

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 20, 2004

### **International Migratory Bird Sign to be Installed**

Each year, species like the western tanager and yellow warbler complete an impressive international journey migrating from Central America to the Methow and back. On Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00 a.m., the public is invited to join the Methow Conservancy and Sun Mountain Lodge to celebrate this amazing journey at the installation ceremony for an educational sign about the migration process. The sign will be permanently placed at the Chickadee Trailhead near the Beaver Ponds of Sun Mountain Lodge.

The ceremony will mark the installation of the third and final educational sign from the "Flightlines" project. This partnership, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation brought three Latin American biologists to the Methow Valley for two weeks in July 2002. During their stay, the biologists from El Salvador and Nicaragua worked with the Methow Conservancy and local biologists to complete several field studies of migratory birds, restore songbird habitat, and create three educational signs for public display.

Each educational sign includes full color drawings of five species of birds that are common to the Methow and Central America and text describing their migration patterns and the importance of protecting habitat at both ends of the migration path. Two of the signs are written in Spanish and are already on display in migratory bird habitat in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

The brief installation ceremony will include reflections from local biologists and Methow Conservancy staff. A short bird walk will follow for those interested.

For more information about the installation ceremony or the Flightlines project, please contact the Methow Conservancy at 996-2870.

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