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## **Fernando Núñez-García hired as Caribbean Conservation Coordinator**

The National Wildlife Refuge Association is pleased to welcome Fernando Núñez-García as the new Caribbean Conservation Coordinator. Núñez-García will conduct community outreach and public engagement activities throughout Puerto Rico, working closely with the Puerto Rican Parrot Interagency Working Group, the Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to build and enhance a connected conservation constituency.

“We are very excited to have Fernando on our team. His exceptional management and scientific experience working with the FWS in Puerto Rico makes him a fantastic asset to the Refuge Association,” said President David Houghton of the Refuge Association.

Núñez-García has had a successful career working for the FWS in research and management projects involving endangered species in Puerto Rico. He worked for the division of Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) in the Atlanta Regional Office from 1998-2001 managing all Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands grants. Later in 2001, he was called to help the Division of Refuges during the controversial transfer of U.S. NAVY lands to the Department of the Interior (DOI) in Vieques. After the first land transfer, Fernando accepted the position of supervisor of the Río Grande Ecological Services Field Office in charge of the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery program. From his new position, he continued assisting the Division of Refuges with the second land transfer from the U.S. NAVY to the DOI in 2003.

In July 2006, Núñez-García returned to the Division WSFR to manage all endangered species grants for the region, Everglades restoration projects, and all grants including Sport Fish Restoration, Boating Access, Wildlife Restoration, Endangered Species and State Wildlife Grants in Puerto Rico. Eventually, Fernando became the Wildlife Branch Supervisor of the WSFR program in the Atlanta Regional Office of the FWS overseeing the implementation of the Wildlife Restoration program in 10 states, all grant programs in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the hydrological restoration of the Florida Everglades.

Núñez-García’s expertise includes program administration, endangered species recovery, conservation planning, wildlife ecology, and environmental compliance. He is also fluent in spoken and written Spanish and English. One of his major professional interests is to

promote ecological and holistic approaches to the conservation of natural resources integrating ecosystem processes, the human element, land management practices, and land ownership in the development and implementation of conservation actions. Fernando also believes in supporting multi-sector coalitions for the development and implementation of conservation actions in Puerto Rico.

Fernando's daughter Marie Anne, his son Fernando James, and his three grandchildren Tai, Helena Nicole, and Evelyn Giselle live in Georgia. He can be reached at [fnunezgarcia@refugeassociation.org](mailto:fnunezgarcia@refugeassociation.org) or at 787-690-6914.

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*The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries.*