

\$728,250 Provided For Environmental Projects

Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner Eluid Martinez today made available \$728,250 for 13 fish and wildlife restoration challenge grants in 11 Western states, including one grant to a Native American tribe, as part of an effort to promote the health of ecosystems of the American West.

Reclamation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation joined in partnership to jointly fund several projects designed to meet this objective. The successful applicants were

chosen from a pool of 61 proposals.

Although there were not enough funds available for all the projects, Reclamation and NFWF are working to expand the funding level next year. Reclamation is requesting \$2.5 million in its fiscal year 1997 budget to continue offering challenge grants for projects in the Western U.S. that enhance Reclamation's water resource mission by employing sound environmental practices.

"We are delighted to offer these

challenge grants to projects that meet the West's need for good natural resource management," said Commissioner Martinez. "We chose a cross-section of projects that we felt to be the most environmentally worthwhile. I'm especially pleased to be able to assist the needs of the Native American community."

A \$21,500 grant was awarded to the Ochoco Chapter of Trout Unlimited to work with the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service,

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, local school districts, and private landowners to restore riparian and wet meadow complexes in the Crooked River Basin in Oregon. Total project cost is about \$126,000.

A \$21,000 grant was awarded to the Oregon Water Trust to acquire water rights from willing sellers within the Deschutes, Grande Ronde, John Day, and Umatilla river basins in Oregon. Total project cost is about \$63,000.

Fund To Benefit Families of Flight 800

The events surrounding TWA flight 800 are tragic, and while the ongoing trauma of the families may not be as newsworthy as the explosion itself, they are no less crucial or serious. There is a real financial dilemma for the individuals who have lost a loved one in this crash. In many cases families are still awaiting the recovery of the body or bodies of family members. Not one person was prepared for this and in many cases the emotional tragedy will be overshadowed by the financial hardship that this event will have caused.

Families of National Tragedies has established a fund for the families of TWA Flight 800. The fund has been established to provide financial

relief and assistance for the families of those who were victims of this catastrophe.

Families of National Tragedies is a non-profit corporation. An application for Tax-exempt status has been filed with the Internal Revenue Service in accordance with Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. A positive letter of determination will make all contributions tax-deductible.

Contributions may be sent to: Families of TWA Flight 800, PO Box 10189 St. Louis, MO. 63145-0189. Instant relief may be sent via "Check By Fax." To instantly obtain a "Check By Fax" contribution form via automated fax response call: 800-626-4362 ext. 800.

Gearing up for September

When the school bell rings this fall, 500 students from the tri-county area will feel a little less anxious about their surroundings due to a new program organized by The Salvation Army and Thrifty PayLess. The program, "New Gear for the School Year" will consist of a three week collection drive benefiting low income children in the Portland area.

Participating students will receive everything they need to start the school year out right, including haircuts, vision tests, lunch boxes, clothing and school supplies. As the primary retail sponsor, Thrifty PayLess will place collection bins at 30 local PayLess stores as well as at its corporate office in Wilsonville. Customers and asso-

ciates are encouraged to donate all types of school supplies ranging from backpacks and lunch boxes to pens and pencils.

"Everyone can relate to the excitement and anxiety felt on the first day of school. There's a lot of pressure to look the right way and have the right things. This program will allow these needy children to begin the new year with a feeling of self confidence and acceptance," commented Gordon Barker, president and CEO of Thrifty PayLess.

Collection bins are placed in tri county PayLess Drug Stores and will remain there through August 25. For the location nearest you, please call Thrifty PayLess at 1-800-685-5355 or The Salvation Army at (503) 224-0825.

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