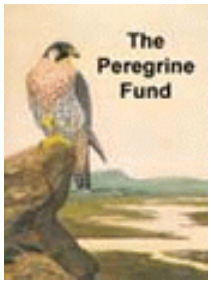


NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY
February 15, 2002

Contacts:
Jeff Cilek, The Peregrine Fund, 208/362-3811, cell 208/890-6685
Jeff Humphrey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 602/242-0210, cell 602/680-0851
Mike Small, Bureau of Land Management, 435/688-3224
Maureen Oltrogge, Grand Canyon National Park, 928/638-7779
Susan MacVean, Nongame Specialist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, 928/774-5045

RELEASE OF NEW CONDORS TO PROCEED
POTENTIALLY CONTAMINATED CONDORS CAPTURED FOR TESTING

Peregrine Fund biologists have captured 21 of the 25 free-flying California condors in northern Arizona and will continue to monitor them for signs of lead exposure. With the condor trapping operation completed, Saturday's scheduled release of seven juvenile condors to the wild population will proceed as scheduled.

Earlier this week, biologists working in the vicinity of the Vermilion cliffs release site located two coyote carcasses with substantial indication that they had been shot. Two condors were seen at the carcasses and radio tracking data indicated eight of the birds could have visited the carcasses. Most shot employed to hunt coyotes is made of lead which is toxic to wildlife.

"We've collected and tested the blood-lead levels of the birds in question and have given all but one an initial 'clean bill of health'," said Chris Parish, Peregrine Fund's field coordinator. "As a precaution, that bird will be held for a few more days of monitoring."

"This situation really enforces the message we've been repeating to hunters: game and gut piles should be retrieved and disposed of properly," said Joe Janisch, Arizona Game and Fish Information Chief "It's not a problem unique to condors; any hawk, owl, or eagle is susceptible to this type of lead exposure."

An inter-agency condor management team has been weighing the decision to release the seven new California condors into the wild at Vermilion Cliffs, Arizona this Saturday. The team was concerned that the required condor trapping activity would be complicated by the presence of seven additional birds and that naive birds being incidentally trapped and handled immediately following their release would Affect the new birds' confidence in bonding with the wild flock or confuse the human aversion behaviors learned during their captive rearing.

-more-

"To release an additional seven naive condors to the free-flying population at this time could have compromised our ability to capture the condors that may have consumed lead" said Parish. "Since we were able to capture the birds at risk and determine through initial tests that they're healthy, we're confident that we can move ahead with the condor release as scheduled," concluded Parish.

Parish added, "When it comes to the potential for birds of prey to pick up lead, we're never really out of the woods. We just need to be vigilant in our monitoring program and continue to shed light on the risks that are affecting endangered species."

Saturday's release will be the tenth release of North America's largest bird in northern Arizona since releases started in December 1996. The addition of seven condors will increase the population of free-flying California Condors in Arizona to 32. Eleven birds were transported to the release site November 27, 2001, and have been held in a large flight pen so they could acclimate and socialize with the 25 free-flying condors that return to the release area. Biologists have determined that 7 of the 11, are ready for release this winter. A release schedule for the remaining will be determined based on a check-list of "bird readiness."

-FWS-

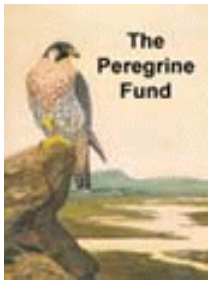
Who: Everyone is invited.

When: Scheduled for 11:00 a.m., Saturday, February 16, 2002. The primary weather delay day will be February 17. A determination of a weather delay will be recorded and available by calling 602-242-0210 ext. 222.

Where: At the far west end of the Vermilion Cliffs, 27 miles west of Marble Canyon, Arizona. We'll assemble at the condor information kiosk on BLM Road 1065 (aka Upper House Rock/Coyote Valley Road) three miles north of US Highway 89A (at the western end of Vermilion Cliffs). This is a graded, sedan-accessible road. From this vantage point, attendees will have a clear, but distant, (one mile away and 1,000 feet up) view of the release facility atop the Vermilion Cliffs.

How: All are advised to bring warm, layered clothing (temperatures can range from 20-60 F), snacks, warm beverage, plenty of water, spotting scopes, binoculars, and folding chairs.

Note to Assignment Editors: Contact for news media requests for still photos is Arizona Game and Fish's Frosty Taylor (602-789-3223). Program planners can accommodate and are seeking a pool videographer at the release site, for details contact Jeff Humphrey (602-342-0210 ext. 222).



NEWS MEDIA ADVISORY
February 11, 2002

Contacts:
Jeff Cilek, The Peregrine Fund, 208/362-3811, cell 208/890-6685
Jeff Humphrey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 602/242-0210, cell 602/680-0851
Mike Small, Bureau of Land Management, 435/688-3224
Maureen Oltrogge, Grand Canyon National Park, 928/638-7779
Susan MacVean, Nongame Specialist for the Arizona Game and Fish Department, 928/774-5045

CALIFORNIA CONDORS TO BE RELEASED IN NORTHERN ARIZONA

On February 16, 2002, biologists from The Peregrine Fund will release between six and eight of the 11 California Condors on top of the Vermilion Cliffs near the Grand Canyon in Northern Arizona. The remaining condors will be released at a later date.

This will be the tenth release of North America's largest bird in northern Arizona since the project started in December 1996. The addition of 11 condors will increase the population of free-flying California Condors in Arizona to 36. Ten of the 11 condors hatched at The Peregrine Fund's World Center for Birds of Prey in 2001 and one hatched at the San Diego Zoo in 1999. Seven are males and four are females. All 11 arrived at the release site November 27, 2001 and have been held in a large flight pen so they could acclimate and socialize with the 25 free-flying condors that return to the release area.

"The recovery of the California Condor continues to make steady progress," stated Bill Burnham, Ph.D., President of The Peregrine Fund. "The keys to this progress are the habitat and community support provided in the Grand Canyon area," finished Burnham.

"We are excited to have these additional birds join the free-ranging condors in Arizona," said Duane Shroufe, Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department. "It's another solid step toward recovery of this treasured element of Arizona's wildlife heritage. We are indeed fortunate to have conservation partners such as we have in this project. We are also fortunate that Arizona citizens have chosen to provide Heritage Funds to help defray our costs. It takes time, money, knowledge, perseverance, and strong public support to restore species such as the condor."

"Recovery efforts for the California Condor in northern Arizona have been an overwhelming success in terms of numbers of birds surviving in the wild. This success is due in large part to the hard work and cooperation of local supporters, The Peregrine Fund biologists, tribes, industry groups, and State and Federal agencies. Our excitement continues to grow as we prepare to release six to eight more captive-bred birds and we anxiously await the first successful breeding and egg hatching of condors in the wild since the early 80s," said David Harlow, U.S.

Fish and Wildlife Service's Arizona Field Supervisor.

"The release of these condors clearly illustrates the value of protecting this spectacular Vermilion Cliffs National Monument and its objects of scientific interests," stated Roger Taylor, Manager for the Arizona Strip BLM. "We are pleased to host the return of these impressive birds to public lands," finished Taylor.

Since their arrival, the condors have been acclimating to each other and to their new surroundings in a release facility on top of the cliff. At the time of the release the birds will know how to fly (fledging occurs at about six months of age) but are expected to stay close to the release site and explore their new home slowly. Regular updates are being provided on The Peregrine Fund's home page (www.peregrinefund.org).

The historic Arizona reintroduction is a joint project between The Peregrine Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Arizona Game and Fish, National Park Service, Southern Utah's Coalition of Resources and Economics, and numerous other partners. The Peregrine Fund, a non-profit conservation organization, is conducting and securing the funding for the release, the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management are managing the habitat, Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for the overall recovery of the species, and the Arizona Game and Fish is responsible for all wildlife in Arizona.

The California Condors are being released as a "non-essential/experimental population" under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. Section 10(j) provides that the species can be released in an area without impacting current or future land use planning. This authority has been spelled out further in an innovative agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and local governments. This "Implementation Agreement" spells out a positive working relationship between the Federal government and the various local governments.

The Fish and Wildlife Service is completing a formal review of the California Condor reintroduction program in Arizona, now in its sixth year. "We've enjoyed meeting with local citizens and officials and Federal land managers to better understand their concerns regarding management of the condors and how the program may be affecting their communities," said Jeff Humphrey, the Service's Condor Reintroduction Coordinator. Input from the conservation and scientific communities was also sought. "We are continually learning how to refine our recovery efforts and strengthen public acceptance of the condor recovery program."

On February 1, 2002 there were 183 California Condors in the world, 58 of those are in the wild in California and Arizona.

* * * *

CALIFORNIA CONDOR (Gymnogyps californianus) **FACT SHEET**

SIZE: Weight: 20 to 24 pounds
Wingspan: Up to 9.5 feet (3 meters)
Body Length: 46 to 55 inches

VOICE: None, but may grunt or wheeze

NEST SITE: Usually a cave in a cliff or a crevice among boulders on a steep slope.

REPRODUCTION: No successful hatches in the wild since the early 1980s. Condors reach sexual maturity and attain adult plumage and coloration by 5-6 years of age and breeding is likely between 6-8 years of age. When mature a condor will lay one egg (average incubation period for a condor egg is 56 days) every other year during a successful nesting cycle. The species provides extensive parental care to very few young.

FOOD SUPPLY: Historically, carcasses of bison, elk or deer in inland areas. Seals and beached whales along coasts. With the loss of wild game, the condor changed to feeding on carcasses of domestic animals.

RANGE: Occurred historically from British Columbia south to northern Baja California and in other parts of southwestern United States. Has ability to travel 150 miles a day in search of food.

POPULATION: On February 1, 2002, there were 183 California Condors in the world -- 58 in the wild in California and Arizona. In 1982, there were 22 California Condors in the world.

YOUNG: Nestlings fledge (leave nest) full grown at six months of age, however, historically juvenile condors may be dependant on their parents for more that a year. Reintroduced condors are released on their own and must learn to forage and survive alone.

SEXES: There is no sexual dimorphism (observable difference in size or appearance) between males and females.

FEEDING: Condors are strict scavengers. Unlike Turkey Vultures, condors do not have an exceptional sense of smell. They instead find their food visually, often by investigating the activity of ravens, coyotes, eagles, and other scavengers. Without the guidance of their parents, young inexperienced juvenile condors may also investigate the activity of humans. As young condors learn and mature this human directed curiosity diminishes.

CAUSE OF DECLINE: Unsustainable mortality rate in the wild and a naturally low reproductive rate. Predation, shootings, poisoning, lead poisoning, and collisions with power lines are some of the major threats.

IDENTIFICATION: Numbered wing tags, white or mottled triangle under wing, no feathers on head, and head color black in juveniles or orange/pink in adults, not dark red as in Turkey Vultures.

CONDOR ENCOUNTER: Please enjoy the birds from a distance. Do not approach or attempt to feed a condor. **Never feed, shoot, or throw objects at a condor.** The California Condor, hawks, eagles, vultures, and owls are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty and the Endangered Species Act. Under these acts it is illegal to pursue, hunt take, capture, kill, or attempt to do any of these activities to a bird of prey. If a condor approaches you, or you observe anyone harassing or harming a condor, immediately notify:
The Peregrine Fund - (520) 355-2270 (pfund@page.az.net)
Arizona Game & Fish - (520) 774-5045
Bureau of Land Management - (435) 688-3200
National Park Service - (520) 638-7756

If you should observe a condor please report your sighting to Peregrine Fund biologists at (520) 355-2270 or e-mail us at pfund@page.az.net. Helpful information would include date, time, location, number of birds observed, and wing tag numbers if possible.