

National Wildlife Refuges: Happy 100th Birthday



Stephan Tuttle

On **March 14, 2003**, the National Wildlife Refuge System will turn **100 years old**. The first national wildlife refuge was established in **1903** by President Theodore Roosevelt. In the early 1900s, many birds like pelicans, egrets, and roseate spoonbills were killed for their feathers. These feathers were used to decorate women's fancy hats, and were worth more than gold!



David Hall

To prevent these birds from going extinct, **President Roosevelt** set aside land where the birds could live and be protected. These lands became the National Wildlife Refuge System. **Pelican Island**, the first national wildlife refuge, is located near Sebastian, Florida. **Paul Kroegel** was a German immigrant and a boat builder. He wanted to protect the pelicans on the island. He became the first national wildlife refuge manager. He was paid \$1 a month.



USFWS

Today, there are more than **540 national wildlife refuges** across the country. There is at least one in every state. There are **95 million acres** in the National Wildlife Refuge System. That is more land than the states of New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia combined.

Did you know that you probably live within a short drive of a national wildlife refuge? National wildlife refuges are great places to go **canoeing, bird watching, fishing and hunting**. They are some of the best places to learn about nature. National wildlife refuges are also places where endangered species are protected.

Help the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service** celebrate the birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System by learning about a national wildlife refuge near you!



Test Your Knowledge

- The photo on the right is of the president who established the first national wildlife refuge. What was his name?
 A) Franklin Roosevelt
 B) Abraham Lincoln
 C) Theodore Roosevelt
- What is the name of the first national wildlife refuge?
 A) Pelican Island B) Horicon C) Bear Valley
- What year was the first national wildlife refuge established?
 A) 1900 B) 1903 C) 1910
- Approximately how many acres is the refuge system in 2002?
 A) 30 million B) 95 million C) 190 million
- The first national wildlife refuge can be found in which state?
 A) North Dakota B) Maryland C) Florida
- What agency manages the National Wildlife Refuge System?
 A) National Park Service
 B) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 C) U.S. Forest Service
- The photo on the right is of the first refuge manager. What was his name?
 A) Theodore Roosevelt
 B) J.N. "Ding" Darling
 C) Paul Kroegel
- Name three types of recreational opportunities found on most refuges:



Harvard College Library



George Nelson



George Gentry

Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge



Can You Find These Words?

WILDLIFE	PELICAN	WETLAND	FISH
ROOKERY	CENTENNIAL	REFUGE	ROOSEVELT
ISLAND	PAUL KROEGEL	ENDANGERED	

G K A W I L D L I F E W I G M
 P M G S G M F E F R M I G D P
 J E F R O O S E V E L T U U F
 T N L S F J R L F A N V C E R
 S D E I S L A N D T P C E I O
 H A K I C N Q S D P J E K M O
 A N D T P A D K Y I G N G B K
 E G B T P K N H K U F T P X E
 W E T L A N D H F F Z E A W R
 A R L Z I L R E A E S N O Y Y
 J E A R E C R E D A F N Z I P
 O D U G L E F E H J S I C U Z
 H U L Z F C B G D M I A S F I
 G P A U L K R O E G E L P H P

To print this off the web, or for more information about national wildlife refuges, go to <http://refuges.fws.gov/centennial>. To find a refuge near you, call 1/800/344 WILD.

