

# ANCRE NEWS



*A Quarterly Newsletter from the Alliance for Natural and Cultural Resources Educaiton Spring • 2004*

Welcome to a newsletter for teachers and non-formal educators in the Four Corners region. In this and upcoming issues, you'll find information on natural and cultural resources, educational opportunities for students and the general public, workshops, and more.

We are the most dangerous species of life on the planet, and every other species, even the earth itself, has cause to fear our power to exterminate. But we are also the only species which, when it chooses to do so, will go to great effort to save what it might destroy.  
- Wallace Stegner

## Visit our Website!

ancre.org is up and running. Check it out for upcoming events and current information.

## Next ANCRE meeting

Please feel free to attend  
Tuesday, May 4th, 2004  
9:30a.m.

Absolute Bakery  
Mancos, CO

## Inside this issue

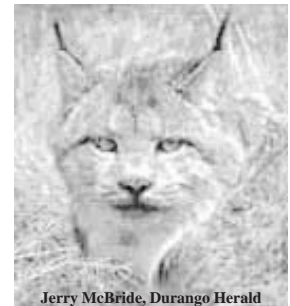
- Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow
- Lynx Fast Facts
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## Lynx in the News

More lynx kittens found in San Juans -  
June 17, 2003

Canada lynx won't be listed as endangered -  
June 28, 2003

DOW begins lynx snow tracking, prepare for  
more lynx releases in 2004 - February 9, 2004



Jerry McBride, Durango Herald

Recent headlines in our area have focused on the success of the Lynx reintroduction project throughout the San Juan Mountains. Lynx once roamed this area abundantly, but due to habitat destruction of its primary food source, the snowshoe hare, the lynx population has subsequently died off.

The most fundamental of life's necessities for any animal are food, water, shelter, and space in a suitable arrangement. Without these essential components, animals cannot survive.

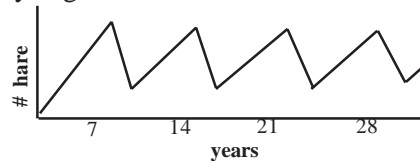
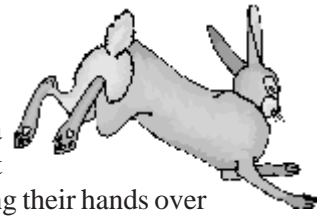
The activity on page 2, "Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow", is designed to show that good habitat is crucial to wildlife survival, that a population will continue to increase until some limiting factors are imposed, that limiting factors contribute to fluctuations in wildlife populations, and that nature is never in true balance, but is constantly changing.

The major purpose of this activity is to demonstrate the importance of suitable habitat as well as factors that may affect wildlife populations in constantly changing ecosystems.

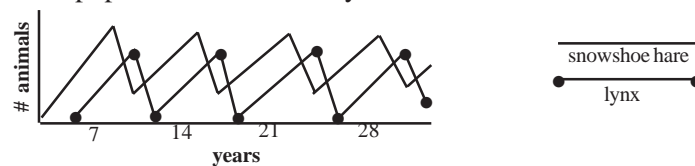
# Hare Today, Gone Tomorrow

(resourced and adapted from “Oh, Deer” - Project Wild)

Divide your group into two equal groups. Have each group stand 15 ft. apart behind a preplaced line. Group one will represent the snowshoe hare, group two will represent habitat (food, water, shelter). Both groups should be instructed to represent food by placing their hands over their stomach, water by placing their hands over their mouth, and shelter by placing their hands over their heads. Each group will stand with their backs to each other behind their respective lines. The “hare” will need to decide whether they are in need of food water and shelter, and make the sign accordingly. The “habitat” will decide whether they will provide food, water, or shelter and make their sign accordingly. When each group has had a chance to decide, the facilitator will ask each group to turn and face each other. Neither group may change it’s sign at this point. The “hare” will need to walk toward the “habitat” and bring back to their line the person who is holding up the same sign they are. If a “hare” was not able to find it’s required item in the “habitat”, they die off for the season and become part of the “habitat”. Each round represents a season. Play as many rounds as necessary to begin to show the pattern in fluctuation between population and habitat. As the hare population increases, the habitat has less to provide and the hare population will begin to die off again. Then, the habitat will rebound and consequently the hare population will increase again. Your hare population may begin to look as follows:



After you have played several rounds, introduce a predator - the lynx - into the game. The predator should begin the game in a separate area “the den” off to the side. The lynx must skip to catch their hare and they may only catch the hare when they are going towards the habitat. Any hare tagged will return back to the den with the lynx. The “eaten” hare now becomes a predator in the next round. If the lynx does not catch a hare in the round, the lynx becomes part of the habitat available to the surviving hare as either food, water, or shelter. Keep track of the number of hares as well as the number of lynx during each season (round). Incorporate the numbers into another graph. Typically, hare populations seem to peak about every seven to nine years and then crash. Likewise lynx populations do the same thing, but they peak one year behind the hare populations. Eventually the data should look as follows:



## Lynx Fast Facts

- Lynx are grayish with a whitish facial ruff and black streaks.
- They stand almost 2 ft. tall.
- Their ears have pointed black tufts.
- They have large, furry feet serve as snowshoes.
- Their tail is short with a black outer third.
- They climb trees to rest and pounce down on prey.
- The snowshoe hare is their main source of food.
- They breed 2-3 kittens.
- They live in high elevation coniferous forests.
- They are nocturnal and active year round.
- The last confirmed lynx was illegally trapped near Vail in 1972.
- Colorado began its reintroduction effort in 1999, when 41 lynx were released into the San Juan Mountains.
- There are fewer than 800 Canada lynx in the Lower 48 states.

### Sources and Suggested Readings

- [www.durangoherald.com](http://www.durangoherald.com)
- National Audubon Society- Field Guide to the Rocky Mountain States
- Project Wild
- NOLS Wilderness Wisdom

# Upcoming Events

## March

6: Hiking the Red Fox. Snowshoe full moon hike. Cascade Creek. 6-8pm. Preregistration required\*

19 – 21: **Project Learning Tree Firebox Workshop** at the San Juan Mountain Association Building. Contact Shawna Croker at 303.275.5358 or email [scrocker@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:scrocker@lamar.colostate.edu)

12 – 13: **Ag Expo Dutch Oven Cooking**. SJMA Fundraiser in Cortez

20: **Wild Words**. Featuring Katie Lee, Craig Childs and Ken Wright. Smiley Building. 7pm. \$15\*

26 – 27: **Project Learning Tree Fire Education**. A free workshop for Tribal Educators in the Four Corners. Contact Shawna Croker at 303.275.5358 or email [scrocker@lamar.colostate.edu](mailto:scrocker@lamar.colostate.edu)

ongoing: **Nature in the Classroom** programs and **Surviving and Thriving in Winter** Outdoor Snowshoe Program\*

## April

**Fire Month** – tours, public meetings, etc. Visit [www.sjma.org](http://www.sjma.org) for specific activity details and dates

5: **Hiking the Pink Moon Full Moon Hike**. Location to be determined\*

7-10: Durango Nature Studies **naturalist training begins**\*

10: **Durango Nature Center opens**. Open every Saturday through June 12th, 10am-4pm\*

17: **Earth Day Project** in Cash Canyon, Dolores. 9 - 12

22: **Weed Tour**. Weeds in agricultural and natural areas

23: **3rd annual Earth Day Celebration and Fundraiser**. Tickets on sale in Smiley Building office\*

24: **Earth Day Celebration** at Smiley Building and Durango Nature Center, 10am-4pm, free\*

28 – 29: **Map and Compass Class**. Public Lands Center

ongoing: **Children Discovering Nature** classroom and field trip program\*

## May

1: **Map and Compass Class field trip**. Location to be determined

1: **Weed and Beer Fest**. Durango Nature Center\*

4: **ANCRE meeting**. Absolute Bakery, Mancos. 9:30am

4: **Hiking the Flower Moon Full Moon Hike**. Location to be determined\*

4: **Children's Water Festival** at Ft. Lewis College. All area 5<sup>th</sup> graders invited

8: **Nature Journal Drawing** with Barbara Kleema at Durango Nature Center\*

13: **GPS Training**. Classroom, 6:30pm-8:30pm

15: **GPS Training Field Trip**. Location to be determined

15: **International Migratory Bird Day** at Durango Nature Center\*

22: **Talk and Walk on Native Plants** at Durango Nature Center\*

27: **Animas River Rafting Weed Tour**

ongoing: **Children Discovering Nature** classroom and field trip program\*

## June

6: **National Trails Day**. Colorado Trail, Junction Creek

10: **Weed Tour** on Horseback. Bring your own horse. 10:00am-4pm

14: (through August 6) **Guided Naturalist Hikes** at DMR. Fridays 10am-2pm

16: **Guided Geology Hike**. Location to be determined. 6pm-8pm

## July

**Tours of the Missionary Ridge Burned Area**. On-going throughout the summer. Visit [www.sjma.org](http://www.sjma.org) for more information.

29: **4-Wheel Drive and Hiking Weed Tour**. Lemon Reservoir area. 9am-4pm

## August

26: **Weed tour**. Location to be determined

\*For more information, please contact Durango Nature Studies at 382.9244

Conservation Education Program  
San Juan Public Lands Center  
15 Burnett Ct.  
Durango, CO 81301

Phone: 970.385.1313  
Fax: 970.385.1375  
Email:

[www.ancre.org](http://www.ancre.org)



## ANCRE History

The Alliance for Natural and Cultural Resources Education (ANCRE) is a grassroots organization that serves as a forum where people interested in natural and cultural education can work together to maximize resources, talents, knowledge, and creative energy.

Natural resource professionals, teachers, administrators, representatives of private industry and nonprofit organizations, concerned citizens - anyone can be involved.

Membership in ANCRE is by association, not by joining. WE have no dues or fees. For more information, please contact Nicole Smith at 970.385.1210 or Dan Ochocki at 970.247.5250. You can also visit us at [www.ancre.org](http://www.ancre.org).

## Thank You!!!

The San Juan Mountain Association would like to thank the following Durango Public School teachers for their hospitality in hosting observers of the EdVenture 101 workshop, February 19<sup>th</sup>. We thoroughly enjoyed visiting your classrooms and appreciate your generosity.

Laurie True 3rd grade, Needham Elementary  
Toby Ellis 3rd grade, Animas Valley Elementary  
Dante Bacon 4th grade, Animas Valley Elementary  
Mike Mahoney 4th Grade, Fort Lewis Mesa Elementary  
Jackie McCarthy 8th grade, Miller Middle School  
David McKeever 10th Grade, Durango High School