



The Mountain-Prairie Review

<http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/ea>

March-April 2003

Hundreds Help National Elk Refuge Celebrate Centennial

By Deserai Anderson-Utley, EA

Jackson, Wyo.- At the foot of the Teton mountains in northwestern Wyoming, several thousand elk wintering on the National Elk Refuge provided the perfect backdrop for an historic celebration on March 14th. Nearly 900 visitors came out to the National Museum of Wildlife Art, the host of the event, to help the refuge celebrate the National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial.

Dignitaries entertained and educated the crowds at the museum. Refuge Manager Barry Reiswig told visitors about the refuge and its historical importance to the Jackson Valley. Ralph Morgenweck, Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mountain-Prairie Region, spoke about the importance of the Refuge System to the environment and wildlife. John Turner, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and former Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, was the guest of honor, treating the crowd with his thoughts and memories of growing up in the Jackson area and how much the National Elk Refuge and the Refuge System as a whole has contributed to the conservation legacy of America.

The day started early with hundreds of school kids lining up before opening to enjoy free sleigh rides to get up-close with the elk herd on the refuge. Western music, birthday cake, and a picturesque setting ushered in the second century of conservation at the National Elk Refuge. The nearly 900 visitors and participants were treated to a visit by Honker the Blue Goose, who entertained children throughout the day.



Happy Spring!



Photo: Centennial speakers from left to right: Ralph Morgenweck, Regional Director, USFWS, Region 6; John Turner, Assistant Secretary of State and Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and Former USFWS Director, Barry Reiswig, Refuge Manager, National Elk Refuge.

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Dive, Dive, Dive

By Bob Timberman,
Partners for Fish and Wildlife



It's 2 am on a warm summer night. The wetland is alive with the sights and sounds of millions of insects and hundreds of waterfowl. Four of us sit in an old airboat, the engine roaring as we surf over the green water. Ball caps are worn backwards, earmuffs are on tight, life jackets are zipped up, and we are trying our best not to smile. Million candlepower bulbs light the way as we search for goslings. These preflight geese will be relocated, then will imprint on the other area and return there to raise their young.

The boss has chosen to take the brand new, shorter, and lighter airboat to another location, out onto open water in search of "targets." We are relegated to work in the channel, where clouds of bugs follow the bright lights as we invade the marsh. The operator powers up toward the goslings, and the airplane engine screams to release itself from the boat to which it is attached. We snatch the birds from the water and place them in cages strapped to the propeller guard. The work is fast, furious, and fun.

Later, in the early morning, we see a bunch of goslings in front of us. We shoot up beside them and take four from the water but miss two more. The operator attempts to turn the large boat in the narrow channel in a spot where steep mud banks define the channel. As we get sideways, a wave overcomes us and swamps the boat. The engine area is engulfed, the prop splashes twice, three times, and then stops. The boat leans heavily to one side.

Everyone jumps out of the boat. Strangely, the lights still glow from the overturned and sinking airboat. The young geese are hurriedly released from the cages, and folks help one another to shore. Chuck is wearing hip boots that are now full of water, and an orange life vest. He bobs in the water as though an angler had cast him out there. We are all in surprisingly good moods.

It is now time to walk out, but which way should we go? Clouds obscure the night sky. One of us is able to recognize the far off lights and determines our direction. It seems like we walk for hours. Talking and breathing is done with both hands cupped over your mouth. The mosquitos are apparently insatiable.

As we get closer to the lights of the farmstead, someone mentions how civilization lies right up the dirt road. Someone else then mentions through the hum of insects that in reality we must be two, maybe three states away from real civilization. The bug bitten crew chuckles, and steels themselves not only to awaken the farmer this early morning, but how to best explain to the boss the causes and effects that resulted in the ancient going dive, dive, dive.

Anschutz Shines in Overseas Competition

By Jean Clemens, EA

This year, Erika Anschutz, (daughter of Steve Anschutz of the Service's Nebraska ES field office) competed for the first time against other top female archers (18 & under) in the Junior Women's Compound Bow division in Nimes, France. Steve and family attended the VII World Indoor Archery Championship tournament on March 4-9, 2003. A total of 313 archers from 48 different countries participated in the tournament, which is held biannually.

In the individual competition, an archer shoots a total of 12 arrows in four ends and is allotted only two minutes to shoot each end of three arrows. Going into the last end for first place, Erika ultimately captured the silver medal.

In the team event, Erika shot in the anchor position, and the team defeated the competition by one point, winning them the gold medal.

Congratulations to Erika and her teammates from all of us in Region 6.



Photo: Erika Anschutz, USA; Caroline Martret, France; and Sara Boberg, Sweden.



Media Corner

News Media: Facing the Television Camera

By Debbie Felker, Colorado River Info and Education Coordinator

There are two basic components that will help you prepare for a television interview: *style* (how you look) and *substance* (what you say). Style is important because television is a medium of impressions and perception. “How you look” can determine to a certain degree how “what you say” is accepted and absorbed by your audience.

Style Tips

- Eye contact is important. Look at your interviewer when talking. Shifty eyes detract from your credibility and make you look ill-at-ease, evasive, or not knowledgeable about your subject.
 - Use your hands naturally during the interview. Hand gestures make you more animated and help keep your energy level high.
- It’s normal to be nervous. That’s because your body pumps extra adrenaline to meet the challenge.
- Be energetic and upbeat.
 - If you normally wear a uniform, try to make sure your Service patch is visible on your sleeve or hat for photos. Otherwise, wear conservative clothing. Do not wear white shirts or anything with small checks, stripes or extra-busy patterns. Strong solid colors (not black or red) are preferable.
 - Avoid dangling earrings or flashy jewelry, which might glitter in the television lights.

Last month’s newsletter provided interview tips that address the substance of the message you deliver. See <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/ea/Media%20Tools/tip%20nbr5.htm>.

Next Month: Bridging the Interview

A Message from the Regional Director:

The events currently unfolding overseas have shifted public attention away from many domestic issues, including fish and wildlife conservation. In the Congress, in the media, and “around the water cooler,” the war in Iraq has seemingly eclipsed all other agendas. Yet even in the midst of conflict, life here at home must continue, and it is important to remember that the work we do, everyday, to conserve our nation’s natural heritage, must also continue.

Region 6 Profiles Ecological Services to Big Sky Country

The Ecological Services Field Office in Helena, Montana, manages programs for the conservation of fish and wildlife within Montana and coordinates activities with surrounding states and provinces. A staff of 17 participates in the environmental review of federally-funded projects which may affect fish and wildlife, and provides public awareness and assistance on endangered species, environmental contaminants, and habitat issues throughout Montana.

Lacreek NWR Hosts Many Birds

The 16,410-acre Lacreek National Wildlife Refuge in Martin, South Dakota is excellent habitat for many bird species. The refuge serves as critical winter habitat for the High Plains trumpeter swan, and provides breeding habitat for 2,500 American white pelicans. The 566-acre Bear Butte NWR serves as an easement refuge in nearby Sturgis. Besides hosting the 16,400 annual visitors, the staff of eight participates in native prairie and wetland restoration.



(American White Pelicans)

Site-Adaptable Facility Designs

By Rick Rampi, Engineering

We are pleased to announce a new U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service publication, "Site-Adaptable Facility Designs, A Planning Guide for New Projects, Project Examples for Housing, Office Buildings, Maintenance Buildings, Storage Buildings, and Comfort Stations." The publication is available on the Division of Engineering's website at <http://sii.fws.gov/r9eng>. A 3-ring bound, hard copy or CD is also available from the Division of Engineering upon request.



The Planning Guide contains examples of past projects meant to help save time when developing budget requests for new construction and maintenance projects. This guide can also be a design reference that uses knowledge gained from past projects to achieve cost savings by avoiding the need to "reinvent the wheel" during every new project start up.

Each facility section lists the projects, showing where it is located, its cost, its area (sq. ft.), and the year built. The historical cost data shown is based on the year built, so care must be taken to inflate those costs accordingly.

General information about each type of facility is also provided at the beginning of each section.



The appendixes contain information in: how to develop a budget request, general design guidelines, acoustical design criteria, defining site-adaptable for designers, and ordering prefabricated metal buildings from the Federal Supply Schedule. Each project contains cost information.

Each facility type showcases several projects from all over the country. Each project contains a page describing its name and location, points of contact, photographs, functional descriptions, design advice/pitfalls, and historical cost data and an "11 x 17" fold-out page with a building floor plan and major elevations. This information allows program elements and design solutions to be seen without having to leave the office.



Users are encouraged to take the positive aspects of these facilities and add them to their new project in a site-adaptable and environmentally responsive matter. New designs can be based on the successes of past projects when there are common program elements and proven design solutions.

The Planning Guide was the result of a group of volunteers from every Region, including the Division of Engineering.

This group will remain together in order to improve the quality of the publication by issuing future updates.



Its development was part of the 12 Construction and Deferred Maintenance Opportunities Initiative signed by the Acting Deputy Director on August 3, 2001. While its use is not mandated by Service policy, it is recommended that Project Leaders, Maintenance Management System Coordinators, and others use this tool when planning new buildings of these types.

Five different types of facilities were selected after a national poll was taken within the Service's refuges and fisheries programs. If the Planning Guide is successful, other types may be added at a later date.

The designers of the Planning Guide are hopeful that the information presented is useful in its offering of past projects and advice for future ones. For more information, please contact Rick Rampi, Division of Engineering, at 303-984-6869.



Book Reviews By Matt Kales, EA

As spring nears and the ice begins to leave the lakes and streams of the Mountain-Prairie Region, our thoughts turn again to fish, and fishing. To help you transition between winter and the first cast of the year, here are two great books on the subject.

Trout and Salmon of North America

By Robert Behnke, illustrated by Joseph Tomelleri, with an introduction by Thomas McGuane

This definitive guide to the continent's salmonids, written by Dr. Robert Behnke, Professor Emeritus of Fisheries and Conservation at Colorado State University and richly drawn by Joseph Tomelleri, one of the field's leading artists, offers a wealth of information, ranging from natural history to conservation status, on the more than 70 types of trout and salmon that inhabit the waters of North America. From the many strains of cutthroat trout, including the greenback cutthroat trout (the Colorado Front Range's only native trout and a fish Behnke was instrumental in conserving) to lesser known species such as arctic grayling and mountain whitefish, Behnke and Tomelleri have assembled a comprehensive yet accessible volume that highlights the remarkable diversity of these fishes and the challenges, current and future, to their conservation. One of the most fascinating aspects of the book is the "Artist's Note," in which Tomelleri describes the process by which he creates his images.

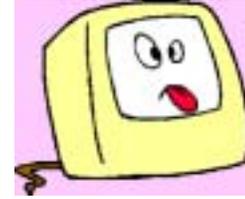
The Founding Fish

By John McPhee

Fans of McPhee's rare but immensely satisfying articles on American shad fishing in the Delaware River, rejoice: here is an entire book devoted to the subject, with informative and entertaining passages on the role of the shad in American history and popular culture. McPhee manages to use the shad as a vehicle to explore everything from fishing tackle to slang. In New England, for example, the phrase "You've been eating shad," means that someone is late for an appointment, a reference to how long it takes to eat this bony fish. In little more than 350 pages, McPhee, with his trademark dry wit and loving attention to detail, takes us from the commercial shad fisheries of maritime Canada to the west coast of the United States, where the shad was introduced by aquacultural pioneers to Valley Forge, where George Washington and the Continental Army, encamped and starving in the winter of 1777, were "rescued" from privation from an early, abundant spring run of shad. In addition to numerous references to the Service's work on shad restoration and anadromous fish research, the book also features an appendix containing a variety of recipes for shad; after all, the shad's scientific name, *Alosa sapidissima*, means "most savory."

Tip of the Month

By Heather Gonzalez, ITM



Are you tired of typing your address over and over when composing letters in Word? Or perhaps you have a standard disclaimer that you need to consistently add to your documents?

What if you could do either of these tasks with just a few keystrokes? Using an AutoText entry in Word, you can.

To create an AutoText entry for later use:

1. Select the text (or graphic) you want to store as an AutoText entry. (To store paragraph formatting with the entry, include the paragraph mark in the selection.)
2. On the Insert menu, point to AutoText, and then click AutoText. You will see your selected text in the Enter AutoText entries here box.
3. Make sure your entry contains at least four characters. Then click Add.

Word stores the AutoText entry for later use:

To insert an AutoText entry:

1. In your document, type the first few characters of the AutoText entry.
2. When Word suggests the complete AutoText entry, press ENTER or F3 to accept the entry. (To reject the entry, keep trying.)

*Notes: To use AutoText, you must have AutoComplete turned on. To turn on AutoComplete, on the Insert menu, point to AutoText, and then click AutoText. Select the Show AutoComplete tip for AutoText and dates check box.

RD's View

By Ralph Morgenweck, RD

As you all know, last month the Service celebrated the 100th Birthday of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Refuge Centennial on March 14th was a truly historic occasion, one that marked the Service's remarkable contribution to this nation's conservation legacy and showcased the great and diverse network of public lands and waters within the Refuge System.

As a participant in the lively Centennial celebration at the National Elk Refuge in Jackson, Wyoming, I was able to witness, first-hand, the support the Refuge System enjoys from our many publics, including the Congress, local citizens, and conservation organizations. The positive energy on the Elk Refuge on March 14th, and the presence of so many young people enjoying the resources there, reaffirmed my conviction that refuges are an integral part not only of this nation's investment in conservation, but also of the very fabric of our communities.

John Blankenship attended the celebration at Pelican Island and was very impressed with the number of attendees from all over the nation, including retirees, as well as the excitement of the attendees. John was also impressed with the participation of the Paul Kroegel family and Kip Koss, grandson of former Service Director Ding Darling. Many refuges set up interpretation booths and displayed flags for each refuge along the entry way to the event area.

I thank all of you, and especially those of you that work in and with the National Wildlife Refuge System, for making the Refuge Centennial such a successful event, and look forward to celebrating this landmark with you throughout 2003.

Congressional Affairs Service Participates in Congressional Briefings for Recovery Programs

By Matt Kales, EA

In March, George Smith (Regional Hydrologist) and Matt Kales (Legislative Affairs Specialist) accompanied water users, states, and conservationists to Washington, DC for Congressional briefings on the Upper Colorado River Endangered Species Fish Recovery Program (Recovery Program) and the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program.

Bob Muth, Recovery Program Director, and Shirley Mundy, Bob's counterpart for the San Juan program, also participated in the briefings, which were conducted for Members of Congress and their staff, committee staff, Service Director Williams, Reclamation Commissioner Keys, Deputy Assistant Secretaries Weimer and Smith (Water and Science, and Fish, Wildlife, and Parks respectively), as well as quasi- and non-governmental organizations, including Western Governor's Association and the Endangered Species Coalition.

Service staff served as technical liaisons to the briefing team, providing information on species status, the recent drought in the Upper Basin, outreach efforts, and other topics. Feedback on the Recovery Program from the Congress, Interior bureaus, and other entities was overwhelmingly positive and signaled strong support for the Recovery Program and its activities going forward.

Native American Affairs Native American Conservation Efforts

By David Redhorse, EA

One agenda item for the Northern Plains Conservation Network (NPCN) is to include a tribal lands strategy in its action plan. Native lands are increasingly being recognized as some of the last remaining refugia for hundreds of plant and animal species. The NPCN, which consists of approximately 22 conservation organizations, foundations, and individual scientists, has "recognized both the necessity and advantages of coordinating their efforts on a scale that mirrors the area they seek to conserve" [from the 2002 NPCN Handbook].

A central question asked among these groups is how to develop and nurture a working relationship with tribes. Many non-governmental organizations have successfully addressed this question.

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) has an active Tribal Lands Program. Their program is manifested through a partnership with the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe to establish a Tribal Park. The Tribal Park will contain the most complete example of prairie ecosystem, where buffalo, elk, black-footed ferrets and swift fox will be restored. The Tribe envisions this area for cultural and spiritual revitalization, and something that is a wild and sacred place for all people, especially the Lakota. The NWF also has a long-standing agreement with the Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative (ITBC) to provide education and facilitate wildlife management planning and other collaborative efforts.

The Defenders of Wildlife currently are reintroducing the swift fox on a number of tribal lands. They began working with the Blackfoot Nation several years ago, and they provide a successful model for tribal relations.

The Mountain-Prairie Review is a monthly publication produced by the USFWS Region 6 External Affairs Office. Publisher: Ralph Morgenweck, Regional Director; Editor: Matt Kales, EA; Staff Writers: Karen Miranda Gleason, Diane Katzenberger, David Redhorse, Sharon Rose; Design and Layout: Heather Gonzalez, IRM/ Jean Clemens, EA. All contributions from Region 6 employees are welcomed and will be considered for publication.