

SAFARI Magazine wins yet another prestigious national award

Tucson, Arizona, May 11, 2007 – SAFARI Magazine, Safari Club International's flagship publication, has won a Diamond Statue of Distinction in the Spring 2007 Media Achievement Awards competition.

The magazine was chosen from among over 1,600 entries, with only the top five percent

recognized as award winners. This competition raises the bar of excellence. Entries are judged on a point system by award-winning, highly qualified professionals in the communications industry.

Publications Chair Bruce Eavenson said, "It is no surprise to us that SAFARI Magazine is a

winner. One only has to look at the latest issue to see consistent quality and ongoing upgrades in content, design and printing. The staff in Publications does a fine job under the direction of Steve Comus, and they should all be commended."

Director of Publications Steve Comus said,

"In an industry that is downsizing, cutting back and taking shortcuts to stay out of the red, SAFARI Magazine is not only continually upgrading its quality and content, but it continues to attract more and better advertising. This fortunate situation is raising the standards for both sides of the magazine business."

California's Tejon Ranch bans the use of leaded ammunition to help California condors

Los Angeles—The effort to recover the California condor, North America's largest and most rare of birds, got a huge boost last week from Tejon Ranch Company, California's largest private landowner and operator of the state's largest private hunting program.

At a press conference Feb. 23, the Tejon Ranch Company announced that it will discontinue the use of lead ammunition on its 270,000 acre privately-owned ranch which is located in the heart of condor country in southern California's Kern County. The lead-free ammunition requirement will apply to any hunting on Tejon Ranch after January 1, 2008, and apply to the more than 1,800 hunters that come to the ranch each year to hunt deer, elk, antelope, wild pigs, wild turkey and other game.

"We have a 170-year history of stewardship on the Ranch, which means when we learn a better way to manage our land's resources, we adapt. New studies make the risk imposed by lead ammunition very evident, so we decided to take the lead on this issue and discontinue the use of lead ammo on Tejon Ranch," said Robert A. Stine, president and chief executive officer of Tejon Ranch Company.

Tejon Ranch Company is California's largest

private landowner and is the first in the state to voluntarily require hunters on its lands to use non-lead ammunition. The company worked closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, Audubon California and other hunting and environmental organizations to design its new regulation.

"Twenty-five years ago the world's population of California condors was only 22 birds," said Steve Thompson, manager of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's California-Nevada Operations Office. "Today, through the efforts of many, 70 condors fly freely above California. Today's historic decision by Tejon Ranch to eliminate lead from its hunting program is a major step forward in our efforts to recover this magnificent bird."

While tremendous progress has been made in bringing the bird back from the brink of extinction, poisoning from lead ammunition is

regarded as the single greatest threat to the continued recovery of the California condor. Condors are highly sensitive to lead, and typically ingest the toxic metal when feeding on the carcasses (carrion) of animals shot with lead ammunition. Studies show even the smallest of fragments from lead bullets can cause lead poisoning in condors.

"This is a pro-condor, pro-conservation decision," Thompson said. "Hunters are strong conservationists and by using non lead ammunition, they contribute to condor recovery and to their legacy of conservation."

"Kudos from Audubon to the Tejon Ranch for not only making the right decision, but for its leadership role in ending the use of lead ammunition on the ranch," said Glenn Olson, vice president and executive director for Audubon California.

"Tejon's actions today not only protect the California condor from lead ammunition poisoning on the Ranch, but also demonstrate

statewide that hunting and the protection of endangered species can go hand-in-hand," said Joel Reynolds, senior attorney and director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Urban Program.

The California condor was listed as an endangered species in 1967. From a low of 22 birds worldwide in the 1980s, the population of condors has grown to 270, primarily the result of captive breeding programs. The goal of the California Condor Recovery Plan is to establish two geographically separate populations, one in California and the other in Arizona, each with 150 birds and at least 15 breeding pairs.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

Decision Will Remove lead from 270,000 Acres in Condor Range

Yellowstone grizzlies delisted, but will still be considered threatened

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The Yellowstone grizzly bear was listed as a threatened species because of loss of habitat and high mortality resulting from conflicts with humans. An interagency scientific study team was formed in 1973, and over the years the Yellowstone grizzlies have become the most intensely studied bear population in the world. In the 1980's a multi-agency team, the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC), was established. The IGBC managed bear mortality and habitat, worked to build public support, and helped develop adequate regulatory mechanisms for the bears. The IGBC includes the U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, state wildlife agencies of Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Washington; and the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. Universities and private organizations have contributed to the study and conservation of the Yellowstone grizzlies as well.

Since the early 1990s, the Yellowstone population has grown at a rate of 4 percent to 7 percent per year. Grizzly range in the Yellowstone Ecosystem has increased 48 percent since they were listed, and biologists have sighted bears more than 60 miles from what was once thought to be the outer limits of their range

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to delist grizzly bears in the Yellowstone ecosystem in November 2005. The proposal was reviewed at four open houses and two

public hearings; more than 193,500 public comments were received.

Notification of the delisting of the Yellowstone population of grizzly bears will be published in the Federal Register in the near future. More information about today's announcement can be found at <http://mountain-prairie.fws.gov/species/mammals/grizzly/yellowstone.htm>

Grizzly bears are generally larger and heavier than other bears. They can be distinguished from black bears by longer, curved claws, humped shoulders and a face that appears to be concave. A wide range of coloration from light brown to nearly black is common. The bear's coat features longer guard hairs over a dense mat of underfur with tips that are usually silver or golden in color - hence the name "grizzly." In the lower 48 states, the average weight of grizzly bears is generally 400 to 600 pounds for males and 250 to 350 pounds for females. They generally live to be approximately 25 years old, although some wild bears have lived over 35 years.

Grizzlies are opportunistic feeders and will consume almost any available food including living or dead mammals or fish, grasses, roots, bulbs, tubers and fungi. The distribution and abundance of these grizzly bear foods vary naturally among seasons and years.

Biologists believe the Yellowstone area grizzly population and other remaining grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 states and Canada are markedly separate from each other, with no evidence of interaction with other

populations. There are approximately 1,100 to 1,200 grizzly bears in the lower 48 states, in five separate populations in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Washington. In addition to the Yellowstone area, grizzlies also occur in the Northern Continental Divide ecosystem, where grizzly populations are stable or increasing and number 400 to 500 bears; in the Selkirk ecosystem where there are 40 to 50 bears; in the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem, with 30 to 40 bears; and in the Northern Cascade ecosystem where there are approximately 5 bears.

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