



Message from the President and Board Chair

For millions of Americans, global warming is no longer just a policy debate. It is now part of a national conversation that reaches far beyond the environmental community and the politicians we've been talking to for years. Business people, charity groups, health-care providers, homeowners, students, insurance companies, home builders, farmers, oil producers ... every segment of society across the country is now becoming aware that global warming is real and human activity is to blame.

No natural event brought the threat of global warming into sharper relief than hurricanes Katrina and Rita. As destructive as they were to lives and property in the Gulf Coast, they are a wake-up call for this country. Unless we take action to slow the effects of global warming, more of the same is ahead. Our challenge at NWF this past year was to marshal our resources to make sure that wake-up call was answered.

In 2005, we helped two forward-thinking U.S. senators bring global warming legislation to the floor, stimulating full-scale debate on the issue. We rallied grassroots support behind a call in the Senate for mandatory reductions in greenhouse gases, which we are proud to say passed over White House objections. NWF successfully expanded the global warming discussion to recognize the unique threat climate change is already posing to wildlife. We produced several groundbreaking reports that demonstrate the link between global warming and deteriorating wildlife habitat.

We were also on-the-ground in communities across the country saving species in trouble and connecting people to nature. This was the year we celebrated the removal of the Yellowstone grizzly bear from the endangered species list after a 20-year effort to boost their numbers. We greatly advanced our work in connecting people to nature by engaging youth of diverse cultural and racial backgrounds, producing award-winning publications, and creating a new Discovery Channel series called "Backyard Habitat."

You will read about both our successes and our struggles in the pages ahead. **But it is your contributions and support that make possible every step we take on behalf of wildlife and wild places.** We thank you. And we look forward to working with you in 2006. Together, we can help America answer nature's wake-up call.



Larry Schweiger



Jerome Ringo

Larry Schweiger
President & CEO

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Chair, Board of Directors