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Contact: Evan Hirsche
202-333-9075

NWRA/NFWF to recognize Refuge System Standouts

Washington, D.C. – The National Wildlife Refuge Association and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will honor National Wildlife Refuge System supporters and employees in February and March with the presentation of the 2009 National Wildlife Refuge System Awards.

The 2009 Refuge Manager and Employee awards will be presented in conjunction with the 74th North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, March 16 through 21 in Arlington, VA during the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director's Reception on March 19 at the Marriott Crystal Gateway.

- **Paul Kroegel Refuge Manager of the Year, Greg Siekaniec, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, AK**
- **Refuge System Employee of the Year, Baron Horiuchi, Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, HI**

The 2009 Volunteer and Friends Group awards will be presented in conjunction with the 2009 "Friends Unite!" National Friends Conference, February 21 through 23 in Washington, DC during the Refuge System Awards Reception on February 22 at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.

- **Volunteer of the Year, Marie Springer, Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge, NJ**
- **Friends Group of the Year, Friends of Pool 9, Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, McGregor District, IA**

Visit www.refugeassociation.org/Awards.html to learn more about this year's incredible award recipients. For more information about either awards ceremony, contact NWRA at (202) 333-9075 or via e-mail at nwra@refugeassociation.org.

A nonprofit established by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) sustains, restores and enhances the Nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Through leadership conservation investments with public and private partners, NFWF is dedicated to achieving maximum conservation impact by developing and applying best practices and innovative methods for measurable outcomes. For more information, visit www.nfwf.org.

A nonprofit established in 1975, the National Wildlife Refuge Association is dedicated to conserving America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries that secure its ecological integrity. For more information, please visit www.refugeassociation.org.