

We Are Region 8

September 2008



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Planning for Transitions

It seems that wherever you look this fall, transitions are well under way. For the nation, as we elect a new president; for the Service, as we see the coming retirement of Director Dale Hall later this year; and for our Region as we welcome Ren Lohoefer on October 12 as the new Regional Director for Region 8.

To make these transitions as smooth as possible, the Service is already identifying various teams to assist in the process. The first team to be assembled is the one working on an array of briefing materials to provide Service information to the newly elected administration. Our Region 8 Liaison in Washington DC, David Diamond, will be our representative on this team. In addition, several national policy initiative teams will be formed to help prepare for issues, policies and initiatives we want to put forward early in the new administration.

In terms of the regional transitions, I have been serving as the acting Regional Director since August. However, Ren has been able to participate in a number of issue meetings already and has plans to meet with the regional leadership team soon after his arrival in October. He has really hit the ground running and I am looking forward to his being with us full time.

On a personal note, I have been accepted into the Senior Executive Service Candidate Development Program. It should be challenging but also very rewarding.

Change can be stressful, but it is exciting too. The Regional Office will continue to give you updates on how each of these transitions is progressing. If you have questions please contact your project leader or ARD. We will try hard to make sure these transitions run as smoothly as possible.

Ken McDermond,
Acting Regional Director

Steve Thompson Receives Congressional Tribute

On the occasion of his retirement, Regional Director Steve Thompson was honored and recognized by many partners and officials for his efforts in working with them on behalf of California, Nevada and the Klamath Basin's natural resources.

One that stands out is a speech made by Senator Feinstein on the floor the U.S. Senate and placed in the Congressional Record. Senator Feinstein has worked closely with Steve on issues such as the acquisition of the Cargill salt ponds in San Francisco Bay and ongoing restoration of the Klamath Basin and the Sacramento San Joaquin delta. Below is her speech as it appeared in the Congressional Record on July 30, 2008. Senator Feinstein presented Steve with a signed and framed copy of this speech.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE THOMPSON

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I wish to honor Steve Thompson, his stellar career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the dedication to solving our most difficult natural resources problems that he has demonstrated time and again throughout his career. Thompson is retiring on August 4 after 32 years with the Service. I know Steve as the regional director of Region 8, formerly the California and Nevada Operations Office, CNO, a job he assumed in 2002. From the regional headquarters in Sacramento, CA, he oversaw Service programs in California, Nevada, and Klamath Basin that administer the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act and managed 51 national wildlife refuges and 3 national fish hatcheries. His many honors include being chosen in 1994 as the first "Refuge Manager of the Year" by

the National Audubon Society and the National Wildlife Refuge Association. Even more notably, in September 2007, Thompson earned the Distinguished Executive Award, the highest Presidential Rank Award given to career senior executive service employees and the first time a Service employee has been so recognized.

I have worked now with Steve on many issues, including the Cargill salt ponds purchase and ongoing restoration, efforts to restore the Klamath River; habitat conservation planning, and CALFED. For his dedication to help find a way to purchase the Cargill salt ponds, Steve can feel pride at the migratory birds that now have a place to rest in San Francisco Bay on their long journeys along the Pacific flyway. For his utterly tireless work to find a way to restore the Klamath River, we do not yet know what result will ensue. But thanks to Steve's leadership, we perhaps have a once in a generation opportunity to restore the River and its fisheries while providing certainty to farmers.

What I always found with Steve is that he is completely dedicated to finding that straight and narrow path through the bureaucracy to actually solve our biggest natural resource problems. Others might find reasons why a solution can't be found or why it might be imperfect from some idealized perspective. Steve just dedicates himself to finding that solution. He is a straight shooter. He tells you what he is going to do to solve a problem, and then he gets the job done. All of us who care about California's natural resources will miss him. Steve, I want to congratulate you on your years of remarkable service to our Nation's fish and wildlife and the people who value them. I hope you can now enjoy a little fishing and a few quiet moments to contemplate what you have so honorably protected.

Cover Photo: Fisheries biologist Corene Luton at NFWO measures a Lahontan cutthroat trout as it moves through the fish passage facility at Marble Bluff Dam. Photo by Jeannie Stafford, Nevada FWO.

Project Leaders Tackle Change in Monterey

By Scott Flaherty, External Affairs, Region 8

The Changing Face of Conservation: Climate, People, Approach was theme of this year's Region 8 All Project Leader Meeting, June 23 to 27, in Monterey, Calif. Project leaders and their deputies, regional program leaders and other subject matter experts gathered at the Portola Plaza Hotel in Monterey for five days of presentations, discussions and training on issues ranging from climate change to communicating with the news media.

Keynote speakers included Deputy Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dale Hall, who discussed the challenges facing the Service in an era of climate change, as well as upcoming changes in Service leadership and transitioning to a new administration. Director Hall also presented his coveted Fish and Wildlife Service belt buckles to Tom Kisanuki of the Red Bluff FWO and Marc Weitzel, project leader at Hopper Mountain NWRC. He also recognized John Engbring, assistant regional director for Water and Fisheries Resources, for his 30 years of federal service. Director Hall then joined Regional Director Steve Thompson and Deputy Ken McDermond for a discussion of Service mission, vision, conservation Principles and Priorities.

Project leaders Jim Smith, Kim Webb, Eric Nelson, Mike Long and Bob Williams served as daily moderators, helping guide the discussion and assisting presenters who provided information and updates on species recovery, internal and cross program partnerships, working with external partners (California Rangeland Conservation Coalition) children and nature, telecommuting, Region 8 Initiative areas, Central Valley Salmon Collapse, Water Acquisition Successes and Challenges and invasive species issues.

Conservation strategies in an era of climate change was the subject of several guest presentations: "Climate Change & the National Wildlife Refuge System" by J. Michael Scott, research

scientist, U.S. Geological Survey; "Managing Ecosystems During Rapid Change: Adaptive Conservation Strategies," by Ellie M. Cohen, executive director, PRBO Conservation Science and John Wiens, chief conservation science officer, PRBO Conservation Science; and "The Atmosphere and the Public Trust," by Mary Wood, University of Oregon School of Law.

Marilyn Brower of the Service's Environmental Compliance Branch in Washington presented FWS actions to reduce its carbon footprint. She later joined Director Hall in presenting 2008 FWS Environmental Leadership "Refuge of the Year" Award for the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge to Mendel Stewart, project leader at the San Francisco Bay Refuge Complex.

Strategic Habitat Conservation presentations included "Strategic Habitat Conservation: In Concept and In Practice" by Charles Baxter, senior advisor, SHC; and Strategic Habitat Conservation: Klamath Update by Mike Long, who also discussed the Klamath draft SHC Concept Plan.

Leaders also took time to recognize employees and partners during the first annual Regional Directors Award Ceremony at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Regional Director Steve Thompson, Director Dale Hall and Deputy Regional Director Ken McDermond presented the Region's Conservation

Service Award to Julie Packard for the Monterey Bay Aquarium, a Service partner in southern sea otter conservation and recovery. Ten individual regional director awards were also presented (see articles on pages 4 through 11), as well as the presentation of the region's recovery champion awardees.

Attendees later celebrated Service partners in the Monterey Bay region during a half-day walking tour and barbecue at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. Presentations and walking tours were provided by members of the Reserve, Elkhorn Slough Foundation and California Department of Fish and Game and exposed project leaders to restoration activities on the 1,400 acre preserve as well as its public education, research and conservation efforts.

Region 8 External Affairs presentation, "Communications for Project Leaders" was followed up by a training session in which project leaders were able to practice techniques that will assist them in communicating to the public via the news media. External Affairs also recognized noteworthy communications efforts by project leaders and field offices by presenting regional communicator awards.

The complete meeting agenda, photos and copies of presentations given during the week-long meeting are available to Service employees online at <https://intranet.fws.gov/region8>.



2008 All Project Leader Meeting in Monterey, Calif. (Scott Flaherty/USFWS)

Kate Symonds: 2007 FWS Recovery Champion

Kate Symonds of the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office received the 2007 Recovery Champion Award for her outstanding work and significant contributions in the recovery of listed species in the San Francisco Bay Area. She has vigorously pursued these goals since arriving at the Sacramento Office in 2005. Symonds received the award during the regional All Project Leader meeting with her fellow recipient Gary Scoppertone of the U.S. Geological Survey (see article below).



Among her many achievements, Kate Symonds was instrumental in the purchase of the 27-acre Lower Pitkin Marsh by the Sonoma Land Trust, one of three historic perennial wetlands in southern Sonoma County, which supports the only known remaining location for the federal and state endangered white sedge (*Carex albida*), and other rare plant species. This site is considered to be the only one of its kind in the world, and the preservation of this area will save a vital habitat in Sonoma County.

Symonds' ability to work collaboratively with local, state and federal partners towards the acquisition of this property, and towards the conservation of this species, is indicative of her ability to excel in the area of collaborative relationships.

As a representative of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program, Symonds is responsible for having completed more than 685 acres of restoration directed at the recovery of listed species – often having directed restoration funding

toward the habitats of extremely rare and endemic plants.

At least five of Symonds' projects are located on private lands which host the last remaining population of each of the five targeted species. Not only does Kate Symonds utilize all available resources for these priorities, she is active in seeking outside funding and partners to "go the extra mile." As a result, she is often successful at drawing attention and funding to the highly endangered landscapes in which she works, even when competing in a region dominated by much higher profile (and much more highly funded) natural resource issues.

Symonds is a leader in the local scientific and professional communities and has been recognized as such by the California Invasive Plant Council and California Native Plant Society.

Symonds persistence and diligence has created local attention and pride in these often overlooked species. She is a true recovery champion.

USFWS Recovery Champions are selected from Service employees and partners who make significant contributions to the recovery of native endangered or threatened species. In 2007, 17 such awards were made across the nation.

USGS' Gary Scoppertone: 2007 FWS Recovery Champion

By Jeannie Stafford, Nevada FWO
Gary Scoppertone, a section chief with the U. S. Geological Survey's Western Fisheries Research Center in Reno, Nev., was named a recipient of this year's Endangered Species Recovery Champion Award from the Service. Scoppertone received his award from Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dale Hall at the California and Nevada Region award ceremony.

Gary Scoppertone is one of a handful of scientists studying the status, distribution, life history, and habitat use of native desert fishes and other aquatic species in the Great Basin and Mojave deserts.

His efforts over the last 30 years represent a critical link between research and on-the-ground management actions. Scoppertone has

played a leadership role on a number of recovery teams and facilitated the

cooperation of private and public partners.

By conservative estimates of his peers, he has also been instrumental in the hiring, training, and mentoring of dozens of research and agency biologists, many of whom are now conducting conservation programs throughout the United States. Scoppertone has worked at the Research Center in Reno



since 1977. Assisted by his team of laboratory and field staff, he has conducted research to address the management needs of Nevada's 26 listed native fishes, producing more than 40 journal articles and publications in the process.

Scoppertone is a longtime facilitator of cooperation among public and private partners to achieve recovery of listed fishes. He has a deep-rooted connection to the Nevada landscape and the rural communities that depend on its lands and water because of his agricultural background. His family operates a working hay ranch in central Nevada.

Scoppertone's unique combination of academic expertise and knowledge of the working landscape has facilitated cooperative partnerships leading to the conservation and recovery of Nevada's fish species.

Scott Foott: Outstanding Scientific Contribution

Dr. Scott Foott, Project Leader at the California and Nevada

Fish Health Center, received a 2008 Regional Director's award for Outstanding Scientific Contribution at the All Project Leader meeting.



Both Foott and the Center are widely recognized and respected for their scientific excellence. Foott's command of fish pathology and his ability to help other project leaders and Fish and Wildlife Offices and Fish Hatcheries is highly valued, both within the Service and among our partners. Foott and the Center have provided support to efforts to recover Lahontan cutthroat trout, winter-run Chinook salmon, delta smelt, Klamath Lake suckers, and Devils Hole pupfish, as well as supporting efforts to restore salmon on the Klamath River and throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin systems.

Foott's work in the Klamath River system was instrumental in identifying the parasite *Ceratomyxa shasta* as a factor limiting survival of juvenile salmon. Over the last year, Foott engaged partners to develop a cooperative applied research effort directed at breaking the lifecycle of the *Ceratomyxa shasta* in the Klamath River. The initial stages of developing hypotheses with an expert panel and obtaining support from fisheries groups within California and Oregon has been successful. Improving survival of juvenile salmonids in the Klamath River is a focus of efforts to restore the river. Foott's work has the potential to make a major contribution to this effort.

Other areas in which Foott contributes to the science supporting management of aquatic species include: assessing the health of threadfin shad and longfin smelt in the Delta as part of the Pelagic Organism Decline studies through the Interagency Ecological Program; investigating the health effects of adverse water quality conditions typical of Upper Klamath Lake on Klamath Lake suckers; studying potential bacterial kidney disease control

measures to help support the role of Lahontan National Fish Hatchery in recovering Lahontan cutthroat trout; and working with the Service's Devils Hole Pupfish Recovery Coordinator to determine if adjacent populations of pupfish also have lymphosarcoma, a disease causing mortality for the few remaining Devils Hole pupfish.

Foott continues to show high levels of initiative in building the diagnostic capabilities of the Center, despite a very limited budget. Under Foott's leadership, the Center continues to incorporate new technologies and to develop state-of-the-art molecular and physiological assays to improve their abilities to provide scientific support to Service offices throughout Region 8 and to many Service partners.

Foott's outstanding scientific contributions are demonstrated by the wide variety of projects handled through his office, the continued growth in its capabilities, and the many presentations and publications he and his crew generated the last year. This included half a dozen scientific reports and three peer reviewed articles

Darla Eastman: Administrative Professional of the Year

Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office employee Darla Eastman was recognized as the Administrative Professional of the Year at the Regional Director's Award Ceremony at the All Project Leader meeting.

Eastman's sustained efforts at maintaining and enhancing partnerships with federal, state, tribal, and local governments, environmental groups, stakeholders, and landowners were instrumental in the success of the Klamath Restoration Agreement.

This agreement is an ongoing effort to address the needs of the stakeholders in the Klamath Basin, from the headwaters in Oregon to the estuary in northern California. Eastman's logistical skills, ability to coordinate parties of

all sizes and complexity, and ability to establish and maintain partnerships resulted in divergent groups being drawn together. The resulting team spirit at the restoration agreement meetings were integral to the success of the effort.

Eastman organized the meetings each month, assisted with the administrative needs, computer support, and facility management.



This was done in addition to her day-to-day work and carried out with enthusiasm and courtesy.

Eastman's coworkers say she is willing to do the job — no matter how large or small—and does it with a cheerful attitude that is contagious!

Her willingness to support the restoration agreement group enabled managers to focus on the negotiations, knowing that the logistics were being well taken care of.

Despite her heavy daily workload this year, Eastman continued to maintain effective communication with the YFWO staff and provided invaluable support to the many project teams even when faced with tight deadlines.

Nick Hetrick & Tom Shaw: Outstanding Scientific Contributions

Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office employees Nick Hetrick and Tom Shaw were recognized for their outstanding scientific contributions at the All Project Leader meeting and were presented with a Regional Director's award.

The award showcases their work in developing the scientific underpinnings of the Klamath Restoration Agreement as they relate to anadromous fish. They share the award because their efforts as a team have been inextricably linked and synergistic.

The Klamath Restoration Agreement is an ongoing effort to address the needs of the stakeholders in the Klamath Basin, from the headwaters in Oregon to the estuary in northern California. Representatives of diverse communities are working with federal, state, and county governments to develop an agreement to rebuild fisheries, sustain agricultural communities, and resolve other long-standing disputes related to the allocation of water resources.

Key to many stakeholders, and to the Service, was to find a way to ensure



that any restoration agreement conserved and restored populations of anadromous fish in the Klamath Basin.

Beginning in 2006, Shaw and Hetrick lead the development of the initial scientific basis related to anadromous fish for a possible Klamath-basin wide restoration agreement.

The two took responsibility for bringing together vast amounts of information concerning the Basin's hydrology, instream habitats, anadromous fish populations and life histories, fish diseases, and water quality to assess the potential impacts of restoration scenarios on anadromous fish. Working

with numerous partners, they were able to marry the best available science with innovative thinking to model the effects of restoration options on salmon.

As the modeling efforts grew increasingly sophisticated, Shaw and Hetrick communicated with others on the Klamath Science Group to foster understanding of the outcomes to the fish populations.

And as the Klamath Restoration Agreement neared completion, Shaw and Hetrick played key roles in explaining the effects and value of the proposed agreement on the anadromous fish population. The success of this process was due in large part to the development of an outstanding science summary document, authored primarily by the two Service employees.

The contributions made by Shaw and Hetrick go beyond the tangible written documents and analyses. Their information was heavily used throughout the restoration agreement talks.

Carmen Minch: Connecting People With Nature

By Karla Tanner, SF Bay NWRC

Outdoor Recreation Planner Carmen Minch of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Fremont, Calif. was recognized for her outstanding contributions to furthering the mission of the Service in the category of "Connecting People with Nature: Ensuring the Future of Conservation" during the All Project Leader meeting.

Long before the idea of Connecting People with Nature gained the attention it enjoys today, Carmen Minch was promoting innovative refuge-based events and activities which facilitated opportunities for people to connect to nature and develop life-long outdoor recreational

pursuits such as fishing, hiking, wildlife observation and wildlife photography.

In 2007, Minch was asked to serve as regional representative to the national U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Children and Nature Working Group.



She embraced the new assignment enthusiastically and has provided the unique and very practical perspective of a field station

Outdoor Recreation Planner to the group.

Minch has continued in her key role as the Region's Connecting People

with Nature Representative and is currently an active member of the Region's Connecting People with Nature team.

Minch continues to demonstrate creative ways to implement the program on refuges. While her actions embody the philosophy that it is by helping people develop positive attitudes and behaviors toward the environment that we encourage their life-long interest in enjoying and conserving nature, it is her attitude and actions which demonstrate the concept "Help each other, do the right thing, and have fun doing it."

Regional team members the success of their local initiative to Minch's enthusiasm and support.

David Mauser: National Wildlife Refuge System

Klamath National Wildlife Refuge Complex employee David Mauser was presented with a Regional Director's award for his outstanding work at the All Project Leader meeting.

Mauser has developed a unique and innovative approach to multiple address issues facing Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge (TLNWR) and the lease land farming program.



Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge is the only refuge in the nation which permits intensive commercial agriculture within its boundaries. This unusual practice results from the Kuchel Act, legislation enacted in 1964. The law was originally written to maintain wildlife on the refuge while

simultaneously maintaining 22,000 acres of lease land farming. Over the past several decades of interpretation, the Kuchel Act became increasingly controversial and the focus of several lawsuits. The challenge was whether wetlands and agricultural lands could be integrated to maintain ecological integrity yet legally function as compatible with wildlife within a Reclamation Project.

Past strategies had focused millions of dollars and thousands of hours on exercising regulatory authority. This had provided little benefit to the landscape and even less toward fish and wildlife conservation.

Mauser realized new strategies for managing these seemingly conflicting land uses needed to be developed. Ultimately he helped develop a process of rotating wetlands and croplands, called Walking Wetlands. The result has been a noticeable increase in wildlife species diversity, both on the refuge and on private lands. In addition to the rapid expansion of Walking Wetlands within the Klamath Basin, the

Service has been working with partners from other areas of the western U.S. The migration of Walking Wetlands onto private lands has been rapid, in part due to the program's ability to help farmers become more sustainable. In addition, it can enhance their entry into the emerging markets of organic farming.

David Mauser's innovation has helped merge sound biological science with the power of agricultural economics. As a result, more than 7,000 acres of additional wetlands have been created within the refuge and on nearby private lands.

Through Mauser's efforts, Tule Lake NWR and the surrounding landscape function at a higher level of ecological integrity, demonstrating how one person can truly make a difference. The problems inherent in the coexistence of wetlands and agriculture are not restricted to Service lands. Mauser's approach may be applicable in many locations where endangered plants and animals depend on wetlands and suffer the results of declining water quality.

Paul Henson: Regional Director's Leadership Award

Paul Henson, former Region 8 Assistant Regional Director of Ecological Services, received a Regional Director's award for his outstanding work as a key member of the regional leadership team.

During his five-year tenure in the region, Henson was at the center of change, helping to define and develop a new approach to conservation. This involved a new direction in both tone and attitude of our employees, and functional changes in how the region accomplished its mission.

The focus of the region's vision has been about how we deliver conservation of this country's natural resources to the land and to the people who live on the land. Henson was integral to the development of this new direction. He was equally pivotal in communicating those changes to all levels of the

organization. And even more importantly, Henson helped people understand how to implement change.

Paul Henson clearly understood the direction the regional leadership wanted to go, then articulated the change to the employees he supervised.

"The amazing part, said acting Regional Director Ken McDermond, "is his outstanding ability to get others to follow his leadership and to accomplish tough organizational and procedural changes.



"Paul has led through example, always seeking functional solutions to difficult conservation challenges that will work for people and wildlife. He is an experienced leader and uses innovative methods to implement changes in the way we conduct our business in the new Regional Office," McDermond concluded.

Isola: continued from page 8

"Whatever the issue is, be it water management planners, invasive species research, mosquito issues, or technical assistance to private landowners, Craig is well qualified and always ready to help organize, develop, finalize, and implement all projects. Craig is an outstanding employee and we are indeed lucky to have the privilege of working with him," concluded Foerster.

John Rueth: Outstanding Contribution to an Aquatic Species

John Rueth, Assistant Hatchery Manager at the Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery, was presented the Regional Director's award for his outstanding contribution to an aquatic species. This award recognizes Rueth for his work spearheading the design and construction of delta smelt rearing infrastructure at Livingston Stone NFH as well as the day-to-day culture work for this listed species at the facility.



In Fiscal Year 2007, Rueth's work resulted in the successful completion of a bioassay to determine the suitability of Livingston Stone NFH for the rearing of sub adult delta smelt to maturity.

To date in 2008, nearly 90 pair matings have been made, eggs successfully incubated, and larvae kept alive for several weeks. This is a major accomplishment in delta smelt rearing at Livingston Stone.

Delta smelt background

The abundance levels of delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) have collapsed to the lowest levels on record. During the 1970s, delta smelt was one of the most common and abundant pelagic species collected in trawl surveys in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. In 1970, the abundance index was 1673, but by the fall of 2005 the relative abundance index had dropped to 26. This record low value even contrasts with the recent abundance indices of 74 in 2004 and 210 in 2003. Delta smelt was originally listed as threatened species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game in 1993.

What next

In March 2006, employees from the Service met with the California Department of Fish and Game, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, and others involved with the culture of delta smelt at the Aquatic Center at U.C. Davis and State Water Project Aquatic Center facility in Byron. This meeting was held to share ideas regarding delta smelt culture, and to discuss the potential of a new delta smelt rearing facility. After that meeting, Service employees began

exploring the possibility of developing a delta smelt program at an existing Service fish hatchery or aquaculture facility. Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery was identified as the location of this program and Rueth spearheaded the design and construction of delta smelt rearing infrastructure.

Delta smelt rearing has proven difficult because feeding the larvae requires the culture of live food (rotifers and artemia) and larvae must be reared in turbid environments to promote feeding. This requires adding compounds into the water system to increase its turbidity.

While additional people may eventually be hired for the delta smelt program, this has not yet been completed. So Rueth has undertaken the construction of delta smelt rearing infrastructure and the rearing of delta smelt in addition to the rearing program for endangered winter Chinook salmon at the facility.

Rueth's supervisors say his dedication and commitment in undertaking the program delta smelt rearing deserves recognition.

Craig Isola: Outstanding Contribution in Landscape Planning

Craig Isola was presented with the Regional Director's Award for his outstanding contribution to landscape conservation within Region 8. Isola, who co-leads the administration and management of the easement and private lands programs within the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex, is responsible for the management of 140+ conservation easements throughout 11 counties in the Central Valley. According to coworkers, Isola routinely puts tremendous thought, effort, and on-the-ground oversight into the administration of the programs he oversees.

"Despite his day-to-day demands, Craig always manages to step up to the plate to assist with regional and national projects, and he is regularly called upon by managers within

the Regional Office to help with big picture issues," said Kevin Foerster, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex Project Leader.

Recently, Isola developed and co-hosted the 17th annual Wetland Management Workshop at Colusa National Wildlife Refuge. The workshop, which targets private landowners in the Sacramento Valley, was well received by more than 100 landowners and agency personnel in attendance. Isola developed the agenda which featured



expert speakers from the California Department of Fish and Game, National Wildlife Refuge System, U.C. Davis, and United State Geological Service. Feedback from workshop participants: "That was the best workshop ever..." and "...I can't wait to get back to my duck club to make some changes."

In addition, Isola recently served as the team leader for the development of the Northern Sacramento Valley Initiative Area Strategic Plan. The Plan is a collaborative effort of the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, Red Bluff Fish and Wildlife Office, and the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex and will enable managers to more effectively meet the challenges of managing national wildlife refuges.

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David Potter: Outstanding Contribution to Threatened and Endangered Species Management



By Jeannie Stafford, Nevada FWO

David Potter of the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office in Reno, Nev., was recognized for his Outstanding Contribution to Endangered and Threatened Species during the All Project Leader meeting. This award recognizes Potter for his outstanding achievement in the conservation of threatened and endangered species, and for meeting Regional Strategic Plan goals of providing leadership with the best science available and finding functional solutions that help people and help wildlife.

One of Potter's major geographic areas of responsibility is the Truckee River Basin, which provides habitat for the threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout (LCT) and endangered cui-ui, a large sucker fish.

Potter works closely with the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management and The Nature Conservancy on implementing three major habitat restoration projects on the Lower Truckee River. These projects include re-creating natural, meandering river channel segments that are connected to the floodplain, as well as restoring associated wetland and riparian habitats.

Each project will individually enhance conditions for the listed fishes and will cumulatively benefit miles of the lower river.

According to his supervisors, Potter has demonstrated outstanding leadership in working closely with the Truckee Meadows Water Authority, Corps of Engineers and other agencies to design a new diversion structure to replace the Glendale Diversion Dam. This facility diverts up to 37.5 million gallons each day to provide drinking water to the Truckee Meadows (Reno-Sparks) area.

The new structure will incorporate upstream and downstream passage for all life stages of native fish in the Truckee River, including Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Potter is also serving a key role in developing a long-term fish passage monitoring plan for the project. While working on this project, Potter demonstrated strong leadership in establishing a new multi-agency fish passage working group in Nevada to address barriers for listed fish using the best available science.

In addition, David Potter is the Service's representative on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Truckee Meadows Flood Control Project to address flooding issues on the Truckee River from the California-Nevada border, downstream to Pyramid Lake.

Potter has actively participated in the project's working group to ensure that it functionally benefits people, listed species and other wildlife.

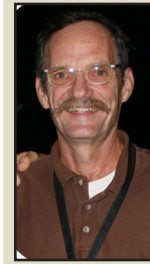
The Corps is now proceeding with the alternative developed by the working group.

Recently Potter was publicly recognized by Washoe County for his contributions in developing the locally-preferred alternative, which is being accepted by the Corps for implementation.

Larry Wade: Wage Grade Professional of the Year

By John Bradley, SF Bay NWRC

Larry Wade of the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Fremont, Calif.,



was recognized as Region 8's Wage Grade Professional of the Year, for his outstanding contribution to the Complex facilities' maintenance program at the All Project Leader meeting.

Within months of his arrival in 2004, Larry

Wade set a high standard and customer responsive work ethic that quickly led to major achievements in addressing the daunting maintenance needs of a large urban refuge complex.

Wade started with the Service in 2001, at the Pocosin Lakes NWR in North Carolina, as their lead mechanic and collateral duty fire fighter. In his day-to-day life at the San Francisco Bay Refuge Complex, Wade is a carpenter, electrician, mason, welder, plumber, heating equipment installer, pipe fitter, heavy equipment operator, truck driver, and above all a problem solver. His tenure at the complex has been studded with project accomplishments and leadership successes. He spearheaded the implementation of the Complex's Service Asset Management and Maintenance System (SAMMS) database. Relying almost entirely on annual maintenance funds, Wade has created much needed office and equipment storage facilities, repaired critical equipment failures, rehabilitated public trails and wayside exhibits, and the list goes on.

It is not only the more visible achievements that speak to Wade rock-solid contribution to the mission of the Service, but his accomplishments include the atmosphere he has created and cultivated within the Complex. He accomplishes this by managing and leading the maintenance work

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Mike Wolder: Outstanding Contribution to Migratory Bird Conservation

Mike Wolder was presented with a 2008 Regional Director's Award for his outstanding contributions to migratory bird issues throughout Region 8 and the Pacific Flyway. The award was presented at the All Project Leader meeting.

Wolder has served as the Service coordinator for the annual Midwinter Waterfowl Survey in California for the past eight years. He has been responsible for scheduling, survey completion, data collection and report submission to the flyway representative. In addition, he coordinates with flyway biologists and helps conduct special fall and December goose population surveys in the Sacramento Valley. These surveys are used to facilitate flyway management and harvest regulation decisions. Wolder's participation in the Flyway Management Process also includes annual submissions and attendance at the March meetings of the Pacific Flyway Study Committee.

Of particular note over the years are Wolder's efforts on Tule white-fronted geese. Through cooperative ventures with employees from the California



Department of Fish and Game, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U. S. Geological Survey, and U.C. Davis, he has played a significant role in the monitoring, capture, marking and subsequent discovery of additional migratory and breeding ground information.

Wolder's combination of knowledge, and experience, coupled with his outgoing personality, have helped him facilitate many "on the ground" accomplishments, often under adverse conditions.

More recently, Wolder's skills have been put to the test in addressing avian influenza issues in the Sacramento Valley. Once again, partnerships have been the key to facilitating employee medical clearances, capturing and sampling of pintail ducks, monitoring and submission of carcasses for sampling, and handling media inquiries related to disease concerns.

Management practices of the wetlands upon which many migratory birds depend, especially those related to mosquito abatement and public health concerns, are also on Wolder's long list of accomplishments. He coauthored a handbook of "Best Management Practices" for wetlands in order to minimize mosquito production both on and off refuge.

No matter what the task, and in addition to all his other duties as the Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for a large complex of refuges, Wolder's coworkers say he approaches each and every "opportunity" with a cheerful "can do" attitude and that he is always ready to help develop, organize and implement whatever is required to get the job done!

Marc Weitzel & Tom Kisanuki: Belt Buckle Recipients



Great Communicator Awards Presented to Six Region 8 Recipients

By Alexandra Pitts, External Affairs, Region 8

In the Region 8 tradition of acknowledging outstanding contributions, the External Affairs Team for the first time chose six recipients to receive the Region 8 External Affairs “Great Communicator” award in recognition of their unique contribution to Region 8’s Communications priority.

Although we have trained communications professionals in the region, our employees and partners are often also very skilled at communicating the facts of and passion about our mission. Some are naturals and some have gained “on the job” experience. To a person, the Service employees who excel at external communication care deeply about the resource and people.

The External Affairs program applauds these “Great Communicators” efforts and we hope others in Region 8 will follow their example. The 2008 “Great Communicator” recipients are as follows:

Greg Mensik- Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex for his role in the publication of a *San Francisco Chronicle* feature story on the refuge that resulted in increased visitation on the refuge. Read the article [here](#).

Ed Newcomer- Office of Law Enforcement Special Agent for his role in giftedly communicating the many illegal wildlife investigations he has successfully led



which have resulted in stories in the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, *Audubon* and *Backpacker Magazines* and National Public Radio.

The Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office for enthusiastically embracing the communications potential of the Fish and Wildlife Journal and their outstanding work in submitting articles to the FWS Journal. Their many quality submissions have made the Journal a success throughout the region.

Jane Hendron - Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office for her willingness to handle difficult communications challenges such as coordinating California’s avian influenza response and feral cat removal and her outstanding work and willingness to get the job done to communicate the work we do to protect the habitat of California’s many wildlife and plant species.

Scott Hamelberg - Coleman National Fish Hatchery for his communications marathon surrounding the 2008 trucking of salmon smolts from the hatchery to San Pablo Bay over a several week period.

The high, nationwide interest required Scott to be available for interviews at all hours while he was supervising a challenging operation.

Tracy Schohr- California Rangeland Conservation Coalition for her outstanding work to further the mission of the CRCC and role in bringing the effort and dedication of the coalition signatories to the public through her development and support of the CRCC website and publications. Her work has made a real difference in solidifying the many partnerships within the coalition.



Wade: continued from page 8:
team by good example, by high expectations, by affirmative feedback, and with respect. According to his supervisor, Wade has been an exceptional leader, one who recognizes the unique talents of his co-workers, and who is held in high esteem by them. He is an unusually effective teacher and mentor for those he supervises.

What sets Wade apart from many others and makes him exceptional, according to his colleagues, is his remarkably positive “can do” attitude. His style of communication is open, honest, direct and sensitive; his input is always thoughtful and practical. His love for the outdoors, his fascination with geology and his avocation for landscape and wildlife photography only add to the character he has forged as a wage grade worker and leader in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Gary Wallace: Inducted Into Linnean Society of London



Dr. Gary Wallace (USFWS photo)

By Debbie Pierce, Carlsbad FWO

Dr. Gary Wallace of the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office was recently recognized for his lifelong dedication, expertise, and commitment to excellence in Botany and Taxonomical Classification by the Linnean Society of London.

On May 23 Wallace was admitted as a Fellow of the Society, placing him among the global leaders of the natural sciences.

Founded in 1788, this Society has played a central role in documenting and conserving the world's diverse flora and fauna and is the world's oldest active society devoted to natural history.

The Linnean Society of London holds the botanical and zoological collections, and the library and correspondence of Swedish naturalist Carl Linnaeus. Its primary purpose is to communicate scientific ideas and advances, and it was at the July 1, 1858, meeting of the Society that Charles Darwin and Alfred Russel Wallace first presented the theory of evolution.

Membership to the Linnean Society of London requires a Proposal of Recommendation be signed by one or more standing Fellows familiar with the person's work. Wallace's recommendation noted his work on members of the Ericaceae (heath family), assistance with

the project to identify type specimens for Linnaean plant names, and work on the history of botanical collections.

Wallace's membership election coincided with the Society's celebration of the 300th anniversary of Linnaeus' birth.

Wallace is the current president of Southern California Botanists and chair of the Southwestern California and Channel Islands Region sessions for the California Native Plant Society's 2009 Conservation Conference.

Wallace regularly devotes time outside of his work schedule to meet with Service partners in efforts to conserve sensitive and rare plant taxa. Wallace has, for example, worked with the faculty of Claremont Graduate School and researchers at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden to initiate a graduate-level course in which students prepare conservation plans for non-listed plants and continues to mentor graduate students as they develop these non-regulatory conservation tools for land managers. These tools connect students to nature and introduce future scientists to the Service, while maximizing conservation through the development of positive partnerships with land managers, and culminate in on-the-ground conservation efforts for non-listed species.

For the past 12 years Dr. Gary Wallace has used his skills to lead the Service in preparing listing rules for 17 plant taxa, recovery plans for more than 14 plant taxa, candidacy of two plant taxa, and responding to litigation on multiple species, always utilizing the best science available. Currently, he is focusing on status reviews of numerous listed plant taxa and is responsible for maintaining a reference collection of plant specimens for the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office, all while providing botanical and reference assistance to the Carlsbad staff.

We are proud and honored to have Dr. Gary Wallace as part of the Fish and Wildlife Service's family.

FWS Employees Learn to ID Fish

By Paul Cadrett, Stockton FWO

The Delta Juvenile Fishes Monitoring Program (DJFMP) at the Stockton Fish and Wildlife Office has been sampling the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, the Delta and bay since the 1970s for juvenile fish. Due to the large number of native and non-native fish species in this system, accurate identification has been a high priority for the Service.

In 2001 the DJFMP hired a quality assessment/quality control (QA/QC) biologist to teach fish ID to the field crew and to carry out fish identification in the field. The office staff have developed a fish identification manual including characteristics and photos of all native and non-native freshwater species found throughout the estuary including many of the marine species.

The QA/QC biologist also maintains a teaching collection of preserved fishes for use in a fish ID class, which is taught three times a year. The day-long fish class includes a half-day lecture followed by lab work. In May a special class was held for California Department of Fish and Game staff.

John Pedretti contributed to this article.



Stockton Office technician identifying juvenile fish in the lab. (USFWS photo)

Share the Spark! Regional Poster Celebrates People & Nature

By Erica Szlosek, External Affairs, Region 8

For the past six months or so, Region 8's Connecting People with Nature Team has been working together to define the region's approach to incorporating more nature opportunities for the millions of people who live and work within California, Nevada and the Klamath Basin.

To invigorate employees and "share the spark," team member Shannon Stutzer-Smith, Deputy Project Leader at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, had an idea to highlight the many Service employees who have been inspired by nature their entire lives. Her idea was to create a poster showcasing the region's employees enjoying the outdoors as children.

The Team collaborated to design the poster you see here. Interested in a copy for your office? Small versions are available right away. Larger sizes are available by request. For more information, call External Affairs at (916) 978-6159. The CPWN Team is led by Carmen Minch, San Francisco Bay NWR.

Celebrating Children & Nature

We've always known where we belong!



Steve Thompson (& Dad)
Regional Director, 2002-2008

How did you get to work today?

We all have memories of playing outdoors
Puddle hopping on a rainy day
Catching bluegill at the fishing hole
Cloud watching on a sunny afternoon
Climbing an oak tree
Camping in the backyard



Jennifer Jones
Wildlife Biologist

These experiences inspired us to become the professionals we are now!

But too many are missing these great experiences. Today's youth spend less time outdoors than any previous generation. And that may be a problem, especially if we end up with a nation that doesn't relate to wildlife, plants or nature.



Carmen Leong-Minch
Outdoor Rec Planner SRW

You can make a difference

Help connect people with nature!
Invite a "future biologist" to a site visit
Lead a bird walk
Help with a fish festival
Create schoolyard habitats



Erica Szlosek
Public Affairs Officer

Share the spark!



Mary Grim
Wildlife Biologist



Kim Forrest
Project Leader, San Luis NWR



Shannon Smith
Deputy Project Leader
Humboldt Bay NWR



Tom Puskala
Bulge Operations Specialist



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, California and Nevada Region

Fire Threatens Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery

By Scott Hamelberg, Coleman NFH

Sparked by lighting strikes June 21, the Motion, Moon and Deerlick fires were part of the Shasta-Trinity Lightning Complex under California Department of Forestry and Fire's responsibility.

This complex consisted of 158 fires, 40+ of which merged with other fires. A total of 28,336 acres burned, from Shasta Dam to the corner of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

The fire moved close to the Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery (which

is located just below Shasta Dam), on July 2 and 3.

The Livingston Stone NFH is part of the Coleman NFH Complex and rears listed winter Chinook salmon and delta smelt.

Deputy Interior Secretary Lynn Scarlett visited the fire area on Aug. 12 to learn more about restoration plans for the area. Many of the area's recreation trails (managed by BLM and the Forest Service) are now closed. They have reported they intend to have them re-opened as soon as fire rehabilitation work is complete.



Smoke rises from behind the buildings and tanks at Livingston Stone NFH during the Motion Fire in July.

(John Rueth/USFWS)

FWS and Nevada Farmers Work Together To Repair Canal Breach

By Janet Schmidt, Stillwater NWR

Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge maintenance professionals provided assistance to the Truckee Carson Irrigation District to repair a breach in a major water delivery canal after the V-Line Canal breached at a structure about eight miles west of Fallon, Nev., on the night of June 11.

A group of nearby farmers pulled together and formed a tractor brigade to begin hauling dirt to the breach from a nearby field a few days later.

On June 16, other partners stepped forward to join the effort to save the Lahontan Valley's young agricultural crops.

In four days of round-the-clock work by the farmers, Truckee-Carson Irrigation District, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Churchill County Road Department, Stillwater Refuge and others, the breach was repaired.

BOR gave permission to release water down the V-Line Canal on June 20th, and water began to flow again from Lahontan Dam.



Stillwater NWR dump truck at the breach area. (Janet Schmidt/USFWS)

Refuge Maintenance personnel, Bob Henderson, Neil Mansfield, Dave Wills and Keith Schmidt contributed a combined total of 78 hours to the project, and filled more than 72 'belly-dumps' with more than 1,000 yards of rock and riprap from the Refuge

gravel pit. The refuge dump truck, dozer, belly-dump, and loader all saw action during this effort. According to Truckee-Carson Irrigation District Project Manager Dave Overvold, "this was truly a community effort, everybody just came together."



Working together to repair the breach. (Janet Schmidt/USFWS)

Camp Roberts Hosts Non-Lead Ammunition Demonstration

On July 20, the Institute for Wildlife Studies, funded by a grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with the California Army National Guard, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, provided a non-lead ammunition educational program and demonstration at Camp Roberts, Calif.

The event gave hunters the opportunity to evaluate the performance of non-lead ammunition, provided to them free of charge. Demonstrations included a comparison of lead and non-lead ammunition shot into ballistics gel and recovery of bullets shot into water barrels. These demonstrations illustrated the high fragmentation of lead ammunition after impact.

In addition, information was provided on the effects of lead on wildlife, and in-depth studies on the ballistics of lead versus non-lead ammunition, and summaries on the natural history and status of sensitive wildlife species, particularly the endangered California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*).

Representatives from the California Army National Guard were present to ensure firearm safety and to answer questions about the hunting program and regulations at Camp Roberts.



Shooting demonstration at Camp Roberts to evaluate non-lead ammunition performance. (Chris Diel/USFWS)

Most participants said they thought the non-lead ammunition performed as well as lead. Many also said they were concerned by the amount of fragmentation a lead bullet undergoes upon impact and the effects those fragments could have if consumed by wildlife or humans.

Bullet fragments left behind in carcasses or gut-piles shot with lead ammunition can pose a serious risk for any scavenging animal that inadvertently ingests the fragments. Several California condors in California and Arizona have died of lead poisoning, and every year several more undergo chelation treatment to reduce toxic lead levels in their blood.

Evidence of ammunition as a cause of California condor lead poisoning increased with the publication of a study indicating lead ammunition as the principal source.

In early 2007, after informal conversations with the



Lead fragments in water barrel after shooting demonstration.
(Chris Diel/USFWS)

Service, California Army National Guard at Camp Roberts provided leadership in the conservation of California condors, and all wildlife, by prohibiting the use of lead bullets in its hunting program starting July 1, 2007, and *all* lead ammunition starting July 1, 2008. This regulation change was a voluntary commitment by the National Guard, and an example of their continued pro-active approach to conserving sensitive species and removing lead from the environment.

Then on October 13, 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the Ridley-Tree Condor Preservation Act that required the use of non-lead centerfire rifle and pistol ammunition for hunting big game and coyotes within the designated range of California condors; effective July 1, 2008. On December 7, 2007, the California Fish and Game Commission adopted this Act and expanded it to include all projectiles containing lead fired from a firearm, except .22 rimfire and smaller calibers for hunting small game animals.

Lower Klamath Refuge Celebrates 100th Birthday

By Matt Baun, Yreka FWO

The Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge celebrated its 100th year of conserving and managing habitat for ducks, geese and other wildlife in the Klamath Basin on Aug. 8. The Lower Klamath was the first refuge in the nation that was dedicated specifically for waterfowl conservation.

“Over the last century, millions of people have visited this refuge and were touched by the wonders they experienced here,” said Ron Cole, manager of the Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex. “The Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge is a national treasure and we hope that future generations will continue to be awestruck and inspired by this remarkable landscape.”

The refuge offers stunning views of waterfowl, including Snow, Ross’s Canada, and White-fronted Geese.

These geese fill the skies when they arrive in fall, usually in October and November. The refuge is also home to wintering bald eagles -- the largest concentration in the Lower 48 states.

Other seasons offer spring waterfowl, including impressive numbers of tundra swans, tens of thousands of shorebirds, and, in early summer, nesting eared grebes, American avocets, black-necked stilts, and white-faced ibises. A 10-mile auto tour runs through the refuge and offers superb wildlife viewing opportunities for the public.

The Lower Klamath Refuge, originally named Klamath Lake Reservation, was established by Executive Order on August 8, 1908, by President Theodore

Roosevelt where it was stated that these lands would be set aside as a “preserve and breeding ground for native birds.”

The Lower Klamath refuge encompasses nearly 51,000 acres and is a varied mix of shallow freshwater marshes, open water, grassy uplands, and

croplands that are intensively managed to provide feeding, resting, nesting, and brood rearing habitat for waterfowl and other water birds. It is one of three in southern Oregon and three in northern California that are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the 190,000-acre Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge Complex.

The refuge will continue to sponsor monthly events through December 2008 as part of its 100th Anniversary.

A schedule of events is available online at: www.fws.gov/klamathbasinrefuges.



Deconstructing Chiloquin Dam: Good Move for Suckers

By Matt Baun, Klamath Falls FWO

Chiloquin Dam is now officially part of history – it no longer exists.

Since mid-July the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation has deconstructed and removed the entire dam from the Sprague River, located in the Upper Klamath Basin in the town of Chiloquin, Ore.

Chiloquin Dam was built in 1914. It has provided locals with a reliable source of irrigation water and was a popular swimming hole from residents of Chiloquin, including many in the Klamath Tribes community there. But the dam also blocked vast amounts of habitat for the once abundant Lost River and shortnose suckers of the Upper Basin.

In early July, the Bureau of Reclamation sponsored a ceremonial event that was attended by the Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal, state and tribal officials, as well as members of the community.

The Fish and Wildlife Service identified the dam as a limiting factor in the ESA listing decision for the suckers.

The dam blocked fish passage to 80 miles of habitat in Sprague River and an existing fish ladder proved to be inefficient.

In 2002, Congress authorized legislation that directed the Interior Secretary to study the best option for fish passage on the Sprague, which included options to remove the dams or to improve the fish ladders.

After all of the studies were completed, it was decided that dam removal would be the best bet.

Irrigators continue to get water deliveries through a new state-of-the-art pumping system and the endangered suckers and other fish will have unimpeded access to prime habitat.

“Endangered suckers will not use the area until next spawning season,” said Mark Buettner, a fisheries biologist with the Klamath Falls Field Office. “But other river residents can now readily move through this area.”

In addition to the two endangered suckers, the Sprague is home to Klamath largescale suckers and redband rainbow trout.



Built in 1914, Chiloquin Dam helped farmers in the Upper Klamath Basin irrigate their fields. Now irrigators will get water deliveries through a new pumping system. (USFWS photo)



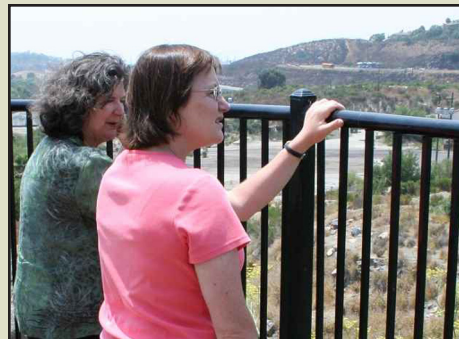
The dam has been removed. (USFWS photo)

Press Tour Highlights Wetlands Conservation Needs in San Diego County

By Jane Hendron, Carlsbad FWO

A July 9 press conference and walking tour gave media members the opportunity to learn about the risks facing wetlands in San Diego County, and the efforts under way to protect, conserve, and restore them. Participants included Diane Nygaard, founder Preserve Calavera, Maleah Ashford, Agua Hedionda Watershed Coordinator, Andrew Mauro, member of the San Elijo Lagoon Conservancy Board of Directors, and Jane Hendron, Carolyn Lieberman, and Marci Koski from the Carlsbad FWO.

After the press conference, media were guided along a busy avenue and shown the impacts of channelization on natural wetland functions,



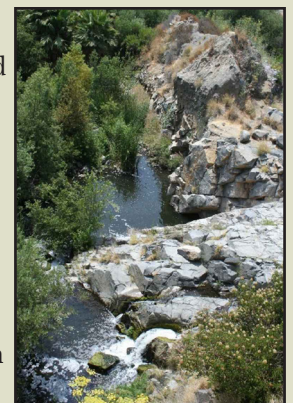
Diane Nygaard of Preserve Calavera pointing out El Salto Falls to Barbara Henry, North County Times Reporter. (Jane Hendron/USFWS)

sources of pollution from road runoff, irrigation, and trash. This spot was contrasted with a naturally flowing portion of the same creek just across the street that was protected as mitigation for a nearby development

project. The tour wrapped up with a visit to El Salto Falls, located behind a shopping center and adjacent to a quarry.

The tour highlighted the extreme fragmentation of historic wetlands in southern California and

clearly illustrated the need to protect these few remaining wetland areas for the benefit of both wildlife and people.



View of El Salto Falls in Oceanside, Calif. (Jane Hendron/USFWS)

Young Students Become Naturalists For a Day . . . and Maybe For a Lifetime



(Diane Noda/USFWS)

By Diane Noda, Ventura FWO

An enthusiastic group of 70 third and fourth graders from Rio Vista Elementary School in Canyon Country, Calif., descended from the bus that brought them to the Santa Clara River. For most, it was going to be an experience they'd never had before. On this bright, warm June morning, excited chatter filled the air as the young students swarmed around staff from the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office and Newhall Land representatives who were there to greet them.

The partnership between the Ventura FWO and Newhall Land, a development company, expanded for this special day to include naturalists and aquatic biologists from Placerita Canyon Nature Center, United Water Conservation District, and ENTRIX, Inc. All gathered on this stretch of the river on Newhall property to provide a fun and meaningful outdoors experience for these students.

Outfitted with Fish and Wildlife Service field notepads, a disposable camera, and a pair of binoculars and



A Rio Vista student takes care as he shows off a young western toad.
(Diane Noda/USFWS)

clawed frog— on native species. They roamed up and downstream, through the river, on sand bars, and into the riparian vegetation and adjacent uplands.

The hours passed but their enthusiasm and curiosity never waned. And from the grins on the faces of the teachers, parent volunteers, company representatives and biologists, it was evident that it was more than just the kids that were having a great time! It was later touted by the students to be “the best field trip ever.” Linda Valdes, an educator and champion for the Rio Vista students, summed it up: “Wow! What an amazing day! I’m certain today’s experiences will last our students a lifetime.”

See the student follow-up reports and photographs at: www.fws.gov/ventura

birding guide, the students were sent off in small groups with biologists in tow. Their mission was to explore the river ecosystem, to photograph and make note of the plants and animals that intrigued them. They were given demonstrations of seining and dip netting for aquatic creatures and, with dip net in hand (and supervision from afar), were able to give it a try. They ooh’d and aah’d at display tanks and buckets containing fish, frogs and invertebrates pulled from the river earlier that morning, and learned about the detrimental effects of invasive non-native species— such as the African



Chris Dellith, Ventura FWO, gives the students an introduction to their field day.
(Diane Noda/USFWS)

Transitions

DAVID TISCHER: Newly hired Office Assistant in the Ventura FWO. David retired from the U.S. Navy in spring of 2008, having most recently worked as an Administrative Department Manager at Point Mugu. David's career in the military took him through various positions working in Nebraska, Germany, the Netherlands, and California. David is an Office Assistant providing administrative support for the South Coast Division of the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office.

JENNY PHILLIPS: Newly hired Biologist/Environmental Contaminants (SCEP), Ventura FWO. Jenny received her Master's degree from the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara in June 2008. Jenny came to the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office (VFWO) in May 2008 as a SCEP employee, having previously worked in a SCEP appointment for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Jenny was offered and accepted conversion to a permanent, full-time Fish and Wildlife Biologist position within the VFWO in September 2008. Jenny works on various Ecological Services projects within the VFWO's South Coast Division, including 5-year status reviews, section 7 consultations, and environmental contaminants issues.

HEATHER ABBEY: Newly hired Biologist (SCEP), Ventura FWO. Heather is currently a student at the Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and is on track to receive her Master's degree in June 2009. Heather began working as a SCEP employee (Fish and Wildlife Biologist) at VFWO in July 2008. Heather currently works on Ecological Services projects within the VFWO's South Coast Division, including 5-year status reviews and section 7 consultations.

CURT MULLIS: Field Supervisor for the Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Office retired on August 1 after more than 31 years of federal service. A graduate of Humboldt State University, Curt began his career with the Forest Service in Mariposa, Calif. Curt has also worked at Yosemite for the Park Service and served in various capacities for USDA's Animal Damage Control program in California and New Mexico. Curt came to Klamath Falls in 1994 to head the Restoration Program and was promoted to Field Supervisor in 2003.

JOHN BOWERMAN: Fisheries biologists for the Klamath Falls Fish and Wildlife Office retired on August 1. John began his 30-year career in the federal government working for the National Marine Fisheries Service first in Anchorage and then in Kodiak. John went back to school in 1994 to get his master's degree from New Mexico State. He came to the Klamath Falls FWO in 1997, where he worked on bull trout conservation.

KENT RUSSELL: retired on August 1, 2008 from the U.S. Forest Service. The reason why Kent gets mention here is because he spent half his time working on Lost River and short nose suckers for the Klamath Falls FWO. A graduate of Berkeley and Humboldt State, Kent began his federal career in Happy Camp with the Klamath National Forest. From there, Kent worked in Alaska, Oregon and Washington State before settling in Klamath Falls.

DAVID DIAMOND: In June David became the new Region 8 liaison based in Arlington, Va. Previously, David was a Special Assistant to the Regional Director, working in the Yreka FWO on Klamath River hydropower and water issues. Prior to joining FWS, David was a Policy Analyst for the Department of the Interior. In his new position, David will represent the needs of Region 8 in the Washington Office and the Department of the Interior. David will be the Service's first Liaison Officer; the position is modeled on the Bureau of Reclamation's regional liaison program. David new phone number is 703-358-2443.

SHERRI HAGWOOD: joined the Yreka FWO in August. A botanist, Sherri came to Yreka from Twin Falls, Idaho, where she worked for the Bureau of Land Management. Sherri will serve as a restoration ecologist for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife program in Yreka and will work on projects in the middle Klamath.

MARK COOKSON: joined the Yreka FWO in October. He came to the Service from Omack, Wash., where he served as a salmon recovery and habitat restoration biologist. Mark currently serves as a biologist for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and works on Klamath restoration projects in the watersheds of the Shasta, Scott and Salmon rivers.

MATT BAUN: joined the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a public affairs officer based in Yreka, in November. Matt came to the Service via the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, DC. Matt's primary responsibility is to assist four offices in the Klamath Basin with their public affairs needs. Matt covers the Yreka, Arcata, and Klamath Falls Field Offices as well as the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge.

MATTHEW BARRY: joined the Klamath Falls FWO in March as a supervisory fish & wildlife biologist. Previously, Matt Director of the Williamson River Delta Preserve for The Nature Conservancy. A biologist, Matt has been working on restoration and monitoring projects in the Upper Basin. Matt also oversees the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program for the Klamath Falls Office as the chief of the Habitat Conservation and Restoration Division.

DAMION CIOTTI: came to the Klamath Falls FWO in June. Previously, Damion worked in Klamath Falls for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as a Physical Scientist, Water Quality Specialist. In his current position, Damion serves as a Restoration Ecologist and works on restoration projects for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in the Upper Klamath Basin.

WE ARE REGION 8

CHERYL CARTER: came to the Yreka FWO in April as the new office assistant. Cheryl helps the staff with a variety of administrative functions. Cheryl began her career in the federal service with the U.S. Forest Service, Scott River Ranger District, where she served for 19 years.

KATHLEEN ERWIN: has joined the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office in Reno as the Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor. Kathleen comes to Region 8 from Region 6 where she was the supervisor of the Energy Pilot Office based in Pinedale, Wyo. Her duties were primarily related to oil and gas development, which included streamlining development while ensuring the conservation of fish and wildlife resources. Kathleen also previously worked as a biologist in the Wyoming Field Office in Cheyenne. In her new role, Kathleen will be supervising and working with staff on a variety of ESA (recovery, listing and consultation) and NEPA activities in northern Nevada.

STEVE CHILTON: The Nevada FWO is pleased to announce that Steve is their first-ever Aquatic Nuisance Species Coordinator. Steve officially started work July 20, but served as the Acting Coordinator earlier this summer. He is primarily focused on coordinating invasive species prevention, control, and eradication measures in the Lake Tahoe Basin, but his ANS skills will also be used throughout Nevada. Steve is leading the multi-agency Lake Tahoe Aquatic Invasive Species Coordination Committee and is currently involved in the newly-implemented watercraft inspection program for all boat launch facilities on Lake Tahoe. Species of concern for Lake Tahoe include quagga and zebra mussels, as well as the curlyleaf pondweed, Eurasian water milfoil, warmwater fishes and Asian clams already present. Steve comes to the Service from the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) where he worked for 27 years and most recently was the Chief of the Environmental Improvement Branch. He is stationed at Lake Tahoe in the TRPA office.

DOMINIC BACHMAN: started work in a new position as the Partners for

Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the Modoc Plateau region based out of the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge in Alturas, Calif. Dominic reports that he is “successfully breaking new ground in the private lands world in North-eastern California.” Before coming to Modoc he had been working as a Graduate Student Career Experience Program student with the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Loleta, Calif. There he performed research on coastal wetlands, Pacific brant and Aleutian cackling geese. Recently Dominic completed his Master’s thesis on Aleutian geese spring foraging preferences in coastal grasslands. Before working with the Service, Dominic worked seasonally for Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl and California Waterfowl Association. His current projects at the Modoc Refuge revolve around the restoration of water quality to some of the degraded watersheds in the region, loss of natural flood plain and wetland functions, as well as the weed infested sagebrush steppe ecosystem. Dominic grew up on the Ogden Bay Wildlife Management Area in Utah where his father is the manager.

LARRY WADE: retired in July from the San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Fremont, Calif. He was recognized by Steve Thompson as Region 8’s Wage Grade Professional of the Year, for his outstanding contribution to the Complex facilities’ maintenance program (see article on page 8). Larry retired from the Service at the end of July and he will be greatly missed. He and his wife Lisa left the Bay Area for their property near Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge in Nevada. After a brief stop there, they planned to spend the rest of the summer driving and camping throughout Canada and the Western United States before settling down.

BART PROSE: joined the Region 8 Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program in August. Bart is now the lead grants manager for the Boating Infrastructure Grants (BIG), Clean Vessel Act (CVA) grants, and boating access grants. In addition, Bart is the lead for the California Department of Fish and Game’s Hatchery/Stocking EIS project. Bart comes to Region 8 from the Service’s Sacramento Fish

and Wildlife Office, where he worked as Chief of the Restoration and Monitoring Branch for more than three years. Prior to that, Bart worked for several years as a senior biologist working on designing and conducting field studies and investigations, developed habitat management plans and recommendations to protect fish and wildlife, and designed and evaluated habitat restoration and conservation programs, for the Sacramento FWO. Bart has a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo.

BART McDERMOTT: the new project leader at Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, is returning to California after five years at Seedskafee NWR in Wyoming. Bart grew up on a small farm in the Puget Sound. As a student at the Evergreen State College, he was a volunteer at Dungeness Spit NWR near Port Angeles and Red Rock Lakes NWR in Montana. His Service career has taken him to the Northwest Hawaiian Islands where he spent three years restoring seabird breeding habitat on Midway Atoll and Laysan Island. Bart also spent three years at San Francisco Bay NWR Complex working on the Farallon Islands and Don Edwards NWR

MARIE STRASSBURGER: is heading Region 8’s new Migratory Bird Division. As Chief, Branch of Bird Conservation, in the Washington Office for the past two years, Marie has been responsible for the Migratory Bird Program, supervising and managing the FWS’s bird conservation planning efforts for land birds, shorebirds, and waterbirds, in addition to Birds of Conservation Concern and focal species. Additionally, she has been supervising the national bird initiative coordinators for Partners In Flight, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas, and U.S. Shorebird Conservation, as well as staff, who are responsible for regulation and policy development pertaining to incidental take of migratory birds, conservation of nongame species, and updating species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Prior to moving to Arlington, Marie worked in the Sacramento FWO as Deputy Assistant Field Supervisor for the Fish and Wildlife Restoration Pro-

gram within California's Central Valley/San Francisco Bay Ecoregion and as Program Manager for the Habitat Restoration Program, under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. She has been with the Service for 17 years.

PHIL CUNNINGHAM: joined the NFWO, Las Vegas as a Biological Science Technician in October, and works with GIS applications and data management to primarily support the Ecological Services and Refuge programs in southern Nevada, as well as provide support to northern Nevada programs and projects. Previously Phil worked with the Service in Essex Junction, Vt., where he was involved with lamprey control in Lake Champlain and the connected waterways, as well as in Wells, Maine at the Rachel Carson NWR where he worked on a marsh restoration study. Phil received a B.S. in Environmental Biology from Plymouth State University, N.H., in 2006.

COREY KALLSTROM: came to the NFWO, Las Vegas last month and is a Fish and Wildlife Biologist working mainly on biological analyses and monitoring plans for groundwater development projects and section 7 consultations in southern Nevada. He was most recently with the National Park Service at Lake Mead National Recreation Area where he tracked and implemented desert restoration projects. Previously, Corey was a regional terrestrial habitat coordinator for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department, and held positions with various state and federal agencies in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. In all, Corey has 21 years of natural resource management experience. He received an A.A. and A.A.S. in Liberal Arts and Law Enforcement respectively, from Oakton Community College in 1991. He received his B.S. in Wildlife Resources in 1995 and is currently working on his M.S. in Wildlife Resources at the University of Idaho.

LEE SIMONS: arrived at the NFWO, Las Vegas in August, and is a senior Fish Biologist responsible for efforts in consultation and recovery for numerous aquatic species, primarily fish, in southern Nevada. He came to FWS from the Forest Service where he was a Natural Resource Specialist on the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. Prior to his work with the Forest Service, Lee was the Curator of Natural Science at the Turtle Bay Exploration Park in Redding, Calif., a Research Wildlife Biologist with the U.S. Army Garrison at Fort Huachuca in Ariz., and an Endangered Fish Biologist with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. He has more than 28 years of wildlife management and research experience. Lee received his A.S. in Science from the College of the Siskiyous, a B.A. in Zoology from San Jose State University, M.S. in Zoology from Arizona State University, and a Ph.D. in Population Biology from University of California, Davis.

Steve Thompson: Silver at Last!



(Scott Flaherty/USFWS)

At his retirement party on August 12, former Regional Director Steve Thompson was finally presented with the much-coveted Fish and Wildlife Service's belt buckle by Service Director Dale Hall.

In Memoriam

Remembering Lorna Daskalu

Lorna Daskalu, a former Administrative Assistant for the Division of Realty with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 15 years passed away on July 26, in Sacramento, Calif., from cancer. Lorna retired from the Service in 2007 due to medical reasons. Lorna was born in Santa Barbara, and raised in Ventura, Calif. She graduated from Ventura High School in 1969. As a Greek-American, Lorna was very proud of her heritage and collected mementos and information about family members going back five generations.

Lorna started her federal career as a secretarial temp from Kelley Services. Her strong organizational skills and dedication to her duties eventually led to a permanent full time position with the Realty Division. According to her supervisor Steve Dyer, Lorna was always willing to help out with any task and was a kind, considerate and dedicated person. Lorna was well liked and highly respected by her fellow employees. She was constantly volunteering to help out other divisions with Service related public functions. Her organizational skills were second to none, and in many instances led to her being recognized by her peers and supervisors. Lorna loved her job, and



The Extremes - aka Lynn Trujillo, Diane Harris and Lorna Daskalu.

often said that the Fish and Wildlife Service was her second family.

Lorna was very social and loved to plan office parties and functions. She hoped to start her own party planning business after she retired. Lorna, Lynn Trujillo and Diane Harris formed a trio to perform at retirement parties for Service employees known as The Extremes. According to Diane and Lynn the trio had a lot of fun writing the lyrics and rehearsing for these gigs! They both describe Lorna as always the enthusiastic one and the main motivator of the group.

Lorna loved her dog, Roxy, and her cat, Miss Kitty, music and dancing, getting together with friends, scrapbooking,

crocheting, watching old movies, and watching the hummingbirds feed outside her apartment window.

Lorna is survived by her mother, Louise Daskalu, her daughter, Jennifer Russell, granddaughter Erica Russell, and two great-grandchildren, Jennisha and Morissa. She was most proud of Erica and Jennisha, as she raised them for two years until Erica became an adult.

Her passing at the age of 57 is truly a loss to the Service and to all of us who were fortunate to know and worked with her. She was a very special person with a “go get em” attitude. She will be truly missed.

We Are Region 8 is an online employee publication produced by the California and Nevada Region's External Affairs Office, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, Calif., 95825. Articles and photos were primarily incorporated from FWS Journal submissions from May through September, 2008. Questions regarding the newsletter can be sent to Erica Szlosek at erica_szlosek@fws.gov or by phone at (916) 978-6464.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov and www.fws.gov/cno.

Region 8 Journal Articles Since Last Regional Newsletter:

To read these Journal entries, follow the link:

[REGION 8: Darla Eastman Named Administrative Professional of the Year](#)

[BITTER CREEK NWR: Public Participation is Critical Part of Refuge Planning](#)

[REGION 8: Craig Isola Recognized for Outstanding Contribution in Landscape Planning](#)

[REGION 8: Leadership Award Presented to Former Ecological Services Chief](#)

[REGION 8: Recovery Champion Kate Symonds Goes the Extra Mile for Species' Recovery](#)

[REGION 8: Regional Director Steve Thompson Receives Outstanding Civilian Service Medal From the U.S. Army](#)

[REGION 8: Regional Director Steve Thompson Recognized by California Senator Feinstein](#)

[KLAMATH NWRC: Lower Klamath Refuge Celebrates 100th Birthday](#)

[VENTURA FWO: Service Active in Marine and Coastal Conservation Activities](#)

[REGION 8: Poster Showcases Employee Support of Region's Children & Nature Initiatives](#)

[KERN NWR: Dairy Farmers and Happy Cows Help Nesting Tricolored Blackbirds](#)

[REGION 8: Funding Agreements Reached for Phase 1A of the Battle Creek Project](#)

[CARLSBAD FWO: Gary Wallace Inducted into the Linnean Society of London](#)

[VENTURA FWO: Eureka Valley Dunes Plants Get a Helping Hand](#)

[VENTURA FWO: Camp Roberts Hosts Non-lead Ammunition Demonstration](#)

[YREKA FWO: Study Suggests Upper Klamath Lake Can Support Juvenile Salmon](#)

[TORRANCE LE: California Man Sentenced to 2,500 Hours Community Service, Fined \\$2,000](#)

[REGION 8: Regional Director Steve Thompson Responds to Criticism of the Use of Hatcheries to Restore Delta](#)

[COLEMAN NFH: Motion Fire Threatens Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery](#)

[CARLSBAD FWO: Press Tour Highlights Wetlands Conservation Needs in San Diego](#)

SAN PABLO BAY NWR: Friends of Alameda Win First Place in July 4th Event

KLAMATH FALLS FWO: Dam Removal, Other Milestones Part of Long-Term Plan

RED BLUFF FWO: Connecting People With Nature Marks Red Bluff's "Springtime Outreach Season"

CARLSBAD FWO: San Diego Simulation Helps Sharpen Service's Response to Disaster

REGION 8: 'Great Communicator' Awards Given at Region 8 All Project Leaders Meeting

SAN FRANCISCO BAY NWRC: Larry Wade Recognized as Region's Wage-Grade Professional of the Year

REGION 8: "Messaging" is the Message at the Communications Training at Project Leaders Meeting in Monterey

NEVADA FWO: David Potter, Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office, Recognized for Contributions to Threatened and Endangered Species

SAN FRANCISCO BAY NWRC: Carmen Minch Earns Regional Honor for Outstanding Contribution to Connecting People With Nature

REGION 8: California & Nevada Employees Recognized at First Annual Regional Award Ceremony

NEVADA FWO: Gary Scoppertone Receives National Recognition as Endangered Species Recovery Champion

COLEMAN NFH: Staff Pitches In as Coleman Hatchery Narrowly Avoids Wildfire

STILLWATER NWR: Refuge Maintenance Staff Join Local Farmers to Repair Breach of Irrigation Canal

RUBY LAKE NWR: Refuge Participates in Sandhill Crane Research Project

NEVADA FWO: Update on Ft. Erwin Expansion and Desert Tortoise Translocation

SAN DIEGO NWR: Refuge Builds a Bridge With Partners to Improve Trails

VENTURA FWO: New Wetland Habitat is Result of Creative Solution to Waste Problem

VENTURA FWO: Students Become Naturalists for a Day...and Maybe a Lifetime

YREKA FWO: Savvy with Nature: Yreka Students Know the Outdoors

HOPPER MOUNTAIN NWR: Fillmore School Kids Participate in Art Contest for Chance to Encounter California Condor in the Wild

NEVADA FWO: Partners Team-Up to Restore Ponds for Dixie Valley Tui Chub

NEVADA FWO: Ash Meadows Naucorid Responds To Restoration

NEVADA FWO: Service Assists With Blackbrush Seed Collection

REGION 8: Regional Director Steve Thompson Responds to Misinformation About the Endangered Species Act

VENTURA FWO: The Endangered Mohave Tui Chub: Partnering to Achieve Recovery

REGION 8: Region Celebrates National Fishing Week During Events in Nevada,

VENTURA FWO: 24 Hours to Count All You Can

SAN PABLO BAY NWR: Input Sought on Plans for Restoration Project.

REGION8: Regional Director Steve Thompson to Retire

MODOC NWR: Refuge Partnerships Enable Modoc School Students to Experience Outdoors

HOPPER MOUNTAIN NWR: Feeding Sites on Private Lands Encourage California Condor Range Expansion!

ARCATA FWO: Culverts and Tidegates-Arcata Field Office Helps Locals Manage the Health of Humboldt Bay

VENTURA FWO: Survey on Santa Cruz Island Produces a Great Hike but No Island Fox Sightings

STOCKTON FWO: Stockton Biologists Teach Fish Identification

STILLWATER NWR: Tadpole Rodeo at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge

NEVADA FWO: Students Explore Nature at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge ...

STILLWATER NWR: Refuge Assists With 11th Annual Spring Wings Bird Festival

COLUSA NWR: Refuge Dedicates New Visitor Facilities

SACRAMENTO NWRC: Refuge Staff Host Wetland Management Workshop For Private Landowners

CARLSBAD FWO: 2008 National Junior Duck Stamp Contest Winners Announced

YREKA FWO: Kids, Fishing and the Joys of Nature

ANTIOCH DUNES NWR: Cows Curb Invasive, Non-Native Plants

NEVADA FWO: Status Review of Bull Trout Completed Species Still Threatened

NEVADA FWO: Mono Basin Area Population of Greater Sage-Grouse Warrants Review for Possible Protection Under Endangered Species Act

NEVADA FWO: Fish and Wildlife Service Extending Request for Information for Greater Sage Grouse

NEVADA FWO: Service Transfers Lead For Truckee River Water Management to Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

REGION 8: Deputy Director Testifies Before House Natural Resources Subcommittee

REGION 8: \$2.23 Million CVA Grants Will Help Fund Sewage Pumpout Stations

REGION 8: California & Nevada Region Celebrates Earth Day

NEVADA FWO: Service Joins TNC,School Students for Earth Day Event at McCarran Ranch

NEVADA FWO: Earth Day at Idlewild Park in Reno, Nevada

CARLSBAD FWO: Local Students Experience Wonders of San Dieguito Lagoon

VENTURA FWO: Team Searches for Elusive Loggerhead Shrikes on Santa Cruz Island

SAN PABLO BAY NWR: Two Units Will be Added to Bay Area Refuge

NEVADA FWO: Kim Field Presents Research on Desert Tortoise Recovery at International Wildlife Reintroduction Conference

CA-NV FISH HEALTH CTR: Cooperative Disease Research at Coleman National Fish Hatchery