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## FINAL REPORT SECTION 6 ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



## FEDERAL AID PROJECT E-19

LEAST TERN "SHARE THE BEACH"
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAMPAIGN

SEPTEMBER 9, 1991 - AUGUST 31, 1992

## FINAL REPORT

STATE: Oklahoma PROJECT NUMBER: E-19

PROJECT TITLE: Least Tern "Share the Beach" Public Service

Announcement Campaign.

PROJECT PERIOD: September 9, 1991 - August 31, 1992

I. <u>PROGRAM NARRATIVE OBJECTIVE</u> - To develop three radio and two television public service announcements relating how human activity and disturbance threatens the Interior Least Tern in Oklahoma.

- II. INTRODUCTION The Interior Least Tern (Sterna antillarum athalassos), is a nesting resident of Oklahoma restricted primarily to the larger rivers of the Mississippi drainage. In Oklahoma, the Arkansas, Canadian, Cimarron, and Red rivers host localized populations of this endangered species. interior least term is dependent on broad sand bars and barren shores along wide, shallow rivers, salt flats, and reservoirs. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 1990 Recovery Plan Goal of eventually delisting the Interior Least Tern will be facilitated by development of public awareness and educational programs about the species. The Service has determined that developing public awareness and implementation of educational programs about Interior Least Terns should be initiated The Least Tern "Share the Beach" (Recovery Objective 51). Public Service Announcement Campaign will inform and educate the public on the negative impact that particular human interaction can have on this species. Human activity in nesting areas may result in nest disturbance, abandonment, and loss of young. Seemingly innocuous activities including walking pets, hiking, biking, and use of all-terrain vehicles can destroy tern habitat and kill young.
- III. <u>ACCOMPLISHMENTS</u> Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) personnel researched, designed, developed and distributed public service announcements for the Interior Least Tern public awareness campaign.

Three television (one ten-second, one twenty-second and one thirty-second) and five radio (two thirty-second and three ten-second) public service announcements (PSA's) were developed.

Television PSA's were distributed to television stations in the Oklahoma City and Tulsa markets by ODWC and The Nature Conservancy personnel. In addition to the PSA's, program directors and/or public affairs directors were personally given a copy of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Least Tern Brochure and a photocopy of the 1989 Outdoor Oklahoma magazine article titled "The Interior Least Tern."

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Radio PSA's were researched, scripted and produced for broadcasting from stations serving towns within close proximity to interior least tern colonies. An introductory letter outlining the PSA campaign and its importance will be packaged with PSA's and background material (tern brochure and magazine article). PSA's and related information will be forwarded to targeted radio stations in May 1993.

IV. PREPARED BY: Erich Langer, Steve Webber and Paul Moore

V. DATE: October 20, 1992

VI. APPROVED BY:

Harold E. Namminga

Federal Aid/Research Coordinator

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