

Prince of Wales Island Timber Sale

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

Until recently, the forests on Prince of Wales Island were under threat from the largest old-growth timber sale on the Tongass in nearly 30 years. The Prince of Wales Landscape Level Analysis project was approved by the Forest Service and had the potential to clearcut about 23,000 acres of old-growth trees on Alaska's public lands. Thanks to the diligence of Alaska Conservation Foundation and other conservation groups, the timber sale was blocked by a federal judge in September 2019.

WildScan Launched, Aiding Animal Protections

BORN FREE USA

In October 2020, we launched WildScan, a user-friendly mobile phone app developed to support officers on the front lines of combating the illegal wildlife trade. We created the app in partnership with Freeland with funding from the United States Agency for International Development. Designed as a tool for customs and border patrol officers, the app provides photos and vital information about more than 500 protected species and tips on how to identify the animals. WildScan also details local animal protection laws and allows the user to report a suspected wildlife crime with the push of a button.

Swift Fox Reintroduction and Restoration

DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

Swift foxes, who can be smaller than a housecat, were once abundant across the Great Plains, but nearly disappeared in the 1900s due to poisoning, trapping and habitat destruction.

Today, swift fox numbers are improving thanks to reintroduction efforts. This month DOW has partnered with the Assiniboine and Gros Ventre tribes of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation, Smithsonian and Little Dog Wildlife to relocate swift foxes from Wyoming to Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in north-central Montana. This reintroduction effort means swift foxes will once again inhabit this part of Montana! Prior to releasing these foxes at Fort Belknap, we will affix GPS radio collars to them so the tribes can monitor their interactions with the other released foxes--assessing the progress toward a sustainable population--and also track their denning locations and kits born in the wild. The return of swift foxes to the tribal lands is a significant achievement in the recovery of this species and the overall conservation of America's diverse wildlife species.

Preventing Floods Along the Meramec River

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

The Floodplain Prioritization Tool, presented to the state's Flood Recovery Advisory Working Group, is an online mapping tool TNC uses to help agencies plan for flooding along the Meramec River. It was designed to help communities identify places where restoring floodplains could be effective. It also allows users to see where conservation of floodplains provides the most benefits for habitat, water quality, and future damages to property.

172 Acres of Winter Restoration Success

Friends of the Chicago River

This winter Friends expanded our land restoration footprint by 172 acres. All projects focused on the removal of invasive and nuisance plant species to begin returning these areas to ecosystems composed of a diversity of native plants and wildlife. At Country Lane Woods in the Palos area 129 acres were cleared to enhance habitat along the headwaters of Crooked Creek. The focus species removed included invasive honeysuckle, Japanese barberry, and multiflora rose. By removing these species, we allow sunlight to reach the ground and in turn, native species to flourish again. Unlike invasive species, native plants have deep root systems which enable greater stormwater infiltration. By holding stormwater instead of having quick runoff, we see less erosion and higher quality water over time. This is the second opportunity we've had to work in the Crooked Creek watershed, and we expect the same great ecosystem response as before. We're excited to see native grasses and sedges return and for the banks of the creek to be well-vegetated," said John Quail, Friends' director of policy and conservation. Thanks to the Forest Preserves of Cook County for their partnership in all of these projects as well as the Illinois Clean Energy Foundation, the Chi-Cal Rivers Fund, and a Chicago-based family foundation for supporting this important work.

Partners in Nature: A Deeper Connection

LAKE FOREST OPEN LANDS

The Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation's Community Stewardship Grant challenges natural areas managers to engage new partners with restoration and stewardship projects. Lake Forest Open Lands was awarded an ICECF Community Stewardship Grant for the Jean and John Greene Nature Preserve at McCormick Ravine in 2019.

During the first year of this two year grant we held 6 workdays with several new partners and raised over \$7,000 of support for the stewardship workdays. ICECF matches funds raised for Community Stewardship grants 3:1 and also provided us with \$5,000 for the purchase of equipment to support our stewardship efforts at McCormick Ravine.

Recently we were also awarded an amenities grant from ICECF for the purchase of a bike rack at the Greene Nature Preserve.