

# Conserving the Future

## WILDLIFE REFUGES & THE NEXT GENERATION

### Giving the Land a Voice!

From the wilds of Alaska to the city of Philadelphia to the coastlines east and west, the National Wildlife Refuge System manages a network of land and water for the conservation of wildlife. This system protects:

- Vast wilderness areas, the size of some states;
- Space for free roaming animals like, elk and American buffalo;
- Resting and breeding habitat for flocks of migratory birds;
- Flora critical to breeding butterflies;
- The rarest creatures on earth like the piping plover of the Great Lakes or Key deer in Florida.

Although wildlife comes first, refuges are not just for animals. People can:

- Photograph migration spectacles and scenic vistas;
- Experience field trips to learn about careers in wild land firefighting or seabird biology;
- Hunt big game like moose or prowl for waterfowl;
- Angle for a wide variety of fish;
- Visit one of many refuge visitor centers to learn about how to protect these special wild places. To find a refuge near you visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>.

### Multi-media Contest

Conservation leaders throughout the country will gather in Madison, Wisconsin this July to determine the future of the National Wildlife Refuge System. They need to know what YOU think about what will become of YOUR future.

They need YOU to answer the question: *What kind of future do you want for America's wildlife and wildlands?* Submit your answer via:

- 18"X 24" digital poster, collage or other still art or display;
- 3 minute audio or video podcast;
- Maximum of a 1,000 word essay or short story or poetry.

The contest is open to youth ages 15-24. Winners will be selected from different age groups and media categories.



### Additional Prizes

- \$200, \$100, and \$50 gift cards to an outdoor recreation store
- Smithsonian Book of National Wildlife Refuges by Eric Jay Dolin
- National Wildlife Refuge stainless steel water bottles
- Blue Goose Passport
- And more!

### Get Creative!

Your submission could include one or a combination of:

- Poem, song, rap, spoken word;
- Original artwork;
- Short dance, play, or animation;
- Interviews of family, friends, neighbors, or local heroes;
- Still photo journal with captions or audio (all photos should be public domain or taken by you).

### Prizes

First Place winners will receive airfare and accommodations to attend the “Conserving the Future” conference in Madison, July 11-15, 2011, to present their entries. Winners will also receive an official award and recognition from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and represent youth across the country in deciding the future of America’s wildlife and the National Wildlife Refuge System. This conference will be a rare opportunity when many of the country’s conservation leaders are gathered in one place and will offer unparalleled networking opportunities in the conservation field!

Second and third place winners will receive a combination of the prizes listed to the left. Second place winners will also serve as alternates for first place winners if they are unable to attend the conference.

### Your Approach

We’ve given you the WHAT (poster, audio or video podcast, or written media) and the very broad question: *What kind of future do you want for America’s wildlife and wildlands?* It’s up to you to decide the HOW!

You may have to do some research to learn more, but here are some prompts to get you started.

- The National Wildlife Refuge System was built with the help of conservation heroes: like Paul Kroeger, Aldo Leopold and Rachel Carson. What does today’s conservation hero look like, and how do they compare to those of the past?
- We are faced with overwhelming environmental challenges- climate change, habitat loss and species extinction. National Wildlife Refuges are important tools to solve these problems. How should we use refuges and the communities surrounding them to overcome these challenges?
- Many of our nation’s citizens live in cities far from the wildlife and habitats protected by the National Wildlife Refuge System. If you were the Director of the National Wildlife Refuge System, how would you connect these citizens to these places that they may never see or visit?
- Aldo Leopold said, *“There are two things that interest me: the relation of people to each other and the relation of people to land.”* What is your personal relationship to the land and its wildlife?

**Email submissions are due by**  
Midnight on May 27, 2011.

**CD or DVD submissions must**  
**be postmarked by**  
May 27, 2011.

**Judging and  
Selection of Winners**

Entries will be judged  
by USFWS and NWRA  
employees based on the  
following judging criteria:

- (i) Artistic merit;
- (ii) Creativity;
- (iii) Communication of the  
contest theme: *What  
kind of future do you  
want for America's  
wildlife and wildlands?*
- (iv) Whether the  
submission adheres  
to the contest rules.



**Submissions**

**Digital Poster:** (painting, mural, mix media, photograph, text, narrative)  
18" x 24" JPEG file with Low (level 10 or 12) compression at minimum  
200 dpi or PDF file saved for High Quality (Print) output

**Audio:** 3-minute WAV or mp3 file (min 128 kilobit/second) format

**Video:** 3-minute maximum, minimum 640 x 480 resolution at 30  
frames per second MPEG-2 file compatible with Windows Media Player

**Essay, short story or poem:** 1000 word maximum, formatted as an  
electronic Text File: TXT format

Send your submission, completed entry form and release form to the  
appropriate locations below.

For files less than 10 MB, please email to:

[NWRS\\_VisionContest@fws.gov](mailto:NWRS_VisionContest@fws.gov)

For files 10 MB or greater, please send a CD or DVD to:

Giving the Land a Voice Contest  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
1250 Connecticut Ave NW  
Washington DC 20036

**Please do not send hard copies of your work. They will not be  
returned to you.**

**Contest Rules**

Each entry must be original work by the person who enters it into the contest. Judges  
reserve the right to combine or subdivide the categories, and judges will decide  
which category best suits each entry. Judges' decisions are final and binding.

Entries with inappropriate content will be disqualified including but not limited to  
crude gestures, foul language, content not related to the theme, inappropriate  
clothing, and depicting any activities in violation of state or federal laws.

First place winners will not receive compensation in lieu of attending the conference.  
First place winners and second place alternates under the age of 18 will be required  
to travel with a parent or legal guardian. The airfare and accommodations for that  
parent or legal guardian will also be paid for by the contest.

Void where prohibited. Contest is open to legal residents of the United States and  
the District of Columbia. All federal, state, and local laws apply. Permanent U.S. Fish  
and Wildlife Service and National Wildlife Refuge Association employees are not  
eligible for the contest, but we encourage interns, seasonal employees, Student  
Conservation Association, and Youth Conservation Corps enrollees to submit entries.  
USFWS and its partners are not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged entries.

We will accept only one submission per person. Age categories are determined by  
your age on July 15, 2011. In the event that there are not enough eligible entries, not  
all prizes will be awarded. If a winner is unable for whatever reason to accept a prize,  
then USFWS reserves the right to award the prize to another entrant.

Submissions will be posted or linked to [www.americaswildlife.org](http://www.americaswildlife.org) and become part  
of the collective vision for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Winners will be  
notified by June 17, 2011. You will not receive notification if you did not win a prize,  
but the names of the winners will be posted on the website above between June 17  
and July 11, 2011.

# Conserving the Future

WILDLIFE REFUGES & THE NEXT GENERATION

## Giving the Land a Voice Multi-media Contest

### Entry Form

First name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Nearest National Wildlife Refuge: \_\_\_\_\_ visit <http://www.fws.gov/refuges/>

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_ School/Affiliation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Children invited to the conference under the age of 18 on the date of the conference (July 15th, 2011) must travel with a parent or legal guardian.

Media (circle one):                      *digital poster*                      *podcast*                      *written submission*

Title of submission: \_\_\_\_\_

One sentence description of your submission:

File type and size: \_\_\_\_\_ File name: \_\_\_\_\_

Video/photo/music references and citations (for copyright purposes)

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us a little about yourself:

Send your submission, completed entry form and release forms to the appropriate locations below.

For files less than 10 MB, please email to: [NWRS\\_VisionContest@fws.gov](mailto:NWRS_VisionContest@fws.gov)

For files 10 MB or greater, please send a CD or DVD to: Giving the Land a Voice Contest  
National Wildlife Refuge Association  
1250 Connecticut Ave NW  
Washington DC 20036

**Please do not send hard copies of your work. They will not be returned to you.**



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**AUTHENTICITY AND LIABILITY STATEMENT**

I hereby certify that this is my original work **and not copied or traced from published photos, magazines, books, illustrations, artists' published works or other materials protected by copyright laws.** I grant exclusive rights to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and its designees to use, alter, copy, publish, and display my multi-media submission for reproduction and promotional purposes as they see fit without compensation to me, including the use of my photograph if taken at program. I further understand that the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has the exclusive right to disqualify any entry whose authenticity is questionable.

Entries with inappropriate content including but not limited to crude gestures, foul language, content not related to the theme, inappropriate clothing, political statements, and depicting any activities in violation of state or federal laws will be disqualified

**COPYRIGHT RELEASE**

I, the provider, affirm that the artwork, graphic design, photo, audio, video or other product(s) described below, was created by me alone in my private capacity and automatically qualifies for a U.S. copyright - if others were involved in its creation I affirm I have their permission to put into the public domain. I agree to irrevocably dedicate that or those copyrights to the public domain. I also affirm the item(s) described below was not created in my capacity as a Federal Government employee (if applicable).

As a result of being in the public domain, the USFWS, or anyone else, may freely publish, reproduce, use and/or distribute these products in any media without your approval or permission, with no monetary compensation to you and without temporal or geographic restriction. However, if the USFWS uses any of these products, it agrees to credit the provider.

I, the provider, understand that if the foregoing representations concerning copyright ownership is determined to be incorrect or false, resulting in the USFWS or the U.S. Government being sued for copyright infringement, I agree to indemnify the USFWS and/or the U.S. Government for any resulting expenses arising from defending and/or settling such litigation.

**PHOTO RELEASE**

I hereby grant permission to USFWS to make visual and/or audio recordings of myself and/or any minor under my control at the time of the recording. I also grant permission to the USFWS to use these photographic, video and/or audio recordings in official Service publications, productions, displays and on the Internet without any consideration. I hereby irrevocably authorize the USFWS to edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish or distribute this photo/video/audio for any lawful purpose. I understand these photo/video/audio recordings will be in the public domain.

In addition, I waive the right to inspect or approve the finished product, including written or electronic copy, where in my likeness appears. I also hereby hold harmless and release and forever discharge the USFWS from all claims, demands, and causes of action which I, my heirs, representatives, executors, administrators, or any other persons, acting on my behalf or on behalf of my estate have or may have by reason of this authorization, and agree to indemnify the USFWS, its officers, agents and employees against any out of pocket expenses, including attorney's fees, that may be incurred in defense against any such claim, action or proceeding. I am at least 18 years of age and am competent to contract in my own name. I have read this release before signing below and fully understand the content, meaning, and impact of this release.

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I hereby agree to all the terms and conditions listed above

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Participant Signature

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Date

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Parent or Legal Guardian Signature (if under 18)

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Date