

*From Alaska to Texas, Michigan to Mexico, the Mississippi Delta to the Northern Forest...*

*NWF has broadened and deepened its reach across this majestic land to mobilize citizens, join with communities and work with lawmakers and government agencies—all to defend the world's legacy of special landscapes of federal, private and tribal lands.*

*This year marked tremendous progress in our efforts to conserve significant wildlife habitats that are home to countless spectacular species.*





## Alaska: Safeguarding One of Our Nation's Crown Jewels

This past year, NWF devoted considerable resources to protecting critically important Alaskan habitats, and we are proud to report that 2002 brought great progress, including a key victory for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. While we celebrate these achievements, we know they can be reversed unless we and our partners remain vigilant, and so Alaska will continue to be one of our foremost priorities.

### Fighting to Save the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

The nation marked a defining moment this year in the battle to protect wildlife and wild places in America. On April 18, 2002, the U.S. Senate voted down a proposal that would have opened the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

For NWF and its supporters, the weeks and months leading up to this first critical victory in the battle to save the Arctic were filled with public rallies, meetings on Capitol Hill, strategy sessions with partner groups, outreach to NWF members and advocacy training sessions.




The 1.5 million acres of the Refuge's coastal plain, which was proposed for oil exploration, is its most biologically productive and the heart of its wildlife activity. With so much at stake, few other times in NWF's history have proved so critical.

### *On Capitol Hill*

In early February, NWF hosted a large group of concerned citizens, from 25 states and Mexico, on Capitol Hill to urge senators to oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge. Native and non-native students from Alaska, part of NWF's Alaska Youth for Environmental Action

and students from Tygarts Valley High School in West Virginia presented their research findings on the issue directly to Senators Murkowski (AK) and Rockefeller (WV) as well as other influential decisionmakers.

On the eve of the Senate vote, NWF co-organized a rally on Capitol Hill where hundreds turned out. Senators Joseph Lieberman (CT), Debbie Stabenow (MI), Ron Wyden (OR) and the late Paul Wellstone (MN) joined NWF supporters to pledge a "no" vote to oil drilling. Religious, Native American and labor leaders also called on the Senate to reject the oil drilling proposal.

A scenic view of snow-capped mountains and a forested valley with a river. The mountains are rugged and covered in patches of snow, with a clear blue sky above. The valley below is filled with dense evergreen trees, and a river flows through it, reflecting the surrounding landscape.

“NWF’s leadership was critical in the fight to prevent oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. I congratulate NWF for its hard work in mobilizing the grassroots and bipartisan support necessary to save one of the nation’s most precious wildlife habitats.”

Senator Lincoln Chafee  
*Rhode Island*

“NWF made clear, with a powerful voice, that there are fast, cheap and clean ways to create jobs and meet our energy needs without sacrificing the wilderness values of the Arctic Refuge.”

Senator John Kerry  
*Massachusetts*

## New Science-Based Reports

NWF helped raise awareness on the Hill and throughout the media with two new reports. *The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Wildlife Values* provided new insights into the consequences of oil development. Its companion, *The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Issues Briefing*, examined the facts behind the impact of drilling in the Refuge.

## Advocacy Training In Alaska

Recognizing that the voices of Alaskan tribal leaders must be heard, NWF organized advocacy training sessions for Gwich'in tribal members. The sessions were led by Gwich'in native and NWF board member Faith Gemmill along with NWF's Martha Levensaler and Ann Loyd. Their goal was to help the Gwich'in participate more effectively in the fight to protect the Refuge.

## Slowing Development of Prince William Sound

Alaska's Prince William Sound is one of the richest marine and estuarine ecosystems in the world. The Sound's 4,400-mile coastline (longer than the coast of California) is a twisting labyrinth of glacier-walled fjords, bays, river deltas and estuaries where mountains cloaked in spruce and hemlock plunge to the sea.

But threats to this delicate landscape loom. Opened in June 2000, the Whittier road offers easy vehicle access to western Prince William Sound and is even now bringing a large influx of visitors to the area as well as new interest in developing the Sound's shores and tidelands.

## A New Alliance

NWF is calling on state and federal land managers to create a Prince William Sound conservation management plan based on good science and public feedback. To jumpstart this process, we forged the Sound Alliance, a partnership of environmental and Native organizations. The coalition is working to protect Prince William Sound from overuse, unwise development and other harmful activities, and is also building public and political support for a comprehensive, permanent protection strategy.

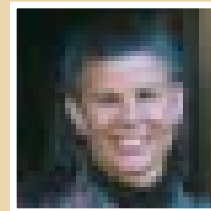


Days before the Senate vote, NWF helped organize a major grassroots rally on Capitol Hill to block oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

## Jamie Rappaport Clark

*NWF's Senior Vice President for Conservation Programs*

Heading up NWF's conservation team of highly-qualified individuals, Jamie Rappaport



Clark brings to us a deep commitment to wildlife protection and a background rich in experience in science and wildlife advocacy. Jamie came to NWF in May 2001 after serving as Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from 1997-2001, where she promoted the national wildlife refuge system and reformed the Endangered Species Act.

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This past year, Jamie put her talents to work as she spearheaded NWF's campaign to protect the Arctic National Wildlife

Refuge, energizing our staff, volunteers, affiliates and grassroots while aligning disparate political forces to build a united front to protect one of the nation's great treasures.

Jamie has always had a passion for the great outdoors. But today, Jamie's primary motivation is her 3-year-old son, Carson James Leopold—named for Rachel Carson and Aldo Leopold, two of the nation's greatest conservationists. Jamie is determined that Carson have the opportunity to enjoy clean air and water as well as abundant wildlife over his lifetime.



# At Work in the Northern Forest

Encompassing some 26 million acres, the Northern Forest is today the largest unbroken forest in the eastern U.S., stretching from northern Maine across New Hampshire, Vermont and New York State. The Forest shelters more than 85 species of forest-loving birds and mammals, and the vast majority of its lands are privately held.

## Well-Managed Forest Resources

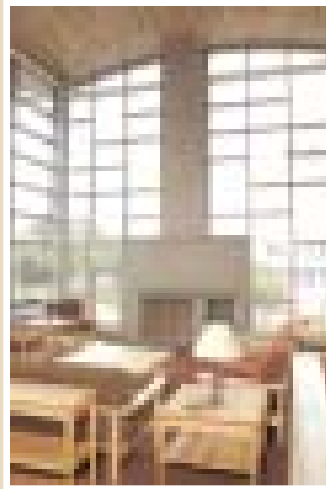
NWF continued its work to promote forest stewardship using such tools as forest certification and conservation easements. Several large landowners have obtained easements on their lands, encompassing over two million acres. Working with the international Forest Stewardship Council and the SmartWood program, NWF has helped certify over 200 landowners and 50 wood products businesses.

## Trout Stream Restoration

NWF is helping restore trout habitat in sensitive headwater streams. Working with state and federal agencies, we have identified failing culverts and bridges on old logging sites, formed volunteer teams to stabilize these areas, and started to restore streams. Our activities include stabilizing banks, building feeding pools for trout and helping farmers create riparian setbacks.

## Wildlife Recovery

Recovering endangered species such as loons, falcons, wolves and lynx in the Northern Forest is also a top priority. With volunteers from the New Hampshire Wildlife Federation, we conducted free lead sinker swaps to encourage anglers to switch from toxic lead sinkers to sinkers made of steel, tin or bismuth. Over the years, lead poisoning has become the number one cause of death of loons and other waterfowl, which accidentally swallow the lead fishing tackle. Thanks to the swap program, no loons were documented to have died from lead poisoning in Vermont last year.



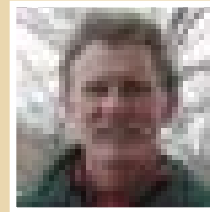
Through the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Project, we coordinated protection efforts of the world's fastest bird with NWF's affiliate, the Vermont Natural Resources Council, and state agencies. In 2001, we reported record numbers of falcons breeding in the Northern Forest since the recovery effort began.

Vermont's Middlebury College purchases wood for new buildings from local suppliers of sustainable wood products that have been certified with the help of NWF.

## Eric Palola

*NWF's Northeastern Natural Resource Center Director*

The head of NWF's northeast conservation programs, Eric is an expert in resource eco-



Eric's credentials are long, including serving as a gubernatorial appointee to a state forestry

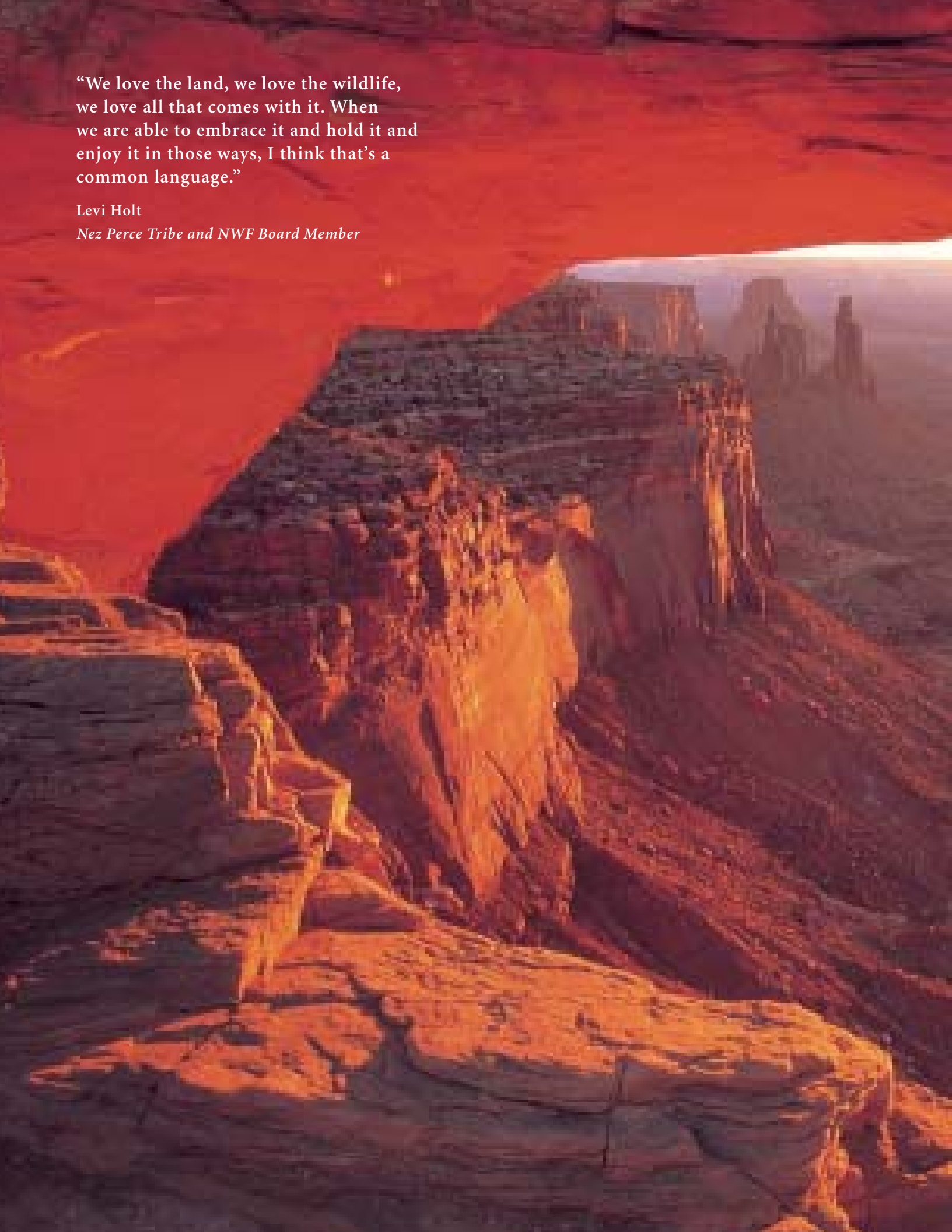
nomics and forest policy. Since his childhood, Eric has probably spent more time outdoors than inside. Backpacking in the Sierras, on the ski-circuit as a nationally-ranked ski racer, in Vermont's rural communities as a logger and working side-by-side with his dad running a maple syrup operation... Eric recharges in the great outdoors, fishing, skiing, hunting and gardening.

task force, as a board member of the National Network of Forest Practitioners and as former issues director of NWF's Vermont affiliate. But the accomplishments of which he is most proud are building NWF's northeast office with a highly professional and experienced staff and uniting sportsmen and environmental communities behind important wildlife management issues.

“We love the land, we love the wildlife,  
we love all that comes with it. When  
we are able to embrace it and hold it and  
enjoy it in those ways, I think that’s a  
common language.”

Levi Holt

*Nez Perce Tribe and NWF Board Member*



## Saving Wildlife on Native Lands

Wildlife conservation on tribal lands has become a critical part of NWF's agenda. NWF's Tribal Lands Program has formed strong ties with nearly 100 tribes that want to protect and restore their natural resources. We were on the ground in many regions of the country. We worked side-by-side with the White Mountain Apache Tribe to restore wolves on the Fort Apache reservation in Arizona. We helped win funding for the black-footed ferret program

on the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. We engaged the Eastern Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes of the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming to help conserve buffalo and elk in Grand Teton National Park and the National Elk Refuge. We are reaching out to the Ute Tribes in Colorado on environmental education and to tribes in Montana, Wyoming and the Dakotas on environmental policy.

## Protecting Aquatic Habitats from Destructive Flood Control Projects

- The \$181 million Yazoo Pumping Station in the lower Mississippi Delta
- The \$319 million Grand Prairie Irrigation Project on Arkansas' White River
- The \$135 million Dallas Floodway Extension Project on the Trinity River in Texas

All are examples of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' "old school" and harmful-to-wildlife way of managing our nation's wetlands and waterways. And all are funded with taxpayer dollars. NWF continued its campaign to pressure the Corps to adopt a new management approach, which—rather than paving, draining, dredging and blocking some of the world's richest ecosystems—protects these precious wildlife habitats.

In recent years, we have led grassroots efforts to halt numerous Corps projects, but high on our priority list last year was a Corps project on the Delaware River. The \$311 million Delaware River Deepening Project was named the second worst Corps project in the nation by *Troubled Waters*, a groundbreaking report produced in 2000 by NWF and Taxpayers for Common Sense. The project would deepen the Delaware River's shipping channel by 5 feet for 106 miles, producing over 90 million cubic yards of dredged material, much of which is contaminated with toxins. Currently, there is no plan to dispose of these

materials, and the dredging process itself threatens a number of aquatic species.

With a generous grant from the McKnight Foundation in Minnesota, NWF pushed for a thorough review of dozens of pending Corps projects that are environmentally and economically misguided and urged Congress to stop pork barrel funding of these projects.

We were on the ground in the Missouri River basin teaming up with eight state groups to push the Corps to restore natural flows in the river to bring back declining species while protecting hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation.

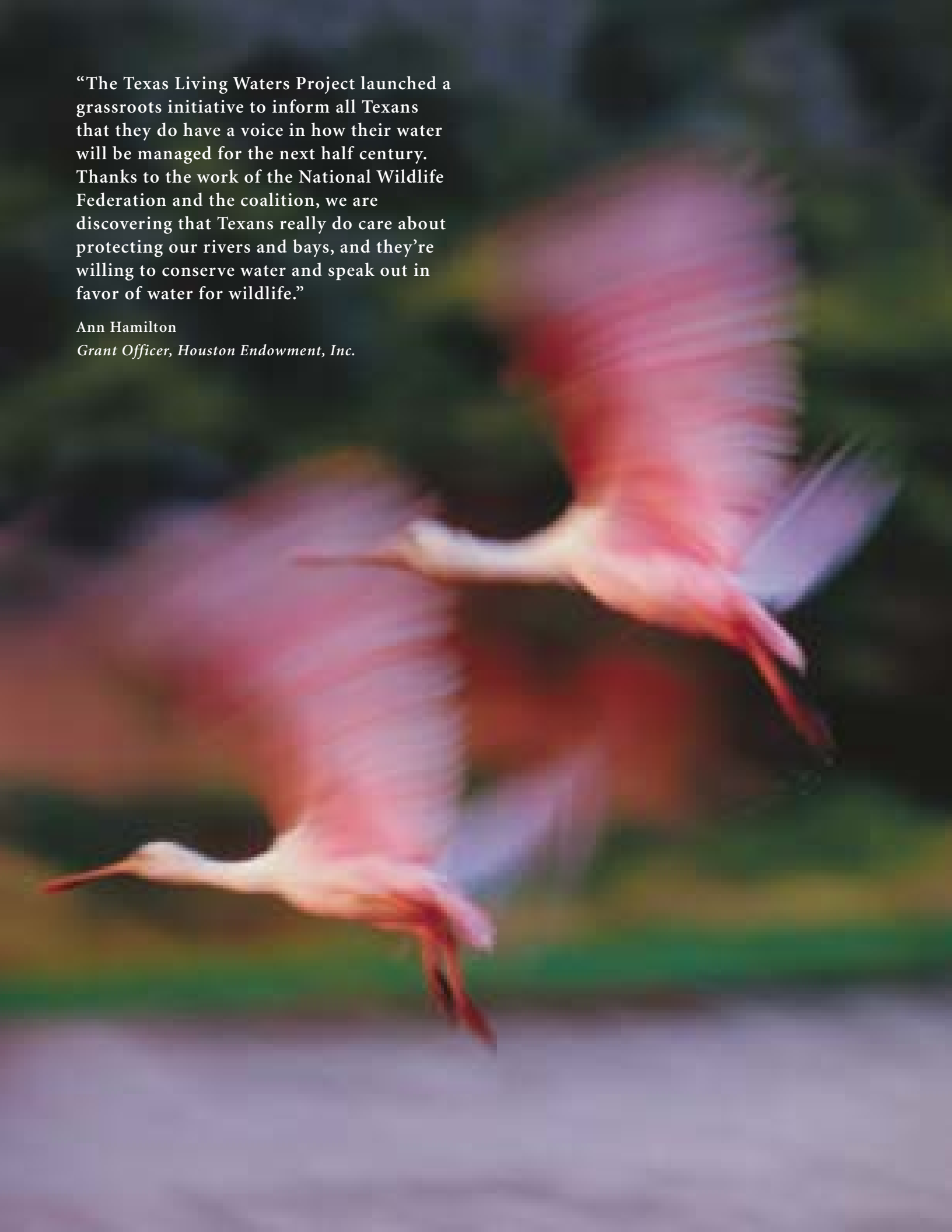
NWF helped organize a coalition of 50 U.S. and Canadian conservation organizations to urge a halt in Corps plans to deepen the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway—a plan that would destroy habitat in seven U.S. states and Canada.

And we celebrated a dramatic victory for people, wildlife and the environment in October 2002 when the U.S. House of Representatives took the 2002 Water Resources Development Act off the floor because it lacked adequate measures to reform the Corps. This step sent a clear signal that Americans want Congress to refocus the Corps on better water resource management.

“The Texas Living Waters Project launched a grassroots initiative to inform all Texans that they do have a voice in how their water will be managed for the next half century. Thanks to the work of the National Wildlife Federation and the coalition, we are discovering that Texans really do care about protecting our rivers and bays, and they’re willing to conserve water and speak out in favor of water for wildlife.”

Ann Hamilton

*Grant Officer, Houston Endowment, Inc.*



## Cleaning the Rain

NWF is leading a coalition of 20 conservation groups working to ensure that state and federal agencies monitor toxins, particularly mercury, which are emitted into the air by power plant smokestacks and other sources falling back to earth in rainfall.

### *Mercury in the Midwest*

Our primary effort last year focused on the state of Michigan where we joined our affiliate, the Michigan United Conservation Clubs, and the Michigan Environmental Council to lead a campaign to reduce



mercury emissions by 90% by 2010 and phase out mercury in the environment by 2020.

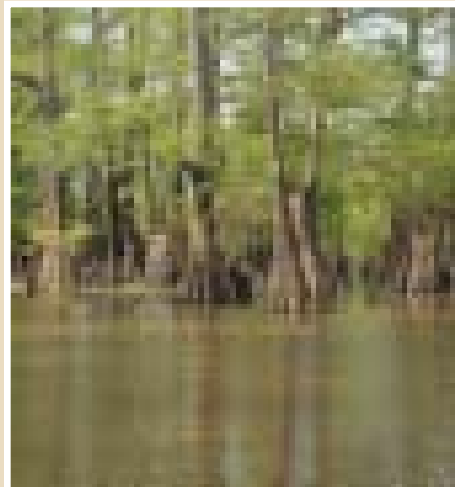
NWF mobilized a wide spectrum of Michigan organizations to endorse the phaseout. We also worked with research scientists at the Universities of Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin to produce *Rain Check*, a report that found that mercury

levels in the rain falling over some Midwest states are much higher than is considered safe.

## Conserving Freshwater Resources in Texas

With the state population of Texas expected to double in the next 50 years, officials and resource managers face tremendous pressure to allocate limited water supplies. NWF is working with Environmental Defense, the Sierra Club, and our affiliate, the Texas Committee on Natural Resources, to push for water conservation instead of building new pipelines, dams and reservoirs that misuse taxpayer dollars and damage valuable wildlife habitat.

In the spring of 2002, we commissioned a statewide poll that showed most Texans strongly favor water conservation efforts over expensive “concrete and steel” approaches. Almost all Texas voters want their state water plan to protect rivers, bays and wildlife, according to the poll.



### *Grassroots Organizing*

We are partnering with anglers and recreational businesses to urge citizens to get involved in decisions about water resource management. For example, we organized local residents in northeast Texas to fight construction of the proposed \$1.7 billion Marvin Nichols Dam and Reservoir on the Sulphur River. More than 300 landowners, timber cutters, farmers, ranchers, local officials, anglers and conservationists marched into a

regional water meeting in Mount Pleasant, Texas, bearing signs proclaiming, “Don’t Let Dallas Hog Our Water.” Local officials now have removed the dam and reservoir from their plan, and NWF continues our efforts to have the dam removed from the overall state plan.



# Restoring Wolves to the Southern Rockies and Northern Forest

For more than two decades, NWF, along with its partners, has worked to restore wolves to suitable habitats, and we have seen spectacular success in certain areas. Six hundred wolves now thrive in the Northern Rockies, and 3,000 wolves live in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan—a recovery rate that means these species can be taken off the Endangered Species List. We are now working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, state agencies and the public to craft state management plans that will safeguard the wolves once federal protections are removed.

Our next challenges lie in the Southern Rockies of Colorado and the Northern Forest of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine. Wolves in these regions were exterminated decades ago, but suitable habitat and adequate prey exist to sustain thriving wolf populations. NWF is pushing hard to promote wolf recovery with state agencies and pressure the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide continued leadership in this effort. We are also working with a variety of organizations to educate the public about the needs of wolves in order to build support for protecting this remarkable animal.

## Western Deer and Elk in Trouble

Chronic Wasting Disease—yes, it is as bad as it sounds. CWD is a brain disease fatal to deer and elk. It has been seen in areas of Colorado and Wyoming for 25 years. There is no known cure. Fortunately, in two and a half decades, no scientific evidence exists that the disease can be transmitted to or cause infection in humans or domestic livestock. But fear of CWD is driving some policymakers to make decisions which could lead to needless mass slaughter of wild deer and elk.

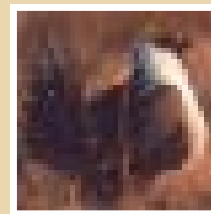
NWF is conducting extensive outreach efforts throughout the nation to get out the facts so that a scientifically-based response to CWD can be developed. We recently co-sponsored a symposium of leading experts on the disease. And we are also asking Congress to fund studies to help us better understand the origins and impact of the disease and develop a test for detecting CWD in live animals in the wild.

NWF affiliates are involved as well. The Montana Wildlife Federation is seeking prohibitions on shooting captive elk and deer and licensing new game ranches. Overcrowding in game ranches helps to spread CWD. The Colorado Wildlife Federation participated in their

Governor's Task Force on CWD and is raising funds for research. And the Wisconsin and Idaho Wildlife Federations sponsored conferences of their own to educate the public and policymakers.

### Adopt-a-Lek

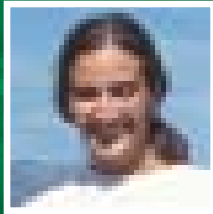
What is a lek, anyway? A lek is the breeding habitat of the sage grouse, a sage steppe



grasslands species that lives in parts of eleven western states, including California, Colorado and Idaho. Today, sage grouse populations have dropped dramatically because their habitat has

been badly fragmented and damaged. Last year, NWF launched the Adopt-a-Lek program to try to save the sage grouse. Trained volunteers go into the field to find and count grouse at their breeding sites. The data is used by states to develop recovery plans.

Faces of Conservation  
**Ana Gabriela Robles**



Ana Gabriela Robles has made it her mission to change people's attitudes about the environment throughout her native Mexico. How will she do it? Education is the key, says Ana Gabriela. "People here are totally unaware when it comes to environmental problems—there's a real lack of consciousness about our physical connection to the earth. I am passionate about changing people's minds."

As Director of Communications, Image and Media for Pronatura Northeast, the oldest and largest Mexican-based conservation organization, Ana Gabriela is bringing NWF's Schoolyard Habitats program to Mexican schools. After attending two NWF workshops, she set about creating a Mexican version of our Schoolyard Habitats curriculum.

"By the end of the school year we hope to have 15 certified Schoolyard Habitats, a first for Mexico," adds Ana Gabriela. If the pilot program proves successful, she plans to expand the training program to other schools. "Ultimately, we'd like to see teachers throughout Mexico's public school system receive this training as part of their required continuing education program."



# Broadening Our Reach Beyond U.S. Borders

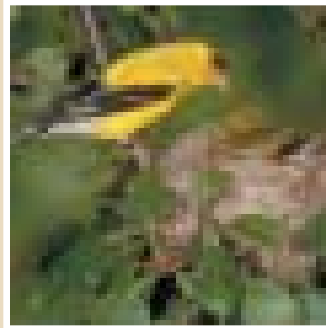
Last year proved our most fruitful yet on the international front as we tackled more issues beyond our national borders.

## Climate Change: Building Awareness, Pushing for Action

We are only beginning to learn the full extent of how climate change will affect plant and animal life—from songbirds and waterfowl to coral formations and forests—not to mention human life. We worked to build understanding of the problem and its impact on wildlife and prompted U.S. participation in international actions that will slow global climate change.

### Groundbreaking Research on Climate Change and Wildlife

Our new book, *Wildlife Responses to Climate Change*, provides groundbreaking research on how global warming will harm wildlife and jeopardize our quality of life. Few other bodies of research so clearly demonstrate the scientific link between climate change and the health of natural systems. Under the guidance of renowned climate experts



Stephen H. Schneider, Ph.D. of Stanford University, and Terry L. Root, Ph.D. of the University of Michigan, researchers examined a variety of species, shifts in their behavior and changing habitat ranges.

### Migratory Birds

Partnering with the American Bird Conservancy, we produced *The Birdwatcher's*

*Guide to Global Warming*. This report, which received extensive publicity in newspapers around the country, provides never-before-gathered, regional information that shows how global warming will affect migratory birds—from Baltimore orioles in Maryland to American goldfinches in Iowa. Visitors to our website, [www.nwf.org](http://www.nwf.org), can click on a particular state for information about local songbirds and their migratory routes.

### Partnering with Mexico: *Alianza para la Vida Silvestre* (Partnership for Wildlife)

Mexico is home to more species of birds and mammals and three times more native species of plants than the United States. And many of these species are unique to this resource-rich country.

Through a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation in Michigan, NWF is now working on the ground with local groups to give Mexican citizens the tools and skills to take an active role in shaping their nation's environmental policy. For example, we are helping them to prepare environmental courses for newly-elected officials, to design campaigns and to organize leadership training programs for women. And we are collaborating on a Mexican version of our Schoolyard Habitats® teacher-training program.

Mexico is critical to the health of North American species and their habitats. Through this new project, we are committed to giving Mexican citizens access to our decades-long experience in creating grassroots champions for conservation.

### NWF at the World Summit in Johannesburg

Last summer, NWF sent a delegation, led by NWF Board Chair Bryan Pritchett, to the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. Karin Krchnak, manager of NWF's Population and Environment Program, co-chaired the Summit's Freshwater

Caucus. Our goal was to urge the Bush Administration and other government leaders to address the problems of spiraling population growth, pollution and uncontrolled development—all of which are leading to a global water crisis. And we are continuing with these efforts.