



Society for
Ecological Restoration
International

RESTORE

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Get Involved

US: 43% of America's Threatened/Endangered Species Rely on Wetlands

Wetlands are the number one threatened ecosystem in the world today, but you can help preserve or restore wetlands through a volunteer vacation. Wetlands include regions such as floodplains, marshes, peat bogs, swamps, shallow lakes, estuaries, and coasts that are saturated or inundated by ground or surface water at least part of the time. Wetland preservation is a priority of many organizations around the world, and they can use your help.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2006/5/prweb390080.htm>

Montana: Focus on Ecosystem Restoration

Speakers include Storm Cunningham, executive director of the Revitalization Institute in Washington, D.C.; Michael L. Rosenzweig, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Arizona; and William R. Jordan III, director of the New Academy for Nature and Culture at Loyola University.

<http://www.billingsgazette.net/articles/2006/05/27/news/local/55-forum.txt>

Hawaii: Lots of Opportunities to Restore the Environment

<http://www.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060529/NEWS11/605290346/1001/NEWS>

World: Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program

Toyota Corporation has begun accepting applications today for this year's Toyota Environmental Activities Grant Program, which is designed to support environmental revitalization and conservation activities, both in Japan and overseas, for the purpose of sustainable development.

<http://www.theautochannel.com/news/2006/05/30/008987.html>

California: Students Raise Oaks for River Lands

A number of Butte County Regional Occupational Program students based at Las Plumas High are helping the environment by growing 2,400 oak seedlings for riparian habitat restoration.

http://orovillemr.com/news/ci_3866737

People in the News

Chesapeake Bay: Biologist's Job is to Save the Bay

Kirk Mantay is a biologist with Memphis, Tenn.-based Ducks Unlimited, which recently named him as the point man for its Delaware Bay Initiative. This ambitious project aims to restore some 15,000 acres of degraded bay marshes over the course of a decade.

<http://www.courierpostonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060527/COLUMNISTS05/605270356/1006/NEWS01>

Australia: Ecotourism Interview with Jim MacBeth

Western Australia is promoting itself as Australia's most environmentally-aware destination while Perth, where you are based, as a "city in harmony with nature", also dubbed the "City of Lights", and "the most isolated city in the world". It sounds like a tourists' paradise, but has development in isolation inevitably lead to any environmental and social problems, and may be Tourism contributing to the amelioration or accentuation of these?

<http://ecoclub.com/news/080/interview.html>

New Hampshire Conservationist Awarded for Career Studying

Dr. Alan Amman of New Hampshire was one of only six people nationwide recently selected for a prestigious 2006 National Wetlands Award for his innovative approaches to salt marsh preservation and restoration.

<http://newsblaze.com/story/20060530151829tsop.nb/newsblaze/TOPSTORY/Top-Story.html>

Restoring Natural Capital (RNC)

Jamaica: Prosperity through Sustainable Tourism Development

The Piñero Group has had a long-standing record of receiving awards worldwide for its environmental awareness. In Mexico and the Dominican Republic where the group has beautiful resorts, the company has shown great sensitivity towards environmental preservation and has established a foundation to finance studies and specific procedures at its resorts.

http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/columns/html/20060527T180000-0500_105622_OBS_PROSPERITY_THROUGH_SUSTAINABLE_TOURISM_DEVELOPMENT_.asp

Canada: Take a Trip with BC First Nations

Imagine paddling an ocean-going canoe to ancient village sites joining a generations-old purification ceremony in the Rocky Mountains or even seeking out the mysterious Spirit Bear in the Great Bear Rainforest. These are just some of the ways you can experience British Columbia with the people who know it best: B.C.'s aboriginal or First Nations peoples.

<http://www.pentictonwesternnews.com/portals-code/list.cgi?paper=102&cat=44&id=654802&more=>

Georgia: Former Landfill to Get New Life

According to officials at the Environmental Branch here, the project involves placing a 52-inch-thick soil and compost cover over the 28-acre site and then replanting it with grass and trees to slow down the infiltration of rainwater through buried contaminants and then into the groundwater. The landfill restoration project is in conjunction with another \$4 million project to treat and monitor the base's overall groundwater system. <http://www.marines.mil/marinelink/mcn2000.nsf/0/A750CEC08A50D0B085257179004C9109?opendocument>

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)

Indigenous Science Network Bulletin (April 2006)

Keep up with the latest news and conferences in Asia, Australia and the South Pacific. <http://members.ozemail.com.au/~mmichie/april06.htm>

World: Overcoming World Hunger by Supporting TEK

Instead of introducing agri-business, disadvantaged groups like women and poor farmers with insecure claims to land could be given ownership and support to improve agricultural productivity. Indigenous people often possess highly evolved gender-based systems for managing livestock and crop genetic resources. Government planners often disregard this traditional knowledge.

http://www.dailytimes.com.pk/default.asp?page=2006%5C05%5C30%5Cstory_30-5-2006_pg3_6

India: Stolen for Steel - Tata takes Tribal Lands

Not so long ago, the gently rolling lands where the steel plant is planned had thick stands of forest interspersed with marginal farmland. When big industry first came in the early 1990s, it was welcomed. But soon the cultural, environmental, and economic costs became apparent. Stone quarries have eaten into hillocks, replaced forests, and devastated what little agriculture there was. Families that had lived for generations in a village were asked for deeds establishing their legal claims. "Those without title deeds were forgotten. More than 500 families have just vanished without a trace. They are probably in cities pulling rickshaws or living in the margins,"

<http://www.corpwatch.org/article.php?id=13620>

Philippines: Ifugao Eyes Indigenous Knowledge Transmission Project

The Save the Ifugao Terraces Movement (SITMO) and representatives from the National Federation of UNESCO Associations in Japan (NFUAJ), a Japanese-based non-government organization visited Ifugao on May 22-23, 2006 and met with concerned institutions to work out for a possible project framework on Indigenous Knowledge Transmission through formal and non-formal education systems.

<http://www.pia.gov.ph/news.asp?fi=p060529.htm&no=21>

Australia: Search for Rare Boronias

"To find out more about these relatively unknown species, the project will incorporate a study of the seed biology and propagation trials as well as more traditional ecological survey techniques. "It is hoped that by combining knowledge and searching areas with

similar environmental influences we may also find new populations of the Boronia species."

<http://dailytelegraph.news.com.au/story/0,20281,19303892-5001028,00.html>

Oklahoma: Area Tribe Recognized for Effort to Save Threatened Fish

The reputation Native Americans have as responsible stewards of the land has led to a handful of tribes being awarded almost two million dollars to manage, conserve and protect fish and wildlife resources in their backyards. One of the tribes receiving a portion of the grant is the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma. The money comes from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and altogether totals \$1,752,952.

http://www.nativetimes.com/index.asp?action=displayarticle&article_id=7877

Brazil: Controversy Surrounds River Diversion Plan

It is estimated that at least 18 indigenous populations living in the Northeast and Minas Gerais would be affected in some form by the project. Such is the case for the Truká, Xukuru, Pipipã, Tuxá, and Tumbalalá, Xukuru-kariri and Geripankó and Xokó peoples. Many of these peoples have not demarcated their territory yet, so a project of this dimension still brings an ethical question into play.

<http://www.latinamericapress.org/article.asp?IssCode=&lanCode=1&artCode=4675>

Agro-Ecology

Sri Lanka: Edward Goldsmith on Traditional Agriculture

Primitive agriculture is frequently dismissed as primitive and unproductive. In fact, it offers the best hope for the future. Farmer Tennekoon is a prophet, a prophet of traditional rural life in Sri Lanka. He is also a farmer and lives in a small village in the Kurenegala district of the island.

<http://goviya.com/tennekoon.htm>

China: Says It's Slowing Rate of Desertification

"China's anti-desertification work has made major progress," Zhu said. "It has effectively improved agricultural production conditions ... and made a major contribution to the sustainable development of the economy and society.

<http://enn.com/today.html?id=10567>

Biodiversity & Global Climate Change

Namibia: Biodiversity Endangered

Namibia's population, poor land management and land use practices continue to cause the loss of biodiversity in large areas of the country. During the commemoration of the International Biodiversity Day yesterday, Minister of Environment and Tourism Willem Konjore acknowledged that the current land use practices pose a long-term threat to the natural resources on which most lives depend.

<http://allafrica.com/stories/200605240770.html>

World: When the Rivers Run Dry

The one-word review of Pearce's book is: Terrifying. Whether he's writing about the Indian peasant farmers who draw from poisoned wells every day, the oblivious Arizonans who run fountains in the desert, or the apocalyptic moonscape that is the Aral Sea (once a thriving fishery, now a toxic cesspool), Pearce manages to convey the immense wreckage human activity is making of our lifeblood. No, not oil. The other precious fluid.

<http://gristmill.grist.org/story/2006/5/23/18049/4045>

Wetland Restoration

Iraq: Marshes Display Rapid Recovery

Iraq's devastated Mesopotamian marshes have undergone 'reflooding' since 2003, which has resulted in a reestablishment of native invertebrates, plants, fish and birds.

<http://www.sciam.com/article.cfm?chanID=sa003&articleID=00069B23-2B04-1477-AB0483414B7F0000>

California: Funds Earmarked for Wetlands

The Hamilton project would restore approximately 1,000 acres of wetlands using more than 10 million cubic yards of clean dredged material from various San Francisco Bay dredging projects, including the Port of Oakland. The dredge material is to be pumped as a slurry atop abandoned runways at the former Hamilton Air Force Base.

<http://www.novatoadvance.com/articles/2006/05/25/news/news07.txt>

Jamaica: Wetlands and Water Quality

Wetlands are areas of land where the water table is at or near the surface, making them intermittently or permanently flooded by shallow water. They are seen as nature's water filters as they are able to intercept pollutants from the upper land areas before they reach the coast.

<http://www.jamaica-gleaner.com/gleaner/20060525/eye/eye2.html>

Delaware: Cutting-Edge Study of the Inland Bays

Data from this new study can guide voluntary wetland restoration efforts by groups such as the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service. Restored wetlands help ensure a healthy watershed, improve water quality and avoid the catastrophic events that can occur if too many wetlands are degraded.

<http://www.capegazette.com/storiescurrent/0506/dnrecstudy051906.html>

Ghana: Korle Lagoon Ecological Restoration Project

The project design aimed at improving the ecological and environmental aspects of the Korle lagoon. However, floodwater conveyance has been delayed for more than one and half years due to the continuous stay of the people of Sodom and Gomorrah. So far, stage one of the project has been successfully completed with the stage two nearing completion.

<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/artikel.php?ID=105011>

Forest Restoration

Canada: Plan Would Restore Victoria Park Forest

Earlier this month, Schneider, who's best known for his work on the Macphail Woods Ecological Forestry Project, presented a management plan for the park to Charlottetown city council. In his plan, Schneider outlines reasons why Victoria Park has become less esthetically appealing and offers recommendations for its restoration.

<http://www.theguardian.pe.ca/index.cfm?sid=2684&sc=8>

Montana: Sparks Still Flying over Forest Stewardship Plan

For the past year, three major green groups have been negotiating with members of the timber industry to come up with a new stewardship plan for Montana's largest national forest, the Beaverhead-Deerlodge, 3.3 million acres swept over southwestern Montana, home of the Pioneers, the Snowcrest, Pintlars, West Big Hole and many other fabulous wildlands.

<http://www.newwest.net/index.php/main/article/8851/>

Nevada: Martis Fire-Scarred Landscape Slowly Heals

With little salvage logging and spotty re-planting efforts, the scarred landscape has slowly healed over naturally. Slopes are now tinged with the neon-green of aspen saplings. Sage and brush have closed in under the phone pole-like timbers of the burned forest. But the vegetation growing back on the steep foothills of Mount Rose is an entirely different forest from the ancestral landscape that dominated the area before a cycle of logging and wildfire suppression altered the hillsides.

<http://www.theunion.com/article/20060529/NEWS/105290171>

California: Make Laws Based on Truth, not Emotional Rhetoric

We can responsibly harvest wood here, abiding by environmental protections and creating jobs, or we can get our wood from clear cuts in equatorial rainforests where the environment is more fragile and environmental and labor laws are far weaker or even nonexistent.

<http://www.sacbee.com/content/opinion/story/14261181p-15074791c.html>

River Restoration

California: San Joaquin River Restoration Plan Stalled Amid Negotiations

What could turn out to be the single largest river restoration project in U.S. history remains mired in complicated settlement talks. The battle to revive the San Joaquin River pits environmental groups and local water agencies against the federal government and Southern California farmers. A settlement in the so-called Friant case, named after the upstream dam that both diverted water south and dried up portions of the San Joaquin, was expected earlier this year.

<http://www.recordnet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060527/NEWS01/605270333/1001>

Massachusetts: Spills on the Chelsea get Some Respect

The enormous drum-like structures dot the banks of the Chelsea River and its tributaries and store much of New England's heating oil. But on three separate occasions, within the

space of as many months, they surfaced briefly in the news, after a total of 32,000 gallons of oil was spilled in the water, causing environmentalists to question whether the companies and the government regulators who oversee them were doing enough to prevent such environmental degradation.

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2006/05/28/spills_on_the_chel_sea_get_some_respect_finally/

South Carolina: Residents Unhappy about River, Lake Restoration Plan

A plan to restore the Twelve Mile River and Lake Hartwell from more than three decades of pollution damage has local residents and environmentalists concerned. It's been about 50 years since polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, began flowing from the former Sangamo-Weston plant in Pickens into the Twelve Mile River and Lake Hartwell. For decades, the result has been fishing advisories against eating certain kinds of fish from the river and lake.

http://www.independentmail.com/and/news/article/0,1886,AND_8203_4732954,00.html

Virginia: Hungry Rays Thwart River Oyster Retoration Efort

Cow-nosed rays gobbled up most of the 775,000 oysters in an artificial reef days after they were planted in the Piankatank River to help revive the Chesapeake Bay's declining shellfish population.

<http://www.dailypress.com/news/local/virginia/dp-va--hungryrays0528may28,0,1138521.story?coll=dp-headlines-virginia>

Mississippi: Turtles and Little Critters Waylay Fair Taxes

NESP is the greatest thing we've seen for the river ecosystem in 20 years — except of course for its unpronounceable title. Building on the highly successful, world-renowned Environmental Management Program, it authorizes \$1.58 billion worth of Upper Miss ecosystem rehabilitation.

<http://www.winonadailynews.com/articles/2006/05/25/opinion/1column25.txt>

Wildlife Restoration

Canada: Restoration Project to Return Atlantic Salmon

Nearly 110 years after Lake Ontario's original salmon were declared extirpated, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters, Fleming College and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources have completed the first large-scale stocking of Atlantic salmon back to Cobourg Brook.

<http://www.eastnorthumberland.com/article.php?id=313>

California: Bald Eagle Makes Comeback on Santa Cruz Island

Just 20 miles off the coast of Ventura County... the United States' "symbol of freedom" is making a comeback on Santa Cruz Island. For the first time in more than half a century, a pair of bald eagle chicks were hatched only weeks apart without the aid of humans.

<http://www.nbc4.tv/news/9264222/detail.html>

Tennessee: Native Brook Trout making Comeback

For the first time in 30 years, catching and keeping brook trout became legal again in the Smokies under an experimental program begun in April. The announcement came just days before a coalition of conservation groups, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey and fish and game departments in 17 states announced an Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture to restore brook trout habitat.

http://www.knoxnews.com/kns/gs_news/article/0,1406,KNS_392_4732335,00.html

Wyoming: Charges and Countercharges Fly Over Elk

Is the United States Fish and Wildlife Service "mismanaging" the internationally-famous wapiti herd that gathers every winter at the National Elk Refuge near Jackson, Wyo? Did the federal government's supplemental feeding program at the refuge, which by concentrating animals has been blamed for producing a high percentage of brucellosis-infected elk, actually result in a higher death toll of elk calves in 2006? Did refuge managers deliberately underfeed thousands of elk at the preserve in order to ensure that animals dispersed in search of natural forage?

<http://www.newwest.net/index.php/main/print/8862/>

China: 15-year Lesson in How not to Build a Dam

But the completion of the Three Gorges dam has been anything but harmonious. It is now being cited as a textbook example of how not to build a dam. Before it even starts operating, the giant hydro-electric scheme is threatened by silt - the solution to which is to pour yet more concrete into the Yangtse river.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,1779337,00.html>

Montana: Where the Buffalo Roam a Sore Topic

By the late 19th century, the systematic hunting of American buffalo, or bison, had cut their numbers from the millions to the dozens. Today, domesticated buffalo are commercially ranched throughout the West, but the nation's only wild herd of purebred bison is at Yellowstone National Park.

<http://enn.com/today.html?id=10566>

Indonesia: Saving Orangutans in Borneo

The air is warm and heavy with the morning humidity typical of the Borneo rain forest as our kelotok, a traditional boat, motors up a river so black in color it could be mistaken for ink. The raucous calls of a pair of hornbills can be heard over the rumble of the engine as they fly overhead with their gaudy and over-sized beak adornments.

<http://news.mongabay.com/2006/0524-orangutans.html>

Marine Restoration

Handbook on Coral Reef Restoration Published

As an undergraduate student in 1978, William F. (Bill) Precht first explored coral reefs at Discovery Bay Marine Lab in Jamaica. Now Precht, who is Ecological Sciences Program Manager for PBS&J, has served as both editor of and contributor to the Coral Reef Restoration Handbook: The Rehabilitation of an Ecosystem Under Siege.

<http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060525/nyth169.html?.v=41>

Guyana: Project could Reverse Loss of Mangroves

The project will support the building of a local NGO which will be responsible for it at the site level and for ensuring continuity after the project life ends. This NGO will consist of representatives of the various stakeholder groups within the area. The project will also ensure that the stakeholders, including the NGO, are trained to effectively administer the project and extended activities as they relate to natural resource management.

http://www.stabroeknews.com/index.pl/article_general_news?id=56496009

Washington: Aquatic Reserve Proposed for Fidalgo Bay Lands

A management plan for the state-owned tidelands, tide flats and bedlands that comprise a proposed Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve is moving forward this year, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources has begun meeting with various stakeholders as it develops the plan.

<http://www.goanacortes.com/articles/2006/05/24/news/news10.txt>

World: FAO's New Attempt to Monitor Fisheries

The goal is to manage and encourage international cooperation in managing fish stocks. 'As more data are input and more partners join this collaborative effort a fuller overview of world fisheries will emerge that will add a high level of extra detail to regular reports on fishery resources assessments of FAO and other agencies,'

http://science.monstersandcritics.com/features/article_1166103.php/Analysis_New_attempt_to_monitor_fisheries

Florida: Seagrass Restoration Funding Cut

Governor Bush cut a \$1 million appropriation to the St. Andrew Bay Environmental Study Team. The money would have been used to restore about 1,000 acres of St. Andrew Bay seagrass lost over the years. Bense said the state Department of Environmental Protection had not looked at the project, and that could be the reason behind it being axed.

<http://www.bradenton.com/mld/bradenton/news/local/14684961.htm>

Maryland: \$2 Million to Help Restore Bay's Oyster Population

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer (D-MD) announced that the House of Representatives today passed the Fiscal Year 2007 Energy and Water Appropriations bill which included \$2 million for the Oyster Recovery Project, which is coordinating the revival of oysters in the Chesapeake Bay. This is in addition to the more than \$25 million in federal funding Hoyer has secured for the project to date.

<http://somb.com/news/headlines/articles/3825.shtml>

California: Oyster Restoration is a Shell Game

Mulvey is working on a pilot project near Redwood City to assess whether native oyster reefs could thrive again on the San Mateo County coast. So far, the year-old project has yielded 10,000 to 20,000 *Ostreola conchaphila* clinging to several pallets of 200-shell bags near outer Bair Island and Greco Island.

http://www.insidebayarea.com/sanmateocountytimes/ci_3879674

Extractive Industries

California: Back to Nature

With little local fanfare, SLO County provides some textbook examples of environmental repair projects, in which scientists and students are using living laboratories to unlock Mother Nature's secrets for successful restoration. They're planting barren slopes at a working granite mine in Rocky Canyon, recreating beachfront habitat for snowy plovers and redlegged frogs at a former oilfield in the Guadalupe Dunes, and making new ponds for steelhead along San Luis Obispo Creek.

<http://www.newtimeslo.com/index.php?p=showarticle&id=1779>

Philippines: Mining Down in the Dumps

These should be boom times for the Philippines' mining industry, given that the country has some of the world's biggest under-exploited deposits of copper, gold and to a lesser degree nickel, and commodity prices are at historic highs. Instead, a toxic spill at an Australian-run mine has the entire industry in turmoil, with powerful political interest groups calling for a total ban on mining activities.

http://www.atimes.com/atimes/Southeast_Asia/HE26Ac02.html

Florida Everglades

Foundation Helping Restore Torrey Island Ecosystem

A lush forest of pond apple trees once thrived on the island and all along the southern rim of Lake Okeechobee. This forest created a swampy wetland which helped filter water and sustained many wetland-dependent species of fish, reptiles and birds. The wetland was a vital part of the Everglades ecosystem.

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/royalpalmbeach/content/neighborhood/royalpalmbeach/epaper/2006/05/24/npr_gladescol_0524.html

Flow-Way into Everglades has been Studied, and It Won't Work

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers issued its Final Environmental Impact Statement for the A-1 EAA Reservoir project this month. Chapter 2.1.1 provides an overview of the many reasons why a flow-way doesn't work. In fact, it would hinder Everglades restoration and do nothing to resolve Lake Okeechobee water-quality issues.

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/opinion/content/opinion/epaper/2006/05/29/a13a_letterfile_0529.html

Polk Community College Seeks Piece of Green Swamp

Plans by Polk Community College to carve out a 65-acre section of a state wildlife management area at the edge of the Green Swamp is running into opposition from environmentalists

<http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060528/NEWS/605280391/113>

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U.S. Sugar Mine Plan Approved by County

Nearly 4,000 acres of cane fields in western Palm Beach County will turn to stone. Over the next four decades, the soil will stop yielding sugar and machines will mine the rock underneath. That is, as long as United States Sugar Corp. can get environmental agencies to use the rock pits for water storage that will help the Everglades Agricultural Area.

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/politics/content/local_news/epaper/2006/05/26/s1c_mine_0526.html