



## Today's Agenda

- 8 a.m.** Bill Hartwig, Chief, National Wildlife Refuge System  
"The Chief's Challenge for the Next Century"  
*Robert Byrd Auditorium*
- 8:30 a.m.** Breakout One  
All breakout sessions will be held in Instructional Buildings
- 10:15 a.m.** Return to Breakout One
- 11 a.m.** Rollin Sparrowe, President Emeritus Wildlife Management Institute  
"Working Together for the Next Century of Conservation—A Shared Sense of Priorities"  
*Robert Byrd Auditorium*
- 11:30 a.m.** Lunch and personal business
- 1:30 p.m.** Breakout Two
- 3:15 p.m.** Return to Breakout Two
- 4:15 p.m.** Matthew J. Hogan, Deputy Director, USFWS  
"Hunting and Angling Traditions of the NWRS"  
*Robert Byrd Auditorium*
- 4:40 p.m.** Lucy Spelman, Director, National Zoological Park  
"The Future of Wildlife Conservation and Engaging the American Public"  
*Robert Byrd Auditorium*
- 5 p.m.** Adjourn

## "Very important business," says Secretary Norton

Keynoting the Conservation in Action Summit, Interior Secretary Gale Norton yesterday invoked the spirit of Aldo Leopold's "citizen-steward" concept in her vision of a Refuge System that rests heavily on science and partnerships.

"We begin the new century with a very strong Refuge System," said Norton. "Refuges will continue to grow. I've been delighted by how the centennial celebration focused the attention of the American public on this creation."

Norton, whose refuge centennial visits spanned Sandy Point in the U.S. Virgin Islands to Alaska's Kenai Peninsula, had high praise for the Refuge System, calling employees "caring career professionals." She tempered her enthusiasm with an admonition that "the Refuge System cannot do it all alone."

"A nation of citizen-stewards," Norton said, would build on the 40,000 volunteers and 240 non-profit Friends groups already at work in behalf of refuges. Norton announced \$21 million in new Challenge Cost Share grants to fund 375 projects among partners in state and local government and citizens groups to bolster existing partnerships. "We are tapping into the knowledge and



Interior Secretary Gale Norton  
(Dick Cole/USFWS)

integrity of people close to the land," she said.

Norton said Refuge System funding had jumped by \$88 million since the start of her administration – a 30 percent increase when the Interior Department's budget rose by merely 4 percent. Refuge employment increased from 2,700 to 2,980.

"You're here to conduct some very important business – putting your heads together to chart the future for the next 100 years," she said.

David Klinger, Staff Writer

## Executive committee sets Summit tone

The Summit Executive Committee – National Wildlife Refuge Association President Evan Hirsche and Deputy Refuge System Chief Jim Kurth – stressed that a new century of conservation challenges requires collaborative dedication and focus as they set the stage yesterday for two days of discussions and debate that will formulate a shared sense of priorities for the Refuge System in the next five to 15 years.

The third member of the executive committee – Bob Byrne of the Wildlife Management Institute – could not attend the opening day but will join the summit on Tuesday.

“It is a time for difficult choices,” noted Hirsche. “We must choose the paths that we will travel.”



*Executive Committee Member Evan Hirsche. (Dick Cole/USFWS)*

Acknowledging that the centennial had introduced thousands of Americans to the Refuge System, Kurth and Hirsche noted that the white papers of four teams,

which analyzed four core issues, would guide discussions, but “the identification of measurable priorities rests with you.” The teams analyzed wildlife and habitat, wildlife dependent recreation, science and strategic growth.

As Hirsche and Kurth explained how participants would work in groups to analyze the teams’ recommendations, they concluded, “Looking at this crowd, we can’t think of a better group to undertake the task before us.

“Tomorrow, we hope you will all join together to lay the foundation for the next 100 years of the National Wildlife Refuge System,” they closed the opening day of the Conservation in Action Summit.

*--Martha Nudel and Steve Farrell*

## A legend reiterates importance of conservation work

Lynn Greenwalt, legendary former USFWS director, reflected on his long, celebrated career with the USFWS and his pride at being part of the “conservation family” during a humorous and emotive speech yesterday. He served as USFWS director from 1973-81.

Greenwalt, who received a standing ovation, hailed the conservation family as being composed of thousands of people who “like what they do and know that it’s important.”

“I grew up with a 59,000-acre backyard,” said Greenwalt of his childhood on Wichita Mountains NWR, OK, where his father was refuge manager. After recalling his father’s work and dedication, Greenwalt spoke of the importance of the National Wildlife Refuge System legacy.

“We all have stories,” he noted. “The stories are everywhere, which means that they (our predecessors) made it all happen for us. This legacy carries with it an obligation to commit your best – your work, your thoughts and ideas for the Refuge System.”

Greenwalt left the audience on an emotional note after remembering his childhood friend, Edwin “Drum” Drummond, who continues working on Wichita Mountains Refuges after 55 years of employment as a maintenance worker. Drum and Greenwalt grew up on the refuge together.

“I recently asked him if he is thinking of retiring. ‘No, he said. ‘I’ll keep doing it as long as I can get into that machine. Because I like what I do and I know it’s important!’”



*Former USFWS Director Lynn Greenwalt gave an emotional address to the Summit attendees. (Todd Harless/USFWS)*

What you all do is important,” Greenwalt concluded. “From an old man who had the best job in conservation, I want you all to know that I love you.”

*Ben Ikenson, Staff Writer*



**John Baughman, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies**

*“I expect that real action items – not just talking about agreement – will come out of this summit. We will decide what we are going to do and by when. The action items will revolve around refuges, but will coordinate application and management with states. We’ll tackling unresolved but manageable issues.”* (Ryan Hagerty/USFWS)



**Terry Villaneuva, Refuge Manager, Bombay Hook NWR, DE**

*“Through collaborative effort, we will create a vision for the future. Here, we’re getting buy-in from partners and Service people. We will look different at the end of the summit than when we started. We will evolve from the teams’ recommendations. It’s really about taking Fulfilling the Promise to the next step and building on it.”* (Ryan Hagerty/USFWS)



**Larry Knadle, President, Friends of Bitter Lake NWR, NM**

*“I’m primarily here to set the course of action for the Refuge System for quite a few years in the future, but I expect to do a lot of networking. It’s important that the volunteer side be heard, because I’m convinced that’s the only way the USFWS will survive. The Friends group has made the refuge known around Roswell. I’m still amazed that when we conduct the endangered species tours, people tell me they never knew the refuge existed.”* (Ryan Hagerty/USFWS)

## Joined by visitors from Capitol Hill

A group of Congressional staff members will be at the Summit today, interacting with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees and our many partners. Big supporters of the Refuge System, they are here to gain a better understanding of the important issues facing refuges.

The staff members work on key congressional committees that regularly address Refuge System issues, such as the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works

and the House Resources Committee. The group, arriving around 10 a.m., will attend the morning plenary session and sit in on various afternoon breakout sessions.

Feel free to visit and share your thoughts with them. But catch them early, because at 4 p.m., the bus returns to Capitol Hill.

-- *Larry Williams, Staff Writer*

## Who’s here

Numbers don’t tell the whole story about the Conservation In Action Summit, but they give some flavor of who is here.

People from 38 states plus Washington, D.C. are here. Other categories among the 250 attendees are:

- Friends groups: 23
- Refuges: 67 plus two wetland management districts
- Conservation groups: 44

## Crash course on legal tools

Though more spectator than participant, Indiana University law professor Robert Fischman gave summit attendees a 30-minute crash course on the Refuge System's legal history yesterday.

"For me, it's not about spectacular scenery or wildlife. I get excited about ... refuge law!" said Fischman, Louis F. Niezer Faculty Fellow at IU's law school in Bloomington.

And it's law, Fischman asserted, that leads the way for the Refuge System to serve as a national and international model for innovative land management, and for its employees to experiment with "imaginative innovation."

Fischman, citing the fundamental significance of the National Wildlife

Refuge System Improvement Act, concluded that the Refuge System "is way out in front on tools and relationships" compared to other federal land management systems.

The challenge, he noted, is for the USFWS to lead with legislative tools without sacrificing its partners, some of whom may have differing ideas.

Fischman focused on the summit's four central themes – science, recreation, wildlife and habitat, and strategic growth – to stress how the concept of leadership was infused in each. The law, Fischman said, gives employees the opportunity to be "test pilots" – or allow powerful legal tools "to rust in the hangars."

-- David Klinger, Staff Writer



"Centennial Reflections," a six-minute video commemorating the Refuge System's highly successful centennial celebration, premiered at the summit yesterday. It was produced by NCTC. Those responsible for production are, front row, l-r, production contractor Doug Canfield and Elizabeth Jackson, video librarian. Back row, l-r, are production contractor Robert Owens and Bret Billings, NCTC videographer. (Ryan Hagerty/USFWS)

## Centennial Highlights Video Launches Summit

Vivid images of the Rocky Mountains flicker across the screen. Music crescendos. The images turn black and white. Master entertainer Walt Disney declares, "You've probably heard people talk about conservation. Well, conservation isn't just the business of a few people. It's a matter that concerns all of us."

The images are from "Centennial Reflections," a six-minute video commemorating the Refuge System's successful centennial celebration, which premiered yesterday during the summit. It contains a sampling of the sights and sounds from centennial events across the Refuge System. The video, produced by the National Conservation Training Center's production department, contained original music written for the program.

President George W. Bush, Interior Secretary Gale Norton, USFWS Director Steve Williams and other celebrities, including actor Clint Eastwood, Bass Pro Shops founder Johnny Morris and NASCAR driver Ward Burton, appear in the video.

Refuges will receive a copy in the coming weeks.

--Steve Farrell, Staff Writer