

## **NCTC Journal Article**

### **“Consider distance learning options to meet your continuous learning needs”**

The Fish and Wildlife Service policy on continuous learning includes a full range of opportunities to meet employee development needs and enhances the ability of employees to identify, adapt, and respond to the changing needs of the Service

To help meet this goal, on campus courses at the National Conservation Training Center certainly provide an ideal learning environment. Face to face interaction with instructors and fellow participants is highly desirable and a major factor in achieving the learning objectives of any course. However, travel to NCTC may not be possible due to the time demands of your job and budget constraints.

Distance learning options can help bridge the gap between your training needs and your available time. Options for the delivery of training include; correspondence courses using videotape or CD-ROM and printed materials, audio conferencing, interactive web based training, and interactive television (ITV) delivered via satellite broadcast. Following is an overview of these options and web site links where additional information can be found.

The Online Training Information System (OTIS) allows users to search the NCTC course catalog in four areas: computer based training (CBT), correspondence, web based training (WBT) and interactive distance learning (IDL) via satellite broadcast.

Searching these options will yield over 50 distance learning courses or events.

To register for one of these courses, use the standard NCTC course application form.

These applications can be mailed, faxed, or submitted electronically through OTIS

<http://training.fws.gov/catalog/coursecontents.html>

The Conservation Training Network, a satellite system with studio and uplink at NCTC, delivers interactive distance learning broadcasts and the ‘Conservation & Community’ series of speakers. Environmental education programs, such as the ‘Wild Things’ and ‘International Migratory Bird Day’ events are broadcast to schools and public television stations nationwide. Broadcast schedules are located at:

<http://distancelearning.fws.gov>

To view a list of past broadcasts and FWS productions available on videotape visit:

<http://video.fws.gov/videlist.html>

NCTC has been piloting use of the Horizonlive software for web based training. This platform allows for the delivery of both live or ‘synchronous’ training and recorded or ‘asynchronous’ events such as a satellite broadcast. To view scheduled events or to try out an online demo for yourself, visit:

<http://distancelearning.fws.gov/webconf/events.htm>

The NCTC Conservation Library offers the 'FWS Digital Desktop Library,' electronic journal access, FWS publications online and web resources for environmental education, all available at:

<http://training.fws.gov/library/>

The Department of the Interior University offers over 1800 courses available in a wide variety of topics by contracting with vendors such as SkillSoft, Karta, and NETg. A user ID is offered for a reasonable price and is active for 1 year; during that year, you may take as many on-line courses as you wish. To find out what is available, go to:

[http://www.doi.gov/training/online\\_features.html](http://www.doi.gov/training/online_features.html)

The NCTC also partners with The Conservation Fund and The Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center to provide more outstanding distance learning opportunities:

<http://www.conservationfund.org/?article=2020>

<http://carhart.wilderness.net/>

The NCTC staff continue to work on new course content, job aids and technologies to support the continuous learning policy and conservation mission of the Fish and Wildlife Service. We look forward to helping you get the skills and knowledge you need; whether on-campus, on-line, or on the air!

For information on specific courses, please contact the appropriate training branch at:

<http://training.fws.gov/tbrnchs.html>

For information on distance learning opportunities through NCTC please contact:

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