



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240



In Reply Refer To:
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JUL 31 2012

Mr. Ted Turner
Turner Endangered Species Fund
1123 Research Drive
Bozeman, Montana 59715

Dear Mr. Turner:

Congratulations to you and the Turner Endangered Species Fund on being selected as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Champions for conserving endangered and threatened species. From Florida to Montana you have been a leader in a variety of research and management initiatives on behalf of listed species and their ecosystems. You have shown that ensuring the well-being of these species is compatible with both traditional and innovative land uses.

The Turner Fund's research and restoration work for the black-footed ferret at Vermejo Ranch in New Mexico and on the Bad River Ranch in South Dakota has advanced the recovery of the ferret across its historical range. Reintroducing the red-cockaded woodpecker at Avalon Plantation in Florida—the first such action—has led the way for others.

The Fund has also played a critical role in wolf recovery, both in the Northern Rockies and in the Southwest. From a conservation perspective, the species' long-term habitation of the Flying D. Ranch clearly demonstrated the importance of private land, and, similarly, for the Mexican wolf, the Ladder Ranch in New Mexico has shown the importance of its facility that has housed and bred the species for release to the wild since December 1997.

Now working on Chiricahua leopard frog recovery, the Ladder Ranch is home to the last large population of the species in the State, and, in its "ranarium," bred the frog in 2011, producing large numbers of tadpoles for release.

I applaud you for your dedication. Your conservation ethic provides inspiration and reminds us of the value of a long-term vision for the future.

Sincerely,

Director