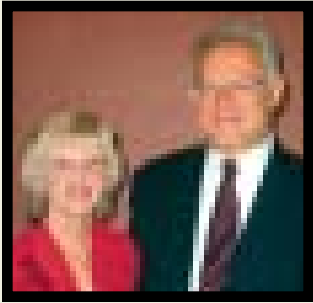


## Message from the Chair

# Vigilance Today: A Healthy World Tomorrow



Rebecca L. Scheibelhut and  
NWF President and  
CEO Larry J. Schweiger

*Larry comes to NWF with  
a distinguished career in  
wildlife conservation,  
including his earlier  
tenure with NWF from  
1981 to 1995.*

Two hundred years ago, Thomas Jefferson wrote, “The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.” In 2003, we borrow his eloquence to say, “Eternal vigilance has been the price of a healthy natural world.”

This past year was one of the toughest conservationists have seen in quite some time. From dismantling environmental laws to misleading the public about global warming, the Administration and some members of Congress have put America’s environmental legacy at risk. At few other times in our history has it been more important to be watchful of those who would undercut environmental protections that have been in place for decades.

Our main challenge—stopping the rollback of the 31-year-old Clean Water Act, a law critical to the environmental health of the country. NWF mounted a massive outreach campaign that generated an overwhelming number of comments from Americans, eventually forcing the Administration to step back from its efforts to formally limit the scope of the law.

Even as we kept our eye on Washington, we were in the field finding new ways to save wildlife while respecting the interests of ranchers and farmers. This year, we brokered two major deals in Montana and Wyoming that moved large livestock grazing areas away from wildlife ranges, opening up foraging areas for buffalo and grizzly bears.

As the nation’s leader in environmental education, we believe that education is the key to preventing future destruction of natural resources and environmental laws. This year, we proudly celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Backyard Wildlife Habitat® program.

In the pages ahead, you will read about the victories we won, the milestones we chronicled and the challenges we faced in 2003. And you will view stunning photographs of wildlife, many of which were taken by the finalists of *National Wildlife*® magazine’s 33rd annual photography competition.

I am pleased to announce that in April 2004 Larry J. Schweiger joined NWF as our new president and chief executive officer. Larry comes to NWF with a distinguished career in wildlife conservation, including the past eight years as president and CEO of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. Larry possesses the unique combination of experience and vision that NWF seeks to chart a sure and steady course in meeting the challenges to wildlife and wild places. Meanwhile, I thank NWF’s Executive Vice President & Chief Financial Officer Larry Amon for his outstanding job as acting NWF President and CEO over the last seven months.

To our donors, members, partners and affiliated organizations, thank you for joining us as we work together to strengthen this nation’s conservation legacy. Through your continued generosity, and the effective leadership of our new president, we will continue to promote a life-sustaining, ecologically whole environment while remaining ever vigilant against efforts to undermine long-time environmental protections.



Rebecca L. Scheibelhut  
*Chair, Board of Directors*