

National Wildlife Federation gives hope to the future of wildlife.

For seventy years, the National Wildlife Federation has taken pride in practicing common-sense conservation. We celebrate our anniversary with another year of significant progress in conservation efforts. Focused on rallying new support for our cause, we reached out through non-traditional channels such as sustainable tourism, tribal and bipartisan government representatives, sportsmen, and religious leaders. Through our determination and our combined efforts with our partners, we continue to make progress toward the conservation of America's wildlife and habitat.

Wildlife Wins

In a hugely symbolic victory, we celebrate the successful completion of our 3-year bald eagle translocation and education project. Begun in 2003, the Vermont Bald Eagle Restoration Initiative, involving National Wildlife Federation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department, Outreach for Earth Stewardship, Central Vermont Public Service and Senator Jeffords, sought to help establish a breeding population of eagles in the Lake Champlain Basin and strengthen public awareness of the role bald eagles and other predators play in Vermont. Over 150 volunteers donated 4,500 hours of their time caring for eaglets prior to their release. As a result, the Initiative is able to boast that almost thirty young eagles are thriving in Vermont, which prior to the project had listed the bald eagle as a state-endangered species. A close watch is being kept on the project's first known active eagle nest.

Historically, the Florida panther ranged throughout the southeastern United States. However, following years of persecution and habitat loss from rapid development, today there are about 80 Florida panthers remaining in only 5 percent of their historic range. Last year, National Wildlife Federation worked with several federal and state agency partners to revise the Florida Panther Recovery Plan that will drive efforts to conserve this endangered species. With current conservation and scientific efforts underway, we are partnering with agencies, tribes, non-profit organizations, and private landowners to implement the plan and give the Florida panther a fighting chance at survival.

Sometimes the results of our efforts are slow in coming. Another victory celebrated last year was from our efforts of over 30 years ago. Long feared to be extinct, the ivory-billed woodpecker was spotted in the exact location that was targeted in the 1970's to be dredged and drained by the Corps' Cache River Channelization Project. National Wildlife Federation stopped the Corps then, and this year stopped it again by working alongside Arkansas Wildlife Federation to secure a court ruling that blocks a Corps-sponsored irrigation project in the ivory-bill's habitat. National Wildlife Federation now shares with Americans the reward—the return of the fabled ivory-billed-woodpecker, the largest woodpecker in the United States.



"Conservation is a state of harmony between man and land... Harmony with the land is like harmony with a friend."

—Aldo Leopold



Connecting Local with Global

In March 2006, National Wildlife Federation activist Cheryl Johncox, National Wildlife Federation board member Paul Beaudette and Population & Environment Program Manager Caron Whitaker traveled to the Philippines to visit conservation projects that were integrated with reproductive and general health projects. Whitaker shared, “The opportunity to see projects that National Wildlife Federation advocates for with public officials in Washington, and speak to people who had changed their lives and the future of their community through such programs inspired and impressed us. Volunteers and community members showed us how protecting and restoring natural resources and having access to reproductive health care improves their quality of life for this generation and the next.” Cheryl Johncox, also a 2006 Conservation Achievement Award winner, said “At each site visit we witnessed pride and successes, because of integrated Population, Health and Environment programs, each community shared their stories of improvements made, rivers saved, fish stocks restored, income generated, maternal and infant death decrease, and birth rate reduction. They spoke of how important it was that their children were healthy and fed, and of the link between a healthy environment and their own health, both must be addressed if they are going to reach for prosperity.”

Healing our Waters

North America’s aquatic resources—rivers and streams, lakes and ponds, wetlands and coastal waters—are all essential to wildlife habitats. 90% of America’s surface fresh water is provided by the Great Lakes, which is in danger of ecosystem collapse as a result of stresses from invasive species, toxic pollution, coastline impairments, and global warming. Last year National Wildlife Federation led the progress on two major legislative agreements for Great Lakes protection and preservation. Working through the Healing Our Waters Coalition, National Wildlife Federation urged the passage of the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act, an important component of the overall Great Lakes Restoration Plan. The revised legislation authorizes funding of up to \$16 million a year to support restoration of fish and—for the first time—wildlife habitat within the Great Lakes Basin. Concurrently, Great Lakes governors and premiers gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to endorse the Great Lakes—St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and its



Andy Buchsbaum

Great Lakes Natural Resource Center, Director

“The job of the Center Director is to push to create change,” states Andy Buchsbaum, reflecting on the year’s accomplishments. As co-chair of the Healing Our Waters Coalition, he helped unite government representatives with hundreds of citizens to release the first-ever comprehensive restoration plan for the Great Lakes. He brought scientists together to produce a consensus report documenting Great Lakes ecosystem breakdowns and possible remedies.

“The Great Lakes provide 20% of the world’s surface fresh water and 90% of America’s,” says Buchsbaum. “Restoring the health of this region has far-reaching implications.” He continues, “Currently, we are working together with 8 states and 2 provinces on what will be the most important international conservation agreement in decades.” If ratified, the agreement will protect the Great Lakes from harm by implementing a strong and effective water management program.

Buchsbaum remembers a Harvard feature he wrote about 1970’s careless business practices resulting in the poisoning of Michigan families from their consumption of tainted livestock and poultry. A National Wildlife Federation employee since 1998, he says, “I do this partly from love of nature..., partly from a sense of injustice that these things were allowed to happen.” He concludes, “But by and large, business women and men today are completely committed to conservation. I see many opportunities to make new alliances to pursue change together.”



companion bi-national agreement. The bills call for strong protections against water diversions out of the basin and unwise water use within the basin.

Metallic sulfide mining in Michigan's Upper Peninsula presents a serious threat to native wildlife, particularly trout and other aquatic species. Mining can turn world-class trout streams into dead zones in which fish and other aquatic wildlife cannot survive. Last year, National Wildlife Federation played a pivotal role in enacting stringent rules for new sulfide mines in Michigan, helping to ensure protection of critical natural resources in the Great Lakes Basin as the fight to protect the Great Lakes against this serious threat continues.

The strengthening and preservation of the Louisiana Gulf coast has been a top priority for National Wildlife Federation for decades. Last year, Hurricane Katrina focused the nation's attention on the same objective. In Katrina's aftermath, National Wildlife Federation worked together with hundreds of volunteers to clean up New Orleans parks and wildlife refuges. Together with Environmental Defense and National Audubon Society, we presented a recommendation to the current Administration that they seek \$5.5 billion in an emergency supplemental appropriations bill for coastal wetlands restoration. Additionally, we conducted a public outreach and advocacy campaign that successfully increased public awareness regarding the importance of wetlands restoration to a sustainable coast.

National Wildlife Federation successfully led efforts to secure three critical reform principles in the Senate-version of the Water Resources Development Act. These reforms promise to force funding for coastal restoration efforts. Specifically, the Act will strengthen the Corps project environmental mitigation requirements and require costly and controversial Corps projects to be subject to "independent review." While this bill was unfinished business before the Congress adjourned in September, we are confident that Congress will heed the lessons posed by Hurricane Katrina and retain these vital amendments in the final conference report to the Water Resources Development Act.

Alaska's Prince William Sound is one of our richest and most spectacular estuaries. Last year, National Wildlife Federation protected its beauty by defeating proposals for a floating gas station, for dramatically increased passenger access for cruise ships, and for a private oyster farm on one of the Sound's more popular recreational beaches. Approaching further conservation of the Sound in a new way, National Wildlife Federation began working with local businesses and communities to support sustainable tourism, which promotes travel to natural areas that benefits local economies, respects the environment, and is sensitive to



Lisa Madry
Regional Representative

Lisa Madry had no idea how relevant the location of last year's National Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting would be when it was planned for New Orleans. In Hurricane Katrina's aftermath, "we didn't even know if our hotel would be open in time," remembered Madry, "but they were, and we were able to go and support New Orleans."

Working closely with Louisiana Wildlife Federation, Madry quickly coordinated "Restoration Day," bringing hundreds of volunteers together during the Annual Meeting to help restore several New Orleans parks and wildlife refuges. "It was great to see our Affiliate leaders from across the country put their outdoor experience to work for the people and wildlife of Louisiana," continued Madry.

Four years ago, Madry came to National Wildlife Federation with a wealth of non-profit advocacy experience. "Working at National Wildlife Federation has given me the opportunity to contribute to some of the most critical conservation issues in our country; restoring coastal Louisiana, reforming the Army Corps of Engineers, and confronting global warming.



indigenous cultures. As a first step toward educating Alaskan residents about the benefits of sustainable tourism, National Wildlife Federation co-hosted a three-day ecotourism conference facilitated by the area's gubernatorial candidates.

Seattle's Puget Sound area orca was officially listed as an endangered species last year. Focused on the preservation of the orca and recovery of threatened Chinook salmon of the Puget Sound, National Wildlife Federation's Western Natural Resource Center in Seattle partnered with various government agencies, Indian tribes, industries and other conservation organizations to brainstorm solutions to the area's issues of toxic pollution, habitat fragmentation and global warming. Last year's Puget Sound Forum, co-hosted by National Wildlife Federation, brought area leaders together to consider opportunities for restoring the health of the Sound and to listen to the lessons that have been learned in other major coastal restoration projects. The Forum led to Gov. Christine Gregoire committing the state's resources and focus toward cleaning up Puget Sound by 2020.

Protecting our Landscapes

National Wildlife Federation's Tribal Lands Conservation Program ensures respect for tribal culture and sovereignty as it partners with local governments and tribal organizations, members and activists to protect wildlife and habitat on and near tribal lands. In 2006, our partnerships with the Oglala Lakota College, Northern Arizona University's Diabetes Prevention Program and the Navajo Nation helped us train over 300 tribal educators at more than 20 schools to develop culturally relevant Schoolyard Habitats® on school grounds. Partnerships with tribes present incredible opportunities to directly benefit wildlife and wildlife habitat conservation, confront climate change, engage a powerful new constituency, and inspire others to become active participants in the conservation movement.

Tribes own and manage over 95 million acres in the United States—11 million acres more than the National Park Service. Tribal lands offer significant prospects for ecotourism as they contain abundant wildlife, scenic qualities, and outdoor recreational opportunities. National Wildlife Federation is developing a Tribal Ecotourism Project that will provide a model for ecotourism projects across the nation that will empower tribes in economic development, environmental stewardship, and cultural sustainability.



Rick Flory and Lee Robert

Rick Flory's first experience with the American West was a family camping trip as a teen. "After coming from northwestern Ohio, where everything is as flat as a pool table, it was quite an eye-opening experience," he recounts. In the 30+ years since then, Flory experienced great success as a business entrepreneur, married singer/songwriter Lee Robert, and never forgot the beauty and joy of that trip.

In 1994, Flory combined his business acumen and philanthropic spirit to create Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation, a Wyoming-based public foundation which awards challenge grants to support more than 100 conservation and wildlife protection groups. The organization, to which Robert also contributes her background of public speaking, donates generously to National Wildlife Federation. Flory and Robert also serve on National Wildlife Federation's President's Advisory Council.

"Earth Friends' focus is to help conservation organizations learn to market themselves more successfully," Robert says. The two rally additional conservation support through Robert's music, and *The Green Mainstream*, their newsletter. "There is a huge population who is now ready to look at conservation in their stewardship and their philanthropy," Robert says, "and they are our target audience." Flory affirms, "We want to inspire people and foundations to look at stewardship of our earth as everyone's responsibility: we are becoming the Green Mainstream."



Public lands—our national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, monuments, wilderness areas, and rangelands—are a uniquely American legacy. In early 2006, a misguided bill was proposed selling approximately one million acres of National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands to fund rural schools and balance the deficit. National Wildlife Federation helped to mobilize widespread Congressional opposition to defeat these short-sighted proposals and once again played an instrumental role in protecting public lands, valuable wildlife habitat and access to recreation opportunities.

National Wildlife Federation and the Montana Wildlife Federation have been organizing sportsmen and conservationists to call on Congress to protect valuable wildlife habitat in the magnificent Rocky Mountain Front from oil and gas drilling. An important step to protect the Front was realized last summer when Senator Conrad Burns (R-MT) included legislative provisions in the Interior Appropriations bill that would prevent future energy leasing on public lands in the Front.

After decades of fighting, timber industry leaders and conservationists reached an agreement that represents the first wilderness proposal in a generation. The “Partnership Strategy” would create a stable supply of timber for local mills, set aside additional acreage for recommended wilderness and help fund projects that would benefit wildlife and fisheries on the 3.3-million-acre Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest of Montana.

A Shared Vision for Wildlife Conservation

For the first time in our nation’s history, every state has articulated a shared vision for wildlife conservation—a vision that is grounded in sound science, common sense and collaboration. Toward that end, comprehensive wildlife strategies—Wildlife Action Plans—have been completed by each state and territory to form a blueprint for protecting the nation’s wildlife and its habitat for the long term. These plans, created by state fish and wildlife agencies, provide a state-based overview of the species and habitats in greatest need of conservation.

National Wildlife Federation was awarded funding from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation to partner with its Affiliate organizations to implement Wildlife Action Plans in five pilot states. Georgia Wildlife Federation, Montana Wildlife Federation, North Carolina Wildlife Federation, Wisconsin Wildlife Federation and the Environmental League of Massachusetts began working collaboratively with National Wildlife Federation to educate citizens and organize coalitions that will ensure effective implementation of these strategies.

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

National Wildlife Federation celebrates the selection of Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF) as our 2006 Affiliate of the Year. Founded in 1949, WWF has exploded in growth, influence and effectiveness since hiring a full time Executive Director in 2003. The NWF and WWF relationship has strengthened, too, and as a result both organizations have become partners in conservation.

President Corky Meyer indicates: “Working closely with National Wildlife Federation, we have been able to advance several national conservation initiatives such as global climate change, wetlands protection, restoration of the Great Lakes and protection of the Mississippi River.” He continues, “We were successful in advancing our legislative agenda in seven of eight priority pieces. National Wildlife Federation has been helpful in policy guidance and financial support to assist us in advancing these goals.”

WWF’s 2006 accomplishments are on target with their dual mission to advocate for sound conservation policy and to engage in conservation education. They have earned the respect of state legislators who now check with WWF first on issues and legislation before formulating positions. And their collaborative effort with the Friends of MacKenzie and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources saved the 280-acre McKenzie Environmental Center from shutting down. The Center, now WWF’s headquarters, is operated by WWF and is visited by 50,000 people a year.