

Recreation

Enhance the outdoor recreational experience and provide new wildlife related recreation opportunities.

- ◆ Expand the development of wildlife viewing areas in parks and wildlife management areas.
- ◆ Initiate a program to provide wildlife-related interpretive signs for new and existing trails and provide small grants for the development of nature trails/ wildlife walks at nature centers and parks statewide.
- ◆ Provide informational materials on the construction and installation of observation blinds, platforms, and similar structures with an emphasis on ways to prevent detrimental impacts on wildlife or their habitats.
- ◆ Provide or improve car-top boat access in selected areas to enhance recreational opportunities.
- ◆ Establish a network of interpretive naturalists to present a variety of wildlife programs ranging from slide shows to workshops at campgrounds throughout Connecticut.
- ◆ Develop a series of interpretive nature trails for cross-country skiing that feature wildlife information at trail heads and provide tips on winter wildlife observation.



How You Can Be Part of the Team

- ◆ **Contact Companies**~ Write or call outdoor equipment manufacturers and retailers and let them know that as their *customer* you want to invest in conservation through a *dedicated user fee*. Add notes to catalog orders and, when purchasing outdoor gear and supplies, let the owners/sales clerk know you support *Teaming With Wildlife!*
- ◆ **Be a Leader**~ Join your state coalition, organize local support and ask your favorite conservation groups to be included on the nationwide list of Coalition Members.
- ◆ **Spread the Word**~ Contact the editors of conservation and outdoor recreation publications and local newspapers. Let them know of your support and help increase public awareness of the Initiative. Let others know why *Teaming With Wildlife* is important.

For more information or a listing of companies you can urge to participate, or to have your group listed as a coalition member, please write or call:

International Association of Fish and Wildlife
Agencies
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.,
Suite 544
Washington, DC 20001
Telephone (202)624-7890

or

National Audubon Society
Connecticut State Office
PO Box 1028
Old Lyme, CT 06371
Telephone(860)526-4686
email:ppendergast@audubon.org

Teaming With Wildlife in Connecticut

*An overview of benefits
and future projects*



TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE
a natural investment

What is Teaming With Wildlife?

Teaming With Wildlife is a broadbased approach to gain stable funding for programs dealing with more than 2,000 different kinds of birds, turtles, butterflies, fish, mammals, and insects that have received little attention to ensure their conservation. *Teaming With Wildlife* is patterned after other highly successful conservation initiatives designed for sport fish and game conservation (Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson and Wallop-Breaux Acts) and is supported by a diverse coalition of over 1,000 conservation and recreation groups, manufacturers, and retailers.

Teaming With Wildlife would establish dedicated funding through the creation of a user fee in the form of a modest surcharge on a variety of wildlife-associated, outdoor recreational equipment such as binoculars, birdseed, bird feeders, camping supplies, and hiking boots.

This funding would enable the DEP Wildlife Division to improve and expand existing management and research efforts and to increase wildlife-related recreational opportunities and educational projects. The following are just some of the projects that have been planned and are awaiting *Teaming With Wildlife* funding.



Conservation

Conserve a diverse array of fish and wildlife and their habitats, with an emphasis on preventing species from becoming endangered.

- ◆ Examine population trends in heron and egret colonies on off-shore islands and develop management programs to conserve their rookeries and enhance important feeding areas.
- ◆ Survey and monitor raptor nesting in Connecticut ; initiate a kestrel nestbox project to help reduce regional nesting declines.
- ◆ Protect grassland birds like meadowlarks, bobolinks, grasshopper and Savannah sparrows and upland sandpipers through the development of habitat management guidelines and habitat restoration programs.
- ◆ Develop a small grant program for Partners in Flight research projects and related songbird conservation programs.
- ◆ Develop an atlas for freshwater mussels and related invertebrates and initiate a grant program to examine important conservation issues including host fishes and stream quality.
- ◆ Initiate reptile and amphibian conservation projects for species like the box turtle and explore management options for important salamander road crossing areas and vernal pools.



Education

Foster a responsible stewardship ethic through conservation education efforts.

- ◆ Develop a series of exhibits featuring a variety of wildlife species (Puritan tiger beetles, dragonflies, songbirds, bats, and more) to help explain their conservation status and current management efforts. These exhibits would be available on loan to environmental education facilities statewide.
- ◆ Develop a challenge grant program for urban wildlife education to help promote wildlife viewing in urban areas, development of outdoor classrooms, and transportation funds to allow visits to wildlife education sites in rural or coastal areas.
- ◆ Develop a conservation information booklet for use by conservation commissions, land trusts, and other land managers.
- ◆ Produce wildlife educational videos that feature various species and conservation topics.
- ◆ Create a land owner/ land manager project to teach ways to combine habitat management with songbird conservation.
- ◆ Develop a small grants program for open space areas that incorporate wildlife management practices.

