

**National Wildlife System Centennial Commission Meeting
18 & 19 June 2002**

Executive Overview

The National Wildlife Refuge System Centennial Commission met on June 18-19, 2002 in Washington, DC. Mr. William P. Horn chaired the session. Nearly a dozen distinguished Commission Members and senior officials of the Fish and Wildlife Service actively participated in the discussions.

The focus for the first afternoon was a series of presentations about proposed activities and the media-planning component. The second day was a closed session during which time the Commission focused on project approvals, budget items, sponsorship agreements, attracting partners, and fund-raising strategies.

The highlights of the Centennial Commission meeting are as follows: *(for specific details please refer to full meeting notes)*:

- Approval to place the Commission under the TPIA
- Presentations on the following activities: Habitat Restoration Initiative, Disney Events, Smithsonian Events, Centennial Conference, Website Component, Hunting and Fishing Guidebook, Scholarships, Media Plans/Events (Media Team, TV, Print, Other), 4 National Events
- Centennial Conference: authorization of a \$2.3 million target, interest in competitive bidding, consideration of nominal registration fees and strategic partnerships to defray administrative costs.
- Smithsonian Events: approval of the Smithsonian & Traveling Exhibit at \$ 2.5 million target
- Habitat Restoration Fund: resolved to capitalize the fund, create a name, administer through the F&W Foundation on a challenge/matching grant basis, for “projects either on refuges or on private lands with a nexus to Refuge units”, and a target of \$20 million.
- Hunting and Fishing Guide: approval to issue an RFP.
- Website: approval to prepare an RFP with target amount of \$250,000 (for review by Commission).
- Pilot Curriculum: Commission Member(s) to meet with FWS educators to develop proposal for September meeting.
- Refuge Cooperators Program: suggestion to investigate details before September meeting.
- Centennial Scholarship Fund: conceptual approval of scholarship for graduate level, wildlife studies, individual applicants, and appropriate criteria, \$ 1 million target (for consideration at September meeting)
- National Events: approval of 3 national events with a target of \$750,000.
- Sponsorship/Donor Discussion: suggestion to increase the donor levels, discussion about the use of logos, discussion about potential donors, decision to draft an introductory letter for use by Commission Members
- Decision to reconvene September 24-25, 2002