

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# We Are Region 8

April 2009



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2009 California Junior Duck Stamp Competition

# From the Regional Director

(adapted from Ren's opening remarks at the March 6 Tribal Trust Training in San Diego.)

Last month I attended an extraordinary meeting. I don't often say that. But this meeting was truly extraordinary.

For two days in San Diego, 100 Project Leaders, ARDs and staff gathered to participate in the first region-wide Region 8 Tribal Trust Training. Based on a model started last year in Portland, we brought Roy Sampsel and Bob Miller of the Institute for Tribal Government to provide the region with an overview of the historical and legal framework concerning Indian affairs, and to delineate the Service's government-to-government relationship with tribes.

So why was it extraordinary?

In part, it was the timing. Both President Obama and Secretary Salazar have emphasized the importance of our responsibility and relationships with Indian tribes. The President is making good on his promise to bring tribal members into the new administration. From Jodi Archambault Gillette, the new Deputy Associate Director of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs in the White House, to Hilary Tompkins, Nominee for Solicitor, Department of Interior, and Larry Echo Hawk, nominee for Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, the President is seeking out individuals who bring diverse experiences and a deep passion for public service to his administration.

Region 8 itself is extraordinary. Nationally there are 562 federally recognized tribes. In Region 8 we have 127 tribes, more than one-fifth of the tribes nationally, and more than any other Service region

except Alaska. In Nevada there are only 19 tribes, but those tribes own 1.6 million acres. In researching the region, I discovered San Diego County has 18 different tribes, which is more than any other county in the U.S. And in the Klamath Basin, four different tribes are vital to the future of the Klamath River Restoration.

But what was really extraordinary about this meeting was the involvement and engagement by Service participants. I was proud of how our project leaders asked questions and engaged in meaningful discussions about how we can bring more energy to our role and responsibilities with tribes.

This aspect of our work is important to me and I have high expectations. Our government-to-government relations with tribes is essential to our mission of conservation of natural resources and, it's the right thing to do.

I want us to be a region that leads, and I view the training as not the end, but the beginning of a renewed commitment to our tribal trust responsibilities and government-to-government relations. You will be hearing more from me about our upcoming efforts to proactively engage and include the tribes in Region 8.

In the meantime, I want to hear from you about your consultations, government-to-government relations and opportunities to meet and visit with tribes in your area.

Thanks to all of you for everything you do every day, both for the resource and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Ren**

## On the Cover

California's annual Junior Duck Stamp judging event was held in Sacramento, March 25.

The judging is the culmination of a year of preparation for many of the participants. Inspired by waterfowl and wetlands, students in grades k-12 prepare entries that exhibit artistic talent and a deepened understanding of conservation.

Cathy Lee, age 13 from Fremont, won the California Junior Duck Stamp competition with her painting of a male and female redhead duck titled, "Ducks on a Stroll."



*Ducks on a Stroll*

Her work will go on to compete in the national competition for the 2010-11 Federal Junior Duck Stamp title on April 22 at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.

There were more than 1,600 entries of waterfowl art were judged in Sacramento this year.

Thinking ahead to next year, the annual contest entries are due March 15th and should be mailed to: Sacramento NWR Complex, 752 County Road 99W, Willows, CA 95988.

The cover photo shows Carina Port (from left), California Waterfowl, Marilyn Gamette, California Junior Duck Stamp Coordinator, and Steve Emmons, Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, who served as a technical advisor.

# Yreka FWO Biologist Nadine Kanim Receives Service's 2008 Recovery Champion Award

By Matt Baun

Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office

**Y**reka Fish and Wildlife Office biologist Nadine Kanim received the Service's 2008 Recovery Champion award for her contributions to the Yreka phlox recovery effort. Along with colleague Dave Johnson, Kanim is often found in and around the hills of Yreka monitoring and studying the pink flower, which is only in bloom for a brief period.

The endangered and extremely rare *Phlox hirsuta*, commonly known as Yreka phlox, grows in small clusters no higher than six inches above the ground. As butterflies and moths pollinate it, the blooms go from bright pink to a pleasing shade of white that is equally as eye-catching against the staid brown-tone geology of the region.

The biggest threat to Yreka phlox has been urban development. But because there are only five known occurrences of the flower in the world – all in the vicinity of Yreka – random events such as fire, drought and disease are also of great concern.



Nadine Kanim and Regional Director Ren Lohofener visit a phlox site

But something special occurs in the spring. The drab hillside of Yreka's China Hill is transformed into a magical place that pops to life with the emergence of dozens of bright pink flowers. The contrast to the surrounding landscape is vivid. It looks as if someone pinned dozens of corsages to the hillside as a rite of spring.

Sharp-eyed locals who know where to look can catch a glimpse of this colorful show as they zoom their way along I-5 through the town of Yreka, where China Hill rises several hundred yards to the east of the freeway.

There are also some locals who are astonished to learn of this "secret" flower.

"I have been here for over 20 years" said one Yreka native, who accompanied a team of Service biologists to China Hill. "I never knew this flower existed."

The data that Kanim and Johnson are collecting are central to the recovery plan. If the Service can show that the plant has not declined after 10 years – and if other occurrences of the plant have been secured, then the plant can be downlisted to threatened status, or possibly removed from the endangered species list.



Kanim is hopeful that such a goal can be reached, perhaps even in as little as 10 years.

"There is a lot of support in the community to recover Yreka phlox – from the local timber company to the city and county governments to average citizens," said Kanim.

"The recovery team has identified the threats to the species and our local partners have already made a lot of progress to protect the plant from various hazards," Kanim added.

A key partner in the phlox recovery effort is the city of Yreka, which has purchased – or obtained through donations – nearly 75 percent of the land on China Hill. This has been a tremendous achievement and has saved the Yreka phlox from being destroyed by development.

City planning officials are also hopeful that one day they can provide full sanctuary for the phlox and turn China Hill into a public park, complete with an interpretative center that will tell the story of how one small community came together to save a pretty pink flower from the verge of extinction.

# CSU Professor is 2008 Recovery Champion



Photo courtesy CSU Stanislaus

*Dr. Patrick Kelly (center) received the Recovery Champion Award for his outstanding work with riparian brush rabbits.*

## by Erica Szlosek, R8 External Affairs

**D**r. Patrick Kelly, director of the Endangered Species Recovery Program (ESRP) of California State University, Stanislaus, was named as a 2008 Recovery Champion by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service March 19. The award, presented annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, recognizes both Service employees and their partners for contributions to the recovery of threatened and endangered species in the United States.

Kelly was recognized for his outstanding work with the riparian brush rabbit, which was listed as an endangered species in 2000. In addition to his work with ESRP, Kelly is an Associate Professor of Biological Sciences at CSU-Stanislaus and an Adjunct Associate Professor of Biology at CSU-Fresno. His primary research interests are in mammalian ecology and conservation,

and his current research focuses on the conservation and recovery of endangered mammals in California.

“Patrick has been the most critical link in the recovery efforts for one of California’s most endangered mammals,” said Kim Forrest, manager of the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Los Banos, Calif.

“Despite his busy teaching and research schedule, he also administers this extremely complex and critically important organization of 45 people known as ESRP.”

ESRP has brought together a long list of federal, state, and local agencies, non-governmental organizations, corporations, and private landowners in a cooperative program focused on the recovery of threatened and endangered species. More than \$24 million in grants and contracts have been generated by the program since its startup 15 years ago with the initial and ongoing support of the Service and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. This program assists agencies in resolving conservation conflicts through scientifically-based recovery planning and implementation that literally involves dozens of native species.

Very little was known about riparian brush rabbits when ESRP began except that they make their home in the dense riparian woodlands of California’s San Joaquin Valley.

Although endemic to the valley’s riparian woodlands,

nearly all this habitat has been lost in California. Seldom venturing out in the open, the rabbits depend on the heavy cover found in the woodlands. Dense thickets of wild rose and blackberry, covered by canopies of oak and willow, provide protection from predators, such as raptors and coyotes.

The last known wild population of the riparian brush rabbit was found in the 1990s along the Stanislaus River in San Joaquin County. Since 2000, San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge and ESRP have worked with Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office recovery biologists, California Department of Fish and Game, and others to release and monitor captive-bred rabbits in the refuge’s well-suited dense riparian woodlands.

The ultimate measure of success will be to establish three new self-sustaining populations. To date there are two, both of which owe much to Dr. Kelly and his team.

“For many species, including the riparian brush rabbit, the key to their future survival is closely linked to ESRP,” concluded Forrest.



Photo courtesy CSU Stanislaus

## Training Provides Leaders Knowledge of Tribal Trust Responsibilities

by Scott Flaherty,  
R8 External Affairs

Approximately 100 project leaders, program assistant regional directors and other employees from Region 8 gained knowledge of the Service's government-to-government relationship with Indian tribes during a two-day tribal trust training session March 11-12, in San Diego.

As domestic independent nations, tribal governments exercise inherent sovereign powers over their members and lands. The instructive training provided regional leaders and managers with a historical and legal framework of Indian affairs in the United States with a focus on the Service's responsibilities to consult and coordinate with tribes on resource conservation issues.

"We are here today because consulting and working with tribes on conservation issues is not only important, it's our job," said Regional Director Ren Lohofener.

Day one featured a day-long presentation by Bob Miller, Indian Law professor at Lewis and Clark Law School in Portland, Ore. Miller's presentation explained how federal agencies' responsibilities to tribes are founded on a succession of laws, treaties, executive orders, court decisions and federal policies, some of which date back to the early settlement of North America.

Roy Sampsel, executive director of the Institute for Tribal Government, Hatfield School of Government in Portland, Ore., moderated both days of training. Sampsel shared his knowledge and first-hand experiences with tribal issues during his years as a deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior in



USFWS photo by Tom Mackenzie

Bob Miller, Indian law professor at Lewis and Clark Law School, spoke to the region's employees March 11

the early 1980s, and as a special assistant to the Secretary of Interior during the mid-1970s.

Dick Trudell, executive director of the American Indian Lawyer Training Program in Oakland, Calif., spoke about issues pertaining to Indian law in California and Nevada, and offered perspectives on future government-to-government relations. Dan Jordan of the Hoopa tribe of California provided a tribal perspective on water issues related to the Trinity River in northern California.

This training was based on an innovative tribal trust training program developed last year by Region 1 and was a collaborative effort involving Region 1 Native American Liaison Pat Gonzales-Rogers, Region 8 External Affairs Office, and Dixie Ward of the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office.

Region 8 is home to 127 federally-recognized tribes, more than any other Service region. During FY 2008, the Region provided Tribal Wildlife Grants totaling more than \$690,000 to five tribes in California and one tribe in Nevada. More information about the Region's Tribal Partnership Program is available at: [www.fws.gov/cno/conservation/tribalprogram.cfm](http://www.fws.gov/cno/conservation/tribalprogram.cfm)

## Junior Firefighters Take the Oath

by Jennifer Stockton,  
Sacramento NWR

The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge administered the oath to 20 new Junior Refuge Firefighters Feb. 28. The children discovered how the Refuge fire staff helps wildlife, habitat and people. They learned about the tools used during a fire and explored the fire engine, including testing out the fire hose. The final step to the program was a quiz that tested their new-found knowledge on fire and being fire safe.

"It's important to help kids discover that fire can be positive in nature and help create a healthy habitat, but it's also important for them to be fire smart; that's the goal of this program," said program leader and Fire Engine Captain, Mark Rakestraw.

After pinning on their shiny new badges and taking the Junior Refuge Firefighter oath, the kids were rewarded with a visit from Smokey Bear.



USFWS photo

Mark Rakestraw helps Ella Kessler use the fire hose

## Friends of Coleman Hatchery Forms, Joins National Group

by Brett Galyean, Coleman NFH

**D**uring the summer of 2008 supportive volunteers at Coleman National Fish Hatchery (NFH) joined together to form the Friends of Coleman NFH, a grassroots non-profit group that provides volunteers and other support to the hatchery. Membership includes: Jack Blanke, elected chair; Dan LaBorie, organization lead; and Jerry Giardino, secretary. Their mission is “to promote a better understanding of the Coleman National Fish Hatchery Complex and the surrounding area.”

The new Friends group is comprised of three members of the Coleman NFH volunteer program. These volunteers lead school tours in October and November during the spawning of fall Chinook salmon. The program is popular and it is not uncommon to have 500 school children at the hatchery during spawning.

At the hatchery's Return of the Salmon Festival last October, the Friends of Coleman NFH staffed a



Sharon Gower

*Friends of Coleman National Fish Hatchery are, from right: Dan LaBorie, Jerry Giardino, and Jack Blanke.*

booth to provide information on the formation of the group and began raising funds selling ice cream and Friends T-shirts.

In January 2009, the Friends of Coleman NFH joined the Friends of Northwest Hatcheries, a non-profit 501(C3) volunteer organization whose mission is to support natural resource stewardship and education in cooperation with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hatcheries in the Northwest. Friends of Northwest Hatcheries is also associated with the Leavenworth, Entiat, Spring Creek, Carson, and Winthrop National Fish Hatcheries in Washing-

ton State, as well as the Dworshak, Kooskia, and Hagerman National Fish Hatcheries in Idaho.

Friends groups work to increase awareness of the relationships between people and the environment through outreach programs, workshops and seminars. By joining the larger Friends group, the Friends of Coleman NFH will be able to develop and receive assistance, experience, and education from already-established groups. This will be vital in the development of the Coleman friends group and will eventually allow them to grow and become an independent organization.

Future projects for Friends of Coleman NFH include: increasing public's knowledge of the hatchery through outreach at events held throughout Shasta and Tehama counties; working on a trail system along Battle Creek that will enhance the hatchery visitor experience; increasing membership in the Friends group; and improving existing information at the hatchery.

## High Tech Salmon Reconnaissance in the Central Valley

by Marc Provencher,  
Red Bluff Fish & Wildlife Office

**E**very fall, staff from the Red Bluff Fish and Wildlife Office operate a weir and video system on Battle Creek; a major tributary of the Sacramento River. The project is a collaborative effort of the Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, who work to estimate fall-run Chinook salmon population size and provide real-time run-size and run-timing data for the Coleman National Fish Hatchery.

The weir remains in place throughout the fall until late November when the run has been exhausted and higher flows warrant removal.

This system incorporates the same cutting-edge video capture technology that Las Vegas casinos use in their security departments. It includes an overhead video camera, three underwater video cameras, motion recognition software, suspended lighting, and digital recording. The system is also “green” – operated entirely by solar power.

Salmon aren't the only species captured by the weir cameras. Beavers, otters, deer, bobcats, and mountain lions have all been observed on this small stretch of stream. Staff reviewing the videos are often entertained by a crane, aptly nicknamed Ichabod for his poor wading skills, while attempting to fish for a meal.

The video monitoring station is a useful tool, providing fisheries managers with up-to-the-minute data.

Salmon of California's Central Valley take notice, the eye in the sky is watching.



CDFG photo

*The camera records a mountain lion crossing the weir in September 2008*

# Snow Goose Festival Takes Flight!

Article by Denise Dachner  
Photo by Steve Emmons  
Sacramento NWR

**T**housands of birding and nature enthusiasts gathered near Chico, Calif., in late January to attend the 10th Annual Snow Goose Festival.

The Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge Complex provided outstanding support for this four-day event, but preparation began months earlier. Refuge volunteer Marilyn Gamette and planner Jackie Ferrier served on the 24-member steering committee that organized 43 indoor exhibits. They also assisted with programming that provided 18 presentations/workshops; 50 field trips/events; a three-week "Uptown/Downtown Wildlife Art Exhibit," and an evening "Gathering of the Wings" banquet!

Refuge staff members Joe Silveira, Steve Emmons, and Mike Peters led birding tours including: "Llano Seco Ranch Fly-Off and Fly-Over," "Vina Plains to Pine Creek & the River," "Sacramento

Refuge Fly-Off," and "Colusa National Wildlife Refuge." Steve and Mike stunned their audiences with breathtaking photographs during their workshop on nature photography" and one titled "All Those White Geese!"

"I was very pleased to see 200 people, some with children in their laps, packed into a room to catch a glimpse of Marilyn's live owls and hawks during her Raptors and Rehab presentation," Refuge Manager Kevin Foerster said.

"It was amazing that the people on Steve's tour were able to spot not only all three of the North American teal species loafing on a couple of islands, but also four bald eagles (first-year through adult) perched or flying by one tree!"

The Sacramento Refuge, along with 29 other sponsors, is very proud to assist such a dedicated group of people and play a part in organizing this premier wildlife festival.

# Refuge Biologist Supports Australian Wildfire Rehab Efforts

by San Luis Refuge Staff

**A**lthough located a great distance apart, Australia and California share much in common as hot and dry lands subject to frequent, intense wildfires. The Australians have a strong sense of history and tradition of fighting wildfires, or “bushfires” as they call them, and are accustomed to living with, and managing, fire.

Due to the continuing long-term drought and recent firestorms in southern Australia, two federal inter-agency Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams supported wildfire recovery efforts. The exchange provided an opportunity for fire specialists from both countries to work with and learn from each other.

Biologist Ken Griggs from the San Luis National Wildlife Refuge Complex in Los Banos, Calif., has served as a wildlife biologist for the Department of the Interior’s National BAER team for the past four years. During this time, the DOI BAER team has prepared wildfire emergency stabilization and rehabilitation plans to treat fire damage on Mojave National Preserve, Desert NWR, Malheur NWR, Hopper Mountain NWR, San Diego NWR, and a host of BLM management districts. But this was the first international assignment. The team is made up of watershed, wildlife, vegetation, and archeology specialists who are trained to rapidly identify, evaluate, and analyze fire impacts on large, complex fires and produce a plan to reduce the nega-



*Threatened Leadbeater’s possum removed from nest box*

S. Smith with permission

tive impacts that may result from fires.

The Australian government requested the DOI BAER team to assist and support Victoria State agencies in their wildfire recovery efforts. Most of the recent wildfires, covered in stories by the international press, occurred in this state. These devastating wildfires burned nearly a million acres, destroyed numerous structures, and claimed the lives of many Australians.

The DOI BAER team arrived in Melbourne, Victoria, on Feb. 15, and was greeted by U.S. Consulate General, Michael Thurston, before an in-briefing and deployment to fire areas. The 12 members of DOI BAER Team were part of a group of 60 wildfire specialists sent to meet the Australian request. Others deployed included incident management personnel with expertise in fire operations, planning, and logistics; a 20-person hand crew; and a U.S. Forest Service BAER team.

During its Australian deployment, the DOI BAER team worked primarily with staff from the Victoria Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) and Parks Victoria to assess the Beechworth-Library Road Fire (80,000 acres) and Kilmore East-Murrindindi Complex North Fire (382,000 acres). Both wildfires occurred in habitats dominated by eucalyptus forests on hilly terrain. The team worked on these sites while the fires



*The DOI BAER team in Victoria, Australia. Top from left: Gavin Lovell, Ken Griggs, Richard Easterbrook, Bill Sims, Erv Gasser, Richard Pyzik. Bottom row from left: Fred VonBonin, Nora Caplette, Mike Dolan, Judy Hallisey, Lisa Jameson, Chuck James.*

still burned on their leading edges. The team’s work focused on assessing post-fire risks to public safety, property, and natural and cultural resources. Specific measures were identified to mitigate these threats, and cost estimates to implement these treatments were also provided. Within days after the BAER plans were written, officials with Victoria DSE used them as the basis for funding requests.

As the BAER teams’ wildlife biologist, Griggs specifically addressed direct and indirect fire effects to threatened wildlife and fish species and their habitats. This included: the spot-tailed quoll, Leadbeater’s possum, powerful owl, sooty owl, and barred galaxia (a colorful species of fish). Other specialists evaluated the potential for run-off and debris flows to affect public safety and drinking water supplies, fire effects to aboriginal sites, rare plant communities, and timber resources.

In addition to their work on fire recovery efforts, the experience allowed resource professionals from both countries to exchange ideas, methodologies, and procedures used in emergency stabilization/rehabilitation processes and natural resource management. The deployment served as both a teaching and learning opportunity for personnel and their Australian counterparts.



## A Pointedly Successful Volunteer Event



Earl S. Cnyer, escphoto.com/ with permission

*Volunteers plant salvaged cactus to benefit the coastal cactus wren*

by Jill Terp, San Diego NWR

**W**e didn't expect to get a whole lot of people willing to kneel in the dirt for hours under the hot sun and risk getting poked with sharp cactus spines. Boy, were we wrong! Thirty-five volunteers armed with kitchen tongs, showed up – and plant cactus they did!

In about four hours, an estimated 6,000 small cholla and prickly pear cactus were put into the ground along with about 150 mature cholla at the fledgling native plant nursery at the California Department of Fish and Game's Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve.

These plants form the basis for cactus habitat restoration that will occur in the near future on the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge and Rancho Jamul Ecological Reserve to benefit the coastal cactus wren. The wren's populations have seriously declined in southern California due to cactus habitat loss from development and wildfire.

The thousands of cactus will be propagated at the nursery then

transplanted; getting cactus rooted now will give them a jump start for later growth. Propagating salvaged cactus saves several thousand dollars that it would cost to purchase small cactus from a commercial nursery. And using locally-salvaged material ensures appropriate local plant stock for the restoration.

Twenty-one new volunteers were added to the growing pool of volunteer talent that help the refuge accomplish its goals of improving habitat for migratory birds and listed species.

Our youngest volunteer, Aidan Beck (4 ½ years old), is a true veteran of cactus restoration. He helped salvage cholla in February 2008, from a construction site and helped plant cholla at Rancho Jamul in January 2009. Aidan is a kid who's really connecting with nature, thanks to his folks, Pete and Christine. And because of Aidan's efforts – along with efforts of all the other youth and adult volunteers and staff – the cactus wren and other wildlife will soon have more cactus to call home in southern San Diego County.

## California Condor Recovery Program Advances Binational Efforts in Mexico

by Michael Woodbridge, Hopper Mountain NWR

**O**n February 25, Hopper Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex (NWR) Project Leader Marc Weitzel flew to Mexico to add a fourth major Mexican partner to the binational California Condor Recovery Program. With him, he carried the frozen carcasses of an endangered California condor and whooping crane.

After navigating the customs process, Weitzel was greeted at the Mexico City airport by officials from SEMARNAT, Mexico's version of the Department of the Interior, and a representative from the Museo de las Aves de Mexico (Museum of Birds of Mexico). The next day the birds were transported to the museum in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico. Weitzel also provided the museum with a replica of a condor egg and skull, as well as a CD with condor images.

The materials will be used in an exhibit which will kick off with a major ceremony. With the arrival of these birds, the Museum of Birds of Mexico joins the Mexican federal government, Chapultepec National Zoo (in Mexico City) and airline Aeromexico as another major partner in the California Condor Recovery Program in Mexico. The museum will provide important environmental education and outreach for the California Condor Recovery Program.

The delivery of the California condor and whooping crane was a government-to-government gift, requested by the Director of Mexico's wildlife agency to the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

# Volunteers Improve Pupfish Habitat

Article & photos  
by Christina Nalen  
Ash Meadows NWR

**T**hirty-five people from Pahrump, and Las Vegas, Nev. gathered Jan. 24 to put in a little volunteer time at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. A Junior Girl Scout troop, local Jeep club, and Great Basin Institute employees made up part of the wide scope of people who came to cut cattails in the name of pupfish habitat improvement.

Volunteers were asked to come prepared to get into the warm 90 degree waters of the Kings Pool spring outflow. Getting soaked in January wouldn't normally sound like a good thing but, with mild 60 degree temperatures, more than half of the volunteers were ready and willing to sit in the waters and cut cattail leaves. Cattails are an invasive wetland plant in these waters and must be maintained regularly. Their leaves block out the sunlight needed for healthy algae growth which, in turn, provide food and habitat for the endemic Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish (*Cyprinodon nevadensis mionectes*). The base of the cattail leaves also make for good habitat for the introduced crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*), which is a predator of the pupfish.

Not everyone wanted to get wet during the event. "Land muckers" were needed as much as cattail cutters. These were the volunteers who hauled the cut cattail leaves from along the edge of the spring outflow to designated piles where an equipment operator could come by to pick up the leaves and haul them away to a drying area.

Leaving the cattail leaves on-site would create potentially dangerous fuel for wildfires, which can be started by lightning during the dry



*Some volunteers really got into their work. This "land mucker" moves cattail leaves away to a piling station*

part of the year. Prior to the event, people who had volunteered at the last cattail cutting event were invited to return as "crew leaders." Crew Leaders lead the teams of newer volunteers by showing them what to do and keeping the team together and moving forward. Crew leaders were rewarded with special thanks and a hat after the event.

The four cattail cutting teams and four land mucker teams worked in concert for almost three hours, cutting and hauling off more than 2,000 square feet of cattail leaves (670 linear stream feet). In the end, the equipment operator made one and a half dump-truck loads, roughly 15 cubic yards, of cattail leaves.

After getting equipment put away, last loads hauled off, and shed jackets picked up, most of the volunteers and the staff gathered by Kings Pool to picnic and participate in the quiz show produced by Public Lands Institute Educator Allison Brody. Public Lands Institute is a

partner of the refuge through the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership.

Many of the volunteers ended up making a day-long visit at Ash Meadows NWR. Some were seen on our Crystal Spring Boardwalk after the event and others said they were going to Devils Hole, a portion of Death Valley National Park that is found within the refuge.



# 1994 Oil Spill Results in Unique Partnership

by Denise Steurer, Ventura FWO

**A** 1994 oil spill into one of the last free-flowing rivers in Southern California had an unexpected silver lining. After 190,000 gallons of oil spilled into the Santa Clara River from a pipeline that ruptured during the Northridge earthquake, a \$7.1 million settlement was reached to restore areas degraded from the spill. Still, what lay ahead was the daunting task of how to best allocate the money for restoration projects.

A Trustee Council was formed consisting of representatives from the Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. Early in the development of the restoration plan, the Council was approached by California State Coastal Conservancy (CCC) to gain funding for a planned Santa Clara River Parkway project. Then, the Nature Conservancy (TNC) selected the Santa Clara River as one of its priorities for land protection and conservation. Thus began a partnership between the Council, the CCC, and TNC to bring the river and its wetland and riparian areas back to their original state, and protect them for future generations. That partnership still thrives.

The Council – which has the responsibility and authority to plan, develop and implement restoration projects within the entire 1,600 square-mile Santa Clara River watershed – established a grant agreement with TNC for the expenditure of up to \$4 million on the acquisition of land along the Santa Clara River. Two properties have been purchased with oil spill funds, totaling about 450 acres of riparian and river bottom habitat. State bond money has

been available for land acquisition as well. Thus far, these funds have purchased 2,400 acres along the Santa Clara River, all owned by TNC.

The acquisition of land is important to protect and restore the natural corridor of the Santa Clara River, along with providing habitat for various species of special concern, including the unarmored three-spine stickleback and least Bell's vireo, two of the federally endangered species impacted by the oil spill.

The Council has funded several other grants to either TNC or CCC including a steelhead assessment study, the development of an upper and lower watershed habitat protection plan and a vegetation classification and mapping project. The CCC has sponsored a science workshop and developed a Santa Clara River Parkway website that facilitates the sharing of information among the various stakeholders and the public at large.

The purpose of the Parkway project is to acquire, restore and protect lands along the Santa Clara River that are threatened by development. The initial phase includes the lower portion of the river, from the mouth to the City of Santa Paula.

The CCC donated land to a local non-profit, Friends of the Santa Clara River, where various habitat restoration activities funded by the



*View of the Vulcan property along the Santa Clara River which was purchased with settlement funds.*

Ken Wilson, CDFG



*Members of the partnership: (from top left:) Don Lollock, CDFG; Sanger Hedrick, former owner of Hedrick Ranch Nature Area; Denise Steurer, FWS; Dan Blankenship, CDFG. Bottom row: Ken Wilson, CDFG; and Mary Root, FWS.*

Council are under way, in addition to the establishment of a volunteer-stewardship program.

There is support by the Council, CCC and TNC for the establishment of a University of California Reserve along the Santa Clara River, to serve as a research and study area, and to provide educational opportunities and on-the-ground habitat restoration.

The Council is also involved with CCC, TNC and other stakeholders in the establishment of an upper Santa Clara River watershed land trust, in order for a local conservancy to take on the responsibilities and stewardship of lands acquired for restoration and long-term protection. Finally, there will be future acquisitions using Council funds that remain from the existing grant agreement with TNC.

The Council's partnership with the CCC and TNC has been very fortuitous in facilitating the Council's efforts above and beyond what could have been done without the Conservancies. Their added conservation planning, realty expertise, and funding allowed for a much broader vision of what is possible in a watershed when collaborative efforts are merged in a true partnership benefitting the public and the natural resources as a whole.

# Lake Mead Becomes Outdoor Classroom

by Las Vegas FWO staff

In late January the Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office in Las Vegas was contacted by Lucia Rosatti, a career counselor at Foothill High School in Henderson, Nev. Lucia had a student named Ryan Ward who was interested in shadowing a wildlife biologist for a day to complete a class assignment.

Erik Orsak, an environmental contaminants biologist, offered to take Ryan into the field on a project that involved collection of razorback suckers on Lake Mead. A date of March 3 was selected and Ryan filled out the paperwork to become a temporary volunteer with the Service.

"Remembering how much I disliked getting up early when I was a teenager, I was worried about Ryan's reaction when I told him that I would need to pick him up at his house at 6 a.m. so we could meet the Biowest boat crew at the dock at 6:30. But Ryan didn't seem to mind and he was ready to go on time," Orsak said.

"Ryan jumped right in and got his hands dirty, asking questions, . . . he really seemed to be engaged."

Trammel netting for the razorback suckers, a federally endangered fish native to the Lower Colorado River, is not as glamorous as it sounds.

The fishing nets consist of a small mesh with overlying trammel lines positioned in a diagonal pattern, and these nets are very good at catching fish. The problem is, for every one razorback sucker you might catch, you typically untangle and remove dozens of non-native fish, such as striped bass, channel catfish, and common carp.

It can take a three-person crew more than six hours to remove as many as 200 fish from three nets. And even then you may come up empty handed, without a single razorback to show for all the work. It is dirty, monotonous work, but Ryan was lucky.

This day the crew hauled in 14 razorbacks from Las Vegas Bay, a

record catch for the year. Ryan even got to release a juvenile razorback sucker back into the water once it had been measured and weighed. At the end of the day, Ryan seemed to enjoy the whole experience. "I would venture to guess that Ryan is the only high school student in the Las Vegas Valley who has seen a living razorback sucker," Orsak added. "Who knows, Ryan may even become a wildlife biologist himself some day."

## Partnership for razorbacks

Biowest, a private consulting firm from Utah, has been conducting population studies on Lake Mead razorback suckers since the late 1990s.

This work is funded by both the Bureau of Reclamation and the Southern Nevada Water Authority.

The Nevada Fish and Wildlife Office has been working with the U. S. Geological Survey for more than 10 years to assess the impacts of pollution on fish health in Lake Mead.

Only recently did these two efforts combine into a partnership to assess the reproductive health of razorback suckers.

This project, and many others like it across the U.S., can serve as a living classroom for young people, sparking an interest in the outdoors that will last a lifetime.



Biowest, Inc./with permission

Ryan Ward (left) is seen here with Ron Rogers (middle) of Biowest Inc. and contaminant biologist Erik Orsak (right), along with a razorback from Lake Mead, Nev.

## Humboldt Bay's Largest Fly-Off



USFWS photo

*Friends of Humboldt Bay NWR member Jackie Appleton helps a young birder during the 7th Annual Fly-Off at Humboldt Bay NWR*

### by Sean Brophy, Humboldt Bay NWR

**E**very evening during late winter and spring, thousands of Aleutian cackling geese gather for a safe night-time roost where they can sleep undisturbed and rise early the next morning to forage on short grasses in preparation for the next stage of their migratory journey.

On March 7 and 8, visitors to the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge's 7th Annual Fly-Off and Family Fun Day were treated to an incredible display of nature's beauty as 50,000+ geese flew off of their night-time roost.

Getting visitors inspired to be out at the refuge by 6 a.m. is no easy task, but more than 800 people attended the weekend event. Presented by Humboldt Bay NWR and the Friends of Humboldt Bay NWR, this special event provided high quality interpretation, wildlife observation and environmental education; but most importantly showed many people what a remarkable place the refuge is. Thanks to cooperating weather and geese, this

year was one of our best fly-off's yet with multiple flocks, some comprised of over 20,000 geese, arising en masse like cacophonous clouds of smoke.

The refuge is amazing place but our volunteers are what make it a special experience for visitors. The post fly-off activities made the event a true Family Fun Day. This year's activities included an amphibian exploration area with Service biologist Jamie Bettasso, birdhouse building, decoy painting with Mike Peters of Colusa NWR and Naomi Buscom of Sacramento NWR, a pondwater microscope, storytelling, birdhouse building, trail activities including the refuge trail guide and Quest and a bake sale that successfully raised funds for the Friends of Humboldt Bay NWR. The event was also a great outreach tool to bring awareness of the refuge to the local community, and included interviews and stories in local newspapers, television and [CNN.com](http://CNN.com).

As the event grows larger each year the refuge becomes a true destination for family fun, and a safe place to have a nature adventure.

### Workshop Focuses on Sensitivity of Coastal Environments and Wildlife to Spilled Oil

by Stephanie Weagley  
& Judy Gibson Carlsbad FWO

**T**he Service's Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office Environmental Contaminants Division hosted a workshop Jan. 29, to update the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's 1995 Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps for spill response in coastal southern California. In addition to representatives from the Service, participants included the U.S. Navy, California Department of Fish and Game, natural resource environmental consultants and non-governmental organizations.

The ESI maps of southern California – also referred to as the ESI Atlas – serve as an essential, quick reference tool for oil and chemical spill responders and coastal zone managers. They address oil spill response to wildlife in their sensitive coastal environments, as well as provide resource information for shorelines, biological resources (such as bird colonies and shellfish beds), and human-use resources. The ESI Atlas covers a coastal geographical area from Point Conception (north of Santa Barbara) to the Mexico Border (south of San Diego).

Responders use these maps to identify environmentally sensitive resources and their habitats to implement strategies to contain, recover, and cleanup oil to minimize impacts to listed species and critical habitats.

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# Geocaching takes Off at Don Edwards SF Bay Refuge

by Carmen Minch, Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR

**G**eocaching, a high-tech treasure hunting activity, has become enormously popular all over the world. Since May 2000, when the United States Government permitted public global positioning systems (GPS) to become more precise, more than 700,000 caches have been logged by high-tech treasure hunters worldwide. Creative techies, wanting to test the accuracy of their GPS units, began to hide stashes, or caches, to see if other like-minded people could find them. They did. And so, the hunt was on. The thrill of finding a cache appeals to just about everyone - kids, adults, couples, and families.

Geocaching can be a perfect marriage between technology and outdoor recreation. The growing popularity of the sport has introduced new audiences to public parks and scenic outdoor spaces, including Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge. The aspects of the sport present unique challenges to refuge managers. For example, despite improvements to GPS technology over the years, there is still a margin of error of about 60 feet. The impreciseness of GPS creates a dilemma for refuges which must protect sensitive habitats for wildlife. Federal regulations also prohibit people searching for buried treasures, treasure troves or taking anything from a national wildlife refuge.

Refuges, including Don Edwards San Francisco Bay, are working through these challenges and are looking to geocaching as an innovative way to introduce new sets of visitors to refuges.

The unique combination of GPS technology and outdoor recreation helps refuges showcase lesser-known areas and expands visitors' knowledge of the refuge, and the role of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Many geocachers will tell you the items in the cache are not really the reward - it is the hunt itself. With this in mind, staff at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay Refuge have created a challenging, refuge-friendly multi-cache activity that gets people out on the refuge without impacting sensitive habits and other refuge resources.

Rather than hiding a cache on a trail, the activity leads the geocacher to 10 locations on the refuge. Coordinates, information about the site, and 10 questions can be downloaded from [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com), a website used by geocachers to locate and obtain coordinates of caches in their area.

At each of the refuge locations, the person must answer a question correctly. Once all 10 sites have been visited (some may involve walking on a trail for up to three miles), the geocacher must go to the refuge visitor center to present the answers to the visitor center staff. After confirming the questions have been answered, the person then has access to the cache located inside the visitor center where he or she can sign the log book and leave and take something from the cache box.

To make it even more challenging, a lock has been placed on the cache box and the combination is derived from some of the answers on the answer sheet. The last digit is given to the person when he or she comes into the visitor center with answer sheet.

The Don Edwards San Francisco Bay refuge is fortunate to have enthusiastic geocachers in the San

Francisco Bay Area. Once word was out that we were looking to create a geocache on refuge property, people came forward to offer us help in setting one up.

The website, [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com), has a wealth of information and guides you through the process of creating a free account and hosting a cache. There are definitions for the several types of caches that you can create. In addition, geocachers can log their finds onto this website, offer others hints and tips about the activity, and post their photos. Feedback has been great: here is just one of several quotes from geocachers who found the Don Edwards Refuge Roundup cache:

*“ . . . it's a fabulous cache adventure, laid out to visit the highlights of most of the wildlife refuge, which is beautiful and different in each of its areas.*

*The hikes are easy even if they are long, because they are on wide flat well-maintained trails. Coords for the plaques and signs involved in the necessary questions are good. We learned a lot (well, I learned a lot; Touchstone will have to speak for himself) in the process of reading the signs and doing this cache. We had a*

*lot of fun seeing parts of the baylands we might never have gotten to otherwise. . . .”*

More feedback is available at [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com). The geocache code for the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge multi-cache is GC1HQ1W. Don Edwards San Francisco Bay refuge is interested in working with other refuges to create similar types of caches on refuges. For more information, contact Carmen Minch or call (510) 792-0222 ext. 38.



These photos were taken by the geocachers with the cell phones during the hunt!

With permission

## New SF Bay Delta Conservation Planning Field Office

by Erica Szlosek,  
R8 External Affairs

**T**he Service's Pacific Southwest Region will soon have a new field office focused on the resource issues surrounding the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta. The staff's immediate task is to continue working with the state and others on the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.

This plan is being discussed by the BDCP steering committee which serves as the principal forum within

which key policy and strategy issues related to the BDCP are considered. Members of the Steering Committee include federal, state, and local water agencies; CDFG, environmental organizations; interested parties with the Service and NMFS participating as ex officio members.

Once developed, the plan will promote conservation of at risk species such as salmon and delta smelt, and provide for improved reliability of water supply. The new office, known

as the San Francisco Bay Delta Fish and Wildlife Office, will be led by Dan Castleberry, a Service employee with extensive experience working with Central Valley water issues. Mary Grim and Mike Hoover will be joining him as well. Eventually about 20 other Service employees will work in the new office. Although a permanent location has not yet been selected, the office will function out of the Sacramento regional office headquarters until a suitable location is found.

## Stockton Students Restore Delta Habitat

Article & photo by  
Steve Martarano, Sacramento FWO

**S**tudents are often taught how they can help the environment, but don't usually get the chance to actually get their hands dirty.

On a recent cool and breezy day in the Delta, 40 third- and fourth-grade students from local schools got an opportunity to practice what they had been learning.

It was all part of the public kickoff of the Skin Kee Tract project in northwest San Joaquin County, a 142-acre wetlands restoration effort managed and funded by the A.G. Spanos Companies, in conjunction with the Service, California Department of Fish and Game and the San Joaquin Council of Governments.

The students and teachers hiked around the newly-created wetlands, and then, under the supervision of a team of biologists, helped plant native vegetation, including willows, buttonwillows and sedges along the banks and levees of the wetlands area. They also catalogued wildlife they might see on the site, such as the Western Pond Turtle, blue heron and snowy egret.

"It is so rewarding to see these kids getting hands-on experience," David Nelson, Spanos Companies' senior Vice President, said during the Jan. 29 event. "They will later be able to see the sticks and clumps of grass they put in the ground today turn into a home for geese, or special food for beavers."

Biologists had previously

visited both schools, teaching them the important role wetlands and native habitat play in creating and maintaining a healthy environment. The project's goal was to turn the land back into its natural condition and habitat as part of the Spanos restoration program of more than 300 acres of Delta lands, and to offset other Spanos residential development projects that paved over habitat for the federally threatened giant garter snake. Restoration of the wetlands is based on a tidal-influenced channel design, according to the Spanos Company. New inlets and outlets will be created to allow free movement of water on and off the property, depending on tides. An open channel will permit fish and other aquatic organisms to establish viable populations in the restored wetlands. Once returned to freshwater wetlands, the area, purchased by the Spanos Company in 2004, will help provide habitat for several state and federal protected species, including the delta smelt and giant garter snake.

"This is a celebration of two years of work," said Nelson, adding that after the area matures, the hope would be to allow public access in some limited form. "Wetlands play an important role in our environment and we're losing them at a rapid rate."

*The Shin Kee Wetland & Habitat Restoration project is located southwest of I5 and Highway 12 along White Slough, San Joaquin County.*



*Students planted native vegetation at Shin Kee such as willows, buttonwillows and sedges along the banks and levees of the area*

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They also use them during the pre-spill planning activities to develop proactive measures and strategies designed to protect, minimize, and reduce impacts on sensitive resources.

The ESI map workshop was coordinated by Judy Gibson, field spill response coordinator at Carlsbad FWO Environmental Contaminants Division. Joel "Jeep" Pagel, Ph.D., environmental contaminants and raptor ecologist at Carlsbad FWO, provided expertise to the group on raptors, and in particular key information on peregrine falcons, which has not been previously included in the ESI Atlas of coastal southern California.

Additionally, the workshop provided Carlsbad FWO an opportunity to update the status on listed species, as well as hear concerns for proposed and candidate species.

The Carlsbad FWO Environmental Contaminants Division remains proactive in pre-spill planning for oil spill response activities consistent with the National Inter-agency Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Data collection and revisions for the ESI Atlas will continue until mid-2009.

The final updated ESI Atlas is expected to be available by early 2010. It will provide state and federal agencies and stakeholders with current information to use during their joint spill response efforts.

## Transitions

### Humboldt Bay NWR

Deputy Project Leader **Shannon Smith** departed to take the Project Leaders job at Kauai NWRC beginning March 15th.

### Red Bluff FWO

The Red Bluff FWO/Tehama-Colusa Fish Facility welcomes their newest employee, **Michelle Havens**. Michelle transferred from the Sacramento FWO on March 1. She is a Fish and Wildlife Biologist with the Endangered Species branch of the office. Michelle previously worked in the Coast Bay Delta Branch of the Sacramento FWO, on ESA Section 7 consultations.

Her past experience also includes the National Park Service at Padre Island National Seashore, Texas, conducting research on migratory birds and listed species such as the Piping Plover and sea turtles, and completed biological assessments. Michelle conducted her thesis research on the nesting success and ecology of the Snowy Plover for her Master of Science degree at Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi, through a cooperative agreement with the Fish and Wildlife Service's Corpus Christi Ecological Services Field Office.

### Sacramento FWO

New Employees:

#### Section 7 Branch:

**Valerie Layne**, fish and wildlife biologist, started Jan. 4.

#### Coast Bay Delta Branch:

**Ben Solvesky**, fish and wildlife biologist, started Jan. 4.

**San Joaquin Valley Branch:** **Ellen McBride**, **Kellie Berry** and **Jennifer Schofield**, fish and wildlife biologists, began their jobs in March.

### Flood & Watershed Planning Branch:

**Harry Kahler**, fish and wildlife biologist started work in March.

**Harry Mossman**, External Affairs Program, retired on Jan. 31.

**Martha Stevenson**, Sacramento Valley Branch, retired on Feb. 28.

**Chuck Friedrich**, Administrative Officer is retiring on May 1 after 37 years of federal service.

**Jason Hanni**, Sacramento Valley Branch, was promoted in January.

### Stockton FWO

**Donnie Ratcliff** has joined the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program where he will be working as a Habitat Restoration Coordinator. Donnie received a B.S. degree in fisheries biology from Humboldt State University in 2001, and an M.S. degree in aquatic ecology from Utah State University in 2006. While attending Humboldt State, he worked as a biological technician for California Ducks Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and as a fisheries technician at the Forest Service's Redwood Sciences Laboratory. In 2002, Donnie accepted a cooperative education position with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest and completed thesis research related to fisheries habitat enhancement projects in Shasta Lake. Upon completion of his M.S. degree, Donnie returned to the Shasta-Trinity National Forest where he worked as an interdisciplinary team member and leader on various habitat projects with the U.S. Forest Service.

**Michelle Workman** is also joining the Anadromous Fish Restoration Program where she will be working as a Habitat Restoration Coordinator. Michelle has 15 years of experience working on salmonid management in the Central Valley of California for the East Bay Municipal Utility District. She was responsible for oversight of salmonid migration monitoring and



developed a state-of-the-art digital video monitoring system to monitor salmon and steelhead escapement. Michelle was the lead biologist responsible for fish community monitoring, acoustic tracking of salmonids, and habitat restoration projects on the lower Mokelumne River. She is currently the President-Elect of the California-Nevada Chapter of the American Fisheries Society. Michelle has a B.S. degree and M.S. degree in biological sciences (biological conservation) from the California State University, Sacramento.

### Yreka FWO

**Laurie Simons** left the Yreka Fish and Wildlife Office for the Desert Refuge Complex in Las Vegas on Oct. 25. **Tim Burnett** left for a position with the Klamath National Forest in Happy Camp, CA Nov. 8.

### Regional Office

**Deb Schlafmann** will serve as the new Climate Change Coordinator for the duration of her 120-day detail. **Carrie Thompson** will be the acting chief for the habitat Restoration Division during that time.

**Phil Detrich** is leaving the Project Leader Position at the Yreka FWO and will work full time as a Special Assistant on the Klamath restoration issue for at least 120 days.

**Roxanna Hinzman** will be acting in Yreka during that time.

**Dan Castleberry**, **Mary Grim**, and **Mike Hoover** began 120 details to start the new San Francisco Bay Delta Field Office. **John Engbring** will resume full responsibility of the fisheries program.

**Doug Damberg** was recently selected as Region 8's new Assistant Refuge Supervisor. Doug currently works as a Refuge Operations Specialist in the Klamath Basin NWR Complex. After graduating from Bates College in Maine in 1988, he began his Service career at Rachel Carson NWR. Over the past 20 years, he has worked in five regions at five refuge complexes, a wetland management district, and the R3 Regional Office. Doug also serves as a dual-function Refuge Officer and firefighter. He will move to the Sacramento regional office in May.

**Mike Long** has been selected as the Region's Chief of Listing, Recovery, and Conservation Planning, starting in early May. Mike brings a lot of valuable Washington Office and Project Leader experience. Mike first started with the Service as a summer intern in 1978 while attending Humboldt State University. The next year he was selected for the Cooperative Edu-

cation Program and began working at the Sacramento Ecological Services Office on the Trinity River EIS and flow study. He graduated in 1980 with a BS degree in Wildlife Management and was hired as a permanent employee in Sacramento. In 1993 Mike transferred to Headquarters to work in the Branch of Federal Activities on wetland regulatory issues, including being Service's lead on developing the Interagency Mitigation Banking Guidelines. After a couple years he moved into the Branch of Habitat Restoration where he worked on ecosystem management and budget development for the Division of Habitat Conservation. In 1998 Mike became the Field Supervisor in the Wyoming Field Office in Cheyenne. In 2003 Mike returned to Humboldt County to be Field Supervisor in Arcata. The full-service nature of the Arcata FWO (Fisheries, Endangered Species, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, and Coastal Programs) once again afforded him many growth opportunities, and the chance to be involved in the restoration of the Trinity River so many years after first working on it as a co-op Student.

**Laura Valoppi** has accepted a news position with USGS. Her last day with the Service is May 1.

**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](mailto:erica_szlosek@fws.gov) or by phone at (916) 978-6464.

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## Region 8 Journal Articles

- (Mar 2009) REGION 8: Public Meetings Held on Bay Delta Conservation Plan
- (Mar 2009) STOCKTON FWO: Service Biologists Participate in Dinner With a Scientist
- (Mar 2009) SAN LUIS NWRC: Refuge Biologist Supports Australian Wildfire Rehab Efforts
- (Mar 2009) RED BLUFF FWO: Estimating Spring Chinook Salmon Escapement in Mill Creek Using Acoustic Technologies
- (Mar 2009) YREKA FWO: Biologist Nadine Kanim Receives 2008 Recovery Champion Award
- (Mar 2009) VENTURA FWO: 1994 Oil Spill Results in Unique Partnership to Restore Exceptional Southern California Watershed
- (Mar 2009) REGION 8: Engaging Employees to Tell Our Story in a Wired World
- (Mar 2009) YREKA FWO: Local Partners Help Connect Kids With Nature
- (Mar 2009) Education is More Than Books and Blackboards
- (Mar 2009) Friends of Coleman Hatchery Forms, Joins National Friends Group
- (Mar 2009) REGION 8: CSU Professor Named 2008 Recovery Champion
- (Mar 2009) REGION 8: Training Provides Leaders With Knowledge of Tribal Trust Responsibilities
- (Mar 2009) HUMBOLDT BAY NWR: 7th Annual Fly-Off is Largest in Refuge's History
- (Mar 2009) ARCATA FWO: Effects of a Surgically Implanted Extended Life Radio Transmitter on Juvenile Coho Salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) Growth and Survival
- (Mar 2009) ARCATA FWO: Summary of Survival Data from Juvenile Coho Salmon in the Klamath River, Northern California
- (Mar 2009) ARCATA FWO: Survival of Juvenile Coho Salmon in Northern California's Trinity River
- (Mar 2009) CARLSBAD FWO: Ramona Grasslands and Monte Vista Ranch Acquired for San Diego County's Multiple Species Conservation Plan
- (Mar 2009) CARLSBAD FWO: Workshop Focuses on Sensitivity of Coastal Environments and Wildlife to Spilled Oil
- (Mar 2009) NEVADA FWO: Lake Mead Becomes an Outdoor Classroom for Las Vegas Teen
- (Feb 2009) SACRAMENTO NWR: Junior Firefighters Take the Oath
- (Feb 2009) RED BLUFF FWO: Increased Flows on Battle Creek Promote Recovery of Threatened Spring Chinook Salmon
- (Feb 2009) LIVINGSTON STONE NFH: Hatchery Charged With Rearing Rare Delta Smelt
- (Feb 2009) RED BLUFF FWO: High Tech Salmon Reconnaissance In

## California's Central Valley

- (Feb 2009) STOCKTON FWO: Partners Assess Fish Passage on Lower Calaveras River
- (Feb 2009) STOCKTON FWO: Ecosystem Analysis of Pelagic Organism Declines in the Upper San Francisco Estuary
- (Feb 2009) STOCKTON FWO: Delta Smelt Pre-Screen Loss and Salvage Efficiency at the State Water Project
- (Feb 2009) HOPPER MOUNTAIN NWRC: California Condor Recovery Program Advances Bi-national Efforts in Mexico
- (Jan 2009) HOPPER MOUNTAIN NWR: Refuge Assists Chumash Tribal Members
- (Jan 2009) REGION 8: Tidal Emphasis Alternative Chosen for Salt Pond Restoration at Don Edwards San Francisco Bay NWR
- (Jan 2009) LIVINGSTON STONE NFH: Endangered Winter Chinook Salmon Released From Hatchery
- (Jan 2009) SACRAMENTO FWO: Stockton Students Learn to Work the Land While Restoring Key Delta Habitat
- (Jan 2009) REGION 8: Working With Tribes; Region 8 Tribal Program Accomplishments
- (Jan 2009) SACRAMENTO NWR: Snow Goose Festival Takes Flight!
- (Jan 2009) ASH MEADOWS NWR: Volunteers Improve Pupfish Habitat for First Stewardship Saturday of 2009
- (Jan 2009) SACRAMENTO NWR: Partner-Funded Goose Display Dedicated
- (Jan 2009) SACRAMENTO NWRC: East Park Reservoir Interagency Prescribed Fire
- (Jan 2009) SAN DIEGO NWR: Cactus Planting - A Pointedly Successful Volunteer Event
- (Jan 2009) REGION 8: Service Update to the Western Association of Wildlife Agencies Winter Meeting in San Francisco, California
- (Jan 2009) REGION 8: Public Input Sought on Comprehensive Conservation Plan for Farallon National Wildlife Refuge