

Endangered Species Recovery Champions recognized from Northeast Region

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director Rowan Gould announced the 18 recipients of the Service's 2009 Recovery Champion award. The Recovery Champion award recognizes U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees and their partners for contributions to the recovery of threatened and endangered species in the United States. Two recipients come from the Northeast Region.

"The Recovery Champion award both recognizes the exceptional conservation accomplishments of its honorees and highlights the importance of strong and diverse partnerships in species conservation," said Gould. "Recovery Champions are helping imperiled species regain their place in the natural resources fabric of our country while focusing attention on the importance of conserving our nation's biological heritage for future generations."

Award recipients in the Northeast Region are Dr. Jeremy Coleman and Noelle Rayman in the Service's Cortland field office for their work on white-nose syndrome in the Indiana bat and Virginia big-eared bat, and the Philadelphia district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for their work with piping plover and seabeach amaranth, two species that depend on beach habitat.

"In the face of massive die-offs of bats hibernating in mines and caves in states in the Northeast, national white-nose syndrome coordinator Jeremy Coleman has helped lead the way in determining the scope of white-nose syndrome, developing protocols to minimize its spread by people, and facilitating research to identify the causes of mortality and transmission," said Northeast Regional Director Marvin Moriarty. He continued, "And Noelle Rayman's assistance in tracking all aspects of the investigation, developing

cooperative agreements and contracts, conducting outreach activities, and organizing materials for congressional hearings has been invaluable.”

According to Moriarty, the Philadelphia district of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been exemplary in developing innovative ways to carry out programs for the conservation of listed species while still meeting the goal of coastal storm protection. He said, “Corps staff members have been addressing indirect effects of beach nourishment and requiring prompt restoration of damages to piping plover habitat caused by violations of the Clean Water Act, and the piping plovers numbers have tripled in the project area. This is a shining example of conservation partnership.”

For additional information, please visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Recovery Champion website at: <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/champions/index.html>

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**.