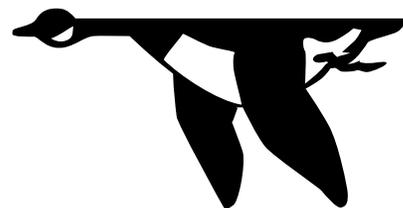


Part I Getting Started

*Celebrating a
Century
of Conservation!*



National Wildlife Refuge System 1903 - 2003

Starting Out from Here

Showcasing All Service Programs

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's plans for the Centennial anniversary of the National Wildlife Refuge System include considerable attention to showcasing and strengthening the entire agency's programs.

The Refuge System is the Service's land base, which attracts more than 35 million Americans every year. The System, then, is in an ideal position to advance integrated stewardship of fish and wildlife resources, and to forge long-term partnerships to benefit all programs. Managing this land base provides many opportunities to foster public understanding and appreciation for all the programs, and all the work the Service does.

The National Wildlife Refuge System is the stage for putting the Service in the limelight, and its Centennial can be our best opportunity to do so.

Putting It All in Place

Much has already been accomplished to lay the foundation for our celebration. The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Act provides for establishing a Centennial Commission of up to 10 individuals appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Congress has declared the year 2003 as "The Year of the National Wildlife Refuge", and has requested that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to hold appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities to accomplish the goal of such a year.

Priority Outreach Projects Identified

To help fulfill this goal, eleven priority outreach projects have been identified as major Centennial Campaign activities that will impact on our entire agency. For example, improving our stewardship and infrastructure at Pelican Island, the first refuge, will make the refuge a premiere site to tell not only the Refuge System story, but also the birth of migratory bird conservation, wildlife law enforcement, and endangered species protection. You can learn more about these projects in the "Centennial Campaign" document that all field stations received earlier.

Focus Refuges

A few outstanding refuges have been designated as Focus Refuges. These Focus Refuges were identified based on wildlife spectacles, proximity to media markets, Congressional support, ability to mobilize volunteers and partners, and cross-program resources (refuges clustered with other Service program offices.)

Beginning in 2001 and continuing through 2003, these refuges—at least three per year in each region—will host a special centennial event. Media focus and partnership support at these events will help spread the word about the Refuge System. Finally, a time capsule burial will take place at every field station on March 14, 2003.

These programs and projects you create and participate in will leave a legacy for the next 100 years and beyond.

Focus Refuges

Beginning in 2001 and continuing through 2003, the Service and the Refuge System will direct its attention to a few outstanding refuges—Focus Refuges—throughout the country. This focused effort will attract the media and the public to specific refuges with the promise

that these sites will open the door to the larger story of the Service and the Refuge System.

Major special events will take place at these Focus Refuges. Other refuges throughout the country are encouraged to host open houses,

National Wildlife Refuge Week events, anniversary celebrations, and special days for public officials. Use the Centennial as your theme to promote public awareness, understanding, and action.

2001

Region 1

- San Diego NWRC, CA
- Nisqually NWR, WA
- San Luis NWR, CA

Region 2

- Cabeza Prieta NWR, AZ
- Bosque del Apache NWR, NM
- South Texas NWRs, TX

Region 3

- Big Stone NWR
- Neal Smith NWR, IA
- Sherburne NWR, MN

Region 4

- Wheeler NWR, AL
- J. N. “Ding” Darling NWR, FL
- Bayou Sauvage NWR, LA

Region 5

- Silvio O. Conte NWR, MA
- Chesapeake Marshland NWRC, MD
- Long Island NWRC, NY

Region 6

- Quivira NWR, KS
- Lostwood, Des Lacs, Upper Souris NWRs, ND
- Sand Lake, Waubay, Tewaukon NWRs, SD/ND

Region 7

- Arctic, Yukon Flats, Kanuti NWRs, AK
- Kodiak NWR, AK
- Kenai NWR, AK

2002

- Stone Lakes NWR, CA
- Stillwater NWR, NV
- Ridgefield NWR, WA

- Las Vegas NWR, NM
- Tishomingo NWR, OK
- Aransas NWR, TX

- Ottawa NWR, OH
- Seney NWR, MI
- Horicon NWR, WI

- Reelfoot NWR, KY
- Okefenokee NWR, GA
- Noxubee NWR, MS

- Montezuma NWR, NY
- Eastern Massachusetts NWR, MA
- Patuxent Research Refuge, MD

- Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR, CO
- Rainwater Basin WMD, NE
- Monte Vista NWR, CO

- Tetlin NWR
- Alaska Maritime NWR

2003

- Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR, CA
- Hanford Reach, Saddle Mtn., Mid-Columbia NWRs, WA
- Sacramento NWR, CA

- Buenos Aires NWR, AZ
- Santa Ana NWR, TX
- Wichita Mountains NWR, TX

- Upper Mississippi River NFWR, IA, MN, WI
- Mark Twain NWRC, IL, IA, MO
- DeSoto, Squaw Creek NWRs, IA, MO

- White River NWR, AR
- Alligator River, Pea Island NWRs, NC
- Pelican Island NWR, FL

- Chincoteague NWR, MD
- Parker River NWR, MA
- John Heinz at Tinicum NWR, PA

- Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, UT
- National Bison Range, MT
- National Elk Refuge, WY

- All Alaska Refuges (Joint Celebration)