



News from NARRP

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The National Association of Recreation Resource Planners

New Book on Hunting and Fishing Participation, Attitudes and Policy

The Sportsman's Voice: Hunting and Fishing in America, by Mark Damian Duda, Martin F. Jones, and Andrea Criscione. 259 pages. Venture Publishing. \$45.95.

The book provides an in-depth understanding of the country's sportsmen and women and reveals the important role they play in managing wildlife and protecting habitat. A comprehensive overview of a range of hunting and fishing issues, The Sportsman's Voice is an essential resource for anyone from policy makers to sportsmen who have a vested interest in fish and wildlife conservation in America. Understanding hunting and fishing, as well as hunters and anglers as a constituency, is vital to effectively managing the nation's natural resources.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.venturepublish.com/product.php?id=168>

The Natural Resources Distance Learning Consortium announces upcoming courses

Management of Recreation Resources (FOR407) (University of Montana)
Managing Recreation Resources in Wilderness Settings (FOR562) (University of Montana)

These courses explore and discuss how to manage for quality visitor experiences including examples of common problems and solutions. Students will explore the people aspect of wilderness by focusing on managing wilderness for visitor use and enjoyment, and by representing ways to solve problems associated with visitor's expectations and their impacts. In the Spring 2011 term, the course will include a facilitated discussion group led by Dr. Kari Gunderson. Invited guest instructors from the Carhart Wilderness Training Center as well as working wilderness managers will also participate in the discussions. The online format enables students to work through the course efficiently while benefiting from discussion with other students, agency managers, and academics.

Spring semester begins January 24.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.nrdlc.org/course.php?id=126>

Forest Recreation Management (FO3113) (Mississippi State University)

Undergraduate students will study the pertinent aspects and issues of outdoor recreation management with particular emphasis on forest recreation management, identify and explain the technical programs and activities necessary to provide outdoor/forest recreation experiences, and examine techniques and methods of valuating outdoor/forest recreation activities.

Spring semester begins January 5.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.nrdlc.org/course.php?id=229>

GIS and Spatial Analysis in Parks, Recreation & Tourism (PRT505) (Penn State University)

Graduate students will be introduced to spatial reasoning and spatial analysis as implemented in geographic information systems (GIS) to perform evaluation and research in parks, recreation, tourism, and sport settings. This course is restricted to PRTM master's degree students or others with consent of the instructor.

Spring semester begins January 10.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.nrdlc.org/course.php?id=519>

USDA Forest Service seeking candidates for national task force on urban forestry

New York Restoration Project (NYRP) is proud to be partnering with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service to convene the national task force, Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests: A National Call to Action. In April 2011, the 24-member task force will bring together the brightest and most innovative minds working today on urban sustainability to highlight and expand federal support of urban natural resource management, sustainability initiatives, and forestry by providing recommendations for future policy, programs and funding.

Local and national leaders in urban natural resource management, forestry and sustainability are invited to nominate themselves or a colleague for task force membership consideration beginning November 15th through December 15th, 2010.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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Advocates call for more NY parks funding

Courtesy of the Wall Street Journal

ALBANY, N.Y. — Advocacy groups are calling for a new source of revenue to revitalize New York's parks and historic sites, suggesting state leaders consider a surcharge on vehicle

registrations, a deposit on plastic grocery bags or other measures used by other states.

A report by the Alliance for New York State Parks and Parks & Trails New York says budget cuts have left the parks system understaffed and in need of repairs.

The report, released Thursday, calls for restoring the park agency's budget, investing \$1 billion over the next decade for repairs, and establishing a new, dedicated funding stream to ensure the future of the state's parks.

As examples of potential new funding streams, alliance Director Erik Kulleseid points to Montana's \$4 fee on vehicle registrations and Washington, D.C.'s nickel deposit on grocery bags.

Montana's vehicle fee, enacted in 2004, has kept that state's park system in better financial shape than many other states during the recession. Faced with closing 40 of 121 state parks to save money, Washington state followed Montana's lead in 2009 and enacted its own \$5 vehicle registration surcharge. In both states, drivers can opt out of the fees.

In Michigan, a new system for funding parks began in October. It gives residents the option of paying \$10 for a "recreation passport" when they register a vehicle. The one-year passport grants access to all 98 state parks and recreation areas, plus boat launches.

California's Proposition 21 on last month's ballot would have increased vehicle registration fees by \$18 a year to raise about \$500 million a year in a dedicated fund for the state's 278 parks. The proposition was defeated.

Last spring, Gov. David Paterson announced that dozens of New York's 178 parks and 35 historic sites would have to close and others would have to reduce services because of the state's budget deficit. After a public outcry, Paterson and the Legislature restored \$11 million to keep all the parks open.

Carol Ash, who resigned recently as New York's parks commissioner and now serves as an adviser to the alliance, said attendance at state parks has been rising as the economy forces people to seek recreation closer to home. Attendance is expected to reach 60 million visitors next year, she said.

The state parks budget has been cut from \$195 million in fiscal year 2008-09 to less than \$160 million for the current fiscal year, Ash said, and staffing has been reduced by more than 1,400 permanent and seasonal workers. Facilities are critically in need of repair — roofs, heating and plumbing systems, electrical systems, recreational fields, pools, roads, drinking water supplies and buildings — she said.

In his "Cleaner, Greener NY" plan, Gov.-elect Andrew Cuomo notes that open spaces support industries that generate billions of dollars in annual revenue for the state, including the \$54 billion outdoor recreation and tourism industries. He says the state's park system creates nearly \$2 billion in revenue annually and supports more than 20,000 park-related jobs.

To ensure that state parks stay open, Cuomo said, the state parks office must rely on public-private partnerships with not-for-profit organizations that raise money for parks and help maintain them.

Cuomo has ruled out raising taxes and fees once he takes office in 2011, but parks boosters stress that investing in parks is good for the state's economy. New York's parks create \$5 in economic activity for every dollar the state invests, said Robin Dropkin, executive director of Parks & Trails New York.

Erik Kriss, budget spokesman for Paterson, said it's too soon to say whether park closings will be proposed for the next budget. But he said more cutbacks can be expected because the state faces a \$315 million deficit in the current fiscal year and a projected \$9 billion deficit in 2011-12.

Kriss noted that the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has agreements with dozens of organizations, including large nonprofits that fully operate parks and historic sites as well as all-volunteer groups that operate a discrete building or program. It also has agreements with local governments to operate sites.

Interior Secretary Salazar Touts Recreation Economy

Courtesy of the Outdoor Industry Association

“Many rural Western economies now rely as much or more on public lands for tourism and recreation, open space, and an increased quality of life, as they do for logging, mining and grazing.”

Secretary Salazar highlighted evolving economies across the West in a speech to the Bureau of Land Management's National Landscape Conservation System Summit in Las Vegas. Read Secy. Salazar's remarks.

“As more people move into smaller Western towns, income from the energy, mining, lumber, farming and ranching industries represents a decreasing share of the total personal income in these communities. In one study, it dropped from 20 percent in 1970 to only 8 percent in 2000,” Salazar said. “This action reflects the growing importance of the 27-million acre National Landscape Conservation System to local economies, to the health of communities, and to the conservation of some of America's greatest landscapes. The BLM plays a special role in protecting America's great outdoors for the benefit of all Americans — for it is the national conservation lands that contain the forests and canyons that families love to explore, the backcountry where children learn to hunt and fish, and the places that tell the story of our history and our cultures. Each of these places within the National Landscape Conservation System holds special meaning to the American people and is an engine for jobs and economic growth in local communities.”

Head Out for a Daily Dose of Green Space

Courtesy of the nytimes.com

First, the bad news: Americans are suffering from an acute case of “outdoor deprivation disorder,” and the effects on physical and mental health are rising fast. Children aged 8 to 18 today spend more time than ever using electronic media indoors — seven and a half hours a day, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation — and less time in outdoor unstructured activity. In response to the No Child Left Behind law, 30 percent of kindergarten classrooms have eliminated recess to make more room for academics.

The resulting lack of physical activity and a growing disconnect with the natural environment have been linked in a host of studies to obesity and obesity-related diseases in children and adults, including Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, as well as vitamin D deficiency, osteoporosis, stress, depression, attention deficit disorder and myopia. Dr. Daphne Miller, a family physician affiliated with the University of California, San Francisco, calls them “diseases of indoor living.”

Now, the good news: There’s a simple remedy — get outside and start moving around in green spaces near and far, most of which are free. A consortium of physicians, health insurers, naturalists and government agencies have banded together to help more people of all ages and economic strata engage in health-enhancing physical activity in parks and other natural environments.

This grass-roots movement has already reached the White House. This year President Obama started the America’s Great Outdoors Initiative, proclaiming June “Great Outdoors Month.” The initiative aims not just to counter sedentary lifestyles but also to reacquaint Americans with the farms, ranches, rivers, forests, national and local parks, fishing holes and beaches that provide opportunities for people “to stay active and healthy.”

The goals dovetail with Michelle Obama’s battle against childhood obesity and her initiative Let’s Move Outside, a program that’s part of her Let’s Move campaign. Dr. Miller said that the aim was to “turn our public lands into public health resources. Doctors around the country are beginning to realize that getting patients out of doors has benefits even beyond getting people to exercise.

“It’s a lot cheaper to go outside and move than it is to build gyms and a lot of hospitals,” she said.

DOCTOR’S ORDERS: BE ACTIVE

Accordingly, Dr. Miller and a growing number of like-minded doctors have begun writing specific prescriptions for outdoor activity, providing patients with maps, guidelines and programs of gradually increased activity based on their abilities. She said that such prescriptions are necessary because many people “are unfamiliar with the outdoors — they’re scared to walk through a park, and they don’t know what to do when they get there.”

Among possible sources of help: volunteer health guides in parks who can tell people where to go and what to do and park rangers who are trained to advise people who may have health issues. “Our parks provide a huge opportunity,” Dr. Miller said. “Currently, fewer than 40 percent of visitors use them for any form of exercise.”

Some health insurers have come on board as well. SeeChange Health in California and the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Foundation in North Carolina are supporting outdoor programs in their areas, like the Kids in Parks Initiative of the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation. SeeChange Health this year announced a pilot project to reimburse members for visits to California state parks.

Other movers and shakers include the National Wildlife Federation, which established the “Be Out There” public-education campaign to foster a daily “green hour” during which every child could enjoy 60 minutes of unstructured play and interaction with the natural world. On its Web

site, www.nwf.org, the federation has posted the rationale and specific suggestions for schools and families to counter the physical, emotional and educational drain of an “indoor childhood.”

The campaign’s mission “is to return to the nation’s children what they don’t even know they’ve lost: their connection to the natural world,” with activities suitable for all children, whether rural, suburban or urban.

As for its health and educational benefits, the federation cites scientific findings that outdoor play enhances fitness, raises blood levels of vitamin D (which in turn protects against bone loss, heart disease, diabetes and other health problems), improves distance vision, lowers the risk of nearsightedness, reduces symptoms of stress and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, raises scores on standardized tests and improves students’ critical-thinking skills.

The National Environmental Education Foundation is now training pediatric health care providers to serve as nature champions in their communities.

One study of children living in poor urban environments found that those who relocated to greener (though not more affluent) home surroundings “tended to have the highest levels of cognitive functioning following the move.” The author of the study, Nancy M. Wells, also found in research among rural children that nearby nature can act as a buffer against stressful life events and improve children’s psychological well-being.

Lest you remain unconvinced, I urge you to read the best-selling book “The Last Child in the Woods,” by Richard Louv, who coined the phrase “nature-deficit disorder.” Mr. Louv describes dozens of studies demonstrating the benefits that wilderness outings can have on mental and physical health.

‘PARK PRESCRIPTIONS’

The National Park Service, too, has joined the “park prescriptions” campaign, offering free wellness services that are accessible to all, regardless of health status. (I was shocked to learn on a recent visit to Grand Canyon National Park that, despite many well-maintained trails, only 5 percent of visitors ever venture below the rim of the canyon; about half the people I encountered on the trails were from other countries.)

The park service helped Dr. Eleanor Kennedy, a cardiologist in Little Rock, Ark., create a downtown “Medical Mile,” a section of the Arkansas River Trail, and now hopes to support access to similar open spaces in communities nationwide. Dr. Kennedy reports that once she gets her patients outdoors “they are more likely to be consistent about exercise.” The Medical Mile project, which had an initial goal of \$350,000, managed to raise \$2.1 million in two years.

Dr. Robert Lambert, a cardiologist at the Heart Clinic of Arkansas, said: “We see too many patients who need our assistance because of their lifestyle, not because of factors beyond their control. That is why my colleagues and I decided to become involved.”

Other programs include Prescription Trails, established in Santa Fe, N.M., with the help of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to counter runaway rates of diabetes in the community. Local physicians get trail guides to distribute to their patients. The Web site www.prescriptiontrailsnm.org is a guide to some of the state’s best park and trail walking and wheelchair rolling paths.

Study shows economic value of open space preservation

Courtesy of Montgomerynews.com

By Evan Brandt

Forget the bluebirds, the bog turtles and the spotted owls.

Don't look for any talk of endangered species, damsel fly larvae or deep discussions of biodiversity.

Instead, pick up a report released last week by the GreenSpace Alliance and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission and what you'll find is an in-depth discussion of cash — cold hard cash.

That's because the study, as its name suggests, examines "The Economic Value of Protected Open Space."

As was the case during the recent debate over an open space referendum narrowly approved Nov. 2 by East Coventry voters, discussion about open space preservation usually revolves around how much it costs to buy or preserve the land and how much property tax revenue might be lost as a result.

Supporters of such preservation efforts often point to studies done around the nation that show that the costs that accompany developed land — schools, fire, water, sewer and police services — vastly outweigh the tax revenue that land generates.

Now they can point to a study — written by the Economy League of Greater Philadelphia, Econsult Corp. and Keystone Conservation Trust — that looks into their own backyard and clearly lays out what you get out of preserving open space there.

"Put simply, when we preserve open space, we protect our pocketbooks," said Delaware County Councilman Andy Lewis, who is also a member of the DVRPC board.

"Now we have proof that by investing in preserving this land, we are also investing in our local economy, supporting jobs and generating revenue," said Chester County Commissioner Carol Aichele, who is also a DVRPC board member.

Both were speaking at the news conference, held at one of the region's premier open spaces, Valley Forge National Historical Park, announcing the report's release.

The report builds off previous work — including a 2004 Wharton School analysis concluding street trees in Philadelphia's New Kensington neighborhood add 10 to 30 percent to surrounding housing values, and a 2008 study by the Trust for Public Lands that examined the economic value of the 10,000 acres of parkland in the City of Philadelphia — and expands the matrix to include the four surrounding counties of Bucks, Chester, Delaware and Montgomery.

"Our farms, forests, stream valleys and parks are more than just pretty places," said Montgomery County Commissioner Joseph M. Hoeffel, who also serves as the chairman of the DVRPC. "They are productive assets that generate significant economic value for our region."

Consider, for example, that most municipalities with a public water system would consider their water treatment plant to be an asset — one that has a cost to operate and creates a measurable benefit — clean water that can be sold.

But also consider that few methods of producing clean water are more effective (or more attractive) than a woodland or wetland. Like the man-made plant, that acreage has a cost, that of preserving it, and produces a financial benefit, which is less often measured.

No longer.

In Montgomery County, the study finds that the 30,367 acres of preserved land provides \$1.3 million worth of water filtration services each year.

In Chester County, which at 92,630 preserved acres has protected three times more land than its northern neighbor, the consequent water filtration services are similarly more than three times those of Montgomery.

Proportionally, Delaware County's 12,741 preserved acres provide \$900,000 worth of water filtration each year, the study found.

A similar analogy can be made for flood control.

Everyone knows dikes and dams — the traditional engineering methods for trapping water away from where you don't want it to go — cost money.

But each year these three counties received a combined \$20.3 million worth of flood prevention — all with a dazzling fall foliage display thrown in at no extra charge.

As the report summary puts it, open space provides three benefits we can all appreciate — “clean air, pure water, dry basements.”

In an effort to bring these results even closer to home, the study looks at four economic benefits — property values, recreation and health, environmental services, and economic activity — and offers case studies of just how those benefits play out as a result of an open space asset.

At 19 miles, the Perkiomen Trail, completed in 2004, is the second longest trail in Montgomery County and runs from Oaks to Green Lane.

In 2008, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (the Perkiomen runs along the former rail bed of the Reading Railroad's Perkiomen Branch) estimated the trail hosts nearly 400,000 unique visits each year.

Those visitors generate an estimated \$19.8 million in annual economic activity.

Overall, the study estimates that open space recreation generates economic activity in the millions for all three counties — \$68.6 million for Chester; \$80.6 million for Delaware and \$117.5 million for Montgomery.

Well known for its bikers and joggers, the Perkiomen, like other trails in the region, is an obvious host to physical activity — a half-hour or more of which three-or-more times a week is

documented to provide significant health benefits.

Working off a survey conducted in 2009 by the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the open space study concluded that on average, the residents of the five-county region conduct 41 percent of their physical activity in a park or on a trail.

This mirrors results of last year's study of the economic impacts of the Schuylkill River Trail, also conducted by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, which found that nearly 60 percent of that trail's users listed "health and exercise" as their primary reason for being on the trail — and more than 70 percent said they spend from one to more than 20 hours on the trail.

That exercise prevents another \$199 million per year in health costs, the open space study concluded.

Being a couch potato also increases the chances of strains and sprains and prolongs recovery from injury — meaning more time away from work. As a result of the exercise that open space hosts, the study concluded another \$2.6 million in workers compensation costs is avoided by employers each year in southeast Pennsylvania.

Further, another \$485.4 million in improved productivity is enjoyed by businesses each year in southeast Pennsylvania as a result of the exercise performed at that open space, according to the study.

"I think those were the results that surprised me the most," said Dulcie Flaharty, executive director of Montgomery County Lands Trust, "how by using the trail, you can save on your medical bills."

For example, it costs \$359.8 million to maintain open space in the three counties — costs that are shared by federal, state, county and municipal taxpayers as well as the fees charged to users.

But those costs are also salaries and products, nearly all of which are recirculated locally into the economy — in this case, the \$216.4 million in just the salaries of the 4,867 people employed in that work in Chester, Delaware and Montgomery counties.

When the money from tourism revenues and salaries (33 percent of activity); agriculture revenues and salaries (36 percent of economic activity) and the \$16.6 million in state and local tax revenues is added to those benefits, the balance tips in favor of the plus side of the ledger, the study found.

The Schuylkill River Trail study found that 78 percent of those who responded to the survey said they had purchased bikes or biking equipment to better enjoy the trail — an average individual expenditure of \$406.71.

But there are longer-lasting economic impacts.

Consider, as the study does, the case of Honey Brook Township in Chester County.

With more than 1,100 acres of preserved farmland, Honey Brook holds a high ranking in a county that is ranked second in Pennsylvania and among the top 50 in the nation for preservation of open space.

The rural township of 6,200 people is located in a place where nearly 70 percent of the properties of 50 acres or more have at least 50 percent agricultural soils rated among the nation's best.

One analysis concluded just the township's 55 dairy farms generate nearly \$29.5 million a year in economic activity.

The clustering of large tracts of preserved land supports the needs of a sustainable agricultural operation, which in turn supports related businesses such as livestock supply, seed and the sale and maintenance of farm equipment.

Apparently the local residents understand the impact and value the result.

In 2005, Honey Brook voters raised their own earned income tax to raise the money to preserve these large farm tracts and since 2006, have allocated nearly \$4.5 million toward land preservation.

(East Coventry voters followed in those footsteps in November when, by a margin of 139 votes, they imposed an additional earned income tax for similar purposes. In fact, according to the Trust for Public Land, the nation saw 35 proposals for conservation funding on the ballot this year and 28 of them were approved — an approval rate of 80 percent, just shy of 2009's 81 percent approval rating at the ballot box.)

Inherent in the Realtor's oft-quoted mantra of "location, location, location," is the idea of a sense of place. The average house listing mentions style, number of bedrooms and bathrooms, school system and, often enough, brief but meaningful citations like — "near park."

It's not for nothing that those words are added, because, as experienced Realtors know, they add value; a value realized when homeowners finally sell what is likely their largest single financial asset — their house.

Well, if you live in the counties surrounding Philadelphia, that house is worth more, even by the smallest increment, because there is likely open space nearby, according to the study.

"Within a one-mile radius, the closer a home is to protected open space, the more value it captures," the report's authors wrote. "If all of the protected open space in the five-county region were to be eliminated, the total value of the housing stock of the five counties of southeastern Pennsylvania would decrease by \$16.3 billion."

That added value also adds \$240.5 million annually to the revenues from property transfer taxes the study found.

The higher values translate into higher property taxes that generate an additional \$228 million per year regionally, the report concluded.

As an example, the report looks at the 2.4-mile Radnor Trail in Delaware County that adds, according to their calculation, \$69,139 to the value of homes within a quarter-mile of the trail.

Not only is the trail featured in real estate advertisements, the author's studies noted, but they noticed that people selling their homes along the trail now make sure to have "For Sale" signs

facing the trail as well as the street.

The Radnor Trail was used as an example also because the study found that “protected open space generates more value in southeastern Pennsylvania’s older, built-up communities. Because there are more homes in close proximity to open space in core cities and developed communities, these planning areas capture more total value than growing suburbs and rural areas. On a per-household basis, however, homes in growing suburbs and rural areas capture more value in dollar terms.”

For example, in Chester, Montgomery and Delaware counties, homes immediately adjacent to open space gain \$10,000 in value as compared to those a mile or more away.

In the last five years, the value of properties within walking distance of open space have steadily risen, an average of \$876 per year in the three suburban counties.

Flaharty said that’s one reason why her organization has been sure to focus a sizeable portion of its resources on urban locations as well as the fields and forests that most come to mind when using the phrase open space.

“We gave out seven Green Futures Awards this year and four of them went to boroughs” — she said indicating they were Trappe, Lansdale, Hatfield and Souderton.

Although there are measurable benefits to air quality provided by open space, the bigger bang for the buck comes in the form of a more liquid asset — water.

Whether it’s water quality, quantity, or flood control, the rule is pretty simple — the bigger the forest or wetland, the bigger the financial benefit.

So perhaps it’s no surprise that while it is perhaps best known for the habitats, historic artifacts and vistas it protects, perhaps the biggest cash-in-pocket benefit to be found in water resource protection also comes from the largest unbroken stretch of forest in southeastern Pennsylvania — the 73,000 acres of the Hopewell Big Woods of Berks and Chester counties, according to the study.

Overall, the three county’s open spaces provide \$28.9 million each year in holding water supply (quantity); \$7 million in filtering services (quality) and \$20.3 million in flood prevention.

Those spaces also remove pollution from the air that would otherwise cost those three counties \$10 million a year, as well as \$1.3 million worth of carbon sequestration, by which carbon is removed from the atmosphere and stored in plants and soil.

All together, the study estimates that overall, open space in southeast Pennsylvania prevents the necessity of spending \$47 million a year to clean and manage air and water resources.

The Big Woods — 15,000 acres of which around French Creek State Park are protected by a coalition of more than 35 private and public sector organizations — is home to two watersheds and, given its size, is a major asset in that equation.

The study concludes that the value of the services provided by the Big Woods is \$16.7 million per year and that its trees are storing \$6.7 million worth of carbon.

The report, Flaharty said, "shows that open space is a wise financial investment. Preserving open space should be thoughtfully considered when balancing tight budgets. It's good for the environment, but also great for your waistline and your bottom line."

Her observation is particularly relevant given the report's prediction that by 2035, the population of southeast Pennsylvania will grow by 393,000 people, which would require the consumption of 167,000 acres of open space — an area more than half the size of Montgomery County — if current trends continue.

That means more people consuming the services required by less open space.

Flaharty said officials should keep that in mind as they consider further development proposals and balance them against open space initiatives.

After all, as the report notes, "money doesn't grow on trees."

State to launch website to track Legacy funding

Courtesy of minnesota.publicradio.org

by Elizabeth Dunbar, Minnesota Public Radio

St. Paul, Minn. — A new website being launched early next month will give Minnesotans a chance to see how sales tax money from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment is being spent.

Voters approved the constitutional amendment in 2008 to dedicate three-eighths of a cent on every dollar to projects around the state.

"Minnesotans approved the Legacy Amendment a couple of years ago to increase their sales tax, and they'll want to know how that money is being spent," said Greg Hubinger, director of the Legislative Coordinating Commission, which is in charge of the website.

The Legislature decided in 2009 that a website should be set up to improve transparency in the funding process and ensure that money was being spent as voters intended.

While the commission is designing and administering the website, it relies on information from the agencies that oversee various Legacy funds. Hubinger said that means the site will be a work in progress.

In addition to Legacy projects, the website will track Environmental Trust Fund projects that use lottery proceeds. The new site will have general information about the funds and how citizens can apply for funds. People will also be able to track a project's progress, he said.

"A citizen will be able to find projects essentially in their own backyard, or by fund or by topic areas that they're interested in," Hubinger said.

The Legacy Amendment funds projects for the outdoors, lakes and rivers, parks and trails and arts and culture.

Job Announcement – The Wilderness Society

RECREATION DIRECTOR

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Wilderness Society's mission is to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. Direct personal experience is what inspires people to care for wild places, and recreation is by far the most important source of such inspiration. This is why we seek to make common cause with all who visit and cherish our public lands. We envision deep, broad, and varied constituencies – old and new together – working to promote widespread and sustainable enjoyment of natural places. Only by doing so can we ensure in a democracy the public support for protecting America's public lands for all time to come – and ensure at the same time that all future Americans will be able to enjoy these experiences that we hold so dear.

The Wilderness Society is seeking a Recreation Director to build and lead our new recreation program. The Wilderness Society's core strengths include the ability to create campaigns that tie together advocacy, science, policy, communications, and partnerships through our national and regional presence.

We strategically engage with partners that complement our core strengths to move the federal land management agencies (primarily the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) toward more effective stewardship. Through our Recreation Program TWS hopes to bring these skills to efforts focused on people experiencing public lands and enhancing their conservation ethic.

RECREATION DIRECTOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

Provide senior leadership to a new program within TWS to engage Americans with their public lands through recreation and to help inspire a new generation of public lands conservationists.

Identify needs and demands for access to public lands and strategies for enabling access while protecting key resources. Within this realm, identify barriers to disadvantaged youth and under-represented populations to public lands and advocate for policies and practices to reduce these barriers.

Engage diverse national coalitions and establish key national partnerships to advocate for sustainable recreation on public lands.

Develop and deliver a long term campaign to engage with federal land management agencies in support of sustainable recreation, access to public lands and conservation.

Advocate for sustainable federal recreation policies, management, funding and planning decisions through federal land use planning, national policy, appropriations and legislation. Establish effective working relationships with federal agency recreation staff leaders in Washington and in key regional offices.

Work across all TWS programs and departments to integrate and gain acceptance for the new recreation program. Provide TWS team leadership and expertise on recreation issues and promote sustainable recreation program goals both internally and externally. Participate on organization-wide teams.

Develop communications messaging and tools including website, social media, and press materials in support of recreation program goals and objectives. Prepare briefing papers, action alerts, and other written materials as necessary in support of initiatives related to public lands recreation.

Identify funding opportunities, develop funding strategies, and cultivate major donors and grants from foundations to support and grow the recreation program.

QUALIFICATIONS:

8-10 years of experience in recreation planning, land management, advocacy, public land policy, or other related field.

Experience developing campaigns to achieve specific goals and objectives.

Strong strategic thinking and leadership skills required.

Passion for conservation and connecting people to nature.

Excellent written and oral communications skills. Ideal candidate will be very comfortable with public speaking.

Demonstrated skills in broad outreach, including building, maintaining, and managing diverse partnerships and coalitions. Proven ability to engage diverse communities strongly preferred.

Demonstrated project management experience and ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously.

Motivated, self-starter. Ability to work both independently and as part of a team. Knowledge of recreation and public lands issues strongly preferred.

The position reports to the Vice President of Public Lands and the preferred location is in either our Denver, Colorado office or our headquarters in Washington, DC. We offer a very competitive salary and benefits package, including health and dental insurance and a pension plan. At TWS, we advocate for and protect the rich variety of life, values and experiences that wild places provide; as an organization we are equally committed to honoring diversity in our staff and creating an inclusive work environment.

Consider becoming a member of our team by sending your resume and cover letter to: Staffing@TWS.org

Job Announcement – USDA Forest Service

Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist GS-0401-12

IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITY, the Coronado National Forest in southern Arizona is advertising a GS-12 Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist (Forest Recreation and Special Uses Staff Officer) position located at the Supervisor's Office in Tucson,

AZ.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

This Forest Staff Officer position is responsible for Recreation and Special Uses program management on the Coronado National Forest. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, overall program management, budget, supervision, accomplishment reporting (e.g., INFRA), and coordination with other Forest Staff Areas and Districts. The incumbent may serve as a member or leader of interdisciplinary teams for project or Forest planning.

This position also: reviews projects and proposed revisions of existing projects from a Forest Staff Officer perspective and coordinates appropriate action; provides information and recommendations to the Forest Supervisor and Forest Leadership Team concerning the Recreation and Special Uses programs; serves as a key member of the Forest Leadership Team to formulate plans, policies, objectives, and priorities for the Forest; and serves as Acting Forest Supervisor when both the Forest Supervisor and the Deputy Forest Supervisor are not available.

The Recreation and Special Uses programs consist of eleven employees representing the wilderness, trails, dispersed recreation, OHV, visuals, recreation planning, developed recreation, and special uses. The incumbent is responsible for direct supervision of five GS-11 employees, and additional indirect oversight/coordination responsibilities of other employees and over 100 volunteers/partners.

This position will establish and maintain cooperative relations with local, county, state, federal, and tribal entities; permittees; special interest groups; civic groups; private industry, and the general public.

Both government-wide and demo applications are being accepted.

Here is the link to the Merit government vacancy announcement that is now live on USAJOBS: [http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=94477995&JobTitle=Supervisory+Natural+Resources+Specialist+\(Recreation\)&jtit=Supervisory+Natural+Resources+Specialist&sort=rv%2c-dtex&cn=&rad_units=miles&brd=3876&pp=50&jbf522=0401&jbf574=AG11&vw=b&re=134&FedEmp=Y&FedPub=Y&caller=advanced.aspx&AVSDM=2010-12-03+00%3a03%3a00](http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=94477995&JobTitle=Supervisory+Natural+Resources+Specialist+(Recreation)&jtit=Supervisory+Natural+Resources+Specialist&sort=rv%2c-dtex&cn=&rad_units=miles&brd=3876&pp=50&jbf522=0401&jbf574=AG11&vw=b&re=134&FedEmp=Y&FedPub=Y&caller=advanced.aspx&AVSDM=2010-12-03+00%3a03%3a00)

The Demo vacancy announcement will open on 12/21/2010 and close on the same day as the Merit (1/3/2011).

Job Announcement – USDA Forest Service

FORESTRY (RECREATION) TECHNICIAN GS-462-08/09

SALARY RANGE: \$42,960 - 61,678 /year

OPEN PERIOD: now through Monday December 20, 2010

SERIES & GRADE: GS-462-08/09

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time Permanent

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 9

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy - Vernal, UT - Ashley National Forest

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: This permanent position is currently open in USAJOBS under announcement numbers 11-0401-0153G (JG), and 11-0401-0153DP (JG). All U.S. citizens

may apply under vacancy announcement number 11-0401-0153DP (JG).

JOB SUMMARY:

This position is in our Supervisors Office with 60% office time focusing on INFRA, GIS data layer updates, accomplishment reporting, budget tracking and 40% field work focusing on travel management implementation, GPS'ing routes, accessibility surveys, etc. The position is responsible for technical work in support of the recreation program. Duties include the following: track expenditures and accomplishments, prepare annual reports, update corporate databases, inspect contract work, maintain travel management data and maps, conduct accessibility evaluations, and other duties related to operation of the Ashley National Forest recreation program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Kathy Paulin, kpaulin@fs.fed.us, 435-781-5160

Job Announcement – USDA Forest Service

Natural Resources Specialist (Recreation)

SALARY RANGE: \$57,408.00 - \$89,450.00 /year

OPEN PERIOD: Monday, December 06, 2010 to Friday, January 07, 2011

SERIES & GRADE: GS-0401-11/12

POSITION INFORMATION: Full Time Permanent - No time limit

PROMOTION POTENTIAL: 12

DUTY LOCATIONS: 1 vacancy - Cadillac, MI

WHO MAY BE CONSIDERED: Status eligibles - This announcement is open to current career or career-conditional federal employees with competitive status. Reinstatement eligibles, Veterans Recruitment Authority (VRA) eligibles, Veterans Employment Opportunity Act (VEOA) eligibles, certain military spouses, persons with disabilities, disabled veterans with a 30% or more disability, former Peace Corps and VISTA volunteers may be considered under special hiring authorities.

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT NUMBER: 11-0904-0553G-MKA

JOB SUMMARY:

Applications for this position are being processed through an on-line applicant assessment system that has been specifically configured for USDA Forest Service applicants. Even if you have already developed a resume in USAJOBS, you will need to access this on-line system to complete the application process. To obtain information about this position and TO APPLY, please click on <http://www.avuecentral.com/vacancy.html?ref=QRBTT>.

DUTIES:

Plans and administers recreation program activities.

Provides assistance in the implementation and evaluation of programs and projects.

Participates in the preparation of organization budget proposals and planning.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=94426065&aid=90127670->

[71210&WT.mc_n=125](#)