

April 21, 2004

In Reply Refer To:  
FWS/R4/RD

Memorandum

To: Project Leaders and Division Chiefs

From: Acting Regional Director //s// J. Mitch King

Subject: Promotion of Scientific Excellence

As you know, the promotion of scientific excellence has been the cornerstone of Director Steve William's tenure here at the Fish and Wildlife Service. To stimulate a dialogue about our scientific legacy and how that might guide us today and in the future, the good folks at NCTC have created a video, titled *Science and the Service, A Tradition of Excellence*. The video examines the Service's scientific work over the last 130 years ranging from the pioneering efforts of Spencer Fullerton Baird and Rachel Carson to contemporary case studies of migratory bird surveys, red wolf recovery, native fish restoration, and wildlife forensics.

By mid-April, you will receive a copy of *Science and the Service, A Tradition of Excellence*. The Director has asked each Project Leader and Division Chief to host a viewing of the video and discussion for your staff by the end of April. This video represents the best historic and contemporary science in the Service, and should generate a rich discussion of scientific practices in the past, present and future.

The Director believes this dialogue is important for us to have as a Service family. Therefore, he will be hosting a Service-wide broadcast and interactive discussion on **May 5 from 1-3 pm ET** in the form of a Town Meeting. On that day, there will be three ways to join him in this interactive discussion:

- 1) **By Telephone** (a "listen only" conference call, at 1:00pm for stations without access to satellite downlink)  
Toll free in the USA at (888) 603-7924 (Please dial in 5-10 minutes early)  
Pass Code: "science excellence"

308-4100  
May 4/04

**2) At Fish and Wildlife Service satellite downlink sites**

See a listing by state at: <http://distancelearning.fws.gov>

**3) At National Park Service satellite downlink sites**

See a listing by state at: <http://distancelearning.fws.gov>

(Note: FWS and NPS downlink sites do not need to join the conference call as your audio will be delivered via satellite)

These three methods will allow all of our employees to participate no matter where they are stationed. Whichever method is used, employees will be able to submit questions in advance or call or fax in questions during the live broadcast (see attached details).

I hope that you and your staff will take time out of your busy schedules to join the Director in an interactive discussion of the important scientific policies and issues affecting the Service today.

Details about the video, suggested discussion questions, the Town Meeting, locations for viewing, and conference call numbers are enclosed and will also be posted on the Science Excellence Initiative home page at <http://sji.fws.gov/scienceadvisory>.

Technology provides a unique opportunity for all of us to gather together to have this important discussion. I hope that you will encourage your staff to join the Director on **May 5**.

Attachment