

# News Release



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## **U.S., Mexico, and Canada Trilateral Committee Meets to Develop the 2011-12 Wildlife Conservation Agenda for North America**

Building upon a 70 year record of cooperative efforts in wildlife conservation and management, twenty-three U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff members will join other federal agency and State representatives in Oaxaca, Mexico, May 16-20, 2011, to meet with top-level Mexican officers and managers from the six different Mexican natural resource agencies, as well as with Canadian counterparts to outline the 2011-12 wildlife conservation agenda for North America. These activities take place under the Canada/Mexico/US Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management, signed by the three countries in 1995.

“Mexico and Canada are vital partners for the Service in conserving and managing shared wildlife and habitat. Through this meeting, the U.S. seeks to advance our common conservation agenda,” said Rowan Gould, Acting Service Director.

With the extirpation of several species from historic ranges in the U.S., Mexican stock is the last hope to reintroduce these species to former ranges in the U.S. “Protecting these species and their habitat can only be accomplished with cooperation from the Mexican Government. Similarly, it is critical for the Service to work closely with the Government of Canada to address common issues of regional significance,” said Teiko Saito, Assistant Director for International Affairs.

Working tables presided by co-chairs from the three countries will address law enforcement, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), migratory birds, ecosystem conservation, and species of common conservation concern. The meeting participants will identify high-priority projects mutually beneficial to the three countries; discuss more effective ways to collaborate and deliver conservation priorities; and identify future priority activities of mutual concern.

At the request of the Government of Mexico, the annual meeting will take place this year in the state of Oaxaca, in southern Mexico. Oaxaca is one of Mexico’s most important states in terms of biodiversity and provides stopover and/or wintering habitat for a large number of migratory species and is a top priority for migratory bird conservation. The Service’s *Wildlife Without Borders*-Mexico program has funded several grants in this state, and will conduct on-the-ground monitoring during the meeting. The expansive growth of the Trilateral program has resulted in a wide array of attendance from technical experts at U.S. federal and state agencies.

Mexico covers one percent of the earth’s surface, yet contains 12 percent of the species known to science. Mexico and the U.S. share 450 species listed under CITES and 119 species listed under the Endangered Species Act, all of which depend on Mexico for survival. The Service’s *Wildlife Without Borders*-Mexico program builds Mexico’s capacity to conserve and manage species, habitats, and ecological processes of global importance. For more information, visit

<http://www.fws.gov/international/DIC/regionalprograms/mexico/mexico.html>

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*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).*

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