California, Nevada and the Klamath Basin.

But we cannot do this work alone. We need the public’s support. It is imperative that the public knows about the good works we do. Effectively communicating, among ourselves and with the public becomes even more vital to our success. Communicating how your station is meeting current and emerging resources challenges and your successes must be a priority. The majority of the success stories in this newsletter come from you, in the field,

through your entries in the Fish and Wildlife Journal. These stories support the regional directorate in our efforts to tell the public, partners and Members of Congress how our activities are making a positive difference for wildlife and for people.

There are great things happening every day on our refuges, at our hatcheries and within our partnerships. We’re engaging others in an effort to recover endangered species.

I look forward to reading about our accomplishments in future issues of this newsletter.

- Steve

Best Days As A Federal Employee



Ask him about his best days as a federal employee, and Steve Thompson can recount several special days from his 32 years in the Fish and Wildlife Service. His catalogue of memories spans a career that begins as a GS-5 at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in Oregon, to his current job as Regional Director of the Service’s California and Nevada Region. Within each recollection, however, is evidence that illustrates the key to his success has been a deep affection for wildlife and people.

Thompson’s passion for wildlife was shaped soon after graduating from Humboldt State University in 1976. He can recall long days spent outside as a wildlife biologist, trudging through swamps, surveying nesting bald and golden eagles, countless ducks and sandhill cranes. He’s witnessed a handful of rare migration spectacles involving half a million birds flying overhead, and experience he describes as, “almost spiritual.”

“The memories of my best days and greatest accomplishments as a federal

Regional Director Steve Thompson (Alexandra Pitts, USFWS)

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employee have never really been about me at all,” Thompson, 54, explains. “They’ve resulted from being in the right place, at the right time with the right people. Being a part of an organization that shares a collective passion for caring for this nation’s fish and wildlife resources is what I’m most proud of.”

In a part of the country as rich in wildlife treasures as it can be in wildlife controversy, Thompson has been a catalyst for bringing together people

with diverse, and opposing perspectives on wildlife conservation. He speaks with pride about helping form the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, a group of 58 signatories representing ranching, agriculture and conservation groups who have found common ground on pressing wildlife habitat issues. He’s also been a key facilitator in bringing parties together to find sustainable solutions to a myriad of conservation issues in the Klamath River Basin.

“Along the way, I’ve learned that doing the right things for wildlife often means

doing the right things for people,” Thompson said. “It’s the peoples’ resource and conserving it for future generations is a great responsibility and a great honor for all of us in the Fish and Wildlife Service.”

Editors note: This essay resulted from a request by the Federal Times, who has printed similar profiles of this year’s SES awards winners. The May 5 issue highlight’s Steve Thompson. You can find Federal Times online at www.federaltimes.com.

Nevada FWO Transfers Lead For Truckee River Water Management To Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

By Jeannie Stafford, Nevada FWO

The team lead for a federal partnership that manages waters in Stampede Reservoir for two federally listed fish species was transferred on April 25 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe in Nevada.

The Tribe will lead a partnership of Department of Interior agencies that manage waters designated to protect and conserve the endangered cui-ui and threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout by selecting the annual flow regime, any subsequent flow modifications, and scheduling of the Stampede Reservoir releases, a responsibility formerly held by the Service.

“Transferring the lead for water management to the Tribe is a historic

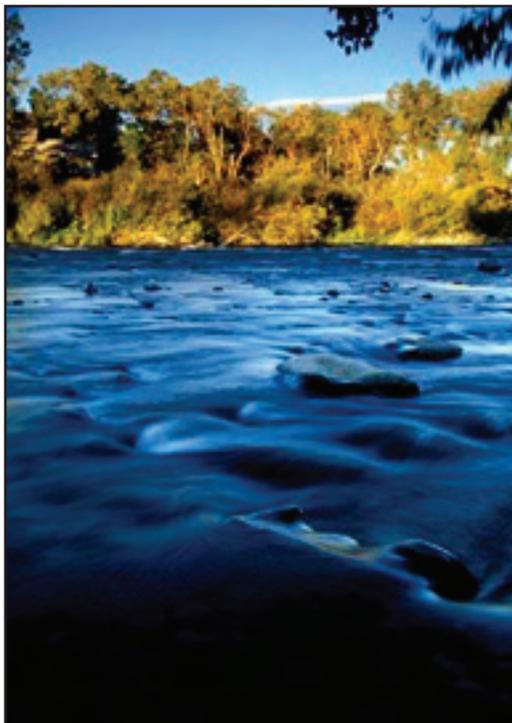
event for us,” said Bob Williams, Supervisor of the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office. “The Tribe will lead this important partnership that manages designated waters of the Truckee River in both California and Nevada.”

In a Memorandum of Agreement signed in 1999, the Service, Tribe, Bureau of Reclamation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs agreed to transfer the lead to the Tribe after the Tribe completed a Conservation and Management Plan to

protect and conserve Pyramid Lake fishes. The Tribe will work with an Interdisciplinary Team to develop an annual Water Management Plan based on snowpack conditions, runoff projections, reservoir levels, and potential for water exchanges.

They will implement the Water Management Plan through Reclamation and work directly with the Federal Water Master to accomplish objectives of the Plan for the long-term viability of the cui-ui and Lahontan cutthroat trout as well as the Truckee River ecosystem.

“The Service will continue working in partnership with the Tribe and our interagency partners to manage Truckee River flows for the benefit of native species and the ecosystems they depend upon,” Williams added.



*Mervin Wright, Jr.,
Chairman of the
Pyramid Lake
Paiute Tribe*

(Jeannie Stafford, USFWS)

Clyde Morris Named 2008 Refuge Employee Of The Year

*By Karla Tanner, Don Edwards
San Francisco Bay NWR*

Clyde Morris, former Manager of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge was named 2008 Employee of the Year by the National Wildlife Refuge Association and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The award was announced during a ceremony at the 73rd North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, March 25 through 29, in Phoenix.

Clyde's innovation, leadership and vision, combined with a strong natural resource conservation ethic, sound biological knowledge, and skill in public administration, provided the exact mix of knowledge and ability needed to concurrently oversee multiple large-scale habitat restoration projects on the Refuge. Morris skillfully balanced the needs



Clyde Morris (USFWS photo)

of the Refuge (with its threatened and endangered species and large numbers of migratory birds) with the needs of the surrounding communities and their seven million residents.

Each year the National Wildlife Refuge Association and National Fish Wildlife Foundation recognize outstanding effort by refuge volunteers and exceptional performance

by refuge staff. The annual award is presented to an individual whose career has shown a commitment to the conservation of our natural resources and superior effectiveness in advancing the cause of wildlife conservation.

Morris retired earlier this year, after 10 years with the Service as Manager of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR.

Four Service Offices Partner for Earth Day Planting on Colusa NWR

*By Kevin Foerster,
Sacramento NWR*

Employees from four Service offices came together on Earth Day to work on a native grassland restoration project at the Colusa National Wildlife Refuge. Representatives from the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, Red Bluff Fish and Wildlife Office, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, and the Region 8 Regional Office in Sacramento got "down and dirty" by hand planting more than 6,000 native grass and sedge plugs at the new

visitor contact station. Four student volunteers from California State University, Chico also participated.

The native grassland planting was the final touch on a partially funded highway administration project that includes a new wildlife observation deck, trail improvements, parking lot, bridge widening, public bathrooms, and interpretive kiosk.

A grand opening for the new visitor station took place May 10.



(USFWS photo)

Yreka Phlox Dresses Up China Hill

By Matt Baun, Yreka FWO

The landscape on China Hill is dry, and rocky – reminiscent of one of those artists' renditions of the surface of a far-away and desolate planet. One wonders what could ever grow in such rough terrain. But junipers and other scraggy shrubs soon catch the eye and remind you that you are indeed in the arid upper reaches of northern California.

Something magical occurs here in the spring. The drab hillside is transformed into a magical place that pops to life with the emergence of dozens of bright pink flowers. The contrast to the surrounding landscape is vivid. It looks as if someone pinned dozens of corsages to the understated hillside, that rises to the east of Yreka.

Sharp-eyed locals who know where to look can catch a glimpse of this colorful show as they zoom their way along I-5 through the town. Others are astonished to learn about this “secret” flower.

“I have been here for over 20 years” said one Yreka native, who accompanied a team of Service biologists to China Hill. “I never knew this flower existed.”

The plant in question is the endangered and extremely rare Phlox *hirsuta*, commonly known as Yreka phlox. It grows in small clusters no higher than six inches above the ground. As butterflies and moths pollinate it, the blooms change from bright pink to white, equally as eye-catching against the brown-tone geology of the region.

Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office biologists Dave Johnson, Tim Burnett and Nadine Kanim have been collecting phlox data since late March, when the blooms first appeared. This effort formally kicks off the implementation phase of the recovery plan for Yreka phlox.



Yreka phlox (Matt Baun, USFWS)



Yreka Fish and Wildlife Biologists Nadine Kanim and Dave Johnson take a census of Yreka phlox. The Yreka FWO recently began to the implementation phase of the Recovery Plan for Yreka Phlox. (Matt Baun, USFWS)

The biologists spend a few days each week in the field collecting data on the phlox. A part of this effort includes developing a monitoring system that will enable them to determine if the species is declining in number over time.

The biggest threat to Yreka phlox has been urban development. But because there are only five known occurrences of the flower in the world – all in the vicinity of Yreka – events such as fire, drought and disease are also of great concern.

The data that Kanim, Johnson and Burnett are collecting are central to the recovery plan. If the Service can show the plant has not declined after 10 years – and if other occurrences of the plant has been secured, then the plant can be downlisted to threatened status, or possibly removed from the endangered species list.

Kanim is hopeful that such a goal can be reached, perhaps even in as little as 10 years.

“There is a lot of support in the community to recover Yreka phlox – from the local timber company to the city and

county governments to citizens,” said Kanim. “The recovery team has identified the threats to the species and our local partners have already made a lot of progress to protect the plant from various hazards.”

Kanim noted that the Yreka phlox recovery effort is a good example of how the federal government is working with local communities to preserve a unique and precious resource.

“One of the main goals of the recovery plan is to enhance awareness of this species and to eventually involve the public in actual recovery efforts,” said Kanim. “This is a significant component of the recovery plan and we are looking forward to getting out in the community and working with local citizens.”

A key partner in the phlox recovery effort is the city of Yreka, which has purchased – or obtained through donations – nearly 75 percent of the land on China Hill.

City planning officials are hopeful that one day they can provide full sanctuary for the phlox and turn China Hill into a public park, complete with an interpretative center that will tell the story of how one small community came together to save a pretty pink flower from the verge of extinction.

Service Engages 1,000 Students At Rio Vista School's Annual Environmental Awareness and Career Day



Students learn about careers in natural resources. (USWS photo)

By Mallory Eidson, Ventura FWO
The Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office joined 1,000 students at Rio Vista Elementary School for the school's 2nd annual Environmental Awareness and Career Day on April 3. Ten Service employees set up and ran a booth providing information about the Service mission and careers, helped the children plant in their native plant garden and led students on

exploratory nature hikes. The Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office also provided a pair of folding binoculars for every student to use on the hike.

The day-long event was sponsored by the National Hispanic Environmental Council and coordinated by Linda Valdes, a third grade teacher at the Canyon Country school. The event provided Rio Vista students opportunities to learn about a

wide variety of topics and careers associated with the environmental and natural resources fields. Representatives from the Sierra Club, Placerita Nature Center, Los Angeles County Sanitation District and Fire Department and U.S. Forest Service participated as well.

In addition to the informational booths that filled the recreation room, there were special presentations and guided hikes through the Santa Clara River bed adjacent to the school.

The day started off with a school-wide assembly, numerous guest speakers and a special appearance by Smokey Bear. All the students sang an "environmental rap song" that showed their passion about the environment and their desire to conserve.

Once the assembly was complete, the day begun. There was a rotation of students from one activity to the next, and the excitement never died down.

The day concluded with another assembly and the student choir singing "Don't Stop (Thinking About Tomorrow)" by Fleetwood Mac.

Hybrid Vehicles Added To Reduce Refuge's Carbon Footprint

By Mendel Stewart, San Francisco Bay NWR

Refuge staff from the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex often spend a lot of time in traffic as they travel to refuge units located throughout the highly urbanized Bay Area.

As part of an ongoing effort to reduce its carbon footprint, the refuge recently replaced its standard refuge vehicles with two hybrid compact sport utility vehicles to help reduce the refuge's fuel bills and carbon emissions. Reducing the carbon footprint

has a lot to do with plans to renovate offices and visitor contact facilities at the Complex.

As refuge managers look to the future, they hope to implement many new design features utilizing Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design building criteria to measure and document building performance in the areas of sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

In addition, they hope to incorporate On-Site Renewable Energy Compo-

nents such as photovoltaics and possibly even geothermal heat pumps.

The refuge staff believe that being a wildlife conservation agency means leading by example in all areas of conservation and are taking steps in that direction.



(USFWS photo)

Junior Duck Stamp Competition Connects Children With Nature



National judges look over the Best of Show entries. The judges were: Robert McLandress, Ph.D., President, California Waterfowl Association; (left) Gary Kramer, (middle) Former Refuge Manager, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex; Federal Duck Stamp winner Joe Hautman (right), Mike Chrisman, Secretary, California Resources Agency; Berit Durler, President of the Zoological Society of San Diego. (Erik Bergren, CWA)

By Erica Szlosek & Ruth Ostroff, Regional Office

On April 17, the 2008-2009 Federal Junior Duck Stamp Contest competition made its way west to the San Diego Zoo, the first

time the national contest has been held outside of Washington, D.C.

Each year all of the Best of Show entries from around the U.S. and the territories are flown to the national contest where the top three winners are selected. California's Best of Show entry by Lydia Han, age 15, from San Jose, Calif., placed second. Han's gouache water color, called "Contented Pair," depicted a pair of ruddy ducks. Her painting was selected from nearly 2,000 entries on March 26 in Willows, Calif., making it California's top winner.

Han was the only competitor in attendance



Lydia Han's "Contented Pair."

at the national contest, thanks to the sponsorship of the California Waterfowl Association who flew Han and her sister (who also entered the California contest) to the event.

And the winners are...

The top spot in the national contest went to a pair of Nene (Hawaiian goose), painted by 18 year-old Seokkyun Hong of Dallas, Texas. Third place went to Rebekah Nastav, age 17, of Amoret, Missouri for her rendition of a single hooded merganser called "Evening Swim"; done in acrylic. The winning student receives a \$5,000 U.S. Savings Bond and his design will be made into the 2008-2009 Junior Duck Stamp and sell for \$5. The stamp proceeds are used to support the conservation education program.

California Junior Duck Program

In California, the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex staff coordinate the Junior Duck Stamp program. They do this in partnership with the California Waterfowl Association, and with support from 14 sponsors including the Central Valley Joint Venture. The competition teaches children the importance of conserving wetlands and migratory birds.

Thanks to the ongoing participation of supportive partners and donors, California also leads the nation in producing a range of educational materials, including activity posters, teacher newsletters, student art calendars, and much more.

Nearly 200 classroom presentations, a three-day Wildlife Art Camp centered at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, and a week-long Wildlife Art Fellowship to Canada — all free of charge to students, ensures that youngsters from kindergarten through high school discover wetlands, waterfowl, and ways to get involved in conservation.

Managers Choose Goats Over Tractors

By Kipp Morrill,
Sacramento River NWR

Faced with challenges of how best to reduce hazardous fuels on refuge lands in an era of climate change, habitat and fire managers at the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge are choosing goats over tractors.

Land managers face many challenges when implementing hazardous fuels reduction projects. Often, these projects occur near and within areas where wildlife habitat (refuge) meets human habitat (homes). In these areas, known as the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), treatments such as prescribed fire and other options are difficult to use.

The Rio Vista Unit of Sacramento River NWR is a multi-million dollar riparian restoration bordered by several private residences, state and county parks. Refuge land and fire managers examined several options to reduce the buildup of hazardous fuels on the unit to lessen the risk of a wildfire impacting nearby homes. When using goats was mentioned, everyone agreed they could be the perfect way to reduce hazardous fuels and possibly improve native plant diversity and habitat.



Goats used for fuel reduction.

(Joe Silveira, USFWS)

After a contract was secured with the owner of a local goat herd, careful preparation and monitoring were required by refuge staff to ensure that fuel reduction objectives were being balanced with the resource goals of the refuge. Goats were restricted to small areas bordered by a portable electric fence. The goats were strategically placed in areas to make the most impact on targeted hazardous fuels such as brush and low tree limbs.

Normally, refuge managers remove brush and small limbs using peoplepower and plenty

of heavy equipment. The goats are cost-effective, don't burn fossil fuels and are an excellent environmental alternative,' said Kevin Foerster, project leader at Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex. 'They are saving us thousands of dollars in labor, fuel and equipment costs.'

It didn't take long to see how effective the goats were going to be. In just a few days, the several hundred goats had cleared away acres of thick brush and grass.

'In addition to the cost benefits, we realize the added benefit of knowing we have an adequate fire break between wildlife habitat and nearby homes,' said Kipp Morrill, assistant fire management officer at Sacramento NWRC.

The innovative fuels reduction project is a success, and is being evaluated for use on other lands. The adjacent private landowners and county public works department are also impressed with the results of the goats' work. The goats will be used at various units on the refuge throughout the summer, and seem ready to eat their way through the next project site.

Fisheries Program Looking to Hatcheries For Solutions to Preserve Delta Smelt

By Bob Clarke, Water and Fisheries Resources

As populations of federally-threatened delta smelt decline in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, the Service is looking to fish hatcheries to preserve genetic stocks in case the decline continues.

Current population indexes of delta smelt are at all-time lows. Such low indexes, combined with the fact that delta smelt are essentially annual fish that die after spawning, present the possibility that delta smelt could go extinct in the wild before efforts

to restore the Delta can produce an environment favorable to recovery. This has led the Service's Region 8 Water and Fishery Resources Program to the concept of maintaining a genetic refugial population representative of the wild population.

Currently, two facilities in California operate delta smelt captive propagation programs: The U.C. Davis Fish Conservation and Culture Laboratory (FCCL) and a fledgling program at the Livingston Stone NFH, where the Service is developing technical expertise to reliably propagate delta smelt in captivity.



Delta smelt (USFWS photo)

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Lower Klamath Refuge Celebrates 100 Years Of Conservation

By Matt Baun, Arcata FWO

The Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge is inviting everyone to help celebrate its 100th year of conserving and managing habitat for ducks, geese and other wildlife in the Klamath Basin. Today the refuge, the nation's first dedicated specifically for waterfowl conservation, announced a series of special events that will commemorate the anniversary and connect people to the beauty, birds and wildlife of the Basin.

The Lower Klamath refuge was established on August 8, 1908, by President Theodore Roosevelt as the nation's first wildlife refuge set aside specifically for migratory waterfowl and other marsh birds.

The refuge encompasses nearly 51,000 acres and is a varied mix of shallow freshwater marshes, open water, grassy uplands, and croplands that are intensively managed to provide feeding, resting, nesting, and brood rearing habitat for waterfowl and other water birds. The refuge is one of three refuges in southern Oregon and three in northern California that are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as



Lower Klamath (USFWS photo)

part of the 190,000-acre Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

"We want to invite the public to come out and help us celebrate our first 100 years by experiencing the beauty of the Lower Klamath Refuge first hand during all seasons," said Ron Cole, manager of the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuges. "Lower Klamath Refuge is a true national treasure and we have scheduled events throughout the year that will highlight everything we have to offer."

The year-long centennial celebration began with a Winter Refuge Raptor Rally January 26, which introduced visitors to raptor identification, habits and habitats. The Klamath Basin is home to the largest gathering of wintering bald eagles in the continental United States.

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The FCCL has been propagating delta smelt for 15 years and currently raises fish to be used in research studies. This year, the FCCL began a program to use approximately 600 wild fish that were captured in 2006 to begin a genetic refugial population.

While both the FCCL and Service hatchery have experience propagating delta smelt, neither facility is large enough to maintain the number of individual family groups necessary to ensure against genetic loss.

In addition, neither facility has capability to expand to provide an adequate

source of fish should supplementation or reintroduction become necessary recovery actions.

As a result, the Region 8 Water and Fishery Resources Program is in the initial stages of planning for a new hatchery facility.

A new hatchery would be dedicated

External Affairs Upgrading Region 8 Websites

Region 8 External Affairs is improving the online experience for visitors to the Region's websites. In addition to a new [Region 8 Internet website](#), External Affairs has been creating a new [intranet site](#) for employees. Both sites will use more interactive media to present information about the Service and the Region to the public and employees. For example, the sites feature Google map satellite and terrain map views of the Region's locations in California, Nevada and Klamath Basin. The maps provide employees with a birds-eye view of national wildlife refuge locations, as well as directions to/from field offices.

The External Affairs [intranet](#) pages include audio and video stories, a web management page and congressional affairs page.

External Affairs is also helping field offices comply with new Service web standards that require each site to have a uniform appearance, with proper use of graphic elements and most importantly, that information on the sites be current. Requirements for regional websites are in the FWS Web Handbook, available on Region 8's External Affairs [intranet](#) site.

to maintaining a genetic refugial population of delta smelt reflective of the population in the wild and would be capable of supplying fish for reintroduction or supplementation. In addition, the new hatchery would be designed to be expandable to undertake propagation of additional species, such as longfin smelt, Sacramento splittail, or green sturgeon as needed.



Female delta smelt (Rene Reyes, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

Watershed Project Earns Sacramento Fifth Graders Trip to Disneyland

By Scott Flaherty, External Affairs

A Sacramento, Calif., fifth grade class that planted trees on Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge as part of a class environmental project to preserve the American River Watershed was named grand prize winner of this year's Disney Environmental Challenge.

Disney's Mickey Mouse joined Region 8 Visitor Services Chief Art Shine and representatives from California education and environmental agencies for the surprise announcement March 26 at Phoebe Hearst Elementary in Sacramento. Teacher Sylvia Rodriguez and her fifth graders' project to preserve and protect the American River Watershed bested projects from 45 schools entered in the statewide environmental education program.

Students learned about the watershed ecosystem, planted native shrubs along the river, organized a student fair and wrote and performed a play to educate other students about the watershed and produced a short documentary about their project in partnership with a local television station. The class was honored with a free trip to Disneyland May 2, where they met with



Students completed a project on Stone Lakes NWR and won Disney's Environmental Challenge (Scott Flaherty, USFWS)

federal and state resource agency executives including Regional Director Steve Thompson and Art Shine.

This is the second consecutive year that Stone Lakes NWR has been a part of the winning project. Last year, fifth graders from Sutterville Elementary in Sacramento won the grand prize for

their burrowing owl habitat project on the suburban refuge.

The annual competition is sponsored by the Walt Disney Co. in partnership with California environmental and education agencies, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Celebrating the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Restoration Project

By *Mary Root, Ventura FWO*

The 230-acre Carpinteria Salt Marsh is one of the few remaining coastal wetlands in California. Once much more extensive, today the remaining habitats of this marsh are surrounded by the city of Carpinteria. More than 25 years ago, the natural habitats of the marsh had been proposed for residential and marina development. Today, it is a scenic and ecological focal point along this stretch of the Santa Barbara County coast.

In 2004, the Land Trust of Santa Barbara County began a large-scale restoration project on its 36-acre property within the marsh. The Land Trust's Basin 1 and South Marsh restoration project builds on many years of collaborative conservation among the University of California, Land Trust, city of Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, Southern California Wetland Recovery Project, local homeowners, and other community-based groups, as well as numerous state and federal resource agencies.

In 2002 and 2003, the Service provided cost-share assistance to the Basin 1 and South Marsh project through grants awarded by the National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant Program and the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. In total, the Service awarded \$550,000 to the \$1.95-million project, which also received funding from the California Coastal Conservancy, County of Santa Barbara, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and more than \$100,000 in community donations.

The project will improve native coastal habitats for numerous Service trust species including two federally endangered bird species, the light-footed clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris levipes*) and the California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*), and one federally



Carpinteria Salt Marsh. (Michael Feeney, Land Trust, Santa Barbara County)

endangered plant, the salt marsh bird's beak (*Cordylanthus maritimus* ssp. *maritimus*). The project will also provide important benefits to the state-endangered Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi*) which breeds within the wetland habitats of the marsh. In addition, numerous shorebirds and waterfowl pass through the Carpinteria Salt Marsh along the Pacific Flyway, and more than a thousand birds have been documented on the marsh on a single day.

On March 12, the Land Trust celebrated the grand opening of the completed restoration project at the Basin 1 and South Marsh project site. Sam Schuchat, Executive Officer of the California Coastal Conservancy and Richard

Rogers of the California Fish and Game Commission spoke briefly during the ceremony which included a ribbon cutting at a new footbridge installed over Franklin Creek. Michael Feeney, Executive Director of the Land Trust, hosted the event and discussed the challenges of

bringing the numerous landowners and stakeholders together to conserve and restore the Carpinteria Salt Marsh. He highlighted that ultimately the diverse partnerships, though occasionally challenging to coordinate, were essential for making the Basin 1 and South Marsh project a success.

The Land Trust's restoration efforts illustrate how diverse partners can come together and achieve important coastal habitat conservation and restoration

while balancing public access, water quality, flood control with the need to improve natural habitats for native wildlife and plants.



Salt Marsh. (USWS photo)

Successful YCC Program Connects Teens With Nature

By Jack Sparks, San Luis NWRC

The arrival of spring brings with it a bustling of activities at the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex as wildlife and refuge staff alike begin transitioning from winter to summer mode. One activity that keeps the staff busy is the recruitment and planning for summer Youth Conservation Corps programs.

YCC

The Youth Conservation Corps, geared toward 15- to-18-year-old students, is a summer work program that introduces teens to solid work ethics and the importance of natural resource conservation, all while accomplishing needed projects on refuges. In 2006, the San Luis NWRC hosted its first YCC program in nearly 20 years. The crew consisted of six students and proved to be very successful. We held the program again in 2007, this time with a crew of nine enrollees. And region-wide in 2007, 10 station in Region 8 participated in YCC programs accomplishing a variety of tasks including biological monitoring, construction of facilities, and interpretation.

Hard work pays off

The YCC program actually begins months before the crew arrives. Just recruiting a qualified crew leader can be a daunting task.

The individual must not only have experience supervising youth groups, specialized education and expertise in human social behavior, but must also understand the ecology and management of natural resources.

The crew leader is a supervisor, motivator, mentor, educator, and counselor. Over the past two years we have focused recruitment efforts at local universities and we were fortunate to have a medical student fill the leader job each year -- a person with excellent leadership skills, a passion for the outdoors, and a strong background working with (and counseling) youth groups.



The San Luis NWRC 2007 YCC crew. Back row (left to right): Roneisha Frazier; crew leader Chris Jones, Forrest Hansen, David Souza. Front row (left to right): Constance Menezes, Luis Lin, Elliot Bonior, Carla Ayala, Johnna Prior, Jessica Van Heurck. (Jack Sparks, USFWS)

Recruiting the crew is an easier task because the hiring is non-selective. We post flyers at local high schools and attend spring career fairs. Now, after two successful years, information about the program has spread among students and the Complex receives more applications than available positions.

Another task that begins long before the arrival of the crew is scheduling work activities. Refuge managers and Complex staff brainstorm appropriate activities, and the list is pared to focus on activities that are the most enriching and educational.

Lessons learned

The success of the San Luis NWRC YCC program can be attributed to two things: exemplary leadership and engaging work activities for students.

Emphasis has been placed on including only activities that are enriching, meaningful and important.

The YCC crew has been the lead in conducting several wildlife and habitat monitoring projects on the Complex. They monitored nocturnal mammalian presence by placing remote cameras, mapped native and exotic invasive vegetation to assess the effectiveness of various management

methods, participated in the release of endangered riparian brush rabbits, helped band mourning doves, and conducted burrowing owl surveys culminating with the release of a burrowing owl in the survey study area.

For many of these students this was their first experience with the National Wildlife Refuge System, and for some, the first experience ever with natural resources.

We made sure to provide relevant experience in a positive work environment. And we knew the program was a success when all the YCC enrollees told us they were interested in returning to the program at the San Luis NWR Complex.



San Luis NWRC YCC crew have a good time mapping vegetation inside the elk enclosure in July 2007. (USFWS Photo)

South Bay Bird Fest Brings In A Crowd



Amanda Evans reads to a group of children during Bird Fest.
(Paul Bridges, USFWS)

By Karla Tanner, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge celebrated South Bay Bird Fest ‘where San Jose meets the Bay’ at the Refuge’s Environmental Education Center in Alviso, Calif., on Saturday, April 12.

This year more than 400 people attended the free, fun, family festivities which included live bird shows, face painting, crafts, story time, and guided bird walks.

The South Bay Bird Fest was sponsored jointly by: the city of San Jose through the Slow the Flow

program, the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program through the Watershed Watchers program, San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Bird Fest is our way of celebrating International Migratory Bird Day while helping connect people to nature locally.

Tundra to Tropics

‘Tundra to Tropics: Connecting Birds, Habitats, and People’ is this year’s International Migratory Bird theme. Migratory birds travel long distances between breeding and non-breeding sites along north-south flyways throughout the western hemisphere.

Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR is a major stopover along the Pacific Flyway and annually hosts millions of shorebirds and waterfowl who stop to rest and refuel during spring and fall migration.

In addition to its seasonal visitors, the Refuge provides critical habitat for resident species such as the endangered California clapper rail.

More information about other Watchable Wildlife events is available online at: www.cawatchablewildlife.org/index.html

Condors Benefit From Trash Collection Volunteers

By Alexandra Pitts, External Affairs

Volunteers from Habitat Works, a southern California environmental volunteer group, collected more than 255 pounds of “microtrash” from California condor habitat at Whittaker Peak in the Angeles National Forest, March 30.

Microtrash consists of bottle caps, pull tabs, broken glass, cigarette butts, small plastic, lead bullets and casings, and similar manufactured items. Removing these items from the landscape helps prevent

the inquisitive condors from ingesting trash, or returning items to their nests, where chicks can ingest trash — which often kills them.

According to Marc Weitzel, project leader at Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex, most of the trash collected had been at this site for years. Vehicles are now restricted from the area, so the site will remain fairly trash free.

Since 2003, Habitat Works reports they have collected 2,850 pounds of condor microtrash.



Volunteers from Habitat Works, a southern California volunteer, collected more than 255 pounds of trash March 30. (Photo: USFWS)

First-of-a-Kind Habitat Conservation Plan Completed for Large Utility Company

Utility Develops a Web of Conservation Lands

By Al Donner, Sacramento FWO

A new chapter in the continuing evolution of Habitat Conservation Plans (HCP) was completed on April 11 when Department of Interior representatives and senior management of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) met in Fresno, Calif., to celebrate a new HCP.

The unique and creative PG&E San Joaquin Valley Operations and Maintenance HCP is designed to offset numerous small-scale environmental impacts of PG&E's widely dispersed operations throughout the San Joaquin Valley. The plan is unique in that it addresses small-scale impacts of specific activities over a very large geographical area. The HCP covers about 300,000 acres of the total 12 million acres in nine counties, a region 250 miles long and nearly 100 miles wide.

Because the utility's operations typically are long, narrow corridors for pipelines and powerlines, this 'spaghetti web' HCP is different than most regional HCPs, which usually cover all the land in a region. Developed in collaboration with the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, the PG&E HCP will address the utility's impacts on the long, narrow corridors that criss-cross the region. PG&E's HCP commits to measures that will minimize, avoid and compensate for the effects of the utility's operations and maintenance activities in utility corridors on 65 native plants, animals, and their habitats.

HCPs are commitments to protect and help rare species. They are developed by local or non-governmental interests, in cooperation with the Service. HCPs simplify permitting under the Endangered Species Act, and they provide better protection by planning for landscapes than project-by-project

consultations. HCPs usually also protect numerous imperiled species that are not yet covered under ESA.

The PG&E Operations and Maintenance HCP for the San Joaquin Valley establishes offsets for the environmental impacts of PG&E's routine minor construction, operations, and maintenance on its gas and electrical distribution facilities within the nine counties. The plan estimates that about 43 acres a year will be impacted. In the HCP, PG&E commits to compensate with three acres of habitat for every one acre of habitat that is lost.

"PG&E's regional mitigation plan is a creative and responsible corporate approach to protecting imperiled species," according to Susan Moore, Field Supervisor in the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Interior Jim Mosher joined Moore, other Fish and Wildlife Service staff, and PG&E officials in Fresno to celebrate the landmark achievement.

The HCP covers possible impacts to 23 animals and 42 plants, including 31 species listed as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. Some of the species in the HCP are: the California red-legged frog, the vernal pool tadpole shrimp, the Buena Vista Lake shrew, the riparian brush rabbit, the Tipton kangaroo rat, the San Joaquin kit fox, Keck's checkerbloom, the Kern mallow, and the California jewelflower. For the utility it simplifies and shortens its consultation process, making the firm more efficient and providing a mechanism to make workers more aware of the environmental impacts of their work. A side benefit is the increased sensitivity to imperiled species that field crews gain as they are trained in, and then work under the terms of the HCP.



California Jewelflower

The new utility covers PG&E operations in all or part of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, Kings, Kern, Mariposa, Madera, and Tulare counties.

Many people in the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office worked on the pioneering HCP as it was developed, including biologists Lori Rinek, Eric Tattersal and Nina Bicknese. While this may be the first major utility O M HCP, it is not likely to be the last. Already PG&E is using it as a template to develop five similar HCPs to cover all of the areas it serves. And other utilities are beginning to see the wisdom of this new concept in HCPs. NiSource, Inc. has begun work on a proposed HCP to cover its natural gas transmission pipelines in 17 states east of the Mississippi. It is expected that other utilities will consider this new approach to doing their work while offsetting their impacts on protected species and habitat.

Transitions

STEVE THOMPSON: California and Nevada Regional Director Steve Thompson has announced his retirement, effective August 2, 2008. Steve came to what was then the California and Nevada Operations Office in 2001, as the acting Manager. Over the last seven years Steve has added to a long list of successes that began with positions as a biologist at Malheur, Nisqually, and Stillwater National Wildlife Refuges; as a Refuge Manager at Laguna Atascosa in South Texas; and in DC, Atlanta and CNO/Region 8.

For Steve it has always been about the people. His best memories have resulted from being in the right place, at the right time with the right people and being a part of an organization that shares a collective passion for caring for the nation's fish and wildlife resources.

Steve helped form the California Rangeland Conservation Coalition, a group of 58 signatories representing ranching, agriculture and conservation groups who have found common ground on pressing wildlife habitat issues. He's also been a key facilitator in bringing parties together to find sustainable solutions to a myriad of conservation issues in the Klamath River Basin.

Steve has been recognized throughout his career for his efforts. In 1994 he was chosen as the first "Refuge Manager of the Year" by the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Refuge Association. In September 2007, Steve earned the Distinguished Executive Award, the highest Presidential Rank Award given to career Senior Executive Service employees and the first time it has been awarded to a Service employee. Steve hopes to spend a little more time pursuing his other passions, competitive swimming and bird watching.

PAUL HENSON: Region 8 Ecological Services Assistant Regional Director Paul Henson is moving to Oregon to become the State Super-

visor for the Oregon Field Office in Portland. Paul came to Sacramento in 2003 from Hawaii where he was the Project Leader for the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office in Honolulu.

This move is a return to Oregon for Paul, who worked in the Oregon Field Office and regional office in Portland in the 1990s. Paul and his family are looking forward to rediscovering Oregon and finding new fly fishing spots.

SANDY OSBORN: has joined the Region 8 Refuge Planning team. She will be the team lead on Comprehensive Conservation Plans (CCPs) for Humboldt Bay, San Luis, and Hopper Mountain Refuge Complexes.

Sandy brings more than 20 years of planning and site design experience. While a project manager with the Bureau of Reclamation, she was responsible for environmental compliance documentation for a multi-agency water transfer program; and implementing planning, design, and construction of fish ladder and weir modifications for the Service's Coleman National Fish Hatchery. During Sandy's 13 years with the Corps of Engineers, she was responsible for environmental compliance documentation; conceptual planning for the Vic Fazio Wildlife Refuge/Yolo Basin Wetlands; and planning, design, and construction of wildlife habitat mitigation projects for flood control projects. While with the U.S. Forest Service, she designed campground rehabilitation site plans and compiled visual resource inventories. Sandy holds a B.S. degree in Environmental Planning and Management from UC Davis and is a licensed Landscape Architect.

DAN COX: has joined the Region's Water and Fisheries Program's Water Operations Division. Dan comes to us from the Arizona Game and Fish Department in Phoenix where he was the statewide coordinator for several endangered, threatened or candidate State species. His duties included project manage-

ment, design and implementation of studies, conservation agreement writing, habitat restoration, native fish conservation and management, and environmental compliance.

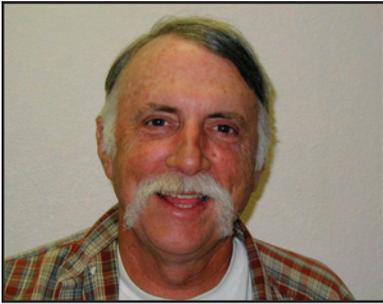
Dan will assist the division in efforts to protect and restore anadromous fish (especially salmon and steelhead) and their habitats. His duties will include participation in salmonid issues on the Sacramento River and Clear Creek, including CVPIA/AFRP fish focus meetings, EWP planning, Sacramento River temperature operations, gravel program, CAMP, and ongoing salmonid flow studies and modeling.

JOHNNY FACIO: We are very pleased to welcome Administrative Assistant Johnny Facio to the Regional Office family. Johnny comes to Region 8 from Golden 1 Credit where he worked on a variety of administrative services. Prior to that Johnny served in the Army for six years, achieving many medals and awards. His background demonstrates leadership attributes and the desire to get the job done! Johnny will be working on a variety of Regional Office administrative and budget functions.

THOMAS BATES: has joined Region 8 as the new office assistant to the Section 7, Habitat Conservation, and Contaminants Division. Thomas brings a wealth of experience with him through his work as a human resource specialist with both the U.S. Army and the Sacramento Military Entrance Processing Station, and as a freelance videographer and editor producing media for the internet and television commercials. Thomas also spent the past four and a half years serving his country as a petroleum supply specialist for the Army in Iraq. We couldn't be happier having him as a new member of our team.

Editor's Note: If you have any personnel actions you'd like to have featured in our next newsletter, email Erica Szlosek or Scott Flaherty in the Regional Office.

In Memoriam



LOREN HAYS: Loren was a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for more than 20 years. He passed away April 18, in Huntington Beach, California, after suffering a heart attack. Loren retired from the Service in 2006, but continued supporting our mission by volunteering his time monitoring endangered California least terns and western snowy plovers along southern California beaches.

A native of Colorado, Loren earned a degree in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University in 1970. He then served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1970 to 1973. In 1985, he completed his Masters Degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of California, Long Beach. His graduate thesis on the Ecology of Least and Western Sandpipers in Southern California received the University's annual award for Outstanding Thesis in the School of Natural Sciences.

Loren joined the Service that same year, working at the Laguna Niguel, Calif., Office. When that office was relocated to Carlsbad, Calif., in 1992, Loren stayed on even though he faced a significantly longer commute from his home in Huntington Beach.

Long before 4Cs and Cooperative Conservation became part of the Service's vernacular, Loren embodied the concept of working in partnership with others to conserve species. His efforts to develop positive relationships with the Orange County Water District, the counties of Orange and Riverside, the City of Corona, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority and other Federal agencies, led to riparian habitat improvements along the Santa Ana River which enabled vireos to increase their nesting pairs from a low of about 19 in 1986 to more than 800 by 2004.

To help protect endangered California least terns and western snowy plovers, Loren enlisted the aid of the Sea and Sage Audubon Society and California State Parks to develop a docent program at a known breeding site at the mouth of the Santa Ana River. These efforts paid off by reducing the number of human-related impacts to the birds and their habitat in an area that is heavily used by recreationists. The result was a tripling of the number of fledged terns at this site between 2004 and 2005.

As he accrued years of experience, Loren never hesitated to share his knowledge with new employees. He said he believed there was no better way to spend time than to mentor and interact with new employees.

Loren cherished his wife Debbie and daughter Rachel, and always beamed when he spoke about Rachel's prowess on the soccer field. But his roots in Colorado were never forgotten and each year you could count on Loren extolling the virtues of his Denver Broncos.

A life-long birder, Loren often visited birding spots in the U.S. and Mexico. Nancy Gilbert, Field Supervisor at the Bend, Ore., Fish and Wildlife Office and former Carlsbad Office colleague remembers Loren as a "big-hearted man who had a passion for birds, blues guitar, and family and friends."

The wildlife of southern California was fortunate to have Loren in their corner acting as their advocate and champion, and the Service was lucky to be able to say he was part of our family. He will be truly, deeply missed by all those who knew him and were fortunate enough to have worked with him.

Editors note: written by Jane Hendron, Carlsbad FWO.

We Are Region 8 is an online employee publication produced by the California and Nevada Region's External Affairs Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, Calif., 95825. Articles and photos were primarily incorporated from FWS Journal submissions from January through April, 2008. Questions regarding the newsletter can be sent to Erica Szlosek at erica_szlosek@fws.gov or by phone at (916) 978-6464.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov and www.fws.gov/cno.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Conserving the Nature of America

Our Mission

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

Our Vision

We will continue to be a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.

Our Conservation Principles

Science – Our work is grounded in thorough, objective science.

Stewardship – Our ethic is to conserve natural resources for future generations.

Service – It is our privilege to serve the American people.

Professionalism – We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards, strive for excellence and respect others.

Partnerships – We emphasize creative, innovative partnerships.

People – Our employees are our most valued asset.

Legacy – We ensure the future of conservation by connecting people with nature.

Our Priorities

National Wildlife Refuge System: Conserving our Lands and Resources

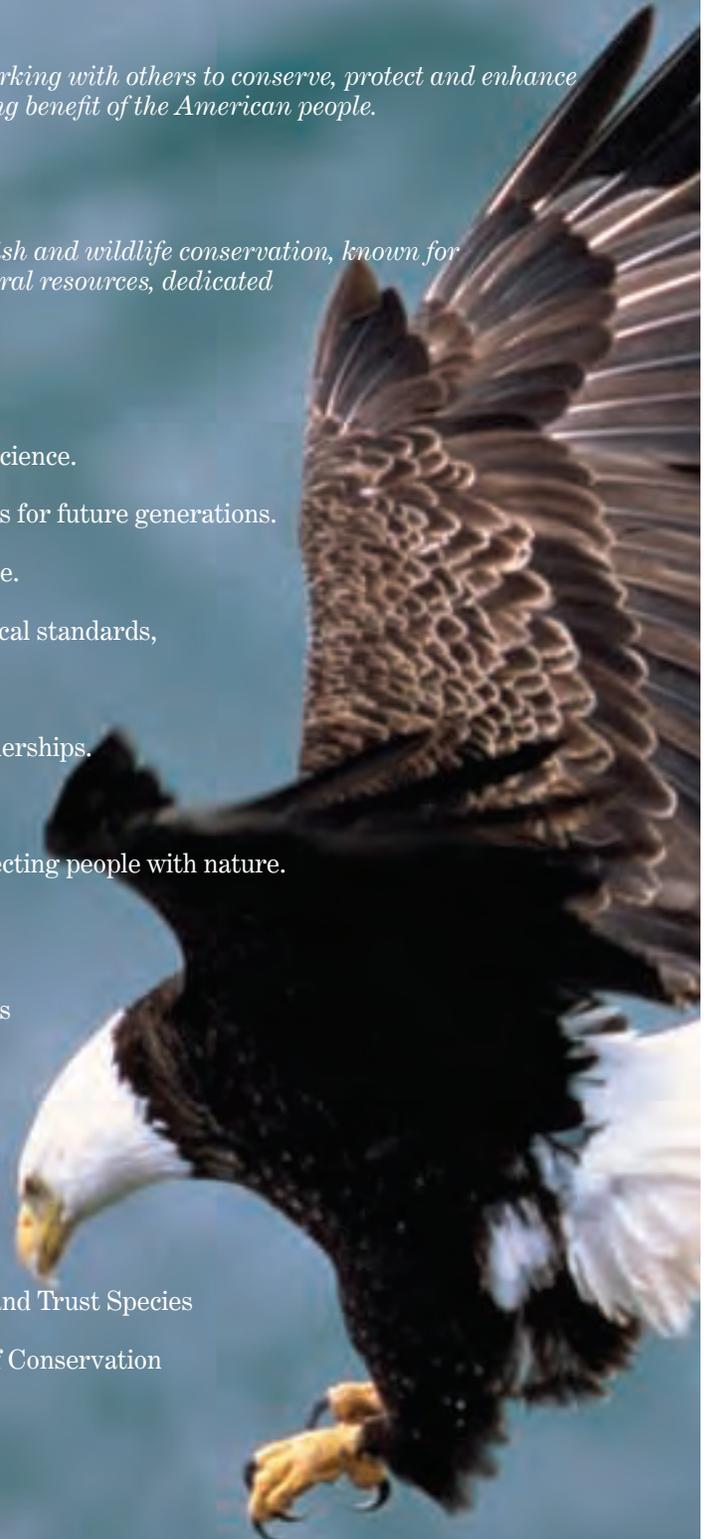
Landscape Conservation: Working with Others

Migratory Birds: Conservation and Management

Threatened and Endangered Species: Achieving Recovery and Preventing Extinction

Aquatic Resources: National Fish Habitat Action Plan and Trust Species

Connecting People with Nature: Ensuring the Future of Conservation



Read More About Region 8 In The FWS Journal

Space limitations meant we couldn't run every article submitted to the FWS Journal. But they are all available online. Check them out -- all these articles are linked -- and keep your submissions coming.

(Apr 2008) CARLSBAD FWO:
Remembering Loren Hays – Longtime Service Employee and Champion for Endangered Species

(Apr 2008) REGION 8: Hatchery Plan Would Preserve Genetic Stocks of Delta Smelt

(Apr 2008) NEVADA FWO: Service Transfers Lead For Truckee River Water Management to Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

(Apr 2008) REGION 8: \$2.23 Million CVA Grants Will Help Fund Sewage Pumpout Stations

(Apr 2008) COLEMAN NFH: Service to Release 1.4 Million Chinook Salmon Smolts to San Pablo Bay

(Apr 2008) YREKA FWO: Pretty in Pink-Yreka Phlox Dresses Up China Hill

(Apr 2008) REGION 8: California & Nevada Region Celebrates Earth Day

(Apr 2008) SAN FRANCISCO BAY NWR: Hybrid Vehicles Added to Reduce Refuge's Carbon Footprint

(Apr 2008) SACRAMENTO NWR: Four Service Offices Partner For Earth Day Project

(Apr 2008) SAN LUIS NWR: Recruiting and Managing a Successful Refuge YCC Program

(Apr 2008) CARLSBAD FWO: Local Students Experience Wonders of San Dieguito Lagoon

(Apr 2008) SAN PABLO BAY NWR: Two Units Will be Added to Bay Area Refuge

(Apr 2008) VENTURA FWO: "Get In The Swim" Oxnard's 16th Annual Earth Day

(Apr 2008) VENTURA FWO: With Help, Boy Finds he Really Does Loves Tomatoes

(Apr 2008) YREKA FWO: TNC, Klamath Falls FWO Honored for Williamson River Delta Restoration

(Apr 2008) VENTURA FWO: Service Engages 1,000 Students at Rio Vista Elementary's Annual Environmental Awareness & Career Day

(Apr 2008) REGION 8: Federal Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Brings Children & Nature Together

(Apr 2008) REGION 8: Endangered Species Recovery Champions Announced

(Mar 2008) HOPPER MTN NWR: Condors Benefit From Trash Collection Volunteers

(Mar 2008) VENTURA FWO: Western Snowy Plover Conservation and Recovery at the University of California Santa Barbara's Coal Oil Point Reserve

(Mar 2008) VENTURA FWO: Biologists Get Into the Dirt to Restore Native Plants at Coastal Riparian Site

(Mar 2008) CARLSBAD: 2008 National Junior Duck Stamp Contest Coming to San Diego, April 17

(Mar 2008) SAN FRANCISCO BAY NWR: Clyde Morris Named 2008 Refuge Employee of the Year

(Mar 2008) STONE LAKES NWR: Watershed Project Earns Sacramento Fifth Graders Trip to Disneyland

(Mar 2008) REGION 8: 2008 Tribal Wildlife Grants Benefit Condors, Fish and Stream Restoration

(Mar 2008) CARLSBAD FWO: Carlsbad Office Hosts San Diego Area Contingency Plan Committee Meeting

(Mar 2008) SACRAMENTO NWRC: California Federal Junior Duck Stamp Judging is March 26

(Mar 2008) SACRAMENTO FWO: First-of-a-Kind Habitat Conservation Plan Completed for Large Utility Company

(Mar 2008) VENTURA FWO: Celebrating the Carpinteria Salt Marsh Restoration Project

(Mar 2008) VENTURA: Sea Lion vs. Ray Highlights Point Mugu State Park Whale Festival

(Mar 2008) KLAMATH NWRC: The Klamath Restoration Agreement: A Challenge to Us All in Conserving Our Resources & Heritage

(Mar 2008) SACRAMENTO RIVER NWR: Managers Choose Goats Over Tractors

(Feb 2008) KLAMATH NWRC: Lower Klamath Refuge to Celebrate 100 Years of Conservation

(Feb 2008) SAN DIEGO NWR: Habitat Restored at a Bargain Price

(Feb 2008) SAN FRANCISCO BAY NWRC: Refuge Officer Walter Duran Honored for Role in Plane Crash Rescue Effort

(Feb 2008) SACRAMENTO NWRC: Ninth Annual Snow Goose Festival - Another Great Success!

(Feb 2008) SAN FRANCISCO BAY: Coastal Program Partner Receives National Recognition

(Feb 2008) VENTURA FWO: Service Joins NPS on Media Tour to Photograph Brown Pelicans on Anacapa Island

(Feb 2008) SACRAMENTO: Refuge Project Leaders Get Pointers on Dealing With Print Media

(Feb 2008) SPECIES RECOVERY: Habitat Conservation Planning in California, Nevada, and Klamath Basin

(Feb 2008) NEVADA FWO: Economic Analysis of Critical Habitat Proposal for Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep Available for Review

(Feb 2008) CONDOR RECOVERY: Record Fledging, New Protections and Partners Mark Successful 2007 For California Condor Recovery

(Jan 2008) SACRAMENTO NWRC: Chinese Wildlife Officials Visit Sacramento NWRC

(Jan 2008) SACRAMENTO FWO: Oil Spill Restoration Agencies Schedule Two Public Meetings

(Jan 2008) SALINAS RIVER NWR: Summary of Salinas River NWR UXO and Cemex Dredger Incidents

(Jan 2008) CARLSBAD FWO: Land Acquired in La Quinta, California for Endangered Species Conservation

(Jan 2008) NEVADA FWO: Pygmy Rabbit May Warrant Protection Under the Endangered Species Act

(Jan 2008) LOWER KLAMATH NWR: Nation's First Waterfowl Refuge to Celebrate 100 Years of Conservation