

FROM THE Eagle's Nest

Published Quarterly by the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society

Volume 17 Fall 2005

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT PREDATION STUDY

Submitted by: Steve Mortensen, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Division of Resources Management

Double-crested cormorant numbers have increased on the Leech Lake from 73 pairs in 1998 to 2524 pairs in 2004. This increase has raised concerns how the health of some gamefish populations in

Leech Lake as well as populations of other colonial waterbirds that share the same nesting island. Existing fish population data suggests that there might be reason for concern, but the lack of data on just what species of fish are being consumed makes an accurate assessment impossible. Confounding this issue is the fact that cormorants are a native species that belong on our lakes, and a species recovering to natural levels following decades of persecution and poor reproduction due to pesticides like DDT.

In an effort to address this issue the Fish, Wildlife, and Plant Resources Program of the Leech Lake Band of

(- See p. 3 - Cormorant -)



Above photo: a cormorant chick and adult on nest site where study is located; (top right photo): adult cormorant in breeding plumage; (right photo): diet samples being collected from a juvenile cormorant.

In this Issue

Double-Crested Cormorant Study

Summer Youth Practicum

Tribal Fish & Wildlife Funding

Chronic Wasting Disease Project Update

Southwest Region Conference

USFWS Liaison Update

UAB Hazmat Update

Iowa Tribe Cares for Injured Birds

National Fish Habitat Initiative

Stevens Village Buffalo Reintroduction

15TH ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS YOUTH PRACTICUM

Submitted by: Sally Carufel-Williams, SYP Program Coordinator, NAFWS

Dear Friends & Family of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society,

As always, we hope this newsletter finds you all well and keeping up with your busy lives. We are proud to report that we were again able to host the 15th national Native American Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum (SYP) this past July at the Mount Evans Outdoor Education Lab School in Evergreen, Colorado. As you may know, the SYP is a summer program for Native high school students to gain an intelligible understanding

of tribal resource stewardship. Because of the Society's structure and the diverse make-up of its membership, the organization has a wealth of expertise via its members.

As educators and family-directed people, the staff provided a safe, caring atmosphere that created a prime environment for

learning. The whole Practicum and all its activities are centered around the values and concepts of: 1) Respect; 2) Relationships; 3) Responsibility; 4) Reasoning; and 5) Reciprocity. If any of you are interested in how we applied the 5 R's to the SYP, I would be more than happy to share with you. The students were carefully recruited and selected and they all wanted

(See p. 5 - SYP -)



Students and staff participants in summer youth practicum held in Colorado in July.

224 MEMBER TRIBES

Agdaagux Tribal Council/Akiachak Native Community/Akiak Native Community/Akutan Traditional Council/Alakanuk Traditional Council/Alderville Indian Band/Allakaket Village Council/Arapaho Business Council/Asa'carsamut Tribal Council/Atmaultluak Traditional Council/Barona Band of Mission Indians/Bay Mills Indian Community/Beaver Tribal Council/Big Sandy Rancheria/Birch Creek Village Council/Blackfeet Tribe/Bois Forte Reservation/Bridgeport Indian Reservation/Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma/Catawba Indian Nation/Chalkyistik Village Council/Chemehuevi Indian Tribe/Cherokee Nation/Chevak Traditional Council/Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma/Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe/Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Reservation/Chippewa of Nawash Band/Chistochina Village Council/Chitimaacha Tribe of Louisiana/Citizen Potawatomi Nation/Clarks Point Village Council/Coeur d'Alene Tribe/Colorado River Indian Tribes/Colville Confederated Tribes/Comanche Tribe/Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians/Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes/Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation/Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde/Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians/Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation/Crow Creek Sioux Tribe/Eastern Band of Cherokees/Eastern Pequot/Ekwok Village Council/Elk Valley Rancheria/Ely Tribe/Evansville Tribal Council/False Pass Tribal Council/Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa/Fort Belknap Community Council/Fort Independence Paiute Tribe/Fort McDowell Mohave Apache/Fort Mojave Indian Tribe/Fort Sill Chiricahua Warm Springs Apache/Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux Tribe/Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa/Hannahville Indian Community/Hoopa Valley Tribal Council/Hopi Tribe/Hopland Band of Pomo Indians/Houlton Band of Maliseets/Husila Tribal Council/Hyaburg Cooperative Association/Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska/Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma/Iqurmiut Traditional Council/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe/Jicarilla Apache Tribe/Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians/Karuk Tribe/ Kaw Nation of Oklahoma/Kenaitze Indian Tribe/Ketchikan Indian Corporation/Keweenaw Bay Indian Community/Kickapoo Nation of Kansas/Klamath Tribe/Klawock Cooperative Association/Kodiak Tribal Council/Kotlik Traditional Council/Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewas/Lac du Flambeau Chippewa/Lac Vieux Desert Chippewa Tribe/Leech Lake Chippewa Tribe/Little River Band of Ottawa Indians/Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians/Louden Village Council/Manokotak Village Council/Manzanita Band of Mission Indians/Marshall Traditional Council/Mashantucket Pequot Tribe/McGrath Native Village Council/Menominee Indian Tribe/Mentasta Tribal Council/Mescalero Apache/Miccosukee Tribe/Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians/Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma/Morongo Band of Mission Indians/Nambe Pueblo/Nanwalek IRA Council/Narragansett Tribe/Native Village of Atka/Native Village of Barrow/Native Village of Deering/Native Village of Eklutna/Native Village of Elim/Native Village of Eyak/Native Village of Fort Yukon/Native Village of Goodnews Bay Traditional Council/Native Village of Kotzebue/Native Village of Kwinhagak/Native Village of Mekoryuk/Native Village of Shaktoolik/Native Village of Shishmaref/Native Village of St. Michael/Native Village of Wales/Native Village of White Mountain/Navajo Nation/Nenana Native Council/Nez Perce Tribe/Nightmute Traditional Council/Nimilchik Traditional Council/North Fork Mono Rancheria/Northern Cheyenne Tribe/Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi/Nulato Tribal Council/Oglala Sioux Tribe/Ojibwa 1850 Treaty Council/Oneida Indian Nation/Oneida Tribe of Indians/Organized Village of Kwethluk/Osage Nation/Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma/Passamaquoddy Tribe/Pedro Bay Village Council/Penobscot Indian Nation/Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians/Pilot Point Traditional Council/Pilot Station Traditional Council/Poarch Band of Creek Indians/Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians/Ponca Tribe of Nebraska/Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe/Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation/Pueblo of Acoma/Pueblo of Cochiti/Pueblo of Isleta/Pueblo of Jemez/Pueblo of Laguna/Pueblo of Pojaoque/Pueblo of San Ildefonso/Pueblo of Santa Ana/Pueblo of Santa Clara/Pueblo of Taos/Pueblo of Tesuque/Pueblo of Zia/Pueblo of Zuni/Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe/Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska/Quapaw Tribe/Quana Bayangin Tribe/Quileute Tribe/Rainy River Band/Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas/Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians/Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians/Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community/San Carlos Apache Tribe/San Pasqual Band of Indians/Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska/Santo Domingo Tribe/Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa Band/Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians/Seminole Tribe/Seneca-Cayuga Tribe/Shoalwater Bay/Shoshone-Bannock Tribes/Shoshone-Paiute Tribe of Duck Valley/Shuswap Nation/Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Tribe/Sitka Tribe of Alaska/Six Nations of Canada/Soboba Band of Mission Indians/Southern Ute Tribe/Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe/Spokane Tribe/Squaxin Island Tribe/St. Croix Tribal Council/St. Regis Mohawk Tribe/Standing Rock Sioux Tribe/Swinomish

NAFWS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ALASKA REGION

Jennifer Hooper
(907)-543-7343
jhooper@avcp.org

Angela Wade
(907) 745-0737
angie@chickaloon.org

NORTHEAST REGION

Mike Bear
(207) 817-7308
mbear@penobscotnation.org

Tim Gould
(207) 817-7395
tgould@penobscotnation.org

SOUTHWEST REGION

Marilyn Ethelbah
(480)850-4157
Marilyn.Ethelbah@SRPIMIC-nsn.gov

Sam Diswood
(505) 552-9866
sdiswood@7cities.net

SOUTHEAST REGION

Teresa Harris, Vice Pres.
(803)366-4792
harristeresa@yahoo.com

Mark Patrick
(601)663-7900

GREAT LAKES REGION

Don Reiter, Sec./Treasurer
(715) 799-5116
dreiter@itol.com

Corey Strong
(218)757-3261
cstrong@rangernet.com

PACIFIC REGION

Joe Jay Pinkham III, President
(509) 865-6262
joejaythe3rd@yakama.com

Ted Lamebull
(541) 386-6363
lamt@critfc.org

GREAT PLAINS REGION

Ron Skates
(406)585-9010
ron_skates@fws.gov

Todd Hall, Vice-President
(701) 627-4760
west17@pop.ctctel.com

NAFWS OFFICES:

NAFWS (new address)
8333 Greenwood Blvd.,
Ste. 260
Denver, Colorado 80221-4483
(303) 466-1725,
FAX: (303) 466-5414
Web Page: <http://www.nafws.org>

Alaska NAFWS
131 W.6th Ave., Ste.3-4
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 222-6005
FAX: (907) 222-6082
Web Page: <http://alaska.nafws.org>

NAFWS STAFF

Ira New Breast,
Executive Director

Ron D. Rodgers,
Deputy Dir./Accounting

Karen Lynch
Technical Editor

Sally Carufel-Williams
Membership/Education/Assistant
to the Board

Gloria Ortega
Grants Administrative Assistant

Karen E. Stickman
EPA Project Coordinator, AK

Shawna Trumble Moser
EPA Assistant Coordinator, AK

Laurie Montour
Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)
Denver office

Emerson Bull Chief
CWD - Montana/Wyoming

Corey Lucero
CWD - New Mexico/Arizona

Ryman LeBeau
CWD - North/South Dakotas

Carl Pocan
CWD - Minnesota/Wisconsin



Thank you to the following for contributing to our publication:

*Steve Mortensen,
Leech Lake Band of
Ojibwe Resources
Management*

*Shaun Grassel,
Lower Brule Sioux
Tribe Wildlife,
Fish and
Recreation*

*Laurie Montour,
NAFWS*

*Patrick Durham,
U.S. Fish &
Wildlife Service*

*Alan Veasey &
Brooke Martin,
University of
Alabama*

*Lawrence Cata, San
Juan Pueblo Office
of Environmental
Affairs*

*Lynn Polacca, BIA,
Natural Resources*

FROM THE EAGLE'S NEST

Is a communication tool to inform and facilitate the exchange of NAFWS news and information nationally, including Canada. We seek relevant information from our members and others who are interested. However, at times we do have limitations, so please understand if we should select another vehicle for your valued information.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

by: Ira New Breast, NAFWS

Greetings Everyone,

The hunting season is in full swing at this writing, I hope everyone will have a good and safe season as we head into the holidays.

The Society's Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) project personnel have been in full activity. Cases of positive animals are emerging and have heightened the interest of disease detection inside and outside of the endemic area. Of note, are the new cases in southern New Mexico, New York state, West Virginia and Alberta Canada.

Also of concern is the positive test of a moose, this animal came from a wild population near Cameron Pass in central Colorado. Previously, oral inoculation tests on moose within a contained environment had mixed results. One specimen showed physiological signs post-mortem, but shed little light on the potential of transmissibility within wild populations. The CWD staff will continue to make tribal trainings available and assist with sample submission into September 2006.

An issue confronting most of the conservation environmental community is the pending retirement of nearly 60% of the government work force. Time lines mentioned indicate 5-10 years. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service alone speak of as many as 70% soon to be eligible retirees. This is a potential crisis. Indian country will be saying farewell to some of its most ardent knowledgeable supporters, few though they be. Reports nation wide by universities indicate that conservation science programs are experiencing a decline in enrollment by students. Student interest in natural resources professions appear to be decreasing, and where there is interest,



experience and basic natural environmental understanding is missing. The challenge will be to increase numbers and diversity of students and to raise interest for pursuing conservation and natural resource professions. Equally important is the need to imbue the knowledge and skills to succeed while fostering the capacity to progress amongst increasingly complex environmental issues. What role will educational institutes play? How do we, as a nation and in Indian country as a people inspire, re-connect and prepare generational transfer of this important responsibility? Answers are typically simple: Unfortunately the understanding and response is a matter of a complex endeavor. Nothing important is ever easy but then that is also the reward in the end. As a society through, governance, institutions, organizations, agencies, individuals and parents, must instill a sense of ownership and duty for the environment, by example and moral value direction towards this endeavor must be embraced as a commitment and conveyed to our youth into their adult lives. And, mechanisms to help them realize their own contribution to conservation must be available.

I'd like to offer a quick summary on the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) H5N1 (Avian Flu). The HPAI virus has successfully traveled from southern Asia,

across China to Russia. The disease is Zoonotic (transmissible to humans), there is a vaccine which is difficult to mass produce, it is limited in available doses and is challenged with response distribution. H5N1 has potential for pandemic impacts, emergence has the potential to complicate matters further should the virus mutate in its transmissibility behavior. Many domestic poultry populations have been depopulated with little effect on expansion. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center are monitoring and sampling migratory birds in Alaska where it is most likely detected. Current estimates are that the disease will not arrive in North America this Fall '05 or Winter '06, but may enter northern habitats during the next migratory bird season. Health and Human Services are cooperating in international efforts.

At this writing the proposed piece of legislation H.R. 3824 'Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act 2005' has been approved by the House of Representatives. It is slated for Senate vote later this session. I encourage all Tribes to stay abreast of developments on this bill.

There is only one reference to Tribes in the proposed Amendments to the ESA and it is in Section 10 (page 35). States will continue to have access to Section 6 funds. In addition, Private Landowners are proposed for being made eligible for threatened and endangered species funding. However, there is no mention of Tribes being made eligible for ESA Section 6 funding. The section reads as follows:

SEC. 10. RECOVERY PLANS AND LAND ACQUISITIONS.

(c) SPECIES RECOVERY AGREEMENTS AND SPECIES CONSERVATION CONTRACT AGREEMENTS.

(B) Any State agency, local government, nonprofit organization, or federally recognized Indian tribe may provide assistance to a person

in the preparation of a management plan, or participate in the implementation of a management plan, including identifying and making available certified fisheries or wildlife biologists with expertise in the conservation of species for purposes of the preparation or review and approval of management plans for species conservation contract agreements under paragraph (3)(D)(iii).

Keep in mind that the 2006 National Conference will be hosted by the Northeast Region and will be held in Bar Harbor, Maine at the Regency Hotel. Beautiful location.

Dates are: May 22-25, 2006.

Enjoy your Holiday Season, see you ~~at the national Ojibwe~~ received a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Wildlife Grant Program to investigate this concern. Collaborating with us on the study are the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, USDA Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Minnesota, and local community organizations.

The study consists of two components: The first involves collecting diet samples from adults and nestlings to see what species of fish are being consumed, how large they are and in what numbers. The second part of the study will take this data and combine it with existing fish data to estimate how cormorant predation is effecting selected fish populations such as walleye and yellow perch.

The study was initiated in the spring of 2005 and so far, samples have been collected from about 500 adult birds along with regurgitated samples from several hundred nestlings. These samples will be examined this winter, with more sampling scheduled for next summer. Samples so far annualized have found small yellow perch to be the predominant fish consumed.

Results of the study will help the Leech Lake Band of

(See page 7 - cormorant -)

A NEW HOPE FOR TRIBAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FUNDING

by: Shaun Grassel, Wildlife Biologist, Lower Brule Sioux Tribe Department of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation

Funding fish and wildlife programs in Indian Country has always been difficult. Although many Tribes (but not all) receive 638 contracts from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the level of funding does not adequately address the scope of needs that our extensive and diverse fish, wildlife and associated habitats merit. In fact, Native American Tribes control approximately 100 million acres that are home to over 250 threatened or endangered species. It is not only our right but also our responsibility to protect, conserve and manage the fish and wildlife resources found on our reservations.

In this article I want to briefly review some of the past efforts to address our funding needs and more importantly, I will propose a course for a more successful future. We will need to work together to navigate our way through the tricky bureaucracy of seeking legislated federal funding. We must be aware of the political aspects of partnerships and foster these relationships with great care. And we need to focus our passion and great regard for the natural world into a united front to accomplish these worthy goals.

To generate revenue to support tribal fish and wildlife programs, some Tribes have successfully opened their lands, rivers, and lakes to non-Indians for hunting and fishing. However, most Tribes do not have the natural resources to capitalize on this opportunity and many Tribes do not elect to offer hunting and fishing opportunities because they feel their resources should be utilized only by their tribal membership. Additionally, some states still threaten to cite hunters and anglers who do not possess state licenses when hunting and fishing on tribal lands. Tribes in such states have two options, (1) to forego a funding opportunity by not selling licenses to non-Indians or (2) to sell licenses to non-Indians and risk litigation and potentially put tribal sovereignty at risk.

Some Tribes receive funding from hydropower or mining companies or U.S. Government agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration and Department of Defense for mitigation. However, most of the Tribes that receive mitigation funding are held to narrow sideboards on how this funding can be spent. Mitigation is helpful but the reality is that we would prefer to have never been subject to the damage to our lands and waters that made the mitigation necessary.

In recent years, many Tribes have capitalized on competitive grants to fund portions of fish and wildlife management programs. Community Oriented Policing Services (COPs) grants from the U.S. Department of Justice can be implemented for tribal law enforcement efforts, including fish and wildlife enforcement. And of course there are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Wildlife and Tribal Landowner Incentive Grants, which most of us are familiar with. Although many tribal successes have been realized through these relatively new and popular grant programs, projects are limited in funding, subject to Congressional priorities, highly competitive, and are limited in duration.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture also has many programs available to Tribes. The Conservation Reserve, Wetland Reserve, Wildlife Habitat Incentive, and Environmental Quality Incentive programs are some of the most widely utilized. Each provides funding to improve or protect specific habitats or to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality. These programs require a cost share and a contract to keep the habitat improvements or protections in place for a specific length of time.

The Environmental Protection Agency also helps Tribes to implement measures to support the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. These programs range from programs to raise awareness about the dangers of radon or lead paint to developing plans to protect wetlands and watersheds. Such programs offer benefits to fish and wildlife resources but it is not their focus.

In addition to the many competitive programs available to Tribes from state, federal and local governments, private foundations and nonprofit organizations are willing to help out. Although many of these non-governmental resources have significantly less red tape, a Tribe's project must fall within their mission in order to be considered for funding.

As an enrolled member of and a biologist for the Lower Brule Sioux

(see page 5 - Wildlife funding -)

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

FIRST SAMPLE OF THE YEAR

Submitted by: Laurie Montour, Chronic Wasting Disease Project, Denver, CO

Orelan "OJ" Wells, Animal Control Officer for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe in southwestern Colorado, is the first tribal member to collect a chronic wasting disease sample for the 2005 NAFWS Chronic Wasting Disease Program.

He was one of five staff members from the Ute Mountain Brunot Wildlife Conservation Department that was trained on September 15, 2005. And one person represented the community of White Mesa which another Ute Mountain Ute community.

A hunter reported a fresh roadkill on the very first weekend after training at Ute Pasture: a two-pointer buck deer. Officer Wells, like some trainees, seemed to have that amazing skill to find the lymph node and brain stem tissue samples that are buried deep in the neck, saying, "I find it an easy thing to do".

He dissected the tissue, was photographed for posterity, and immediately informed the NAFWS.

With his regular job as an animal control officer, Wells responds to community needs to take care of the stray and abandoned lost pets, livestock and wildlife on the reservation. He said that when he began

his job three months ago, he was surprised by how quickly abandoned dogs become wild. So one of his newly learned skills is to learn how to use a live trap. He has noticed that by rescuing dogs, cats, horses, cattle; and the predator control of snakes, bats, and raccoons, there is a reduction in animals out-and-about along with a greater community awareness. The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe advertises the availability of strays for adoption on their own TV station for a five-day period – there is no fee nor fines to pick-up animals that have owners.

In addition, Wells adds to his 24/7 on call, and average 50 hour/week job through assisting the Brunot Wildlife Conservation Department as one of four wildlife enforcement officers monitoring hunters for permits, harvests and firearm safety.

Mr. Wells has been married for 18 years with four children of his own, with an additional 3 nieces and nephews under his family's care. Before this, he was a diesel mechanic and security guard at the Ute Mountain Ute Casino. One of Wells' unique qualities is an ability to decipher different sources of blood using his sense of smell.



The first chronic wasting disease sample was taken by O.J. Wells at Ute Mountain Ute Tribe on September 17, 2005.

(-wildlife funding, Cont. from p. 4-)

Tribe, I appreciate all of the assistance that is available but realize that there is much more to be done. For Tribes to really get a handle on our fish and wildlife management obligations, we need a continued reliable funding resource. Mitigation, competitive grants, and targeted programs do not allow for us to establish the farsighted protections and guarantees for fish and wildlife that will support our next seven generations.

The Indian Fish and Wildlife Resources Enhancement Act of 1993 was arguably the first big push to pass legislation that would fund tribal fish and wildlife programs. This attempt failed for several reasons. Although there was considerable support from Native American organizations there was little expressed support from individual Tribes. Another important factor was that the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (which is made up of state agencies) opposed the bill because it would have tapped into state funding resources. Subsequently, the bill gained little support in Congress and ultimately failed. Tribal funding was apparent in some later legislative efforts such as Teeming With Wildlife and the Conservation and Reinvestment Act but was never realized.

Most recently, the Native American Fish and Wildlife Resource Management Act was introduced into Congress in 2004. The bill contained several broad sections that included funding for fish and wildlife, bison management, hatchery maintenance, seafood marketing, education, and a few other provisions. As written however, it was not possible to determine its cost and it did not target a viable funding source. Although this bill ultimately failed, it did indicate that our Representatives are willing to address the shortfall in tribal fish and wildlife management efforts.

A new draft bill is currently being circulated in Indian Country and Washington D.C. that lays out a viable framework for us to work with. This draft was developed in a way that will provide a permanent source of funding for tribal fish and wildlife management programs through a partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I feel that what is presented establishes a program upon which Congress, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, states and Tribes can all agree deserves a fair chance.

The bill has four sections: tribal fish and wildlife management, youth education, continuing education for professionals, and law enforcement training and enforcement code development. In a nutshell the bill would create a new Native American Fish and Wildlife Management Assistance Program in the Department of Interior, through the Fish and Wildlife Service. Each year, for up to 12 years, up to 15 Tribes would be selected to implement their tribally developed Wildlife Management Plans. The bill would provide funding for summer youth programs (e.g. the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Summer Youth Program), participation at the National Conservation Training Center for tribal biologists, technicians and administrators, and training tribal conservation officers and developing fish and wildlife enforcement codes.

Tribes will implement permanent management programs that address our own obligations and in doing so, also help the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and perhaps even states in meeting their management objectives.

Some other strategies that are built into this draft are: the cost of the program is predictable and based on tribally set criteria; participation by Tribes is voluntary; Tribes will identify their own goals, objectives and accomplishments in a way that allows our Representatives in Congress to see benefits and results; and, it incorporates educational and capacity building for participating Tribes.

The current version of the bill is not a final draft. At this time it is important to get the draft bill into the hands of as many people in Indian Country as possible. Not only to create awareness and get people informed but so that your edits and revisions can be made and your questions answered. When the time comes, we all will need to speak with one voice.

Keep watching for updates on the bill and have comments ready. A unified effort is going to be needed to get this bill or a similar version

(See next column -)



passed. A copy of the bill can be downloaded from www.nafws.org or contact me at shaung@cableone.net or (208) 798-0882.



Summer Youth Practicum students gather for activity conducted at Mt. Evans, Colorado

(SYP- Cont. from p. 1 -)

to be there. All expenses to transport the students from all of the Society's seven (7) geographical regions were covered as well as room and board and all instructional materials. The Native Waters Program out of Montana State University partnered with us and provided backpacks, water bottles, instructional materials and, most importantly, core staff members.

Our days were full. We began each day early and ended each day late. The staff met early each morning to share coffee, the plans for the day and the talents, knowledge, and humor that each and every one possessed. The staff was so enthusiastic and shared in each others' classes and activities. We had prayers three times a day before meals to thank the Creator and to put ourselves in order. And the youth, as well as the adults, willingly shared those prayers. The family groups set up and cleaned up before and after meals and the entire camp was cleaned thoroughly at the end. Whenever guests or elders were there for a meal, the

students waited on them. They showed up on time for each class and activity.

Our core staff and visiting instructors get back as much knowledge as they give. They understand that they are providing for the future. Our residential Elders reinforce all our classes with lessons in the Circle of Life, the importance of keeping balance in life and in the natural world, and the importance of physical, mental, emotional and social health. They are able to tie the past, the present and the future and help all the participants understand how everything is related.

The Mount Evans Outdoor Education Lab School is in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, the Traditional prayer grounds of the indigenous people of this area. We are fortunate to be in a special place at a special time with special people. We get to "make better people" by applying the lessons from the natural world which show that we are not above it but are a

(see p. 7 - SYP -)

WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE HOSTS SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

by: Karen Lynch, NAFWS, Denver, CO

Regional conferences continue to provide host tribes of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society (NAFWS) an opportunity to showcase natural resources, economic enterprises, and tourism attractions. The White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) welcomed this year's Southwest Region to its abundance of land, culture and natural resources. The conference was held at the Hondah Resort & Casino at Pinetop, Arizona on August 1-4, 2005.

"Natural resources is what our tribe is involved with," said Vice Chairman of the Tribe, Johnny Endfield.

Kicking off the tribal showcase at opening session, Endfield also delivered a keynote regarding the tribe's strong traditions and congratulated the Society for its 23 years of success and survival as an organization providing services to tribes.

"The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society was created to meet the needs of tribes and to address management roles not being met at the time (early 1980s)," he said. "What an accomplishment!"

The director of the WMAT Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division, John Caid praised his 50 employees and 20 part-time workers and said, "we have an excellent and knowledgeable staff.

"It is not only good to have youth here as participants at this conference, but good to see who will be replacing us as tribal natural resource managers someday."

One tribal member estimated that there were at least 20 young people from the tribe that attended the conference or were summer employed with the tribe.

With 1.6 million acres, 11,000 ft. elevation and desert shrub, 17 recreational lakes, the ecosystem health on the White Mountain Reservation drives management decisions, said

Sensitive Species Coordinator, Cynthia Dale.

Recreation equals economic resources and with a world recognized trophy elk hunting program, numerous non-member hunts are held. There are trophy hunts for pronghorn antelope, bighorn sheep, bear, mountain lion and turkey. The trophy hunts are all guided, plus there are auction hunts and special hunts.

A recreational fishing and tribal habitat managed fisheries program features numerous lakes and at least 300 miles of trout fishing streams.

Tribal presentations by six programs and two tribal enterprises were showcased: wildlife and outdoor recreation department; environmental planning; watershed program; hydrology; culture center; Sunrise Ski Resort; and the Ft. Apache Timber Company.

"The WMAT, said Charles Peone, timber manager, "has been a member of the Western Wood Products Association since 1963. With more than 960,000 acres of woodlands, the mill employs more than 250 people and competes in the global timber market.

The tribal showcase

concluded with three tribal tours on the second day of the conference. Participants visited either the Rodeo-Chediski burn area, which was the location of Arizona's largest and most costly forest fire that consumed more than 462,000 acres. It involved more than 5,000 firefighters and was two fires that merged giving it the name Rodeo-Chediski. A second tour group visited the Ft. Apache Museum, cultural ruins, and the timber mill. While a third group toured the Williams Creek Hatchery, a U.S. Fish & Wildlife facility.

The hatchery assists the White Mountain Apache Tribe to restore its native species, the Apache trout, also listed as *threatened* under the ESA. Hatchery water source comes from Williams Creek, ideal for Apache, rainbow, and brook trout.

"It's always good to see what other tribes are doing in the area of fishery management," said Lawrence Cata, Office of Environmental Affairs at San Juan Pueblo. "We are interested in a grow-out facility and it would be ideal if there were more facilities and funding to meet the growing needs for fish.

"With only two hatcheries in the Southwest, there are only certain months for a hatchery to stock trout, still the demand is not being met," added Cata.

"If the Mescalero tribal hatchery could receive renovation funding, it would be an opportunity for Mescalero to provide fish to tribes," he said.

Lynn Polacca, Hopi tribal member and working at BIA Natural Resources said he tries to attend the Southwest Regional conferences year-to-year even if he has to come on his own.

"I went on the Rodeo-Chediski fire tour because I was interested in seeing the rehabilitation taking place," he said.

"It is hard to get a good idea of its impact unless one actually sees it. They are in the process of receding the range land, erosion control and erecting log erosion barriers. It's good to see that it is starting to come back — the grasses, and some trees survived despite a half-million acres that burned."



Photos: Top left - traditional feast; Top right - tour group at the Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery; Lower left - Tim Gatewood, WMAT biologist (third from left) and other participants at a sacred site on the hatchery tour; Lower right - young girls represent the tribe in traditional regalia during the traditional feast.

USFWS UPDATE

by Patrick Durham, Native American Liaison, Washington, D.C.

Lets put our heads together ...

In the last issue of the Eagle's Nest I talked about the importance of the Tribal fish and wildlife community having a united voice. True, each tribe is a sovereign and has unique needs and priorities. But it is also true that Indian Tribes have many common needs and priorities and these are the things that we need to agree upon.

Sitting Bull said that "we should all put our heads together and see what we can do for the next seven generations". Because I think Sitting Bull was a visionary leader a gracious sun dancer and a pretty smart guy, I want to help do what he said. Let's put our heads together and make our world better and our futures brighter.

Our opportunity is now. The National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI) wants some participation from tribes. They would like to see some people that represent Tribal governments come together and carve out a role in this effort.



They are asking for a representative tribal organization. And I want to help you put this group together.

Just like the states did in creating the International Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies (did you check out their website at www.iafwa.org like I asked last issue?), we can come together now. Given the support that I see for NIFI, it will likely create some tremendous opportunities for all of its partners (see their website at: www.fishhabitat.org).

I think that tribes have a lot to offer and a lot to gain by

being a part of NFHI but I'm shooting for something else here too. As you have heard me say before, Tribes have many common interests but we don't have a national "Association of Tribal Fish and Wildlife Agencies". Coming together for NIFI is the springboard to establish a group that can begin to identify national Tribal agenda items and seek solutions.

A perfect example is Shaun Grassel's article in this same issue. Find his article, read it and decide for yourself - do you think Tribes have equitable financial resources for fish and wildlife management? The only way Shaun's ideas gain momentum is through a unified voice.

How about the Endangered Species Act reauthorization efforts? Again, there are plenty of reasons to have some representative Tribal input.

So this is the starting point - I am asking you to do something here. If you want to start putting our heads together, call me at (202) 208-4133 or e-mail pat_durham@fws.gov and tell me to put you on the list. A lot of you have heard me talk about this at some of the recent Society conferences

(See next column)

and expressed a lot of interest.

When I start hearing from people I can begin putting together some periodic updates on when and how we can get together. I can find money if we need it and we can take this as far as you want me to. But this needs to be your Tribal initiative. So let me hear from you.

(- SYP - Cont. from p. 5 -)

part of it.

We would like to express our extreme gratitude to the following: the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation through the efforts of past Board member, Terry Scott, the Association of American Indian Affairs, USDA-APHIS via Rick Wadleigh and to a wonderful anonymous donor who given us support for the past two years. In addition, we would like to thank Bob Gartner for the BIAs support through the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin and Bob Jackson.

As previously stated, NAFWS members took on the responsibility to "teach our own". They are as follows: Bob "Apa" Aloysius, Elder from Alaska; Adrian "Dusty" Miller, Menominee Tribe; Shilo Comeau-Kingfisher, USFWS; Wade Kingfisher, Kim Miller, Wisconsin Indian Educator of the Year; Jason Baldes and Beau Mitchell, Native Waters; Luza Berg, Counselor; Jim Garrett, Si Tanka University; Rick Williams, AICF; Norman Jojola, Cetan Wanbli Williams, Pat Durham, Laurie Montour, Laurie Baeten, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Ryman LeBeau, CWD biologist; and Tony Wounded Head, OSTPRA. Their classes were awesome.

Jolynn Woodcock from the Colorado Environmental Coalition came up the last day and took gorgeous pictures of our attendees. Last but not least, I would like to thank our wonderful students for giving their all and for joining as student members.

Please have a safe winter and I hope to see you before too long.

Why the National Fish Habitat Initiative?

Aquatic resources in the United States are in decline. Destruction of habitat is a principal culprit. National conservation leaders agree something must be done, and endorsed the National Fish Habitat Initiative (Initiative), to harness the energies, expertise, and existing partnerships of state and federal agencies and conservation organizations.

Their goal is to focus national attention and resources on common priorities to improve aquatic habitat health.

"The Initiative is an opportunity we must grab onto. It is an opportunity to meet our mission, to meet the needs

of our partners and stakeholders, to meet the needs of the American public, and to meet the needs of the natural resources we are trying to conserve, protect, and enhance." Mamie Parker,

Assistant Director - Fisheries and Habitat Conservation Projects under the National Fish Habitat Initiative (Initiative) are beginning to coalesce. There are still many opportunities to become involved! Four partnerships are now actively working to develop efforts under the Initiative's umbrella: Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Western Native Trout Initiative, and the Midwest Driftless Area Joint Venture. There are also four

proposed National Priority Areas in Alaska, reservoir habitats, coastal areas, and the Great Lakes. The tables at the end of this update highlight which Regions may be involved with each of these projects.

A more detailed update on all NFHI activities is available at: <http://www.fishhabitat.org/news>.

(Cormorant - from p. 7 -)

Ojibwe to address concerns about cormorant predation on game fish while maintaining a healthy cormorant population.

For more information, contact: Steve Mortensen at (218) 335-7423.

CALENDAR

October 16 - 20, 2005 - Pacific Region NAFWS Conference, to be hosted by the Colville Tribe. The conference will be held at the Okanogan Inn, Omak, Washington. For more information: Joe Jay Pinkham III at (509) 865-6262, or Ted Lamebull at (541) 386-6363.

November 2-4, 2005 - Brownfields 2005, "Reaching New Heights in Redevelopment", Colorado Convention Center, Denver, CO. For more information: www.brownfields2005.org

November 4 - 5, 2005 - International Wildlife Law Conference, New Orleans, LA. Presentations at this conference will touch on such topics as: "What makes the International Whaling Commission dysfunctional and how does this bode for the future of the organization," Driftnets and Cetaceans—The Role of EU Law in By-Catch Mitigation; Seahorse Conservation and CITES; The Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources in the 21st Century; Ocean Protection and Military Readiness—Lessons for Undersea Noise Regulation; and Evaluating Risk of Species Introduction to Facilitate Implementation of the New Global Ballast Water Convention and Conserve Marine Biodiversity. Contact: Wil Burns, Chair, International Wildlife Law Section, 1702 Arlington Blvd., El Cerrito, CA 94530

Phone: 650-281-9126
Fax: 510-217-7060
E-mail: jiwlp@internationalwildlife.org
URL: <http://www.internationalwildlifelaw.org>

November 9 - 11, 2005 - 25th Annual Symposium of the North American Lake Management Society: Lake Effects: People/Water Exploring the Relationship, Madison, WI. Visit: www.nalms.org, e-mail: [see.p.10 - Calendar -](mailto:see.p.10@calendar-)

THE FEDERATION OF SASKATCHEWAN INDIAN NATIONS' "ONLY A MATTER OF TIME" ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE, SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN, OCTOBER 11-12, 2005

Submitted by: Laurie Montour, NAFWS
Chronic Wasting Disease Project, Denver, CO

In Canada, chronic wasting disease (CWD) exists among wild deer in the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Since Canada released its CWD Control Strategy with no First Nations involvement, the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations (FSIN) invited the NAFWS staff person, Laurie Montour.

She presented to an audience of Saskatchewan chiefs, councilors, community members and federal and provincial participants about the disease, and how the NAFWS operates its project. This will be the first step towards FSIN developing its own CWD Strategy with its 73 member communities. For Montour, originally from Canada, this was an opportunity to share with Natives of Canada of the CWD project.

For those members of the NAFWS with a good memory, you may recall that FSIN hosted one of the most highly-attended national conferences ever, held in 1993 in Saskatoon, Canada. The FSIN is interested in renewing its Memorandum of Understanding with the NAFWS.

The Lands & Resources Secretariat of FSIN has come a long way since then. Since then, they now have 11 committed staff working under the direction of the Third Vice Chief, Mr. Delbert Wapass.

FSIN also participates in Saskatchewan's Green Plan, a first with the province. One chief asserted that he wanted his community to be the greenest reserve in Canada. Saskatchewan is one of the few provinces with its own science research council which is called the Saskatchewan Research Council. It works with many communities on environmental sustainable housing and

renewable energy projects.

Every year, FSIN strengthens its cross-cultural bridges between Native and non-Native society through a day devoted to inclusive activities with the elementary and middle school students of the Saskatoon School Board. Since Saskatoon has a high number of Natives, there are some schools that are predominantly attended by Native students.

A post-conference theme centered on environmental awareness, the staff and volunteers at the conference focused on CWD. Jars of pickled, formalin-based brain stem and lymph node samples taken the day before by staff earned the expected "Eeyooo!"

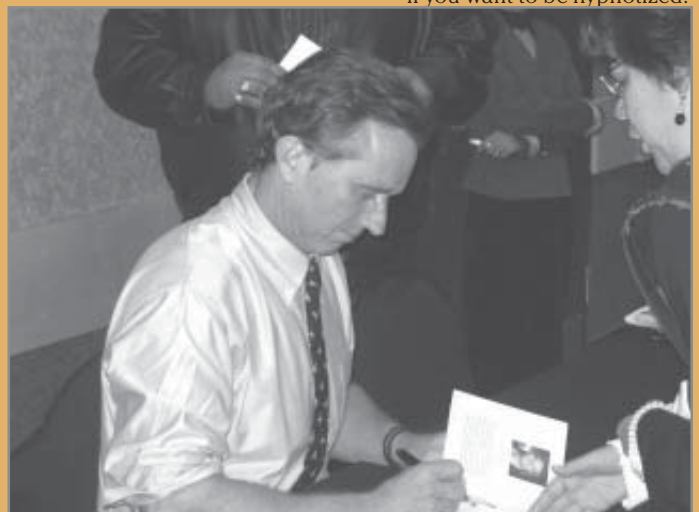
Seemingly, with the long winters in Canada, there was much emphasis on outdoor winter activities needing lots of snow and ice, like ski boarding and of course, Canada's export to the world, hockey.

The keynote speaker, who spoke to a full house was Mr. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., director of Riverkeepers Inc., a non-profit with a mission to protect the environmental, recreational and commercial integrity of the Hudson River and its

tributaries, in order to safeguard the New York City drinking water supply. Mr. Kennedy spoke of his organization's campaign in regard to the James Bay Cree in Quebec which was one of his first forays into working with First Nations of Canada. The Province of Quebec was planning to dam hundreds of extended miles of rivers as part of its hydroelectric development. The campaign with the Cree and Riverkeepers stopped a multi-million dollar sale of electricity to the State of New York. Less well known was the collaboration with Riverkeepers and Cross Lake in Manitoba. The entire council of Cross Lake came to the banquet to honor Mr. Kennedy.

The second banquet was a thank-you to the generous corporate donors of that week's events. FSIN raised \$400,000. The World Champion Smoke Dancer (a distant relative from New York) showed us the increasingly popular Iroquois dance now exhibited at powwows.

Entertainment by a Cree hypnotist had everyone in stitches. The FSIN First Nations' Resource Management System covered their eyes, put their fingers in their ears, and to further reduce any potential hypnotic affect, sang "La, la, la" to prevent their being taken in, despite the hypnotist's assertion that one can only be hypnotized if you trust him, and if you want to be hypnotized.



During the conference in Saskatoon, Robert F. Kennedy Jr., autographs one of his books.

UAB OFFERS ON-LINE COURSE SAFETY AWARENESS FOR KATRINA RESPONDERS

by
Brooke Martin, UAB

Hello from the University of Alabama at Birmingham's Workplace Safety Training Program. Fortunately, besides power outages as well as fallen trees and limbs, Birmingham was not affected too much by Hurricane Katrina. Unfortunately, our friends and neighbors to the southwest of us have been overwhelmed with the biggest natural disaster that the United States has ever experienced. In this article I will discuss steps that UAB has taken to help protect the health and safety of people who are working in the affected areas. I will also mention hazmat courses that UAB is continuing to offer for Native American tribes.

On-Line Hurricane Katrina Safety Awareness Course

As a result of Hurricane Katrina, UAB has developed an on-line Hurricane Katrina safety awareness course titled *Safety Awareness for Katrina Responders*. The rush to respond to a crisis of such unprecedented proportions has not allowed enough time to provide the type of disaster response training that workers in the affected area might need. This course was developed to acquaint workers with some of the hazards they might face in hurricane recovery and clean-up efforts. The web-based course is for anyone who might be working in the disaster areas.

To access the course, go to UAB/CLEAR's Workplace Safety Training webpage at www.uab.edu/wst. Click on the link for "Safety Awareness

for Katrina Responders" in the left side bar.

Katrina Response Orientation Booklet

The agency that funds UAB/NAFWS hazmat training (NIEHS) has developed a Hurricane Katrina



response orientation booklet and is encouraging grantees to distribute it to anyone who may be working in the affected areas. The book titled *Protecting Yourself While Helping Others* is now available for free upon request from our office. This 36-page book covers health and safety topics such as: heat stress, sunburn, debris and unstable surfaces, noise, dust, confined spaces, chemicals, standing water, electrical lines, carbon monoxide, chain saws, eye injuries, sharp materials, heavy equipment, mold, trench foot,

blood-borne disease, food-borne disease, water-borne disease, insect-borne disease, animal-borne diseases, snakes, and traumatic stress. If you are interested in receiving one or need books for a group that you are working with then call, (205) 934-8013 to request a copy.

Hazmat Training Courses Now Available

UAB has officially started a new grant year and we are once again excited about our opportunity to provide hazmat training to tribal members. The courses that we are offering are:

- First Responder Hazmat Awareness (8 hours)
 - First Responder Hazmat Operations (24 hours)
 - Incident Management (16 hours)
 - Clandestine Drug Lab Awareness (6 hours)
 - Weapons of Mass Destruction Awareness (8 hours)
 - Radiological/Nuclear Awareness (8 hours)
- (- See next column -)

PRAIRIE FALCON MIGRATION

Most species of migratory birds in the Northern Hemisphere make two long trips each year, one north for nesting and the other south for the winter. New information collected by USGS scientists shows that individuals of at least one species, the prairie falcon, make three separate long trips each year.

Scientists from the USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center monitored female prairie falcons that nest in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area of southwest Idaho by equipping them with transmitters. These transmitters send signals to satellite receivers and enable scientists to track animals anywhere on Earth to within a few miles.

Some falcons moved more than 2800 miles in a single year, said USGS scientist Karen Steenhof, lead author on this study, which was recently published in the journal *The Condor*.

The falcons left their Idaho nesting grounds in June and July, immediately after nesting, and most headed northeast across the Continental Divide to summering areas in Montana, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Dakotas. In the fall, some falcons migrated southwest back to Idaho and others moved south-southeast to wintering areas in Texas and Kansas. In February and March, falcons returned directly to their Idaho nesting sites, without retracing the routes they traveled in summer and fall.

By using widely separated nesting, summering, and wintering areas, said Steenhof, the falcons can take advantage of

(See p. 10 - falcon -)

It is now time to schedule dates and locations for the courses I have listed. The society will soon be sending out brochures that include a description of the courses available. If you would like to host a course then contact the NAFWS national office and if you have any questions about the training then contact Brooke Martin with UAB at 205-934-8013 or bnm92@uab.edu.

CALENDAR

winge@nalms.org (608) 233-2836.

December 6-8, 2005 - National Gap Analysis Conference and Interagency Symposium (Featuring the Southwest Regional Gap Analysis Project), Reno, Nevada. Sponsored by the U.S. Geological Survey, EPA, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and University of Idaho. For more information, <http://www.gap.uidaho.edu/Meetings/2005>.

December 11-14, 2006 - 66th Annual Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference: Bridges to Understanding: Linking Multiple Perspectives, Grand Rapids, MI. www.midwestfishandwildlife.com

February 9 - 10, 2006 - 12th Annual Whirling Disease Symposium, Denver, CO. Call for Papers due November 15, 2005. During this year's conference, current status of research will be examined from the perspective of where it started and reflect on where this is leading. For more information: www.whirling-disease.org or e-mail: whirling@msn.net, (406) 585-0860.

February 8 - 12, 2006 - Southern Division American Fisheries Society Spring Meeting: Water Allocation for Fisheries, San Antonio, TX. <http://www.sdafsof/meetings/2006>. Contact: Dave Terre, e-mail: dave.terre@tpwd.state.tx.us, (903) 566-1615.



IOWA TRIBE RECEIVES FUNDING TO HELP CARE FOR INJURED BIRDS

By Anthony Thornton
The Oklahoman

PERKINS - Eagle feathers, a rare commodity used throughout Oklahoma in tribal ceremonies, soon will become abundant for the Iowa Tribe.

The tribe was approved last month for a \$250,000 federal grant to build an eagle aviary and rehabilitation center.

It was the first such grant awarded to a tribe by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Aside from caring for sick and injured birds, the center will provide a constant source of feathers from golden and bald eagles, tribal Chairman Bernadette Huber said.

"The eagle is one of the two most important icons for our people. It flies highest to the great spirit, so there are many cultural blessings that come with the feathers.

"When we pray to the big spirit, we use the feather as a tool to get the smoke to reach the heavens," Huber said.

The center is scheduled for a December completion. It will be built near the tribe's headquarters along U.S. 177 south of Perkins. Nearby is a herd of bison, the tribe's other cultural icon.

The tribe's wildlife director, Victor Roubidoux, said feathers will be taken only when eagles molt or die. The center will accommodate 15 birds, he said.

Its residents will be eagles that have been shot or hurt in an accident.

The tribe pitched in \$70,000 for construction and

operations, and agreed to fully fund the center after three years, Roubidoux said.

The idea is based on the country's only other tribal-owned aviary, built on the Zuni Pueblo in northwest New Mexico.

For two reasons, the need for such centers is great, said John Antonio, the Fish and Wildlife Service's regional tribal liaison in Albuquerque, N.M.

"If these birds can't be released back to the wild or placed in a zoo, they're euthanized. So the aviaries provide a place for these birds to live out the rest of their lives," Antonio said.

Secondly, he said, the demand for eagle feathers "far exceeds the supply."

Eagles and their feathers are protected under federal law. Possession of feathers is permitted only for religious and ceremonial purposes, Antonio said, and they can be obtained only through a national repository in Colorado.

Tribes can wait three or four years for a mature eagle's feathers to become available through death.

At a ground-breaking ceremony Sept. 1, tribe officials released three small Mississippi kites as a symbolic gesture.

Huber said the aviary will be used to educate tribal members, and perhaps school groups, about the eagle's importance to the Iowa and other tribes.

"I'm really glad for the tribe," Antonio said. "An I can see is success for this center," which stay above ground throughout the summer.

Steenhof noted that the data point to important connections in food webs in western North America. These connections remind us that conservation of prairie falcons and their habitats is not just a local issue but requires coordination across state and international boundaries.

The Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area was established to protect North

Most species of migratory birds in the Northern Hemisphere make two long trips each year, one north for nesting and the other south for the winter. New information collected by USGS scientists shows that individuals of at least one species, the prairie falcon, make three separate long trips each year.

Scientists from the USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center monitored female prairie falcons that nest in the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area of southwest Idaho by equipping them with transmitters. These transmitters send signals to satellite receivers and enable scientists to track animals anywhere on Earth to within a few miles.

Some falcons moved more than 2800 miles in a single year, said USGS scientist Karen Steenhof, lead author on this study, which was recently published in the journal *The Condor*.

The falcons left their Idaho nesting grounds in June and July, immediately after nesting, and most headed northeast across the Continental Divide to summering areas in Montana, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and the Dakotas. In the fall, some falcons migrated southwest back to Idaho and others moved south-southeast to wintering areas in Texas and Kansas. In February and March, falcons returned directly to their Idaho nesting sites, without retracing the routes they traveled in summer and fall.

(See page 11 - injured birds -)

(- falcon - Cont. from p.9-) prey that are only available seasonally. Scientists believe that falcons leave the Snake River area because Piute ground squirrels, their principal prey during the nesting season, begin a period of inactivity underground (torpor) in late May and become completely unavailable to aerial predators by early July. In the northern Great Plains, however, prairie falcons are able to hunt Richardson's ground squirrels,

(- See next column -)

America's, possible the world's, largest concentration of birds of prey. Studies of these birds, like the prairie falcon, provide important information to managers charged with conservation of these fascinating species.

<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=875>

(- See next column -)

BUFFALO REINTRODUCED TO STEVENS VILLAGE IN ALASKA

After a lapse of well over 100 years, buffalo have returned to tribal lands in Interior Alaska. The Stevens Village Tribal Council, on May 22, 2005, re-introduced 18 buffalo to the Stevens Village Tribal Traditional Bison Range near Delta, Alaska. The buffalo officially returned at 1:35 a.m. The council purchased the 2080 acres of land for the buffalo reintroduction on March of 2004. During the past year, the council's natural resource program has been developing the range into a wildlife area that would contain the buffalo. 20,000 feet of 8' high, high-tensile game fencing was installed using 20 tribal members as the labor force. Six hundred acres of rangeland was enclosed and gated. First Chief, Randy Mayo, after welcoming the buffalo back to tribal land in Alaska, remarked that "our buffalo are not being fenced in, the other animals are being fenced out". This small beginning will hopefully lead to additional lands for tribal ownership and projects for use in developing community economies and sustenance opportunities.

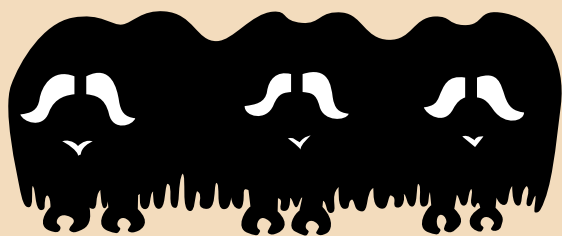
The council intends to eventually manage a herd of 200 buffalo on the range and harvest the surplus animals for cultural, spiritual, sustenance, health, and community economy purposes. Meat will be distributed by a tribal coop and used by the tribal members to supplement their usual diet of moose and salmon because the wild populations have been in

decline over the past decade. Buffalo meat is low in cholesterol, nutritious, low in fat and can help to reduce diabetes, heart disease, and obesity.

The council has received support from many agencies to accomplish this process so quickly. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) made the original loan for the land through the Indian Tribal Land Acquisition Loan Program. The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provided assistance with soil testing, vegetation survey, farm plan development, fertilizer computations, noxious weed identification, and various federal government farm programs. As a tribal wildlife management area, the council has subscribed to using the best wildlife management techniques to ensure that the buffalo continue to remain a wild animal and treated in a respectful manner.

The council has been a member of the Inter-tribal Bison Cooperative (ITBC), a national tribal bison organization with a mission to re-establish bison to its original lands for the purpose of reconnecting buffalo with Indian people. ITBC has provided the council with technical and financial assistance to get this project to this level. ITBC is made up of 54 member tribes throughout the country and continues to be a strong advocate for tribes that wish to re-establish their own bison herds.

For more information: contact, Randy Mayo, First Chief, Stevens Village Council.



NATIVE LANDS AND WILDERNESS COUNCIL FORMED

Native people from 25 nations formed the Native Lands and Wilderness Council and set initial goals for the group at the 8th World Wilderness Congress. The Council passed a resolution to continue meeting and will produce a handbook aimed at tribal communities from around the world.

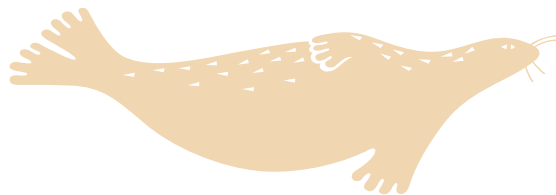
"The purpose of the Native Lands and Wilderness Council is to form an indigenous use and management of wildlands and to demonstrate unequivocally that we are an important part of conserving wildlands globally," said Terry Tanner, co-chair of the Council.

At this week's Congress, members of the Council presented case studies from 15

worldwide models of Native communities that are self-managing their wildland territories for the expressed purpose of protecting the wilderness while still meeting the cultural, spiritual and economic needs of their local communities. Case studies presented were from Brazil, Columbia, Mozambique, Mexico, Australia, Canada, the U.S. and elsewhere.

Delegates from the Council passed a resolution to continue their work and to meet again within two years to begin preparations to participate in the proposed 9th World Wilderness. The time and location of the next Congress has yet to be determined.

For more information: www.8wwc.org



(- injured birds - from p..10 -)

By using widely separated nesting, summering, and wintering areas, said Steenhof, the falcons can take advantage of prey that are only available seasonally. Scientists believe that falcons leave the Snake River area because Piute ground squirrels, their principal prey during the nesting season, begin a period of inactivity underground (torpor) in late May and become completely unavailable to aerial predators by early July. In the northern Great Plains, however, prairie falcons are able to hunt Richardson's ground squirrels, which stay above ground throughout the summer.

Steenhof noted that the

data point to important connections in food webs in western North America. These connections remind us that conservation of prairie falcons and their habitats is not just a local issue but requires coordination across state and international boundaries.

The Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area was established to protect North America's, possibly the world's, largest concentration of birds of prey. Studies of these birds, like the prairie falcon, provide important information to managers charged with conservation of these fascinating species.

(See next column)