



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

Fish and Wildlife Service

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U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RECYCLING EFFORTS

The Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is trimming its "wasteline." Conscious of its social and environmental responsibilities to reduce the amount of waste entering already glutted landfills, the Service is stepping up its recycling efforts at its offices in the Washington, D.C., area.

"The Fish and Wildlife Service is charged with conserving and enhancing the Nation's fish and wildlife resources, but we also must act as responsible stewards for our immediate environment. Recycling is one way in which we can fulfill that responsibility," said Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Turner. "Interest in recycling and cooperation from Service employees have been outstanding, and that positive attitude is helping us accomplish our mission."

The agency's consolidation in 1989 of several offices into one location in Arlington's Ballston area produced a conducive environment for organized recycling activities. Since recycling began in September of that year, over 22,500 pounds of paper and over 400 pounds of aluminum have been recycled.

This equates to a savings of approximately 180 trees, 78,750 gallons of water, 282 barrels of oil, and 33 cubic yards of landfill space for the Service's recycled paper. Aluminum recycling has produced the added bonus of helping to support activities at a local park. Arlington's Potomac Overlook Nature Center uses money received for the agency's recycled aluminum to pay for summer interns, special programs, and other related activities.

The agency's paper recycling has produced a bonus for taxpayers...about \$1,000 has been returned to the Treasury.

Another recycling effort is underway at the Service's Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland, where personnel have participated in a recycling program for more than a decade. Each month, employees collect nearly 2 tons of paper for recycling, with the money generated going into the Treasury. In addition, employees recently set up an aluminum and glass recycling program, bringing in recyclable items from home and donating the proceeds to a local conservation group.