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BLM Director Clarke recognizes Southwest Condor Working Group

Flagstaff, Ariz. – Bureau of Land Management Director Kathleen Clarke presented a prestigious “Four Cs” award to the Southwest Condor Working Group Tuesday for its outstanding collaborative effort in returning California condors to the skies of northern Arizona and southern Utah.

“The Southwest Condor Working Group is an outstanding example of Interior Secretary Gale Norton’s Four Cs philosophy at work: consultation, cooperation, and communication – all in the service of conservation. In this instance, the conservation of the California condor,” Clarke told the working group at its quarterly meeting in Flagstaff.

This partnership of private, state and federal organizations has been working together for more than 10 years to reintroduce California condors into northern Arizona. The primary partners are the non-profit Peregrine Fund, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Grand Canyon National Park, Kaibab National Forest, and the BLM Arizona Strip Field Office.

Clarke emphasized that the success of the project depended not only on the close coordination among the partners, but also on the involvement of local businesses and community members.

The Working Group first reintroduced condors into Arizona in 1996 from the Vermilion Cliffs in Arizona. Today the Arizona population of condors has reached 53 birds with two active nests. Some of these birds regularly frequent southern Utah.

Last year the partnership reached a major milestone when a wild condor chick fledged from a nest in the Grand Canyon. This was the first wild-born condor raised in Arizona in more than a century.

“The public is highly supportive of the project,” said Clarke. “There are now wonderful opportunities to see condors at Grand Canyon and Zion national parks, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, the North Kaibab Ranger District and BLM’s Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.”

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