

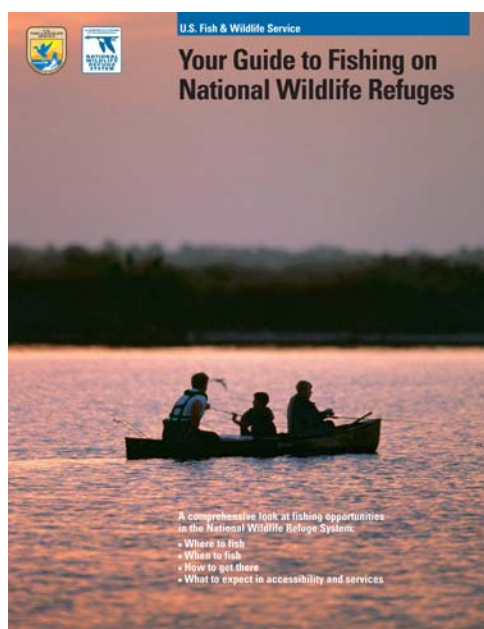
Reporters' Tip Sheet

TOMORROW'S HEADLINES TODAY

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

May-June 2005

Newly Updated Guide to Fishing in Refuges to Be Released in June



Virtually every type of sport fishing to be found on this continent is available in national wildlife refuges, from inconnu and grayling in the remote reaches of Alaska to large-mouth bass in Alabama streams, and snook hovering by mangroves in Florida.

See *Guide*, p. 5

Whooping Crane Chicks Coming to Wisconsin in June



The population of rare whooping cranes at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin will increase with the June arrival of several chicks hatched and raised at the Patuxent Research Refuge in Maryland. The majestic whooping crane, one of only two species of cranes that live in North America, is recovering with the help of wildlife biologists, high-tech ultralight aircraft, and the bird's own instincts.

For the fifth year, two separate cohorts of whooping crane chicks will arrive by plane at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in mid-June. Protected in pens on land and in the water, the chicks will grow, mature, learn to fly, and be trained to follow an ultralight aircraft. That aircraft will then

lead them on a 50-to-60-day flight in October to the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida, which will be their winter home. Along that 1,200-mile trip, the birds and their aircraft guide will make 24 to 26 stops.

When the birds know that it's time to head back north, they'll make the trip back to Necedah on their own, having learned their migration route. The program's goal is to have 125 cranes and 25 breeding pairs eventually populating the refuge.

For more information, contact Larry Wargowsky, Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, (608) 565-4400.

Proper Disposal of Fishing Line Can Save Osprey

The Chesapeake Bay has some of the finest fishing on the East Coast. In Maryland alone, more than 400,000 anglers ply the Bay and its tidal tributaries from late March through November. The fishing season also corresponds with the osprey's breeding season. With approximately 3,600 breeding pairs, the Bay supports one of the largest nesting populations of osprey. At least 1,600 breeding pairs live in Maryland. From March to August, while anglers are fishing the Bay, these magnificent birds are

building nests, laying eggs, and feeding and rearing their young.

Ospreys are very tolerant of humans and will fish and nest close to populated communities. They often line their nests with a variety of natural and man-made materials. These materials include paper, plastic rope and fishing line. Some of these prove to be deadly.

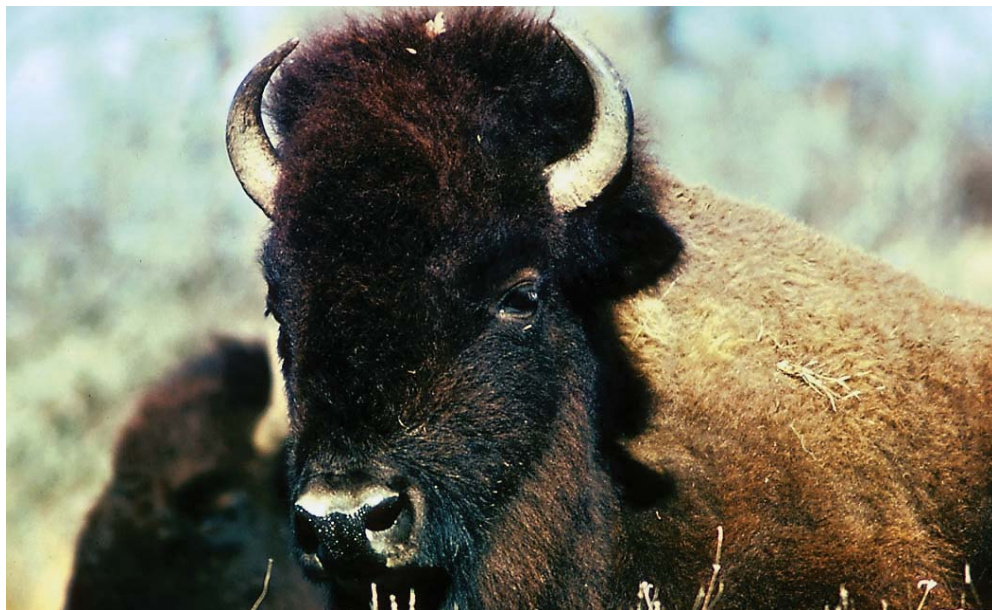
Biologists with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center surveyed osprey nests on the Patuxent River and found that more than half contained fishing line. Conservative estimates indicate that fishing line is present in 5-10 percent of all osprey nests on the Bay and surrounding rivers. Both young osprey and adults can die from being entangled in fishing line.

You can help! Anglers can reduce the

See *Osprey*, p. 2

Wichita Mountains Refuge to Celebrate Its 100th Anniversary in June



Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, a 59,000 acre prairie and mountain range in Oklahoma that is home to more than a thousand mammal, bird, reptile, fish, and plant species, will celebrate its 100th anniversary on June 4. The celebration's main speaker will be Lynn Greenwalt, a former Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who grew up on the refuge when his father was the refuge manager.

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is the oldest managed wildlife preserve in the country. Set aside as a National Forest in 1901, the area was named a "forest and game preserve" in 1905, and then became part of the fledgling "Refuge System" in 1935. Soon thereafter, six-year-old Lynn Greenwalt came with his parents to live on a refuge that he says, "remains dramatically unchanged" from its original landscape. Growing up there convinced Greenwalt that working in the Fish and Wildlife Service would be his calling.

One of his childhood friends on the refuge, Edwin "Drum" Drummond, still works there after more than 55 years, serving as a ranger and a part of its history. The refuge "preserves a sense of what it was like in the 17th Century," according to Greenwalt. "There's none other quite like it."

For more information, contact Tina Lynsky, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, (580) 429-3221.

500,000 Acres Now Protected in the Northeast

Within the heavily urbanized Northeast, undeveloped natural land for wildlife is hard to find. But the 500,000th acre to be protected through national wildlife refuges in this region has just been acquired through a conservation easement in the Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Virginia.

The Northeast Region, better known for its growing population density than for its open spaces and wildlife, stretches from Virginia to Maine and encompasses 71 national wildlife refuges. The acquisition of half a million acres in this 13-state region has required nearly 6,000 real estate transactions and more than 70 years, and has played a huge role in protecting endangered and threatened species. The Rappahannock River Valley Refuge, for example, was established in 1996 to protect bald eagles and migratory birds. Today, summer visitors can see 800-1,000 bald eagles using the Rappahannock and James rivers.

Nearly 30 percent of the region's 500,000 acres are in Virginia's national wildlife refuges, including Chincoteague, Great Dismal Swamp, and Back Bay. New acquisitions often bring new recreation for the public, as at the Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge in Massachusetts, where five miles of hiking trails have just been made available for public use in the first phase of opening the refuge for wildlife dependent recreation.

For more information, contact Joe McCauley, Rappahannock River Valley National Wildlife Refuge, (804) 333-1470, or Terri Edwards, Northeast Region External Affairs Office, (413) 253-8324.

Osprey, from p. 1

injuries or deaths to ospreys and other wildlife simply by properly discarding fishing lines and hooks. If possible, retrieve broken lines, lures and hooks. Always deposit them in trash containers or take them home.

For more information, contact Valerie Fellows, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Annapolis, Maryland, field office, (410)573-4556.

Historic Cabins Now Available for Alaskan Visitors – and Archaeologists

In the rugged mountains and forests of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska, a dozen historic cabins have been restored and made available to visitors for public recreation use – but first, their contents were catalogued and recorded by archaeologists who will study these 19th and early 20th Century structures and their inhabitants.

The refuge is working with the Alaska Office of History to interpret the remains of more than 130 known historic cabins scattered across the refuge. The standing cabins were used by the Kenai Peninsula's original inhabitants, the Dena'ina Athabaskan, and Euro-American homesteaders, trappers, hunters, miners, and



assorted dreamers. Some of these ruins contain the belongings of the original builders and can provide a unique window into earlier eras and their people.

Archaeologists will record every known cabin and ruin, and then document each one's history. They will compile old photographs and documents, as well as personal interviews, to tell the story of the Euro-American settlement of the Kenai Peninsula and the opening of Alaska. This unique project has also restored the historic cabins, which can be reserved by visitors for the upcoming camping season by contacting the refuge.

For more information, contact the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, (907) 262-7021, or go to <http://kenai.fws.gov/cabin.htm>

New Web Site Showcases Refuges' Historic and Cultural Treasures



Most of us know national wildlife refuges as places to observe and photograph wildlife, hunt, and fish – but they're also historically distinctive sites that reveal the cultural legacies of the past. The historical, archaeological, and cultural treasures protected in national wildlife refuges — including paleo-indian sites, lighthouses, and sacred tribal areas — are showcased on a new Web site.

Visitors to the new Web site, located at <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov/>, will

learn about the important archaeological and historic sites within national wildlife refuges, such as the Battle of Midway National Memorial on the Midway Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, pueblo sites in New Mexico, a Civil War-era plantation in South Carolina, and segments of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. A monthly newsletter posted on the site reports on new findings, such the discovery of a rare elk skull and antlers in New York, and the nomination of a fish hatchery in Louisiana to the National Registry of Historic Places.

It also provides updates on legislative, training, volunteer, and educational news, and upcoming events. The Web site details the national wildlife refuge system's museum properties, programs, and volunteer events – all of which help national wildlife refuges protect and manage sites important for their local traditional and cultural values.

Volunteers Help Protect Native Endangered Species in Hawaii

The earliest Hawaiians found a dense forest of stately koa and red-blossomed ohia trees growing on much of what is now the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1985 to protect endangered forest birds and their remnant rainforest habitat. But the introduction of non-native plant and animal species – especially in the

last 150 years – has changed the landscape. Now, volunteers are spending weekends planting, building and weeding refuge lands to protect native endangered species threatened by “alien” species.

Grazing by the introduced cattle, sheep and goats has largely denuded about 5,000 acres of the 32,730-acre Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge. As refuge staff builds fences to keep out cattle and pigs, volunteers are helping to restore and protect the native forest by removing non-native plants by hand, propagating native plants in the refuge greenhouse, and planting seedlings. They provide their own transportation, food, sleeping bags and personal gear; most come for a two or three-day weekend as they help

to restore this tropical paradise to its former grandeur.

Eight of the 14 native bird species at Hakalau Forest Refuge are federally listed as endangered. The refuge also has 29 rare plant species; 12 are currently listed or proposed for listing as endangered.

For more information, contact Susan Saul, Pacific Office of External Affairs, (503) 872-2728.

Combat Fishing on the Kenai River in Alaska

When the red, or sockeye, salmon swarm in their thousands into the Kenai/Russian River systems on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula to spawn, anglers stand shoulder to shoulder in what is euphemistically referred to locally as "combat fishing." Each strike triggers a cry of "fish on!," and savvy fisherfolk in the area reel in and stand clear until the frantically jumping salmon is either landed or, far more frequently, breaks the line, the rod, or otherwise escapes. Hats and eyewear are recommended, as garish streamers tied to No.2 hooks, accompanied by half-ounce lead sinkers, regularly rip through the air to signal the loss of a fish. And if these flying hazards don't add enough spice to the fishing for you, rest assured that, whether you see them or not, odds are that black and brown (or grizzly) bears will be watching you, and occasionally making an easy meal of your (or your neighbors') hooked or landed fish. From June 15



through early August, join Bruce Woods, a seasoned Combat Fisherman or Jim Hall, Deputy Refuge Manager at Kenai NWR on the Kenai and Russian Rivers of Kenai National Wildlife Refuge for a fish tale you will share for years.

For more information, contact Bruce Woods, Alaska Office of Public Affairs, (907) 786-3695.

Coastal Rain Forest Restored

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and The Nature Conservancy have partnered to begin restoring the 5,600-acre Ellsworth Creek watershed near the mouth of the Naselle River on the east side of Willapa Bay. A century and a half of logging on the Washington coast has left a landscape of young, industrial tree plantations where the original coastal rain forest once stood. Only small pockets of that great cedar, spruce and hemlock forest survive; they hold the genetic legacy of the original forest and provide scarce habitat for salmon and salamanders and marbled murrelets. With a \$750,000 U.S. Department of the Interior Cooperative Conservation Initiative grant, the first of its kind in the nation, the partners are conducting an inventory of 14,000 acres and preparing to restore 1,500 acres and remove 15 miles of road over the next three years.

TNC's Ellsworth Creek is now the only fully protected coastal watershed of any size in Washington. It is now a living laboratory to help forest managers determine how to make commercial forest land more friendly to fish and wildlife. Meanwhile, the Service is studying the same question on Willapa Refuge's 5,000-acre Long Island in Willapa Bay. When the refuge acquired Long Island from the Weyerhaeuser Co. in 1994, it got a



274-acre grove of ancient western red cedars, with some trees over 900 years old, but it also got acres of 40-year-old trees and tracts recently logged. The refuge's goal is to speed the transition of younger stands to mature forests of large-diameter trees capable of providing habitat for black bears,

Roosevelt elk, black-tailed deer, chum salmon and marbled murrelets.

For more information, contact Susan Saul, Pacific Office of External Affairs, (503) 872-2728.

Wildlife Tales: Rediscovering Wildlife on the Lewis & Clark Trail, Washington and Oregon

From 1803-1806, explorers Lewis and Clark witnessed and documented an American landscape as no other American — not even those just one generation later — would see it. By the end of their journey, they had described hundreds of plants and animals previously unknown to science, accumulated significant new information about already known species and introduced ecological methods of study to the American West. President Thomas Jefferson clearly defined the vision and mission that would guide the expedition — a set of world-class standards in the sciences that were the highest of their time. Two centuries later, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service carries out the legacy of Lewis and Clark as we conserve species first described by the explorers, manage Service lands along their trail, and pursue habitat and restoration. The Lewis and Clark Bicentennial is a chance for the Service to tell the American people about the rich history of fish and wildlife associated with the explorers, what has changed over 200 years and what the Service is doing today to manage and restore species, habitats and landscapes. To this end, the Service's Pacific Region is participating in the bicentennial through a traveling exhibit that will visit local observances in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. This exhibit features live wildlife demonstrations, state-of-the-art audio-visual imagery and interactive interpretive displays. The exhibit is transported in a highly decorated Sprinter cargo van that is a traveling advertisement for fish and wildlife and will be on the road from August–December 2005 and March–June 2006.

Colorado Exhibit Illuminates History of "America's Wildest Places"

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt created the country's first wildlife sanctuary by protecting tiny Pelican Island off the coast of Florida as a refuge for birds. More than 100 years later, the National Wildlife Refuge System now includes more than 500 refuges. An extraordinary exhibit about "America's Wildest Places," which recounts the history of these refuges and their endangered species, wildlife habitat, and premier fisheries, will be on display at The Wildlife Experience museum in Parker, Colorado, through August 28.

The National Wildlife Refuge System's vast network of prime habitats encompasses almost 100 million acres of protected land and wildlife in every state. "America's Wildest Places" uses historical and scenic photographs, videos, artifacts, and natural specimens to tell the story of the development of the United States' only system of federal lands dedicated to wildlife conservation. The exhibit was created as a tribute to the 2003 Centennial of the National Wildlife Refuge System, and developed in partner-

ship with the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History staff.

For more information, contact The Wildlife Experience, (720) 488-3300, or go to www.thewildlifeexperience.org.

Guide, from p. 1

For the first time in more than 10 years, the guide to fishing in more than 270 national wildlife refuges will be updated and released in June during Great Outdoors Month.

More than 6 million anglers visit national wildlife refuges each year — and many of those visitors are children learning about the natural world. There is at least one national wildlife refuge in every state and usually one within an hour's drive of every major U.S. city. The fishing guide will give information about available freshwater and saltwater species, fishing seasons, nearest communities and highways, access roads, and tips for anglers and other visitors. Web sites for all refuges, which provide directions, history, and educational events, will also be listed.

For more information, contact Steve Farrell, National Wildlife Refuge System, Division of Visitor Services and Communications, (703) 358-2247.

LEWIS & CLARK EVENT SCHEDULE

When	What / Where
2005	
Aug. 6-8	Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation annual meeting, Portland, Oregon
Aug. 13-21	Salmon, Idaho
Aug. 26-28	A Taste of Lewis & Clark, Bonneville Dam, Cascade Locks, Oregon
Sept. 16-26	Kamiah, Idaho
Oct. 1-9	Clarkston, Washington
Oct. 14-17	Kennewick, Washington
Oct. 21-24	Pendleton, Oregon
Oct. 28-31	The Dalles, Oregon
Nov. 5	Cathlapotle Plankhouse, Ridgefield NWR, Ridgefield, Washington
Nov. 7-15	Long Beach, Washington
Nov. 19-22	Seaside, Oregon
Nov. 28 – Dec. 11	Vancouver Washington

2006 Event Schedule

Mar. 14-20	St. Helens, Oregon
Mar. 25-Apr. 2	Grand Ronde, Oregon
Apr. 7-10	Stevenson, Washington
Apr. 14-17	Toppenish, Washington
Apr. 22-25	Warm Springs, Oregon
Apr. 29 - May 7	Umatilla, Oregon
May 12-15	Dayton, Washington
May 20-29	Boise, Idaho
Jun 3-17	Spalding, Idaho
Jun 18-25	Dworshak National Fish Hatchery, Orofino, Idaho

For more information, contact Susan Saul, Pacific Office of External Affairs, (503) 872-2728.

For all the latest news releases from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, visit our Virtual Newsroom at <http://news.fws.gov/newsreleases>