

PRBO Conservation Science
3820 Cypress Drive #11
Petaluma, CA 94954
707-781-2555
www.prbo.org



prbo

Press Release for week of March 23, 2009

Contact: *Melissa Pitkin, Education and Outreach Director, ext. 307, or mpitkin@prbo.org or Nancy Gamble, ext. 324 or ngamble@prbo.org*

**PRBO's Ellie M. Cohen a National Honoree
among "Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet"**



March is National Women's History Month and Ellie M. Cohen, President and CEO of PRBO Conservation Science*, is among the 2009 national honorees under the theme **Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet**. Ellie was presented with the award on Saturday, March 21, 2009 at the Wells Fargo Center for the Arts in Santa Rosa, California for her contributions toward understanding and addressing the negative impacts of rapidly accelerating environmental change on our ecosystems.

The theme of **Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet** is timely in a year when the world is discussing the problems and repercussions of dramatic climate changes and the recognition of diminishing natural resources. As President and CEO of PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO), Ellie has worked to ensure that scientific research is used to address and find solutions to the urgent threat of climate change. PRBO, with over 100 staff scientists and hundreds of public and private partners throughout the west, is well suited to contribute to the solutions for protecting our ecosystems in a time of rapid environmental change. Building on 40 years of bird and habitat studies PRBO uses birds as indicators of ecosystem health to improve hands-on conservation and to address accelerating changes to the natural world.

"Birds are sentinels of environmental change and we should heed their warnings. Conserving habitats to sustain birds also helps secure nature's benefits that we humans rely on. With the accelerating rate of changes in climate, land use and our ocean food webs, investing in ecosystem protection is more important than ever," said Ellie Cohen, PRBO's President and CEO.

PRBO Conservation Science
3820 Cypress Drive #11
Petaluma, CA 94954
707-781-2555
www.prbo.org



The 2009 Honorees are women whose courageous, pioneering, and innovative leadership are helping to save our planet. The Honorees' achievements and accomplishments span three centuries and seven generations. For each acknowledged NWHM Honoree, there are tens of thousands of other women who are equally committed and currently working in their own communities, states, and countries. Having Ellie Cohen among the list of honorees for protecting our planet is a huge honor for PRBO Conservation Science and the Bay Area conservation community as a whole.

"I am humbled by this honor," said Cohen. "It truly reflects PRBO's extraordinary and dedicated staff, Board of Directors, volunteers and partners. Great accomplishments are made by team efforts and I am so proud to be part of this remarkable team!"



Photo by Ann Hancock

PRBO Conservation Science (PRBO) is a non profit conservation and education organization dedicated to advancing conservation through birds and ecosystem research. Founded in 1965 as Point Reyes Bird Observatory, PRBO partners with hundreds of governmental and non-governmental agencies as well as private interests to ensure that every dollar invested in conservation yields the most for biodiversity -- benefiting our environment, our economy and our communities.

For more information on PRBO and Ellie Cohen, visit our website at www.prbo.org. For more information on National Women's History Month and the 2009 honorees, please see www.nwhp.org.

*Note to reporters: Our organizational name is PRBO Conservation Science, as written with the acronym (not Point Reyes Bird Observation Conservation Science).

#####