



January 2004

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Inside Region 3

Information from the Accomplishment Reporting System

Iowa Man Pleads Guilty to Poaching 45 Trophy Deer and Elk in Iowa and Colorado

George Allen Waters, a farmer from rural West Branch, Iowa, pleaded guilty Sept. 23 in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa at Rock Island, Ill., to the illegal interstate transportation and sale of 38 illegally-killed trophy white-tailed deer, elk and mule deer in violation of state and federal wildlife laws. In his plea agreement, Waters, 53, admitted to “poaching” a total of 45 trophy-quality animals, valued at \$270,000, from locations in Iowa and Colorado beginning in 1992. He also pleaded guilty to illegally possessing a fully-automatic machinegun.

Waters entered his guilty plea in front of U.S. Magistrate Judge Thomas J. Shields. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeffrey B. Lang who prosecuted the case, the government’s agreement with Waters requires him to serve five years in federal prison without parole, pay a fine of \$10,000, a \$300 special assessment and serve three years supervised probation upon his release from prison. Waters will also pay restitution of \$30,000 to be divided equally between Colorado and Iowa. He will also forfeit numerous animal trophy mounts, skulls, parts and other hunting items seized by state and federal law enforcement agents during the investigation. Nine firearms were seized, including a 9mm automatic machinegun.

Water’s prosecution is the result of a joint investigation by Service Special Agents, enforcement officers of the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Iowa Department

of Natural Resources and the U.S. Attorney’s Office. An investigator from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources also assisted in the investigation.

Waters admitted that from 1992 through the fall of 2002, he repeatedly snuck into the Iowa Army Ammunition Plant near Middletown, Iowa, and killed 24 trophy white-tailed deer. After killing the deer, he would retrieve only the antlers and heads, leaving the remainder of the animal to waste. He also poached other whitetail deer in locations near Rochester, Bluegrass, Solon and other locations in Iowa. He would then attempt to sell the prized “racks,” many of which were scored and registered by The Boone and Crockett Club, a Montana-based non-profit club that maintains a registry of trophy animals. Waters knew that the Boone and Crockett scores would increase the trophies’ market value. In March, 2003, Waters sold antlers from three trophy deer to an undercover Service agent.

During the same 10 year period, Waters admitted to poaching eight trophy elk and six mule deer in western Colorado. Again, Waters took only the animals’ antlers and heads and left the carcasses to rot. He transported the elk and mule deer he killed in Colorado to Iowa, with the intention of selling trophy racks. Waters did not possess a license to hunt elk or mule deer during any of his trips to Colorado. In 1992 and 1998, he purchased a non-resident bear hunting license to gain access to hunting areas

closed to firearm elk and deer hunting. In Colorado and Iowa, Waters also used out-dated and previously used licenses and “tags” to disguise his trophies as being taken by legitimate hunters.

The interstate transportation and sale of wildlife taken in violation of state laws is also a violation of the Lacey Act. Waters pleaded guilty to two felony violations of the Lacey Act, which include maximum penalties of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine for each offense. Possession of a machinegun, also a felony, carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine. *Scott Flaherty, External Affairs*



Photo courtesy Colo. Division of Wildlife

George Waters with two racks from elk poached in Colorado.

Whooping it up with the Whoopers

Hundreds of people of all ages flocked to the Necedah Whooping Crane Festival September 20 to celebrate those gawky, sometimes imposing, highly endangered birds, a growing number of which spend their summers in the upper Midwest thanks to an historic reintroduction effort.

Sponsored by the Necedah Lions Club, Cranefest draws crowds from around the community and around the state who feel a passion for whooping cranes or who just want to spend a day learning about birds, wildlife and the Necedah refuge and eating the terrific (and plentiful) food sold by the Lions. This was the third year for Cranefest, which got its start as a celebration to mark the departure of the first ultralight-led migration sponsored by the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership.

Refuge staff from around Wisconsin and staff from the regional office pitched in to help Necedah Cranefest coordinator Molly Mehl make the day a success.

The day kicked off with a pancake breakfast sponsored by the Lions; presentations, exhibits, facepainting, refuge tours and appearances by a very athletic

Puddles followed throughout the day. This year's Cranefest featured exhibits and seminars by the Fish & Wildlife Service; Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership; Friends of Necedah National Wildlife Refuge; Operation Migration; International Crane Foundation; Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources; Friends of Mill Bluff State Park and Patuxent Wildlife Research Center. A highlight of the festival exhibitry was the Operation Migration display, replete with an actual ultralight that is used for training the young whoopers at Necedah.

An early afternoon steak feed satisfied the appetites of many hungry visitors and another successful Whooping Crane Festival concluded late in the day, leaving crane enthusiasts anticipating the fall's next Big Event--the migration of the cranes of the "Class of 2003" from Necedah sometime in October. *Rachel F. Levin, External Affairs*



-USFWS Photo

Can you spot the cameraman? A videographer from Wisconsin Public Television works to get his shot at Trempealeau NWR.

TV Time at Trempealeau

Wisconsin Public Television was out and about on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge and Trempealeau National Wildlife Refuge. They came to capture the pelicans on film for a segment called "In Wisconsin." The crew spent the day interviewing Trempealeau Manager Bob Drieslein and filming. The show aired in November and highlighted refuges in Wisconsin celebrating 100 years the Refuge System.

Fact of the Day

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been called by four different names in its history. The Service began as two entities - the Commission on Fish and Fisheries was established in 1871, and the Division of Economic Ornithology and Mammalogy was created in 1885. The Division became the Bureau of Biological Survey later in 1885. In 1939, both entities merged into the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and moved from the Agriculture Department to Interior.



-USFWS Photo by Rachel F. Levin

"No, sir, you're right - that is NOT a crane." Joel Trick, Green Bay ES biologist, was one of many Service employees to use Cranefest as an opportunity to spread the word about Service activities beyond the whooping crane reintroduction.

DeSoto Refuge Hosts Assistant Secretary Manson, Students and Boy Scouts for Grant Announcement, Seed Collection

Craig Manson, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Fish Wildlife and Parks, visited DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge September 19 and 20.

Mr. Manson's visit was in conjunction with the announcement of the President's Cooperative Conservation Initiative. DeSoto NWR was awarded \$170,000 for restoration of approximately 500 acres of native prairie in the Loess Hills of western Iowa. The project, all on private lands, will involve tree and brush removal, seeding of native prairie plants and long-term monitoring. Mr. Manson visited a restored site and met with several landowners, the media, and project partners including the Nature Conservancy, NRCS, and the Loess Hills Alliance.



-USFWS Photo
Children collect seeds at DeSoto NWR during a visit by Assistant Secretary of the Interior Craig Manson.

Following the field trip, Assistant Secretary Manson met with refuge staff, attended a luncheon hosted by our Friends Group, and toured the refuge for the remainder of the day. Mr. Manson returned on Saturday, September 20, to observe several programs in conjunction with National Public Lands Day. A group of approximately 45 individuals from the Missouri Valley High School Key club, Boy Scouts of America Troop #366 and local volunteers worked on refuge doing seed collection and clean up. A fishing clinic was also hosted by the refuge inviting a group of inner city youth from the Omaha, Neb.,

area and Assistant Secretary Manson visited with and assisted the youth in the activity. *Cindy Meyer, DeSoto NWR*

Region 3 Experts Gather to Rate Tribal Grant Proposals

Staff from La Crosse FRO assisted on the evaluation of the tribal grants that were submitted for funding. Project ranking was challenging but very interesting. Projects were interesting and well written with a wide variety of resource concerns ranging from wildrice to lake sturgeon. It was evident that the majority of the proposals were organized and thorough and should compete favorably on the national level.

This was a regional review of resource projects submitted by the tribes to the FWS for funding. The highest ranked projects competed nationally for funding and were awarded nearly \$3 million to meet resource needs in Region 3. *John R. Leonard, External Affairs*



-USFWS Photo by Abby Rodriguez

Joe Artman and Scott Yess review grant applications for the Tribal Wildlife Grants program and the Tribal Landowner Incentive program. Also on the review team were Service employees Steve Kufirin, Bob Adair, Sean Kelly and Bureau of Indian Affairs employee Bob Jackson. The Regional review ranked the proposals, which were then forwarded to Washington D.C. to compete against proposals from other regions. This is the first year for the Tribal Grants program, which was coordinated by John Leonard, Native American Liaison.

Cormorant Management Rule Finalized, Decentralizes Control

After four years and a process that generated nearly 10,000 letters of comment from the public and conservation organizations, the final rule on double-crested cormorant management was published in the *Federal Register* last November (see <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/cormorant/cormorant.html>). The rule implements the regulatory aspects of the preferred alternative in the Service's Final Environmental Impact Statement on cormorant management (published in August 2003) and includes the Record of Decision on the EIS.

The enhanced management capabilities provided by the final rule will reduce the real or perceived impacts of double-crested cormorants on aquaculture, recreational fisheries, vegetation, and co-nesting colonial waterbirds. The terms and conditions of the rule will lessen human-cormorant conflicts but still ensure the long-term viability of cormorant populations.

Double-crested cormorants are large, fish-eating birds that nest in colonies and roost in large numbers. A reduction in eggshell-thinning pesticides (primarily DDT), increased protection under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and abundant food resources on their breeding and wintering grounds have caused cormorant numbers and distribution to increase greatly in the last 30 years.

The current population in North America is estimated at two million birds, nearly 70 percent of which are in the interior population, which includes Region 3 states. The species is widespread throughout the Great Lakes and about 115,000 pairs currently nest there. Growing



-USFWS Photo

One cormorant is not a problem - however - rarely is there ever just one cormorant. The birds tend to congregate in large numbers for nesting and roosting.

conflicts with human and natural resources led to a decision by the USFWS to develop a management strategy for the species.

The final rule established a Public Resource Depredation Order (PRDO) that allows state fish and wildlife agencies, federally-recognized tribes (on tribal lands), and USDA Wildlife Services to control cormorants, without a federal permit, in 24 states (including the Upper Midwest) when the birds are causing conflicts with public resources, provided that the agencies have landowner permission and fulfill certain reporting and monitoring requirements. Public resources include fish (free-swimming as well as hatchery stock at public facilities), wildlife, plants and their habitats.

Agencies and tribes undertaking cormorant control under the PRDO will have to indicate why such actions are needed and monitor and report on the effec-

tiveness of the actions and their impacts on cormorants and other co-nesting birds. Conservation measures to protect threatened and endangered species are included in the rule. All federal agencies, including the Service, will have to work through Wildlife Services or the states if they wish to control cormorants that are impacting public resources. The primary role of the Service will be to provide oversight of control activities to ensure that populations of cormorants and co-nesting bird species are not adversely affected.

The rule also modifies the existing Aquaculture Depredation Order for cormorants to allow birds to be killed (with landowner permission) at winter roost sites near aquaculture facilities. This will not affect the Upper Midwest except that a larger kill of birds on the wintering grounds will presumably mean fewer breeding birds returning to our region. However, since birds that winter together can breed in many different areas, including much of prairie Canada, the degree to which U.S. Great Lakes breeders would be affected is not likely to be severe.

In January, Region 3 hosted a meeting of about 30 representatives from agencies that will be involved in cormorant management in the western Great Lakes. Attendees discussed the status and impacts of cormorants in Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ontario; reviewed details of the regulations for cormorant management; and identified management monitoring, research, and outreach needs. *Steve Lewis, Ecological Services*

Service Director Visits Minnesota Valley NWR to Meet with Partners, Announce Grants

Service Director Steve Williams visited Minnesota Valley NWR Sept. 16 to announce a new round of conservation grants to state agencies, private citizens and NGOs, the Cooperative Conservation Initiative grants. Williams met with refuge staff and representatives of several local NGOs for a conversation about the grants as well as a number of other Service issues affecting the Midwest.

NGOs represented included Pheasants Forever, Capable Partners (a disabled sportsmen's group), the Nature Conservancy, the Friends of Minnesota Valley NWR, the Minnesota DNR and Ducks Unlimited.

Williams ate lunch with Minnesota Valley staff and toured the refuge headquarters and visitor center. He then spent more than an hour answering questions from the partners. Topics of discussion

included land acquisition and strategic growth for the refuge system; access to hunting and wildlife watching areas; the future of the Federal Duck Stamp; and the Recreation Fee Demonstration program on public lands.

Williams told the gathering that he considered them--the Service's partners--to be the 'Teddy Roosevelt' of today--passionate advocates not only for the National Wildlife Refuge System but for the entire Fish and Wildlife Service.

Secretary Norton's Cooperative Conservation Initiative funded \$505,000

in grants for conservation projects to benefit fish and wildlife in six Region 3 states. The grants will be cost-shared with state, local, and private partners to fund projects that will provide more than \$1.3 million for wildlife habitat projects in the Midwest. *Rachel F. Levin, External Affairs*



-USFWS Photo

Service Director Steve Williams touches base with Roger Pederson, head of Ducks Unlimited in Minnesota, during a meeting at Minnesota Valley NWR.

Agassiz holds duck-banding party with community, international guests

On Sept. 20, 100 people gathered at Agassiz NWR for a duck banding demonstration at the Parker Pool banding site. Two hundred ducks, mostly mallards, were captured by rocket nets, caged and banded. Most all participants helped handling ducks and many put bands on the legs of the mallards. This annual event allows the participants to see how duck banding is accomplished in many areas of North America. They receive information on why banding is completed and how to age and sex the ducks. This is the only hands-on wildlife demonstration at the refuge. Most participants really enjoy the opportunity.

A hundred people of all ages attended the event. Five Russian wildlife managers and one Service Washington, D. C. language interpreter were here to learn about duck banding techniques. Two local newspaper reporters (Thief River Times and Grygla Eagle) took pictures and wrote articles in their newspapers. This gave Agassiz NWR good coverage on this event and the fact that Russian wildlife managers were here to learn various wildlife management techniques. *Gary Tischer, Agassiz NWR*



Local residents check out ducks before banding them at Agassiz NWR,

Centennial Celebration at Detroit River IWR a Huge Success

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge held a successful Centennial event September 26-28. Some 3,000 people, including more than 2,000 area schoolchildren, learned about the refuge system and conservation and experienced firsthand the “wild side” of the Detroit River area in southeastern Michigan.

The celebration kicked off on Friday, Sept. 26, with an education day. More than 2,200 4th, 5th and



The little-known U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service band entertained the crowds at the Detroit River celebration with original tunes and renditions of popular favorites. The band included Service personnel from Regions 3, 4,

6th graders from Wayne and Monroe County schools participated in a series of fun and educational activities. One of the highlights was “Let’s Build a Refuge.” Eight teams of two FWS employees each led children through a condensed refuge planning process, adding habitat, wildlife and people to their “refuges” and discussing issues such as invasive species and recreation.

On Saturday, hundreds of visitors joined Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton, Service Director Steve Williams, Refuge System Chief Bill Hartwig, U.S. Congressman John Dingell and a host of partners for a gala opening ceremony.

The ceremony featured a tribute to late refuge supporter Peter Stroh; the signing of an historic cooperative agreement between FWS and BASF for habitat management; and a keynote address by the Secretary.

Regional Director Robyn Thorson and Regional Refuges Chief Nita Fuller also attended.

Following the ceremony hundreds of families browsed the “Outdoor Expo” packed with exhibits,

fishing and hunting demonstrations, and environmental education programs. Visitors heard performances by the Fish and Wildlife Service band and explored a wildlife arts & crafts expo.

The Service had a strong presence at the Outdoor Expo, with people stationed at the fishing and hunting demo sites, and about 20 employees at two huge tents in the main expo area. In those tents visitors learned more about the refuge system and the Service’s role in the Detroit River, and play games such as Refuge System Jeopardy and “Build a Bird.”

The Detroit River Centennial celebration would not have been possible without a host of public and private partners, and a large and enthusiastic crew of Fish and Wildlife Service employees and volunteers from around the Midwest. Nearly every field station in Michigan sent staff, and a large contingent came from the regional office. Refuge staff from as far away as Necedah NWR also pitched in. The event wound down with the Fish and Wildlife Service band belting out conservation-themed tunes to a cadre of tired (but tireless) FWS employees.

Sunday saw an interfaith sunrise service aimed at celebrating the more spiritual side of nature.

Thanks go to the Region 3 sign shop, whose staff put in tremendous effort to create eye-catching signage for the events and printed maps of the NWRS and the wetland “backdrop” for the Build a Refuge activity. *Rachel F. Levin, External Affairs*



A small boy checks out the portable sea lamprey display with Jim Boase, Alpena FRO fishery biologist.

Runestone Waterfowl Production Area Receives Facelift

Runestone Waterfowl Production Area (WPA), located in southwestern Douglas county, has been buzzing with activity for the past month. Four wetlands are being enhanced with water level control structures. Since only six wetlands are found on Runestone WPA, this project will have a significant effect on wetland habitat available on the WPA.

Two of the project wetlands on this property were too high, and two of the project wetlands were too low. A combination of alternating management strategies should work nicely with four wetlands being managed on the same property. We will be able to alternate draw downs nicely as these wetlands will have water put back on them at different times. The wetlands that had been too high will be left in draw down for a year to allow soils to consolidate and vegetation to grow in these basins. The wetlands that were too low will be raised next spring.

This project was undertaken by the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District with Ducks Unlimited (DU) doing the design work, contracting, and overseeing the construction site. Ducks Unlimited paid \$84,633 to engineer, build and install these structures. The project will enhance a total of 46 acres in four wetlands. We hope to enhance vegetative cover, food production, and overall wetland health for the benefit of waterfowl, shorebirds and other wetland dependant species.

The Runestone project has been rewarding for the Fergus Falls Wetland Management District staff not only because of the habitat enhancement but also because of the people involved. Partnering with DU made this project happen, but two local



- USFWS Photos

A new culvert is put in place as part of the Runestone WPA project.

landowners also made significant sacrifices. They allowed flowage easements to be taken on their adjacent land so that two of the wetlands on this property can be managed to the designed full pool elevation.

The Runestone WPA will be a future DU Greenwing Legacy site, which works out great because the annual Alexandria Greenwing Fair for young duck enthusiasts is held adjacent to Runestone WPA at the Douglas County Runestone Park. The local DU chapter is also very excited about this project and recently featured a front-page article in the Alexandria Echo Press to discuss the Runestone project and other local DU projects being completed in the area. *Kevin Brennan, Fergus Falls WMD, PWLC*



What was a construction zone in the fall should be a thriving piece of habitat by spring.

What's up with the cows???



To find out what these cows have to do with conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants, keep your eyes peeled for the next edition of Inside Region 3!

FWS to Assist States in Developing Wildlife Management Plans

Comprehensive planning is normal operating procedure in some state fish and wildlife agencies. Now it is required for states to remain eligible to receive funding from two federal grant programs administered by the Division of Federal Aid.

Legislation that authorized the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program in 2000 and the State Wildlife Grants program in 2001 required states to commit to developing statewide wildlife conservation plans by October 1, 2005. A single effort and document may be used to fulfill each commitment, and this plan must focus on the species in greatest need of conservation, yet address the full array of wildlife and wildlife-related issues.

As part of the Director's commitment to strengthening partnerships with the states, the Service has committed itself to providing assistance to the states upon request by developing and conducting regional workshops which promoted sharing of ideas and information and suggested guidance for development of the plans.

Each State Wildlife Comprehensive Management Plan is expected to be a statewide comprehensive wildlife conservation plan, not merely an agency plan that addresses only actions for which the state fish and wildlife agency has authority.

Each state has begun developing its plan, and each will have its own approach to completing it depending on staffing, funding, agency procedures, existing knowledge base and available wildlife resources. Each Service region is organizing a Development Assistance Team to help states by answering questions and coordinating other assistance. Here in Region 3, this team has met once and will soon designate one or more Service employees in each state who will be points of contact for state agencies that need assistance.

In developing its plan, each state must address eight elements: distribution and abundance of wildlife; location and condition of habitats; descriptions of problems; descriptions of needed conservation actions; plans for monitoring populations, their habitats and the success of implemented conservation actions; procedures for updating the plan in no more than 10 years; coordination with tribes, federal and other state agencies; and providing for public participation.

The plan must provide for and make use of "plans for coordinating, to the extent feasible, the development, implementation, review, and revision of the [Plan] with Federal, State, and local agencies and Indian tribes that manage significant land and water



States are on the front lines of conservation work - the state wildlife conservation plan program should help them plan their actions for long-term success.

areas within the State or administer programs that significantly affect the conservation of identified species and habitats."

Any or all Service offices, including refuges, may be contacted by states as they develop their plans. States may request information or even future commitments to implement conservation actions included in the plan. *Mike Sweet, Federal Aid*

RD Sighted at Middle Miss NWR



Regional Director Robyn Thorson inspects a sturgeon during a recent trip to the Middle Mississippi NWR as Refuge Manager John Magera looks on.

Coasters on the Rocks - Not Shaken, Not Stirred

Coaster brook trout fingerlings reared at the Iron River National Fish Hatchery were recently stocked at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. This stocking was a collaborative effort between the National Park, Northern Michigan University, Trout Unlimited, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Three rivers within the park were stocked with fingerlings obtained from gamete collections of the Tobin Harbor (Isle Royale) strain. Mosquito River received 12,400 fish, Seven Mile Creek 13,700 fish, and Hurricane River 10,000 coasters. All fish stocked had a river specific fin clip and several hundred trout carried an implanted pit-tag.

Reintroduction of marked fingerlings into these three streams at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore began in 1997. All partners are engaged in a long-term commitment to reach the goal of a self-sustainable coaster brook trout population in Lake Superior. Surveys using electro-shocking equipment in Mosquito River, Hurricane River, and Seven mile Creek are conducted twice during the



Coaster brook trout are stocked into a northern Michigan river.

summer. Biologists will assess populations of fin-clipped coaster populations by size/age class. Data regarding the timing, duration, and extent of the migrations will be considered in establishing fishing regulations in the State of Michigan. Future stocking recommendations will be based on these results *Steve Redman, Iron River NFH*

Accomplishment Reports Received

The following reports were processed by the Region 3 Accomplishment Reporting System for accomplishments completed between September 1 and September 30, 2003. Employees can search all reports using the ARS's Report Manager.

FY 2003 Financial Transaction Processing

ABA (Budget & Finance), William Andersen

Chicago Field Office Participates in Envirothon

Chicago FO, Cyndi Duda

Chicago Field Office Provides Guest Speakers for Metro Area Schools

Chicago FO, Cyndi Duda

Chicago Field Office Assists Students with Environmental Field Studies

Chicago FO, Cyndi Duda

Chicago Field Office Provides Teacher Training

Chicago FO, Cyndi Duda

Flotation Purchase

Alpena FRO, Adam Kowalski

Wrapping up the Fiscal Year

Alpena FRO, Heather Enterline

Chicago Field Office Represents the Service at Special Events

Chicago FO, Cyndi Duda

U.S. Sea Lamprey Control Program Destroys Lampreys to Save Lake Trout

Ludington Bio. Station, Denny Lavis

Service Participated in the Lake Michigan Lake Sturgeon Task Group

Marquette Bio Station, John Heinrich

Mission Accomplished - Celebrating the Centennial - Wetland Management District and Private Lands St

Mississippi Headwtrs EcoTm, Tim Yager

DCR & DEN Conduct Post-Award State Civil Rights Reviews

ABA (DCR), Peggy Nelson

Outreach Planning - Refuge Centennial Activities

External Affairs, Georgia Parham

New Website for Upper Mississippi River NW&FR UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ,

Cynthia Samples

**Wisconsin Public Television
films at Refuge**

*UMRNW&FR-Complex HQ,
Cynthia Samples*

**Miller Creek - A Coordinated
Approach To The Restoration Of
An Urban Watershed**

Twin Cities FO, Paul Burke

**4th Quarter KPMG Audit
Activities**

*ABA (Budget & Finance), William
Andersen*

Aging Scales

Alpena FRO, Adam Kowalski

**Illinois Field Offices Assist
Partners Attain Grant for
Recovery Land Acquisition**

Chicago FO, Kristopher Lah

**Chicago Office Distributes
Mead's Milkweed Recovery Plan**

Chicago FO, Kristopher Lah

**Chicago Field Office Completes
Recovery Plan for the
Threatened Mead's Milkweed**

Chicago FO, Kristopher Lah

**Chicago Field Office Provides
History of Success in Working
with Stakeholders**

Chicago FO, Kristopher Lah

**Interagency Coordination
Facilitates Media Coverage of
Arrests In BEARCAT Hollow
Case**

External Affairs, Scott Flaherty

**Chicago Office Distributes
Mead's Milkweed Recovery Plan**

Chicago FO, Kristopher Lah

**Chicago Field Office and
Volunteer Stewards Partner to
Recover Orchid**

Chicago FO, Kristopher Lah

**Chicago Field Office
Participates in Centennial
Events Celebrating A Century of
Conservation**

Chicago FO, Cyndi Duda

**Chicago Field Office Helps
Illinois Landowners Receive
Funding to Conserve Threatened
Orchid**

Chicago FO, Kristopher Lah

**Rydell NWR Hosts 2003
Northwest Minnesota Water
Festival**

Rydell NWR, Juancarlos Giese

**Rice Lake NWR Participates in
First Annual Goods from the
Woods**

Rice Lake NWR, Mary Stefanski

**Friends of Big Muddy Volunteer
at Veterans Hospital**

Big Muddy NWR, Tim Haller

**Timberland RC&D/FWS Private
Lands Partnership**

Michigan PLO, Jim Hazelman

**Alpena FRO Participates in
Great Lakes Fishery Institute
hosted by Sea Grant**

Alpena FRO, Anjanette Bowen

**Centennial Celebration at
Detroit River IWR a Huge
Success**

External Affairs, Rachel Levin

**Agassiz NWR Centennial Events
For Fiscal Year 2003**

Agassiz NWR, Gary Tischer

**Island Construction Benefits
Fishery on Upper Miss.**

LaCrosse FRO, Scott Yess

Public Duck Banding Evening

Agassiz NWR, Gary Tischer

**Ohio Wind Working Group
Protecting Migratory Birds**

*Reynoldsburg FO, Megan
Seymour*

**Sea Lamprey Display Joins
NWRS Centennial Celebration**

*Marquette Bio Station, Terry
Morse*

**Sullivan Creek NFH Supplies
Lake Trout for Wildlife Refuge
Centennial**

*Pendills Creek NFH, Tracy
Walters*

**Alpena FRO Assists CORA with
Walleye Assessments in 1836
Treaty Waters**

Alpena FRO, Scott Koproski

**LaCrosse FRO staff review
Tribal Grants**

LaCrosse FRO, Scott Yess

**Eurasian Watermilfoil Poses
Problem in Northeastern
Michigan**

Alpena FRO, Anjanette Bowen

**Green Bay Fisheries Office
assists Marinette County,
Wisconsin with an
Environmental Field Day.**

Green Bay FRO, Stewart Cogswell

**Sullivan Creek NFH Supplies
Lake Trout for Wildlife Refuge
Centennial**

*Pendills Creek NFH, Tracy
Walters*

**Year End Closing - Financial
Transactions**

*ABA (Budget & Finance), William
Andersen*

**Runestone Waterfowl
Production Area Receives
Facelift**

*Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC, Kevin
Brennan*

Federal Assistance Grants Exceed \$139,000,000

Federal Aid, Chris Fisher

News Release - Final Recovery Plan for Tumbling Creek Cavesnail

External Affairs, Georgia Parham

Kirtland's Warbler Reaches Record Population Levels

East Lansing FO, Christopher Mensing

News Release - Final Recovery Plan for Mead's Milkweed

External Affairs, Georgia Parham

Big Muddy shares the refuge with at risk kids

Big Muddy NWR, Tim Haller

Russian Delegation Learns about Wetland Management Districts

Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC, Kevin Brennan

Iowa Man Pleads Guilty to Poaching 45 Trophy Deer and Elk in Iowa and Colorado

External Affairs, Scott Flaherty

Migratory Stopover Group formed with TNC, Service and other partners at DU

East Lansing FO, Bob Kavetsky

Sea Lamprey Control Staff Works Jointly with Fisheries Resource Office to Achieve Program Goals

Marquette Bio Station, John Heinrich

Midewin Management Team Completes Negotiations

Chicago FO, Karla Kramer

Coasters on the Rocks

Iron River NFH, Steve Redman

Indiana Centennial Committee Participates in the Indianapolis Zoo's Conservation Day

Big Oaks NWR, Jason Lewis

Partners Celebrate Completion of Wolf River Sturgeon Trail Project

Green Bay FO, Gary VanVreede

Agassiz NWR Centennial/NRRW Celebration

Agassiz NWR, Gary Tischer

Whooping it up with the whoopers

External Affairs, Rachel Levin

Friends of Big Muddy participate in Heritage Festival

Big Muddy NWR, Tim Haller

Pitcher's (dune) Thistle Count

East Lansing FO, Tameka Dandridge

Horicon NWR's Summer Centennial Outreach Activities

Horicon NWR, Molly Stoddard

Celebrating The Centennial Through Habitat Restoration

Alpena FRO, Susan Wells

DeSoto Refuge Hosts Assistant Secretary Manson

Desoto NWR, Cindy Myer

Griffin Wetland Restoration Project Completed

Ashland FRO, Ted Koehler

Service Solicits Public Input on Draft Plans For Missouri Refuges

External Affairs, Scott Flaherty

Lake Erie Watersnake Recovery Plan Approved

Reynoldsburg FO, Megan Seymour

Little Carp River Restoration

Ashland FRO, Ted Koehler

Aquatic Nuisance Species Surveillance completed on Lake Huron

Alpena FRO, Anjanette Bowen

East Lansing Field Office Participates in Workshop on Transportation Project Planning

East Lansing FO, Jack Dingledine

More Than 825 Students Attend Environmental Education Days at Sherburne NWR

Sherburne NWR, Nancy Haugen

ELFO Coordinates with the State of Michigan on ESA Section 7 Consultation

East Lansing FO, Jessica Gourley

Service Biologist Co-Chairs Modeling Subcommittee Meeting for 1836 Treaty Waters

Alpena FRO, Aaron Woldt

Talking Points for Regional Director - Overton Dedication

External Affairs, Georgia Parham

Waterfowl Production above average at Agassiz NWR

Agassiz NWR, Gary Huschle

Volunteer Does Time At Pendills Creek NFH

Pendills Creek NFH, Tracy Walters

Crane Meadows NWR Staff Reach 475 Students at Water Festival

Sherburne NWR, Nancy Haugen

FWS and Michigan Initiate Study to Assess Impacts of Communication Towers on Migratory Birds

East Lansing FO, Craig Czarnecki

Refuge Staff Attends Diversity Seminar

Desoto NWR, Cindy Myer

**News Release (Regional) -
Cooperative Conservation
Initiative**

External Affairs, Georgia Parham

Division Visits Woodcock Study

*Migratory Birds & State Pgm,
Robyn Flaherty*

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Returns to OSU's Farm Science
Review with Centennial Display**

*Reynoldsburg FO, Kenneth
Lammers*

**RIFO Makes a Splash at the
Audubon Ark Outing**

Rock Island FO, James Murcia

**Fish Population Estimate
Conducted for Whittlesey Creek**

Ashland FRO, Glenn Miller

**Service Announces Release of
Approved Recovery Plan for the
Great Lakes Piping Plover**

East Lansing FO, Jack Dingledine

**Service Director Visits
Minnesota Valley NWR to Meet
with Partners, Announce Grants**

External Affairs, Rachel Levin

**Public Comments Support Union
Slough NWR Grass
Management Plan**

External Affairs, Scott Flaherty

**Region 3 Has Strong Presence at
Midwest Birding Symposium**

External Affairs, Rachel Levin

Roads Project is a Success

*Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC, Kevin
Brennan*

**Special Highlight of Region 3
Federal Aid in National
Program Update**

Federal Aid, Julie Morin

**Wildlife Lovers "Flock" To
Northern Michigan**

*East Lansing FO, Christopher
Mensing*

**Green Bay Fisheries Office
Surveys Lake Whitefish
Populations in Northern Lake
Michigan**

Green Bay FRO, Dale Hanson

**Goby Angling Survey on
Shiawassee NWR**

Alpena FRO, Anjanette Bowen

**Big Muddy Participates in
Kansas City River Clean-up**

Big Muddy NWR, Tim Haller

**Sea Lamprey Display Shuffles
Off to Buffalo**

*Marquette Bio Station, Terry
Morse*

**Partners combine to present
conservation message at Vernon
County Fair**

Genoa NFH, Doug Aloisi

**Alpena FRO Provides Technical
Assistance to USGS**

Alpena FRO, Scott Koproski

**Blanket Agreements for
Restoration Projects**

ABA-CGS, Robert Hansen

**Internet Web Page for the
Detroit River International
Wildlife Refuge Centennial
Event**

Ashland FRO, Frank Stone

Big Muddy's Turtles go to Town

Big Muddy NWR, Tim Haller

**Genoa participates in MOCC at
La Crosse**

Genoa NFH, Tony Brady

**Lake Trout Released to Lake
Superior**

Iron River NFH, Steve Redman

**Public Affairs Supports LE
Agents During Search of
Minnesota Animal Park**

External Affairs, Scott Flaherty

**Pheasants Forever & Partners
receive \$1 million NAWCA Grant
in Region 3**

*Migratory Birds & State Pgm,
Paul Richert*

**\$ 1 Million NAWCA Grant
Awarded to Michigan
Partnerships**

*Migratory Birds & State Pgm,
Paul Richert*

**Missouri Partnerships Receive
\$1 Million NAWCA Grant**

*Migratory Birds & State Pgm,
Paul Richert*

**Savanna Army Depot
Memorandum of Agreement**

Twin Cities FO, Judy Edwards

**Wisconsin Partnerships in the
UMR/GLR JV Receive \$683,142
NAWCA Grant**

*Migratory Birds & State Pgm,
Paul Richert*

**Todd Turner Graduates from
Advanced Leadership
Development Program**

Fisheries, David Radloff

**Association of Zoo and
Aquarium Docents (AZAD) Visit
DeSoto Refuge**

Desoto NWR, Cindy Myer

**Incidental Captures Yield New
Information on Status of Lake
Sturgeon in Lake Michigan**

*Green Bay FRO, Brian
Gunderman*

**East Lansing Field Office Meets
with the Huron-Manistee
National Forests about Forest
ESA Issues**

East Lansing FO, Jessica Gourley

**Iowa Fisheries DNR Staff Visit
La Crosse Fish Health Center**
*LaCrosse Fish Health Center,
Richard Nelson*

**Lake Huron Lake Whitefish
Planning Meeting**
Alpena FRO, Jerry McClain

**Lake Sturgeon Coordination
Meeting**
Alpena FRO, Tracy Hill

**Iowa River Corridor Centennial
Celebration**
Port Louisa NWR, Sally Jack

**Purple Loosestrife and Eurasian
Watermilfoil Surveys**
Alpena FRO, Tracy Hill

**Savanna Army Depot
Environmental Condition of
Property Comments**
Twin Cities FO, Judy Edwards

**Region 3 Regional Office
Converts to Active Directory**
ABA (CSG), Pat Percy

**52nd Annual Posen Potato
Festival Parade**
Alpena FRO, Aaron Woldt

**Neosho National Fish Hatchery
Welcomes Its Newest Fishery
Biologist**
Neosho NFH, David Hendrix

**Shiawassee NWR Hosted
Annual Open House Weekend on
September 6 and 7**
Shiawassee NWR, Becky Goche

**The B(d)uck stops here! Or does
it?**
*Minnesota Valley NWR, Judith
Miller*

**Chaseburg Rod and Gun Youth
Learn about Fishery Biology
Technology**
LaCrosse FRO, Heidi Keuler

**These fish came from where?
Lake sturgeon education and
outreach materials suprise many**
Green Bay FRO, Robert Elliott

**Speech Draft: Iowa River
Corridor Project Centennial
Event**
External Affairs, Scott Flaherty

**Region Replies to Columnist's
Questions on North Dakota's
Non-Resident Hunting Rules**
External Affairs, Scott Flaherty

**Rice Lake NWR Partners for
Invasive Species Awareness**
Rice Lake NWR, Mary Stefanski

**Weis Lake Partnership Project
Dedicated**
Illinois River NWFR, Ross Adams

**News Release - Draft CCP for
Illinois River NFWR**
External Affairs, Georgia Parham

**New Lake Michigan Lake
Sturgeon Task Group convenes.
Begins developing rehabilitation
plan.**
Green Bay FRO, Robert Elliott

**ELFO Meets With Detroit Free
Press Editorial Board**
East Lansing FO, Craig Czarnecki

**Genoa National Fish Hatchery
participates at 4-H's Field Days.**
Genoa NFH, Nick Starzl

**East Lansing FO Attends Field
Meeting for Proposed Hartman-
Hammond Bridge**
East Lansing FO, Barbara Hosler

**Talking Points for Regional
Director - Weis Lake Dedication**
External Affairs, Georgia Parham

**Guest Lecturer at Michigan
State University**
Michigan PLO, Jim Hudgins

**Rice Lake NWR Honors
Volunteers 1,700+ Hours**
Rice Lake NWR, Mary Stefanski

**Rice Lake NWR Partners with
Big Sandy Water Institute**
Rice Lake NWR, Mary Stefanski

**Missouri Dove Hunting Season -
Opener**
St. Peters LE, Dan Burluson

**Prairie Restoration Education
Kiosk Open for Business**
*Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC,
Kenneth Garrahan*

**Prairie Science Class Begins at
the Prairie Wetlands Learning
Center**
*Fergus Falls WMD/PWLC,
Kenneth Garrahan*

**Neosho National Fish Hatchery
participates in Shadow Program
for local High School**
Neosho NFH, David Hendrix

**ConAgra Foods donates \$5,000 to
the Friends of the Neosho
National Fish Hatchery**
Neosho NFH, David Hendrix

**Stream Quality Surveyed in the
Oneida Nation Reservation.**
Green Bay FRO, Stewart Cogswell

**Lake Michigan Lake Sturgeon
Status Assessment Project
Completes Second Year of Open
Water Assessment**
Green Bay FRO, Robert Elliott

**Big Muddy Staff works on
Wildfire Assignments**
Big Muddy NWR, Tim Haller

**DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge
Receives Grants for LOESS
HILLS Habitat Restoration
Work**
Desoto NWR, Cindy Myer



Inside Region 3
January 2004

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Region 3
Office of External Affairs
1 Federal Drive
Ft. Snelling, MN 55111

Phone: 612/713-5360
Federal Relay: 1 800/877-8339

Inside Region 3 is produced by the Office of External Affairs, Region 3, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Ft. Snelling, Minn. Items included are selected from reports submitted by Region 3 offices via the Accomplishment Reporting System. Photos included are used by permission and may be copyrighted. Questions concerning ***Inside Region 3*** or the Accomplishment Reporting System should be addressed to Abby Rodriguez, 612/713-5383 or email at abigail_rodriguez@fws.gov
Federal Relay Number: 1 800/877-8339
Available in alternative formats upon request

Equal opportunity to participate in, and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, status as a parent and genetic information. For information contact the U.S. Department of Interior, Office for Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street N.W., Washington, DC 20240