



Rocky Mountain Outdoors

Our
28th Year

Feb/Mar 2001

The Newsletter of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

<http://www.rmowp.org>

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2001 Conference Issue

including

Photography and Writing Contest Rules



This little bird is flying your way to request you to join us for the 2001 Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers Conference in Alamogordo, New Mexico, May 16 - 20, 2001. He (or she) would love to see your recent photos, slides, art works, and writing achievements, too!

Where have you seen this little bird before? Three guesses and the first two don't count!

Photo by Don Laine, Three Rivers Petroglyph Site near Alamogordo, NM

From The President



THE RIGHT MOVE

by
Lee Carr

As you approach timberline, trees begin to thin out. Another remarkable situation is noticed. A large tree, that had died and over the course of years had lost its bark, reveals a trunk that had grown upward like a corkscrew. The wood in the tree appears to have grown in the direction of a right hand screw. Another way of putting this; as you face the tree the twist goes up and to the right. If you see a rotting tree in a deadfall and dig through the decay you will notice that the twisting was not a surface effect, but extends clear through the wood. Obviously the twisting has gone on throughout the life of the tree and is not something that occurs when the tree gets old.

What caused the twist? Was it physical forces? The *krumholz*, as the area near timberline is called, is known for its high winds. If there were more branches on one side of the tree than the other, the wind might exert a force to twist the tree partway around. However, after the branches went 180 degrees the wind would then force the tree to unwind. Was this caused by genetics? Maybe they were predisposed to twist to the right when they were stressed. It could be an accidental characteristic of the species and not necessarily an adaptive trait. Then your genetics theory is thwarted when you come across a tree that twists into a left-hand screw. If you were to do a survey you would find that one or two percent of the twisted trees do twist to the left.

Looking beyond trees you discover a number of right-versus left-turning phenomena in the natural world. If you have visited Carlsbad Cavern when the bats come out in the evening, notice they sweep into the sky following a right-handed helix. The same applies to eagles or hawks rising on thermal air currents; they also seem to go around in a right-handed direction. The DNA molecule that carries all genetic information is a right-twisting double helix. Not

only DNA, but all molecules in living systems on earth are right-handed helices.

It is still a mystery why this phenomenon happens. We are glad, however, that a couple of our members made the right move; stepping forward to take the positions of newsletter editor and executive director of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers. I wish them both the best as they undertake these new responsibilities.

Maryann Gaug, a Denver native, earned a B.S. degree in Mathematics at Gonzaga University (Spokane) but "minored" in fun things to do like downhill skiing and backpacking. Upon returning to Colorado she earned an M.S. degree in Computer Science. With those skills she was employed at Rocky Flats Nuclear Plant near Denver for 20 years before taking a voluntary separation in 1995. Throughout her adult life, she has been active in the Colorado Mountain Club and the Rocky Flats Mountaineering Group. Along the way she also picked up some photography skills through a John Fielder workshop followed by lots of experience. She has also attended numerous classes on magazine writing. She started "About Wilderness, Inc." in 1997 to teach women backpacking and cross country skiing skills. She has had some success with freelance writing and is presently working on a hiking guide to Colorado for Beachway Press. Writing and editing for conservation and environmental newsletters has been another pursuit. This issue of *Rocky Mountain Outdoors* is her first as editor. Maryann resides in Silverthorne, Colorado.

Craig Springer becomes our new executive director. Earning degrees in fisheries science and wildlife management from Hocking College, New Mexico State University, and an M.S. degree from the University of Arizona, Craig plies his trade as a biologist/writer with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in the Southwest. He attributes his career choice to early childhood imprinting on smallmouth bass in Ohio creeks, which ultimately led to notable research on that species' behavior. Blue grouse and Rio Grande cut-throat trout now get his personal and professional attention. Fearing an idle mind, Craig is pursuing an M.A. degree in Professional Writing at the University of New Mexico, where he is writing a treatise on the sunfishes. A member of OWAA, he also serves on the board of RMOWP. He frequently freelance writes for hunting, fishing, conservation and travel media, which include radio, video, magazines, newspapers and the Internet. His professional contacts as a freelancer and Service employee will serve well as a liaison with supporting members. He has recruited several new members for the organization. He and his wife, Felicia, reside in Edgewood, New Mexico.

Rocky Mountain Outdoors

Published bimonthly by Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, Inc.

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(Supporting)

In the Dec/Jan issue of *Rocky Mountain Outdoors* I wrote my final column as newsletter editor. To those readers who eagerly anticipated my disappearance from these pages for all time, I'm back – for one more occasion. This time it's my final column as Executive Director of RMOWP. The one good thing to come of this is that Skipper won't add his acid wit and insults to these pages.

Astute readers will recall that in the last issue of *RMO* two jobs were advertised. The result has been that for the past month, Lee Carr and the RMOWP board have been inundated with applications from members seeking the jobs of newsletter editor and executive director. As you may well imagine, reviewing all of the applications has been time consuming for those hardworking board members in the search for the right persons for the jobs.

At the time this is written one of the jobs has been filled. Maryann Gaug was the successful applicant for the position of newsletter editor. She begins her new job with this issue of *RMO*. As I always did, I'm certain that Maryann will appreciate newsletter contributions from the membership. It doesn't have to be lengthy to be useful. A

Outdoors With The ED

Al Marlowe



news item can be about a member's new book, first published magazine article or photo for pay, or a recent addition to the member's family. If you have something newsworthy, pass it on to Maryann.

The second job advertised was for executive director. Again the board found it necessary to pore through the many applications to select the right person for the job. By the time you read this, though, a decision may have been made as to who will be the next executive director. This issue has the 2001 Writing/Photography Contest rules. Note that the deadline is early this year due to the conference being in May, which is a month earlier than usual.

Editor's Note: Skipper still added his wit! Please read "inundated with applications" with a big grin and a grain of salt.

Directory Update

New Address

Merton D. Leeper
6376 W. Prentice Ave.
Littleton, CO 80123

New Members

Lee Allen
2202 N. Frannea Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85712
W: 520-885-7544
Email: Azfreelance@aol.com

New Members (cont'd.)

Robert J. MacDonald
3577 N. 1825 E.
Buhl, ID 83316
Home: 208-326-3002
Work: 208-326-4568
Email: macphoto@pmt.org

Steve Probasco
2192 Michigan St.
Raymond, WA 98577
H&W: 360-942-3589
Probasco@nwflyfishing.net

New Members (cont'd.)

Stephen Robertson
12 Fawn
Cedar Crest, NM 87008
H: 505-286-1810
Robertso@gateway.net

Scholarship Program Application Deadline Extended

To date, no applications have been received for the \$1,000 Scott-McKenna Memorial Scholarship. We're sure members must know someone who is pursuing a career in outdoor writing and/or photography who could use a little extra money for school!

Candidates must be nominated by a current member of RMOWP. High school seniors are eligible, as are students currently enrolled in college undergraduate and graduate programs.

The deadline to receive applications has been extended to **March 15, 2001**. An application form is included in this newsletter and will also be posted on RMOWP's website, www.rmowp.org.

Please address applications to:

Betty Minor
3110 Gardenia St.
Golden, CO 80401

Phone: 303-279-6829

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers & Photographers

CONFERENCE 2001

Alamogordo, New Mexico

May 16 - 20, 2001

Wednesday 5/16

2:00 - 5:00 PM: Registration (Holiday Inn Express)
2:00 PM: Board Meeting (Location to be announced)
5:00 - 7:00 PM: Open House in Laine Room
7:00 PM: Slide show of all contest submissions

Thursday 5/17

8:30 AM: Workshop: Digital Camera Update by Kelly Gatlin
10:00 AM: Workshop: The How of Wildlife Photography by Joe Roybal
Noon: Lunch on your own
1:30 - 8:00 PM: Field Trip: Caravan to Oliver Lee Memorial State Park (historic buildings, great scenery, and a nature trail) and then continue on to White Sand National Monument for a talk from a park ranger and a box supper (admission fees and box supper are included in the registration fee)

Friday 5/18

6:00 AM: Field Trip: Sunrise photo workshop at White Sands National Monument by Jack Olson
8:30 AM: General Membership Meeting
10:00 AM: Workshop: How to Write for Game & Fish Publications & Just About Anything Else by Burt Carey, editor of Rocky Mountain Game and Fish magazine
Noon: Lunch on your own

Friday 5/18 (cont'd.)

1:30 PM: Free Time or caravan on your own to the International Space Hall of Fame, Alameda Park Zoo, and the Toy Train Depot (all in Alamogordo; all have nominal admission fees)
4:30 PM: Auction (bring money)
6:30 PM: Dinner on your own
8:00 PM: Writing Critique session

Saturday 5/19

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM: Field Trip: Caravan to White Sands Missile Range (to see the rare White Sands pupfish, Trinity Site, etc.), with a box lunch (included in the registration fee)
6:00 PM: Banquet (location to be announced)
8:00 PM: Awards Ceremony

Sunday 5/20

8:30 AM: Board Meeting (location to be announced)
9:30 AM: Field Trip: Three Rivers Petroglyph Site (meet at the site, 32 miles north of Alamogordo)

Note: The slide show, all workshops, the general membership meeting, the auction, the writing critique session, and the awards ceremony will take place in the Holiday Inn Express meeting room.

(schedule subject to change)

Check RMOWP's website for the latest conference information at www.rmowp.org.



**Blast off to
the 2001
RMOWP
Conference
in
Alamogordo!**

May 16 - 20

Holiday Inn Chosen for Conference Headquarters

The Alamogordo, New Mexico, Holiday Inn Express will be headquarters for the RMOWP Conference May 16 - 20, 2001. Most of the workshops and other indoor activities will take place at the Holiday Inn's meeting room. There's a special rate of \$50 per night plus tax for two people for members of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers who reserve their rooms by May 1 (make sure you tell them you're attending the RMOWP conference), and that rate includes a continental breakfast. There are also several restaurants within easy walking distance. The Holiday Inn Express is at 1401 S. White Sands Blvd., Alamogordo, NM 88310, and the telephone number is (505) 437-7100.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers & Photographers

CONFERENCE 2001

Alamogordo, New Mexico

May 16 - 20, 2001

Name _____

Address _____

E-mail _____

Costs:

What	Cost	X	No. Attending	=	Amount
Registration fee	\$35	X		=	\$
Sat. night banquet	\$12.50	X		=	\$
			Total Enclosed		\$

Please send your Registration Form & check (made payable to RMOWP) to:

RMOWP
Barb Laine, treasurer
PO Box 1200
El Prado, NM 87529

Questions? Contact Don or Barb Laine at 505-758-8922 or lainedb@newmex.com.

Cut Here _____

RMOWP Plans Alamogordo Invasion

Alamogordo, New Mexico is the place to be this May for members of Rocky Mountain Outdoor Writers and Photographers, who will be gathering May 16-20 for the group's 28th annual conference. Conference headquarters will be the Holiday Inn Express in Alamogordo, and as the schedule is coming together, it looks like our biggest problem is going to be finding time for everything we want to do.

Conference highlights will include a trip onto White Sands Missile Range to see the rare White Sands pupfish, along with some dramatic and spectacular scenery, archeological and historic sites including Trinity Site (the birthplace of the atomic bomb), the historic McDonald Ranch House, and the gravesite of western writer Eugene Manlove Rhodes. The missile range is normally off limits to the public, and we'll be escorted by the military. Our military guide will be missile range Public Affairs Officer, Jim Eckles, and also along will be RMOWP member, Craig Springer, an authority on the pupfish. Craig calls it "a biological antique...that survives in water three times saltier than the sea." Springer adds that this trip into the restricted missile range will offer dramatic photographic opportuni-

ties.

The conference will also include field trips to the stark white gypsum sand dunes of White Sands National Monument, the scenic and historic Oliver Lee Memorial State Park, and the renowned Three Rivers Petroglyph Site, which has more than 20,000 prehistoric petroglyphs. Other planned activities include a workshop on writing for game and fish publications by Burt Carey, editor of Rocky Mountain Game & Fish magazine, who says the information he'll be discussing should be of interest to those writing for other types of publications as well. There will also be a workshop on wildlife photography by noted New Mexico wildlife photographer (and RMOWP member), Joe Roybal, and a program on the latest on digital photography by member Kelly Gatlin.

As usual, the conference will include a writing critique session, writing contest, and awards ceremony.

Those with questions or suggestions are invited to contact organizers Don and Barb Laine (505/758-8922; lainedb@newmex.com). Also helping organize the conference are RMOWP members David Travis and Craig Springer.

If you haven't logged onto our web site lately, take a few minutes to do so. It's easy to remember - www.rmowp.org. Phil Springer, our Web Master, has been hard at work tweaking the site little by little. It's a great improvement over our old one! The web site will be kept up-to-date with late breaking information on the 2001 RMOWP Conference in Alamogordo, New Mexico. So take a peek every once in awhile to see the latest and greatest happenings in RMOWP!

Newsletter Thoughts

As the new newsletter editor, I thought I'd say hi to all of you! If you have any comments, suggestions, or ideas for *Rocky Mountain Outdoors* (RMO), please let me know. I've listed various ways to communicate with me in the "flag" below.

As I'm working to include all the information that people have sent me for this issue, it's fascinating to realize how much computer space a small newsletter consumes. While putting the final words in place, this issue is occupying 2.8 MB of space. I recall one of my first computer programming jobs, maintaining a program on a Systems Engineering Laboratory (SEL) 840 minicomputer. This computer had 8K, yes KB - not MB, of memory. It controlled a laser inspection gauge that both tilted and rotated, reading parameters from the part being inspected. Meanwhile an optical reader was reading the part's desired parameters from a punched (not magnetic) tape, comparing what the part was supposed to look like with what the gauge was actually reading, printing out both a strip chart and printout with data including deviations and whether they were within tolerance. All in 8K of memory!

Our world is rapidly changing. If anyone has a quick tip (less than 300 words) to share with RMO readers about anything from digital photography to using a GPS to selling that first photo or article, please send it to me. We need all the tips we can get to stay on top of our chosen fields of outdoor writing and photography! See Quick Tips on this page for an example.

Two of the tasks of the newsletter editor include "encourage members to send in stories about themselves or other members" and "create special features." If any of you would like to write an article about yourself or have me interview you and write an article, please give me a call or send in a story! Otherwise, I'll be contacting a couple of lucky members for a feature about them or their favorite activity for each issue.

Consider yourself encouraged!

Maryann Gaug

Sometime in the next week or two you will be receiving your dues renewal notice. The Board hopes that all of you will renew for 2001. Membership in RMOWP is required if you plan to attend the conference in Alamogordo.

Quick Tips

How to Set the Map Datum on Your GPS

For anyone working on a guidebook where GPS data are a necessity or if you're "lost" in the woods while researching that next article or photo shoot, it's imperative to make sure your GPS is set to the correct map datum, usually found under the Position setting. To determine the correct setting, look at the bottom left hand corner of any U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map. You're looking for the word "datum," typically North American Datum of 1927. If that is what was used in the creation of the topo map, set the Map Datum setting in your GPS to NAD27 CONUS. (CONUS is CONTinental United States). The GPS manual may tell you to use World Geodetic System of 1984 (WGS84), but that will throw off your reading. You might discover that the bridge you're standing on is an optical illusion, because the GPS says you're rock climbing the nearby cliff! A GPS unit is a valuable tool, but only if you know how to use it correctly.

RMOWP Photo Workshop

RMOWP offers a fantastic photo workshop in Rocky Mountain National Park every summer. This year's event is scheduled for June 27 - July 1, 2001 at Estes Park. Enrollment is limited to no more than 12 students for that very personal touch. Instructors for the Workshop are Jack Olson, Tom Ulrich, and John Catsis. Tell your friends!

Cost of the 5-day workshop is \$845 plus lodging. Applications must be received by May 25, 2001. More information and the application form are available on RMOWP's website, www.rmowp.org under Photo Workshop.

You may also contact John for more information or an application at:

John R. Catsis, Program Coordinator
RMOWP Photo Workshop
P.O. Box 875
Stillwater, Oklahoma 74076-0875
Phone: 405-743-0999 (evenings)
Phone: 405-744-8277 (days)
Fax: 405-744-7104

Deadline for April/May 2001 newsletter will be: **March 21, 2001**

Email articles to Maryann at meagau@earthlink.net, fax to 603-388-7287, mail to PO Box 2842, Silverthorne, CO 80498-2842, or phone 970-468-6219.

2001 AWARDS COMPETITION

Here comes 2001—A Space Odyssey! Deadline for receipt of your contest entries is February 23, 2001.

- A new digital photography category is open for the photo and writing competition at RMOWP's 2001 conference in Alamogordo, N.M. All entries will be shown, and awards will be given at the Saturday banquet.
- Do not submit the same photo as a slide and a print. You may submit it twice, only if one entry is a published work containing the photo.
- All first place winners will receive a plaque showing their award. Second and third places will receive certificates.
- Entries must have been produced since Jan. 1, 2000. (However, books, movies/videos and publicity are allowed two years, from Jan. 1, 1999). Entries can be taken anywhere in the world.
- Please limit entries to three per category. Mark each entry with your name, address, and the category number as listed below. Title each work, particularly if you're submitting several slides of a subject.
- An arrow on the top of the slide tells judges how to display it. Judging will be by faculty of the Santa Fe Community College (except Category 16, Members' Choice).
- Pick up entries at the awards banquet. Let us know if you want them released to another member. Or enclose packaging and postage so we can return them to you by SASE.
- Questions? Call Jeff Pederson at 505-827-7917, or email jpедerson@gmfsh.state.nm.us.

Address all entries:

Jeff Pederson – "RMOWP ENTRY"

Dept. of Game and Fish

PO Box 25112

Santa Fe, NM 87504

(FedEx, UPS address is 141 East de Vargas St., Santa Fe NM 87501)

Enclose one \$5 check to RMOWP (good for all your entries).

Acceptance deadline February 23, 2001 (means in Jeff's hands).

PHOTOGRAPHY – NOVICE

Open to new members and members who have not won any RMOWP photo award in the past! Only outdoor subjects are considered, and may include scenics, people, flora and fauna. Any camera, including one-time cameras, may be used.

N-1. Slides.

N-2. Prints of any size.

PHOTOGRAPHY – 35mm slides

1. People in The Outdoors. People can be part of a larger scene but should clearly be the center of attention; may be a single person or a group of people.
2. Scenics. Depicts the natural world in which the center of attention is not flora, fauna, people, or man-made structures, although these subjects may be included as part of the larger scene. Scenics may include broad landscapes, such as waterfalls, streams, and rock formations.
3. Flora. Can include flowers, trees, leaves, cactus, and other plants that can be part of a larger scene, but should clearly be the center of attention in the picture.
4. Fauna. Can include a single subject or group of subjects. Includes all of the animal kingdom – mammals, fish, birds, reptiles, insects – any living creature except humans. The fauna can be part of a larger scene, but should clearly be the center of attention in the picture. Fauna can include a single subject or a group of subjects.
5. Best Slide From Last Conference. Must have been shot in conjunction with RMOWP's 2000 conference at Bryce Canyon. Photos may be of organized events or by individual initiative at the site of the conference and its workshops and field trips. Anything shot from the opening day through the closing day is eligible. In addition to technical excellence, humor and human interest may be considered in the judging.
6. Historical. Are generally scenics and/or structures depicting an area of historical interest, such as old mines, ghost towns, ancient Indian dwellings, old forts or churches.
7. Cultural. Depicts outdoor festivals and would probably include people in the photos. (Examples: Cinco de Mayo, harvest festivals, dances, parades.)
8. Events. Includes natural happenings, such as forest fires and storms.
9. Best Of Show. Considers the first place slide of all individual slides, categories N-1 to 8. No 2nd or 3rd place.

2001 AWARDS COMPETITION (cont'd.)

PHOTOGRAPHY – PRINTS

Only outdoor subjects are to be considered. Subject(s) may include scenics, people, flora, and fauna. Prints should be unframed. Size at least 8 X 10 inches. Type of finish is optional and quality of reproduction process will be considered.

10. Color prints.
11. Black and white prints.
12. (New) Digital prints. Submit print from a color printer. Source can be a scan from emulsion photos or from an original digital image.

PHOTOGRAPHY – PUBLISHED WORKS

Subjects may include outdoor scenics, people, flora and fauna. Work must have been published since Jan. 1, 2000 (except books and TV/movie/video scripts may have been produced since Jan. 1, 1999). Photography may have been published in newspapers, books, magazines, calendars, postcards, posters, newsletters, and other publications for which payment is received, or which are part of the individual's employment or volunteer effort. If several photographs are published, only one photograph from the publication is submitted for competition. Judges may take into consideration the quality of the publication and reproduction process.

13. Black and white.
14. Color.
15. TV/Movie/Video: Must have been available for sale, or will be shown on television, in movie theaters, or for special programs.

PHOTOGRAPHY—MEMBERS' CHOICE

16. Members may submit BW or color prints; (new) 2-dimensional art; or 3-dimensional art. These can be from any year. Print size is 8 x 10 or 8 x 12 inches on a mat not to exceed 12 x 14 inches, unframed. These entries will be displayed at the conference. Members will judge entries at the conference. Entries may be brought to the conference or received by February 23. Place your name and designate "Members' Choice" with the photos.

WRITING

Entries will include outdoor topics such as scenic areas, travel, history, management, and wildlife. Writing must have been published since Jan. 1, 2000, in a publication for which payment is received, or which are part of a person's employment or volunteer effort. (However, books and TV/movie/video scripts may have been published or produced since Jan. 1, 1999.) Judges take into consideration the quality of the publication as well as the writing. If an individual has more than one written work in a publication, individual articles from that publication are to be submitted for competition.

17. Newspaper columns and newspaper articles.
18. Magazine article.
19. (New) Web writing. Includes e-zines and other publications. Submit a printout, and indicate how judges can check the website to view.
20. Books and Scripts for TV/Movie/Video (published or produced since Jan. 1, 1999). These may include portions of the entire work, such as chapters in a book. Explain what your contribution is.
21. Newsletter.

PUBLICITY

22. Published article on the 1999 conference at Tucson, AZ or the 2000 conference at Bryce Canyon, UT. Awards will be given for the best published works, including articles, photographs, videos, illustrations, TV, videos or movies directly related to the conference or the host site. Judges will consider the quality of the work and its publicity value to the host site. Written works may also include the author's photographs or illustrations, and the entire package will be considered for purposes of the competition.

ART

There are four areas of expertise. Subject matter should follow an outdoor theme. Due to the size and delicate nature of most art works, do not send the original but submit a 35mm slide. Although it's not mandatory, please bring the work to the conference so others may enjoy your talent. You might consider contributing your effort to the annual auction. Award will be for first place only. No 2nd or 3rd place.

23. Pencil, Oil or Acrylic, Water Color, Mixed Media

Supporting Member News

THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION ALLIANCE ASKS BUSH ADMINISTRATION TO GIVE HUNTERS AND ANGLERS A "SQUARE DEAL" FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE

MISSOULA, MT—The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance (TRCA) is spearheading a new grassroots movement urging more than 50 million American hunters and anglers to send the new Administration, elected officials and public land managers a message.

"America's sportsmen and women should insist on a public lands legacy in the coming century that is synonymous with the vision of America's greatest conservation president, Theodore Roosevelt," said TRCA Director Robert Munson. "In honor of the 'Square Deal' that was TR's hallmark from 1901-1909, our country can settle for nothing less than the public's continued use and enjoyment of their public lands with a priority placed on maintaining healthy and vibrant fish and wildlife habitats."

Room to Roam - Landscape and Access Management TRCA Square Deal Initiative #1 reads: "Convince the new Administration, elected officials and public land managers to scientifically manage all fish and wildlife habitat in the National Forest System, whether roaded or unroaded, as valuable and unique lands that will remain open to hunters, anglers and other public users. Balance accessibility to National Forest Lands, with the year round requirements of fish and wildlife (habitat, clean water, food, shelter, open space and disturbance management), while maintaining a functioning forest road system, including keeping roadless areas roadless (with science-based exceptions made for forest health, restoration and other national needs)."

TRCA Square Deal Initiative #2 says: "Convince the new Administration and elected officials to dramatically increase funding and accountability for active fish and wildlife habitat management programs at the national, regional and local levels. These fish and wildlife funding priorities will not be tied to any commodity production formulas, but rather to achieving long-term, sustainable fish and wildlife populations. Funding will also include programs that involve all communities in promoting sound forest stewardship and restoration to enhance water quality and fish and wildlife habitat."

Anticipating ongoing roadless policy debate, TRCA Trustees and Munson want all hunters and anglers to keep the facts in mind. "Let's not kid ourselves. Most roadless areas in our National Forests are roadless for a reason," Munson said. "They are usually marginal timber areas where logging is cost prohibitive. Good roadless policy isn't about a 'lock-up' or de-facto wilderness; it's about habitat for fish and wildlife. For example, any roadless policy

must recognize that struggling salmon and trout stocks should rank higher than timber values in roadless areas. The best use of these lands is to remain habitat for fish and wildlife, clean water and open space, providing hunters, anglers and outdoor recreationists with the kind of world class remote destinations Theodore Roosevelt championed as the birthright of every American."

Media Contact: Kevin Lackey 406-541-9977 or 877-770-8722 from Press Release, December 26, 2000

From Ducks Unlimited

Extensive Grasslands Critical to Ducks

New research suggests saving threatened grassland habitats is key to healthy waterfowl populations

To grow duck populations, the more grassland cover the better. That's the preliminary finding from new research being reported by Montana State University and Ducks Unlimited. However, officials from Ducks Unlimited report that many of North America's native grasslands have disappeared, and many remaining grasslands are in danger of being lost.

The research was conducted in the Prairie Pothole Region of the northern U.S. and southern Canada, an area that plays host to as many as half of the breeding ducks on the continent. Ducks are attracted to the region because of the abundant wetlands, but their nesting success depends on adjacent cover where hens can hide themselves and their nests from predators. Many ducks lay their eggs in grasslands up to a mile or more from the nearest water, and low nest success is the factor that most limits North America's duck populations. Understanding how much cover is needed to increase duck populations remains a critical question for conservation.

New research findings reveal dramatically higher duck nesting success when eggs are laid in large tracts of grassland. Working on 18, four-square-mile study sites in North Dakota, doctoral student Scott Stephens found that sites containing over 70% grassland had nest success averaging 32%. Nests located in sites with less grassland averaged only 16% success.

Contact: Laura Houseal
(901) 758-3764
lhhouseal@ducks.org