

# GENTLE.NEWS

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*"Better to be strong than pretty and useless."*

— Lilith Saintcrow

### **Hubble Telescope Reveals Andromeda Galaxy's Quiet Future**

The Hubble Space Telescope has made a wonderful discovery about our neighbor galaxy, Andromeda.

Scientists found that Andromeda is slowly making fewer and fewer new stars. This change has been happening for about 500 million years. In the last 40 million years, the slowdown has become even more noticeable.

Andromeda is a giant spiral galaxy, much like our own Milky Way. It sits about 2.5 million light-years away from Earth. On a clear, dark night, you can actually see it with your own eyes. It looks like a soft, fuzzy patch of light in the sky.

Because Andromeda is so close to us in space, scientists can study it in great detail. Hubble captured beautiful images showing millions of individual stars. This helps researchers learn about how galaxies like our own Milky Way grow and change over billions of years.

This exciting research was published in a leading science journal. Scientists say studying Andromeda is like looking at a photo album of our own galaxy's past. Every new discovery helps us better understand our place in this vast and beautiful universe.

### **America's Oldest Fish Hatchery Still Going Strong**

Deep in the Ozark Mountains of Missouri, a very special place has been raising fish for 138 years. The Neosho National Fish Hatchery is the oldest federal fish hatchery still running in America. It opened in 1888, and it has never stopped working.

It all started back in 1871, when leaders noticed that fish were disappearing from rivers and lakes. They had a wonderful idea. They would build hatcheries to raise fish and return them to the water. Neosho was chosen because trains could easily carry the fish to rivers across the country.

In the early days, workers packed fish into milk cans and buckets. Then they loaded them onto special railroad cars. Over 20 years, those train cars carried an amazing 72 billion fish across 2 million miles of track. That is a lot of fish and a lot of train rides!

Today, Neosho raises beautiful rainbow trout. The hatchery sends them to Lake Taneycomo near Branson, Missouri. Cold, clean water from a nearby dam makes the lake perfect for trout. Fishermen love catching these healthy fish in the sparkling lake.

After 138 years, Neosho is still doing its important work. It is a wonderful reminder that caring for nature is a proud American tradition. Generation after generation, this little hatchery has helped keep America's waters full of life.

### **Gulf Waters Thriving After 50 Years of Care**

The Gulf of America is home to amazing seafood. From Florida lobster to Texas red snapper, these waters are full of life. The Gulf leads the whole nation in recreational fishing.

Fishermen, scientists, and government workers have teamed up for 50 years. Together, they protect fish, shrimp, crab, lobster, and coral. Over 200 types of coral alone are carefully watched and cared for.

This teamwork has made a real difference. The Gulf fishing economy is worth \$20 billion every year. Fresh seafood from these waters reaches tables all across the country.

A special group called the Gulf Council helps make the rules. They work with federal agencies and Gulf states to keep fishing healthy. Everyone shares the job of making sure fish populations stay strong.

Thanks to five decades of working together, the Gulf stays full of life. Overfishing has been reduced. The future looks bright for these beautiful, bountiful waters.

### Scientists Work to Help Yukon River Salmon Recover

Salmon are amazing fish with a remarkable journey. They are born in rivers, swim to the ocean to grow, and then return home to have their babies. Scientists are working hard to understand these wonderful creatures.

The Yukon River in Alaska is home to a special salmon called the Chinook. These large, beautiful fish have been struggling in recent years. Researchers wanted to find out why, so they could help.

A team of scientists recently made a big breakthrough. They studied the salmon's entire life journey, from birth to adulthood. They gathered information from many different sources to build a complete picture.

What did they find? A period of unusually warm ocean water appears to have been very hard on the salmon. This important discovery helps scientists know where to focus their efforts to help the fish recover.

This kind of careful research gives everyone hope. By understanding what harms the salmon, scientists can look for ways to protect them. These beautiful fish have made their remarkable river journey for thousands of years, and researchers are dedicated to helping them continue to do so for many years to come.

### **America's Grasslands Share Millions With Local Communities**

The U.S. Forest Service has great news for many American towns. Over \$52 million is being sent to rural communities across the country. The money will help local schools, roads, and emergency services.

Sixty-five counties in many states will receive these funds. North Dakota receives the largest share, over \$41 million. Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, Kansas, and Oklahoma are also among the states receiving support.

The money comes from America's national grasslands. These are wide, open lands managed by the government for everyone to enjoy. Grazing and natural resources on these lands generate income that gets shared with nearby communities.

Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz explained why this matters. He said the payments help local people share in the benefits of the land. Schools get better support, and roads can be kept in good shape.

The Forest Service cares for 20 national grasslands and 193 million acres of public land. For over 100 years, this agency has worked to connect people with nature. These payments are one more way America's lands give back to its people.

# Activity Time - Word Search

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Find the words below in the puzzle. Words go across or down only.

**Words to Find:**

GRAZING      SNAPPER      RAINBOW      SALMON  
HUBBLE      FOREST      GALAXY

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | V | G | R | R | I | M | S | S | S | U |
| O | A | G | A | L | A | X | Y | V | W | C |
| K | Y | J | Z | L | W | L | F | P | A | E |
| S | R | D | J | H | F | X | G | A | S | Y |
| S | A | X | X | U | V | T | R | N | N | N |
| A | I | C | H | B | X | D | A | N | A | Q |
| L | N | M | C | B | Q | X | Z | C | P | S |
| M | B | E | S | L | D | X | I | H | P | B |
| O | O | X | G | E | B | P | N | O | E | Y |
| N | W | Q | T | L | D | D | G | Y | R | K |
| F | O | R | E | S | T | O | A | X | W | J |