

“Habitats” Featured on *Geography Action!*

by Nancee Hunter



Reaching over 70 million people annually with messages of conservation and stewardship, the National Geographic Education Foundation's *Geography Action!* program has been successful in promoting community-based stewardship projects that promote conservation of our sustainable resources. This year, the *Geography Action!* program will partner with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to focus on "Habitats."



The list at the left provides a sampling of the many resources available on the *Geography Action!* web site. This site was developed to help educate teachers and students, their families, and community members about habitat diversity (focusing on both terrestrial and marine habitats), the current threats to natural habitats, and habitat protection and restoration. With an underlying focus on geographic interconnectedness, the content will have a special focus on National Wildlife Refuges (in conjunction with the centennial of the National

Wildlife Refuge System). Other highlights will include endangered species, loss of wild habitats, current issues related to habitats, and wildlife issues in general.

Beyond the classroom, the Society's Education Foundation will work with educators in such organizations as federal land management agencies, conservation organizations, botanical gardens, and zoos and aquaria to craft an educational outreach program that educates, inspire, and excites the public about the habitats upon which both wildlife and people depend. The centerpiece of this campaign is the "Be a Habitat Hero" challenge. Students are encouraged to identify and participate in select activities, from building a backyard or schoolyard habitat to volunteering at a local park or refuge. As they become actively involved in meaningful stewardship projects, the urgency, necessity, and spectrum of intervention should become apparent, reinforcing messages of habitat conservation.

For more information about this program, visit the *Geography Action!* website at www.nationalgeographic.com/geographyaction.

Nancee Hunter is the Program Manager for the National Geographic Society's Education Foundation (email: nhunter@ngs.org, 202/775-6740).