

# Wildlife Week promotes awareness

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As an American citizen, you are a part owner of 740 million acres of this country's public lands - approximately one-third of the United States.

This year, National Wildlife Week will focus on the importance of these public lands. "This Is Your Land - Public Lands Belong To All Of Us" is the theme for Wildlife Week, scheduled for March 20-26. It is the 46th such annual educational effort by the National Wildlife Federation.

Country singer Loretta Lynn is 1983's Wildlife Week Chairwoman. She has donated time to make radio and television public service announcements, singing Woody Guthrie's song, "This Land Is Your Land," and talking about the need for protecting the public estate.

Each year, hundreds of thousands of schoolchildren learn about Wildlife Week with information provided in specially prepared education kits, and millions more learn about it from broadcast announcements and media attention to

the conservation theme.

By focusing on public lands, this year's Wildlife Week promotes an understanding of the importance of public lands to the nation's wildlife, and the enjoyment these lands provide for hunters, hikers, boaters, campers and outdoor enthusiasts.

The week is also a time to rekindle the American desire to learn about the history and land policies that established the public domain, and to gain an awareness of the complexity of balancing the competing needs on public lands.

"Today, America's growing population and demand for limited natural resources have greatly increased the need to manage our public lands wisely," said Jay D. Hair, executive vice-president of the National Wildlife Federation. "Everyone who is concerned about our public lands - from the forests to the parks and wildlife refuges - can help decide how our public resources can be utilized without sacrificing conservation principles."