

National Park Service



Roger G. Kennedy, Bureau Director
Ricardo Lewis, Bureau Editor

Mountain Lions Studied

The Biological Resources Division of the United States Geological Survey and staff of Yosemite National Park have begun a four-year study of mountain lions in the Wyoming park. During the past 10 years, mountain lion sightings in Yosemite have increased. The goal of the study is to gather the information needed to develop management and visitor education programs that minimize the potential for conflicts between mountain lions and human beings. The study will be conducted through December 2000.

New Dinosaur Unearthed

Researchers at Dinosaur National Monument, Utah, have discovered the skull of a new meat-eating dinosaur in a vertical sandstone cliff. The skull was found just a few feet from the site where a remarkably complete, but readless, skeleton of a new specimen of a carnivorous dinosaur, about 15 feet long, was discovered 6 years ago. The complete skeleton, housed at the park's Quarry Visitor Center, is now undergoing extensive study. The discovery of the skull will provide park paleontologist Dan Chure with critical information to determine whether the find is a previously unknown species of *Allosaurus* or a new kind of dinosaur. The *Allosaurus* was a 2.5-ton, 30-foot long carnivore that roamed the western half of today's North American continent during the late Jurassic period.

Preservation Law Course Offered

Students at Boston's Suffolk University School of Law now find archeological and historic resources law in their environmental law courses, thanks in part to an initiative launched by the National Park Service archeology and ethnography program. The first-ever law course co-sponsored by the NPS is an effort to persuade colleges and universities that archeological and historic preservation should be included in the teaching of environmental law.

Chaco Monument on Endangered List



The World Monuments Fund has included Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico, in its first annual list

of the world's 100 most endangered monuments. The list is part of World Monuments Watch, a five-year project to identify and preserve threatened natural landmarks. The process of nominating sites was started by Loretta Neumann, president of Conservation, Environment, and Historic Preservation, Inc., a company that provides preservation services for government and the private sector. The nomination was supported by the National Park Service, archeologists, and others concerned about the park's future.

National Register Marks 30th Year

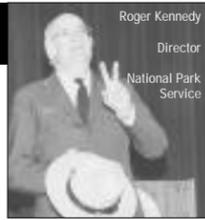
Roger G. Kennedy, Director of the National Park Service, praised the National Register of Historic Places, as it celebrated its 30th anniversary this past October. As the keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, the National Park Service is entrusted with recognizing the places that reflect and commemorate the historic contributions of all Americans, said Kennedy.

"Today, we renew our commitment to the places that helped shape our nation's heritage. We pledge our assistance in preserving them as living parts of our communities," Kennedy said.

The National Register has more than 66,200 listings of national, state and local importance. These include the historic and cultural units of the National Park System, 2,196 National Historic Landmarks designated by the Secretary of Interior for their exceptional value to the nation, and places nominated by States and federal agencies.

Building a bridge to the future, the Park Service entered into agreements with seven American Indian tribes, this past year, under which they will nominate historic places on tribal lands to the National Register. This remarkable partnership, under the National Historic Preservation Act, allows federal, state and local governments, American Indian tribes, and the American people to participate directly in the National Register program.

Director Kennedy pledged to continue to make the National Register and its programs accessible to the public, through educational and interpretive programs, publications, videos, conferences, the Federal Historic Preservation Fund matching grant program, and federal tax incentives for rehabilitation. For more information, write the National Register of Historic Places, National Register, History, and Education, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127, visit the web site at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/nrhome.html>, or call the National Register reference desk at 202/343/9559.



Roger Kennedy
Director
National Park Service

Onofrey Earns Tilden Honors



Joseph Onofrey, education specialist at Gettysburg, is this year's national Freeman Tilden Award winner for his program, which was entitled *Citizen, Soldier, and Conflict—A Path to History*. Director Kennedy noted the program embraced new audiences in the community and helped participants frame the idea of conflict in everyday lives based upon the Gettysburg community experience in the Civil War.

The Freeman Tilden Award is given to a park service employee who has enhanced the public understanding of the park and the NPS mission; was creative, original, and significantly advanced the practice of interpretation and education; made a significant effort beyond the normal day-to-day operations; and made a positive difference in the experience of park visitors or off-site park audiences.

Battlefield Preservation Awards

The National Park Service, through its American Battlefield Protection Program, presented four 1996 Battlefield Preservation Awards at the recent Third National Conference on Battlefield Preservation in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The NPS award recognizes outstanding efforts by public and private organizations to preserve the nation's historic battlefields. The awards went to the following organizations:

The Siege and Battle of Corinth Commission, Mississippi, for garnering local, state, and national support for Corinth's Civil War resources, and exhibiting considerable skill in attracting diverse state and federal funding; **The Fort Davidson State Historic Site**, Missouri, for working with the Iron County Historical Society to use American Battlefield Protection Program funds to conduct research on the Battle of Pilot Knob, erect a series of historical markers, and begin developing a battlefield preservation plan;

The Rich Mountain Battlefield Foundation, Inc., West Virginia, for acquiring more than 400 acres of

core battlefield land with support from the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites, The Civil War Trust's commemorative coin funds, and considerable private fundraising; and **The Chattanooga Area Civil War Sites Assessment Planning Team**, Tennessee and Georgia, for initiating a multi-state partnership planning effort to document and evaluate Civil War battlefield land in the Chattanooga area outside the park boundaries.

The American Battlefield Protection Program works to protect significant battle sites associated with all wars fought on American soil, and represents the federal government's commitment to help communities identify, assess, and protect our nation's historic battlefields. The Program's mission is to help communities save these battlefields without costly outlays of public tax dollars and to work with private land owners and local, regional, and state officials so that they can become the nation's foremost stewards of our country's remaining battle sites.

Independence Mall Plan Revised

Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia, will modify the draft General Management Plan for Independence Mall. While the Plan covers planning for the entire 45-acre park in Center City, the main modifications deal specifically with the Mall. They include: moving the Regional Gateway Visitor Center from Arch Street to the northside of Market Street on the Second Block of Independence Mall and relocating the National Constitution Center from the Third Block to the southside of Arch Street on the Second Block of Independence Mall.

"In revising the plan, we carefully weighed all the comments and recommendations we've received with the park's operational needs," said park superintendent **Martha Aikens**.

"Although no plan with as many opinions will reach 100 percent consensus, a great number of people with different interests, goals and perspectives have joined together to create the foundation of what will be an exciting yet dignified setting for this national park."

Sequoia Awards



John P. Debo, Jr.



Connie Rudd



David Dunatchik

David Dunatchik, Connie Rudd, and John Debo are the recipients of the 1996 Sequoia Awards. The honors recognize significant, long-term contributions to NPS Interpretation and Education in the areas of Professional Excellence, Evaluation, Education, Partnership, and Interpretative Media.

Dunatchik was recognized in the professional excellence and partnership categories for his stellar contributions to the NPS through his work with cooperating associations. Rudd was honored in the professional excellence category for her work in helping to implement *Ranger Careers*, leading interpretation through the reorganization, developing the *Compelling Story Think Book*, and

working to formulate the Comprehensive Interpretive Plan.

Debo was a recipient for his contributions in the areas of interpretation, education, and partnerships for his park, Cuyahoga, and the Service. His initiatives have included the creation of a Junior Ranger Program to serve disadvantaged, inner-city children of the Cleveland/Akron/Canton metropolitan area; establishment of four major interpretive facilities along the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail; and the development of the non-profit Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad partnership which brings more than 35,000 visitors through the park each year.

Wind Cave Marks Milestone



Wind Cave National Park Superintendent Jim Taylor presents a certificate to the park's five millionth visitor, Melodie Tyson and her family. From left to right, Andrea, Greg, Garrett, Melodie and Bill Tyson, and Superintendent Taylor.

South Dakota, Chamber of Commerce provided gifts, meals, and lodging from several of its member businesses.

Recording the five millionth visitor also was noteworthy because it occurred on August 25, the 80th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service in 1916. Wind Cave National Park, established in 1903, was one of the earliest national parks and the first established to protect a cave. Cave tour visitation records date back to 1903 when 2,515 persons visited the cave. Today, about 100,000 visitors tour the cave annually and another 700,000 enjoy the park's superb prairie, forest, and wildlife resources.

McLaren Honored for Lifetime Contributions to Ski Patrol

Linda Olson

The Utah Ski Archives have recognized former Grand Teton National Park ranger Doug McLaren for his contributions to the development of ski patrolling in the United States.

McLaren works with the Snow King Mountain ski patrol in Jackson, Wyoming, and was instrumental in creating the patrol at the Jackson Hole Ski Area in Teton Village, Wyoming. In 1994, he received the **Distinguished Service Award** of the National Ski Patrol—the highest patrol award. In 1988, he was named patroller of the year and received the **William Judd Award**, recognizing him as a national role model for patrollers. McLaren wrote the National Ski Patrol's first mountaineering manual and has contributed to its avalanche safety programs. He has written several manuals and books about mountain safety and rescue as well.

McLaren came to work as a ranger at Grand Teton National Park in 1952 and retired as a Teton park ranger in 1987. During his 35 year career he served as a Jenny Lake mountaineering ranger, south district ranger, north district ranger, and assistant chief ranger with a nine-month detail as chief ranger. McLaren received three Interior Meritorious Service Awards for his work on specific mountain rescues.



Ski patrol expert Doug McLaren receives his lifetime contribution award from the Utah Ski Archives.

McLaren lives in Jackson, Wyoming, and is a decorated war veteran, having received the bronze star while serving in the U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division in the Italian Alps during World War II.

After he officially "retired" in May of 1987, McLaren came back to work as a volunteer in Grand Teton's auto shop that July. He works four days a week for the park, and ski patrols at Snow King on Saturdays.

Linda Olson is the public affairs officer for Grand Teton National Park.



An African-American family sits for a early photograph in front of a frontier home on land the family settled under the 1862 Homestead Act. Photo courtesy of the Solomon D. Butcher Collection, Nebraska State Historical Society.

Homestead National Monument Hosts "Parks as Classrooms" Visit

During a visit to the Homestead National Monument of America, 72 students, parents, and teachers from Mars Elementary School in Omaha, Nebraska, learned more about the Homestead Act of 1862 and its effects on the life of American Indians, the prairie, and the homesteading families that ventured west.

The three fourth-grade classes were provided bus transportation through the National Park Service's Parks as Classrooms program to make this special field trip on October 4. Youth-at-risk at elementary schools in Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska, will be able to visit the Monument because of a grant of \$3,000 in funding for this special program.

Though these students live only 85 miles from the only national park in eastern Nebraska, many of them have not visited this park because of the limitations on school budget's for field trips.

A video tape sent to the schools introduces teachers and students to the history and significance of the Homestead Act of 1862 and the resources available to study in this national park. A curriculum related teacher's guide produced in 1996, provides teachers with lesson plans for their visit and for classroom reinforcement.

At the park itself, Park Ranger **Lorna Lange** presented the program, *Follow the Buffalo*, demonstrating the use of the bison by the American Indian tribes of the Great Plains. Students handled the bison pelt, bones, stomach and bladder, learning how every part of the animal was put to unique use by Great Plains tribes.

The second program contrasted the daily life of homesteaders with that of the American Indians. In this teacher guided activity, students dressed as pioneers in bonnet and apron, or hat and suspenders, hurriedly moving from daily chore to daily chore in a relay race. Pounding nails, beating batter, collecting cow chips, and cultivating the garden were four of a dozen activities that were completed efficiently and swiftly by the winning team.

Activities also included a picnic lunch and a tour of the park's museums. Then, the three hours of fun and learning came to a close as students and teachers boarded the buses heading back to Omaha. No doors were closed behind; only new doors opened to national parks and new relationships. Teachers signed up to attend curriculum related workshops on October 11 and 12, and students will learn more about their national parks in the coming year.

Bureau of Land Management



Mike Dombeck, Acting Director
Patrice Junius, Bureau Editor

Bob Armstrong, assistant secretary of land and minerals management, helps build a fence to protect a riparian area in Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area on National Public Lands Day. In far right photo, a young volunteer helps out others in the construction of the fence at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.



Loomis Named Planner of the Year

in Sweetland, Carson City District

ve Loomis, environmental planner in the Carson City, Nevada Office, was awarded the Planner of the Year award by the Nevada Chapter of the American Planning Association at the Nevada State Planning Conference in Boulder City on October 4, 1996.

Association recognized Loomis' work on iterative electronic warfare site planning in the central Nevada counties of Churchill, Lander, Elko, Nye, and Mineral. His efforts have helped protect the quality of life in central Nevada in a way that facilitates future site development.

Loomis has been a strong advocate of professionalism in the planning field, serving for the last seven years as the Association's Professional Development Officer for Nevada. He has helped more than 40 Nevada planners earn their professional certification.

Watershed Connections

in Hoffmeister, Coos Bay District

unique partnership of local, state, and federal agencies and groups recently completed the Watershed Connections project in Coos Bay, Oregon, to enhance environmental education and tourism opportunities.

Project, dedicated in September 1996, was spearheaded by Chris McAlear, Coos Bay BLM interpretive specialist. The BLM provided technical expertise, vehicles, tools, and materials. BLM engineers designed a trail, boardwalk, and covered viewing platform.

These BLM contributions augmented a \$48,675 grant from the Oregon State Watershed Health Program, and funds and personnel time from the Coos Watershed Association, City of Coos Bay, Sossom Gulch School, and Coos Bay School District, Coos Bay Lions Club, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Southwest Oregon Community College.

The Graduate



Lily Haverly, a Bureau of Land Management specialty specialist, still doesn't understand what all the fuss was about. Haverly, who has 43 years of federal service and is still going strong, completed her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology over four decades. She began her undergraduate work after high school, but a series of interruptions over the years kept her from completing the degree requirements. Her coworkers at the Green River Resource Area and Rock Springs District Office hosted a reception for Haverly to mark the occasion. There were lots of congratulations, a gift, cake and punch, but no talk of post-graduate work—not yet anyway.

Public Lands Day Offers Volunteers a Sense of Ownership

Leslie Schwager, Washington, D.C.

If you plan it, they will come. At least that's what's happened in the past three years when thousands of volunteers from New York to California have gathered at National Public Lands Day events armed with shovels, axes, picks, hammers and rakes to help improve America's public landscape.

On September 28, 1996, the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation joined forces with federal land management agencies—the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service and National Park Service—to sponsor National Public Lands Day, a celebration of the natural resources on public lands and an opportunity for Americans to get hands-on experience in public lands conservation.

This program is a national effort to call attention to public lands and build a sense of ownership of these resources by the American public through personal involvement and conservation education. This year,

about 2,000 volunteers helped construct trails, rehabilitate picnic areas, restore riparian areas and enhance campgrounds and other public places.

The Bureau hosted three of the events. At Red Rock Conservation Area, volunteers expanded a system of hiking trails and participated in several riparian restoration projects. A little farther north at Ward Mountain Winter Sports Area, participants expanded the trail system of a cross-country ski area, constructed warming huts and a parking lot that accommodates 200 vehicles. And on the East Coast at Pohick Bay Regional Park, volunteers refurbished portions of various hiking trails and bridle paths, cleaned up the shoreline and built bird houses.

Formerly known as Public Lands Appreciation Day, National Public Lands Day was initiated in 1994 as a joint venture between Times Mirror Magazines and the BLM. The two organizations viewed the event as an exciting opportunity to mobilize a large number of volunteers to help complete maintenance and protection projects on public lands.

Waterfowl Award A Bureau First

Craig Flentje, Lewistown, Montana

Ramone McCoy, a waterfowl biologist in the BLM Phillips Resource Area was recently presented with the 1996 Award of Excellence by her peers in the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Ducks Unlimited for her contributions to waterfowl and waterfowl habitat in the Prairie Pothole region of northern Montana.

The award is part of the annual waterfowl tour which has taken place for about the past 10 years. This tour provides an opportunity



for university, state, and federal agency professionals and private organizations to meet and discuss waterfowl management and on-the-ground programs.

Ramone is the first BLMer to receive such an award and is the principal author of a North American Wetlands Conservation Council grant application which would fund waterfowl habitat improvements on both public and private lands. This September, she was officially notified that the application had been selected and the project would receive almost \$300,000 in grant funding.

Alaska Honors BLM Employees

Tom Gorey, Washington, D.C.

The State of Alaska has given its Excellence in Government Service Award to the employees of the Joint Pipeline Office. State Pipeline Coordinator Jerry Brossia and BLM Acting Authorized Officer Gary Reimer presented the award to the 60 state and federal employees who work in the Office, which oversees the operation of the 800-mile Trans-Alaska Pipeline Systems and other oil and gas pipelines in Alaska.

The Excellence in Government Award, given by Alaska's governor, recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions in the cause of better government service. In conferring the awards, Governor Tony Knowles said the Joint Pipeline Office, which is a consortium of six state and five federal agencies, is a great example of an effective government-industry partnership. Among other accomplishments during the period from July 1993 through June 1996, the office had compiled an unparalleled record in achieving efficiency in government, providing one-stop shopping for the oil industry's permitting needs, Knowles said.

Bob Armstrong, Interior assistant secretary for Land and Minerals Management, commended Office staffers, saying, they had seen the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System through a revolutionary period in its history. The diligence of the staff has helped ensure that the pipeline system remains available into the 21st century to safely transport North Slope oil.

In 1994, Vice President Gore conferred a Hammer Award on the Office for its efforts to reinvent government.



Bob Armstrong

Russians Spelunkers Visit Torgac's Cave...

Mike Bilbo and Jerry Ballard, New Mexico

"This is truly a magnificent cave—the only one like it in Russia and the other republics were destroyed by a government sulphur-mining operation 10 years ago," said Vladimir Maltsev, a Russian cave geologist.

Located in Southeast New Mexico and managed by the BLM, Torgac's Cave is a National Natural Landmark and is known throughout the world for its unique gypsum stalactites and chandeliers. The main purpose of Maltsev's visit was to study the similarities and dissimilarities between the Guadalupian type of karst (eroded limestone) and Kugitangou karst.

The Russians have been visiting America's caves, both wild and commercial, and had just been to the National Speleological Society annual

convention in Salida, Colorado, before visiting Torgac's.

"The chandeliers of the Torgac's cave are equivalent to the chandeliers of the Fata-Morgana cave in Russia," Maltsev said. "It appears that the Fata-Morgana Cave, like Torgac's, has thick gypsum beds 10-20 meters above the cave, providing their (chandeliers) growth from rapid dripping." Maltsev explained.

There are no public land management agencies and few national preserves (parks) in Russia or the republics, and Americans are fortunate to have public land management and conservation ethics, Maltsev said. In Russia, government-sponsored cottage industries actually remove cave formations and flowstone to make ash trays, figurines, and chess pieces. It is important to see the accomplishments of American cave management, Maltsev said.



World renown cave photographer Ann Bosted tours Princesses Place at the Torgac's Cave.

...While Russian Students Visit School

Lars Johnson, Eastern States, Jackson District Office

The Piney Woods Country Life School in Piney Woods, Mississippi, recently hosted an international student exchange under the EcoBridge School Linkages Program. EcoBridge is a partnership between American and Russian secondary schools for long-term collaboration in environmental research and cross-cultural learning.

Through electronic mail and exchange visits, students investigate together their watersheds, compare the results, and present their findings. The BLM Jackson District Office participates in the EcoBridge Program each year in conjunction with the ongoing Piney Woods School-BLM Cooperative Agreement which promotes minority student



Russian and Piney Woods students on a field trip into a wetland on a cold Mississippi day.

Roswell Opening A Big Success

Howard Parman, Roswell District

"It's a beautiful building that reduces our overhead costs, increases our efficiency and allows for better customer service," said Acting District Manager Ed Roberson of the new office in Roswell, New Mexico. More than 60 guests heard Roberson's description of the building at the Grand Opening on November 4, 1996.

The new office unites the Roswell District with the Roswell Resource Area. Also under the same roof are the fire dispatch center, the firefighting station and a warehouse. Employees and guests were treated to a line dancing performance by Applications Examiner Mary Lou Ormseth of the District and other locals. In addition, the musical talents of Roswell Geologist Jim Pattengill and Statistical Assistant James Brasfield were featured in the group Silver & Lace, their country and western dance band.

Construction on the 40,000 square-foot building began in November 1995 and was completed at the end of August 1996. About 3,000 square feet of the office space will be sub-leased to the New Mexico Department of Health.



Roswell Geologist Jim Pattengill cranks up the volume during the performance of Silver & Lace for the Grand Opening.



Marilyn Krause, Miles City, Montana

The Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range and wild horse specialist, Linda Coates-Markle has been receiving national and international attention from commercial filmmakers. As a result of an article she wrote for the magazine, EQUUS, Coates-Markle was contacted by the British Broadcasting Company, which is working on a documentary that will focus on the Pryor Range and the Montgomery Pass horses in California.

The filmmakers have selected a few of the family groups of horses and will film their migration, behavior, foaling, and other activity during different times of the year.

White Iron Production Company of Calgary, Alberta, also is working on a multi-segment documentary on wild ungulates (animals with hooves like horses, moose, antelope, etc). They are exploring how the horses got here and to whom the horses may be biologically related. The company has interviewed Coates-Markle and will be filming in 1997.

In response to the public and commercial interest, a committee has been formed to revise the publications relating to the Pryor Range to make them current and focus on the entire range rather than just the horses. The joint effort will look for partnerships and outside funding to produce a top quality publication.

interest in the science fields. The EcoBridge Program is assisted financially by the United States Information Agency, Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs under the authority of the Fulbright-Hayes Act of 1963.

At Piney Woods, six students from the Rostov-on-Don region of southern Russia and Piney Woods students learned about stream sampling techniques and analysis of macroinvertebrate populations as indicators of water quality. The rural 2,000-acre Piney Woods campus provided an excellent site for learning about the environment with several streams and lakes to investigate, 1,300 acres of woods, and a working farm with pigs, goats, sheep, and cattle raising operations.

Bald Eagles Attract A Crowd

Montana's Canyon Ferry Bald Eagle Viewing Program is well underway this fall with more than 1,000 bald eagles expected to migrate through the area. Each year, the bald eagles stop at Hauser Lake to feast on the kokanee salmon that die after spawning. This popular program includes a hosted viewing area, school tours and a visitor center with excellent exhibits on bald eagle ecology. Nine local, state, private, and federal cooperating organizations take turns hosting the viewing site on holidays and weekends. The BLM serves as the lead agency under an interagency agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, Chuck Neal, BLM Park Ranger, and Walt Timmerman, Seasonal Park Ranger, direct the program and, along with over 30 volunteers, enhance the eagle viewing experience for about 13,000 people each fall.

By Dana Hunt, Washington, D.C.

BLM Contracts For Surveying And Mapping Assessment

The Bureau of Land Management has awarded a contract to the National Academy of Public Administration to complete a study assessing the surveying and mapping activities of federal civilian agencies, state and local governments, and the private sector. The study will be a collaborative effort involving the BLM, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the U.S. Forest Service, all of which are funding the project. The work began in early October and is expected to be completed by June 1997.

This initiative is designed to help the BLM and other federal agencies advance their efforts to improve mapping and surveying activities. Questions about the study may be directed to Ray Brady of the BLM Land and Realty Group at (202) 452-7773 or via e-mail (rbrady@wo.blm.gov) or to the Academy's co-project directors, Roger Sperry and Arnold Donahue at (202) 347-3190 or via e-mail (napa@tmn.com). The Academy will issue a final report on the study that be available through the Academy's publications office, which can be reached at (301) 617-7801.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



John G. Rogers, Acting Director
Janet L. Carroll, Bureau Editor



John Rogers



Tom Jorling

Service Seeks New Ways to Protect Endangered Species

ENDANGERED



More than 950 species of animals and plants are close to extinction, including the red wolf of the Southeast, top, whose population numbers about 100 and the Wyoming toad, above, whose population totals about 200. Photo courtesy of the National Geographic Society

Michael L. Smith

Twenty-five major landowners from across the country—including representatives of home builders, timber companies, farmer co-ops, livestock ranchers, utilities, and energy development companies—came together in mid-November to look at new ways of protecting endangered species on private lands. The forum was developed by the Fish and Wildlife Service in conjunction with The Conservation Fund, the International Paper Company, and Anheuser-Busch.

"This pioneer forum was a resounding success," said Acting Service Director John Rogers. "Our goal went beyond merely bringing different groups together. We wanted to learn from one another and build levels of trust in working with endangered species. Landowners learn more about flexible and workable strategies for saving species and Service personnel learn to look for solutions that meet the economic needs of private landowners."

The forum focused on Endangered Species Act conservation tools directly applicable to private lands—habitat conservation plans, candidate conservation agreements, and safe harbor agreements. Presenters included private landowners as well as experts from the Service and conservation organizations.

"This was a very exciting process," said John Turner, president of The Conservation Fund. "We had very open and frank discussions about common-sense approaches to save declining wildlife while allowing profitable activities to proceed on private property. Since much of remaining habitat is on private lands, we must all learn to work together to find ways for landowners to safeguard wildlife on their lands."

"We must develop conservation leaders for the next century," said Tom Jorling, vice president for environmental affairs at International Paper. "Collaborative training and working together to meet common goals will lead to exciting new conservation approaches for the future."

The endangered species gathering also provided an opportunity for the group to tour the Service's new National Conservation Training Center, currently under construction. Resource professionals from government, corporations, academia, and the nonprofit community can meet at the training center to learn from one another and forge consensus approaches to the complex and controversial resource issues of the future.

"We are very encouraged that the center can play an important role in addressing some of the major conservation topics of the day," said John R. Lemon, director of the new center. "We see this as a place where people can train together, share perspectives, and work toward lasting solutions to tough resource questions."

Staff at the new center are developing curricula for a wide range of subjects that will engage representatives from the private sector, state and Federal Government, and conservation groups in partnership training. The training center is scheduled to open in mid-1997.

Up Close and Personal

They don't keep the neighbors awake, don't have to be fed, and don't require much space. So, the nine threatened and endangered species were welcome additions this summer at Dakota Zoo in Bismarck, North Dakota.

The zoo teamed up with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local artist Dave Ely to develop a kiosk featuring computer-generated reproductions of the bald eagle, piping plover, western prairie fringed orchid, least tern, whooping crane, peregrine falcon, pallid sturgeon, black-footed ferret, and gray wolf.

In addition to the artwork, the kiosk contains information about other listed species and explains how zoos help preserve endangered species through education, research, and conservation. Mike Olson, endangered species biologist, believes zoo exhibits can play an important role in saving rare plants and animals. "Zoos bring people and wildlife together and provide us an opportunity to teach the public about wildlife, how protecting rare species can protect people, and what needs to be done to protect endangered species," he said.

It didn't take long for word to spread about the new exhibit. Endangered species kiosks are now being planned for zoos in two other North Dakota cities. And Bismarck zoo officials are so pleased with the kiosk that they're seeking other opportunities to work with the Service.



Steve Fowler, Residential Programs Officer, Mingo Job Corps Center



Job Corps Students Make a Difference

It's always a learning experience to help others, especially those less fortunate than we are. Ten students from the Service's Mingo Job Corps Center near Puxico, Missouri, got the chance during Make A Difference Day, sponsored by USA Weekend Magazine. The students, accompanied by three Mingo staff members, became fishing instructors and assistants during a late October fishing trip with residents of the Department of Mental Health Southeast Missouri Residential Services.

The group tested their fishing skills at a catfish farm, where the anglers were sure to catch fish. Mingo students are members of the Job Corps Center's Anglers Club and each were assigned to a resident to assist with baiting hooks, casting, and reeling in fish.

The event was rewarding not only to the residents of Mental Health Services but also to the students of the Mingo Center. Afterward, the students wrote about their experience:

"I realized that helping others is a good thing, and rewarding. It made me feel good and helpful. At one point, I felt needed. Let's do it again." John Moran



Walnut Creek Nation Wildlife Refuge Manager Dick Berger, third from the left in photo alone, reviews preparations for introduction of buffalo to Iowa prairie, at right, which took place on October 9.

Minnesota's Governor Honors Service for Wetlands Inventory

Susan Dreiband

On behalf of Minnesota Governor Arne H. Carlson, John Gunyou, head of the Minnesota Office of Technology, presented a Certificate of Commendation to Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Director Bill Hartwig at the September 27 Minnesota Geographic Information Systems conference. The award, one of only two presented this year, recognizes the Service's achievements in developing Minnesota's portion of the digital National Wetlands Inventory.

In accepting the award, Hartwig noted, "We are pleased and honored to have our efforts recognized by the State of Minnesota. It is the strong partnership that has evolved between the state and the Service that made this possible and for which we are most proud. We would also like to thank the state for helping to build the wetlands layer of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. This would not have been possible without the state's interest and cooperation."

The Governor's Council on Geographic Information noted in an accompanying letter to the Service: "... Your pioneering approach to data access through the Internet has provided Minnesotans with an exceptionally valuable, cost-effective and readily available source of data. ... You deliver a product that is exceptionally useful to the citizens of this state."

The main purpose of the National Wetlands Inventory is to map the wetlands of the United States and its territories and then disseminate the information. More than 18,800 digital wetland map files are available on the National Wetlands Inventory HomePage at <http://www.nwi.fws.gov>. Nearly 169,000 digital wetlands maps were downloaded from the HomePage in the last 2 years, saving users nearly \$1.6 million.

At far left, Michael Grant of the Mingo Job Corps Center and his fishing partner show off their catch during a fishing trip for "Make a Difference Day." At near left, Students from Mingo Job Corps Center, including Gwen Ludy, center left, helped make a difference to residents of the Missouri Department of Mental Health. Photos by Rickey McLean



"Helping people who are handicapped in some kind of way makes me feel real good, knowing they don't really get the opportunity to catch a fish. My partner's name was Linda. . . It made me happy to see her having fun and catching fish. I wouldn't mind doing it again." Gwen Ludy

"Helping these people really made me feel good. . . Helping others not only makes you feel good but it makes them feel loved and wanted." Nicole Speer

"I liked participating in Make a Difference Day because when helping people I feel better about myself. And I know that the person I helped knows it's OK to have help from someone else." Robert Holland

The Mingo Job Corps Center is a vocational-educational training center for socially and economically disadvantaged youth, ages 16 to 24.



Buffalo Returned to Iowa Prairie

Larry Dean

With the sun beginning to peek out across the rolling hills of Walnut Creek National Wildlife Refuge, a group huddled near a trailer containing a treasure once in great abundance on the Iowa prairie. Inside the trailer were eight bison (also called buffaloes): four calves, two yearlings, and two 2-year-olds. The trailer was backed up to the opening of an acclimation pen and, at 7:15 a.m. October 9, the first two animals stepped out into the pasture, settling in quickly to feed on the lush plants. Within 2 hours, all eight bison were calmly feasting at their new home.

These buffaloes were the first wildlife reintroduced to the prairie as part of the Fish and Wildlife Service's unprecedented effort to reconstruct 8,000 acres of prairie south of Prairie City, Iowa (and 20 miles east of Des Moines). They were brought in from Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge, Nebraska, and were joined by six more bison from Wichita Mountains at the end of October.

On October 10, the gate of the acclimation pen was opened to permit the bison to wander out into their permanent pasture. The eight new residents of Walnut Creek seemed not to notice the open gate. They were comfortable feeding on the rich plant life and would exit the pen in their own time.

Approximately 150 years have passed since buffalo roamed the state. This reintroduction is one of many steps taken at Walnut Creek to complete the largest tallgrass prairie restoration in the country. Refuge Manager Dick Birger noted, "We've come a long way. Bringing back the bison is a symbolic thing."

The refuge encompasses nearly 5,000 acres of restored prairie, with plans to expand to 8,654 acres as land becomes available. Restoration efforts have been successful in attracting prairie birds seldom seen on the Iowa farm landscape, including upland sandpipers and bobolinks. The refuge is based on a tract of land originally purchased by a utility company for a nuclear power plant. When plans to build the plant changed, Congressman Neal Smith led the effort to restore prairie in that area.

Construction continues at Walnut Creek for a state-of-the-art Prairie Learning Center offering a full range of environmental education within its prairie compound. The center, slated for a spring opening, offers a wealth of exhibits, outstanding views of the surrounding prairie, and a chance to see the majestic bison that once again are home on the range.

Missouri Lands \$15 Million Hatchery Award

Larry Dean

One of the Nation's largest capital improvement projects to be completed with funds from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program, the Missouri Department of Conservation will receive a total of \$15 million during the next six years to build the Lost Valley State Fish Hatchery.

The total cost of the project, located near Warsaw, Missouri, is estimated at \$20 million.

Department of Conservation Fisheries Chief James G. Smith said, "This project will revolutionize Missouri's warm-water hatchery system and meet our needs for research, and for fish management purposes, in an economical manner well into the next century."

The hatchery will directly benefit anglers who contribute to the Sport Fish Restoration program, producing a variety of species for statewide stocking in lakes and ponds.

Operating as a user-pay program, the Sport Fish Restoration program began in 1950 and is funded by

excise taxes paid by anglers and boaters on fishing equipment, a portion of the federal fuels tax, and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

Sport Fish Restoration funds are collected directly from the importer or manufacturer and transferred to the Fish and Wildlife Service for distribution to the states.

The Service uses a formula based on the number of licensed anglers and the geographic size of the state for fund distribution. Missouri currently receives approximately \$4.8 million annually through the Federal Aid program.

Missouri has an estimated 1.3 million anglers with fishing expenditures totaling about \$439 million annually.

Of the \$4.8 million in 1996 Sport Fish Restoration funds for Missouri, 29 percent went to small lake construction, 26 percent to public lake management, 16 percent to fishing-boat access, 16 percent to research, 7 percent to aquatic education, and 6 percent to technical assistance.