



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Annual Summary: 2007

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program in Idaho

A TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's *Partners for Fish and Wildlife (Partners) Program* celebrated its Twentieth Anniversary in 2007.

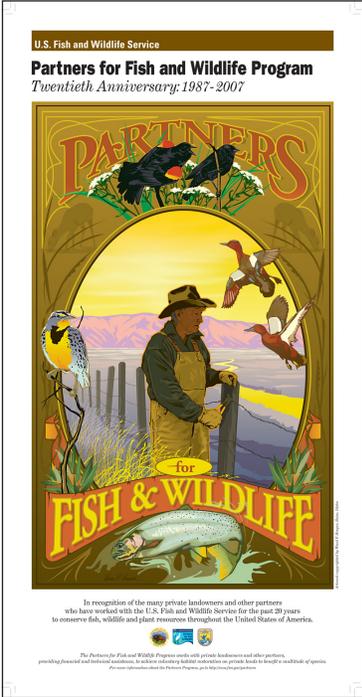
To recognize the program's anniversary, and the accomplishments of all the partners involved with the Partners Program, original art by Boise artist Ward P. Hooper was used by Service employee Meggan Laxalt Mackey to design a special commemorative Twentieth Anniversary poster.

The poster recognizes the contributions of the many private landowners and other partners across the United States who participated in habitat conservation projects with the Partners Program over the past 20 years. Copies of the poster will be distributed to private landowners and other partners in Idaho and across the country.

Thank you to all partners who have worked with the Service to conserve fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats.

2007 SUMMARY

This year, the Partners Program in Idaho funded 15 habitat projects working with 30 different landowners and other partners. As a result of these projects, over 236 acres of wetland habitat, 117 acres of upland habitat, and 9.5 miles of stream and riparian habitat will be restored or enhanced. Two fish passage barriers will be removed, which will open 3.7 miles of streams to fish passage. In addition, over 320 acres of habitat will be treated for non-native, invasive plants. Over \$553,000 in total funds were contributed toward these projects with about 32% of the funds coming from the Partners Program.



NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

The Partners Program completed its National Strategic Plan this year, which will guide program implementation over the next five years. The plan identifies 11 focus areas in Idaho: Bear River/Bear Lake, Weiser/Lower Snake River, Wood Rivers/Silver Creek/Camas Prairie, Teton/Henry's Fork Rivers, Salmon/Lost Rivers, Clearwater River, National Wildlife Refuges, Duck Valley, Native American Tribal, Palouse Prairie, and Pend Oreille.

Thanks to everyone who provided comments during development of the plan.

If you would like to get a copy of the final Strategic Plan, please contact Dennis Mackey in Boise, Idaho at 208-378-5267 or Juliet Barenti, in Spokane, Washington at 208-893-8005.

2007 PARTNERS PROGRAM HABITAT PROJECTS

Succor Creek Wetland Restoration Project, Owyhee County

The current landowners bought the farmland several years ago, and now raise corn, alfalfa and cattle. The landowners wish to dedicate 40 acres of the farm to wildlife habitat, particularly for migratory and upland game birds.

This 40-acre project area currently contains a shallow depression that is occasionally flooded by the landowners to create a temporary wetland.

In the past, four islands have been constructed. Due to topography, livestock grazing, and water management, the area provides very little suitable upland or wetland habitat for wildlife. The goal of the project is to restore high-quality upland and wetland habitat over the entire 40-acre area. Approximately 17.5 acres of wetland habitat will be restored and managed to benefit waterfowl, shorebirds, and a variety of other species. 43,000 cubic yards of material will be excavated and one island will be constructed. Wetland water depths at full pool will be roughly 50% 0-2' deep; 30% 2-3' deep; and 20% 3-5' deep. Water control structures will be installed to control wetland water levels. The wetland will be managed in accordance with a written habitat management plan developed by the Service and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Approximately 22.5 acres of upland habitat will be enhanced to provide habitat



Construction of the Succor Creek Wetland

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program in Idaho

ANNUAL SUMMARY: 2007 - PAGE 2



for waterfowl, other migratory birds and upland birds. The upland area will be seeded, as necessary, with an appropriate grass and forb mix, based on site conditions. Some old existing fence will be removed and 2800 feet of new wire fence will be constructed along the entire south and east boundaries of the project. Livestock grazing will be excluded from the 40-acre area, unless necessary to meet the wildlife habitat objectives identified in the habitat management plan. The project is expected to provide significant benefits to migratory birds in the form of resting, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat. Due to the extensive area of shallow water areas, the wetland area is expected to be very attractive to shorebirds. This project will also provide excellent nesting and brood-rearing habitat for resident upland game birds and other resident wildlife species.

FOCUS AREA:

Weiser/Lower Snake Rivers

TOTAL PROJECT COST:

\$80,750, including \$25,000 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS:

TFR (I), a California General Partnership, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Copper Creek Stream Restoration Project, Blaine County

As a result of past agricultural land use practices,

Copper Creek is severely down-cut and virtually all the willow and other woody native riparian vegetation has been lost. This reach of Copper Creek

currently provides poor fish and wildlife habitat due primarily to a lack of instream and riparian habitat diversity. Lava Lake Land and Livestock, the landowner, wishes to have an operating sheep ranch and also provide high-quality wildlife habitat. The objective of the proposed project is to restore riparian and instream habitat by:

- 1) raising the elevation of the creek bed to provide floodplain connectivity,
- 2) restoring natural stream processes by constructing an appropriately sized channel at the proper gradient, meander pattern, and pool and riffle morphology,
- 3) installing grade control structures to prevent future down-cutting,
- 4) reestablishing diverse riparian habitat along the creek, and
- 5) protecting a 12-acre spring/wetland complex adjacent to Copper Creek.



Pre-project photo of Copper Creek showing severely down-cut stream channel and nearly complete loss of riparian vegetation.

The existing 2480-foot reach of stream will be restored to benefit riparian-dependent migratory birds and other species. By constructing an appropriate meander pattern a new channel length of 2913 feet will be established; an increase of 433 feet. The stream banks will be sloped and soil will be placed and compacted within the stream channel to raise the elevation of the channel similar to stream channel elevations prior to down-cutting. Rock cross-structures will be placed vertically and below the restored stream channel for grade control to prevent future down-cutting.

The entire restored stream reach will be planted with native riparian vegetation to restore riparian habitat to benefit wildlife, and to further stabilize and add habitat diversity to the stream channel. Upland areas outside of the riparian zone where ground disturbance has occurred will be seeded with appropriate native grasses and forbs for the site conditions. Livestock will be excluded from the habitat restoration area.

Benefits will be obtained for a variety of riparian and wetland-dependent migratory birds and greater sage-grouse from stream, riparian and wetland restoration and enhancement.

FOCUS AREA:

Wood Rivers/Silver Creek/
Camas Prairie

TOTAL PROJECT COST:

\$62,500, including \$25,000 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS:

Lava Lake Land and Livestock LLC, Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and the North American Grouse Partnership

Paris Creek Fish Passage and Riparian Restoration Project, Bear Lake County

Paris Creek is a key Bonneville cutthroat trout spawning tributary in the Bear Lake watershed, and the area along Paris Creek provides wet-meadow and riparian habitat adjacent to Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Paris Creek water has been used for irrigation purposes since the late 1800's. As such, a series of diversion canals and dams have been developed to distribute this water, often during the peak of the Bonneville cutthroat trout spawning period. These diversions and dams have significantly altered flow, sometimes to the point where large portions of Paris Creek become dewatered, which negatively impacts spawning trout. Also, unscreened diversions can send Bonneville cutthroat trout out into irrigated fields with the irrigation water; these spawning fish will perish

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program in Idaho

ANNUAL SUMMARY: 2007 - PAGE 3

when the irrigated meadows become desiccated. A key reach of Paris Creek, between the mouth and the spawning habitat, is owned by one landowner, who is receptive to maintaining a minimum instream flow during irrigation periods to benefit the fish. A portion of lower Paris Creek also lies within Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge, where one screened diversion will be provided. This ultimately leaves three diversions/passage barriers requiring bypass and screens to fully facilitate Bonneville cutthroat trout passage to spawning habitat. This Partners project would replace one of these three passage barriers on Paris Creek, and enhance riparian and wetland habitat. The local Environmental Coordination Committee (ECC), formed by PacifiCorp, is reviewing two proposals that would replace the remaining two passage barriers on Paris Creek to complete the restoration effort and open up eight miles of the creek to cutthroat trout spawning. Under the Partners project, an existing culvert on the lowest diversion will be replaced with a fish friendly, stream simulation culvert. The existing culvert, which is currently a migration barrier for fish, will be replaced with a newly designed 'Stream Simulation' culvert which will allow for upstream passage of fish, amphibians, and other aquatic invertebrates. In addition, a jack fence will be constructed to exclude livestock from approximately 1/2 mile of Paris Creek, immediately downstream from the culvert replacement, to prevent further degradation to the stream channel and the riparian corridor. Also, as part



Pre-project photo of the culvert on Paris Creek that is a barrier to migrating Bonneville cutthroat trout.



Bridge replacement immediately after culvert removal, opening Paris Creek for fish passage.

of the project, the Bear Lake Soil and Water Conservation District will fund removal of the landowner's cattle feedlot away from the creek to improve water quality. Removal of the migration barrier and enhancement of riparian vegetation will benefit Bonneville cutthroat trout by opening up over one mile of Paris Creek to fish passage, enhancing wetland and riparian habitat, increasing stream-side cover, lowering stream temperatures, and decreasing sediment and nutrient concentrations. This project is anticipated to benefit Bonneville cutthroat trout, other resident fishes, amphibians, and aquatic invertebrates.

FOCUS AREA:

Bear Lake/Bear River

TOTAL PROJECT COST:

\$197,285, including \$24,285 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS:

One landowner, Trout Unlimited, and the Bear Lake Soil and Water Conservation District

Bruneau River Ranch Habitat Restoration Project, Owyhee County

Landowners recently purchased this 700-acre ranch along both sides of the lower Bruneau River. The landowners want to continue agricultural practices on the property, and also enhance and restore wildlife habitat. The ranch currently has a considerable amount of wetland, riparian and upland habitat, including multiple springs in good condition.

With some management changes, these habitats could provide very high-quality wildlife habitat for a variety of resident wildlife species and migratory birds. One of the major threats to wildlife habitat on the property is the increasing presence of introduced, invasive Russian olive trees throughout the riparian areas. The grazing and pasture system on the property is also in need of evaluation and reconfiguration. Under the project, a 70-acre livestock pasture will be created by installation of an 1.12-mile pasture perimeter fence. The project will also restore about 20 acres of wildlife habitat adjacent to the livestock pasture by excluding livestock use, controlling ten

acres of Russian olive by cutting and/or herbicide application, and planting of desirable upland and riparian plant species. About 1.8 acres of wetland habitat, 11 acres of riparian habitat, and 7.2 acres of upland habitat within the wildlife habitat area will be enhanced or restored. Conservation benefits will be realized for migratory birds within the 20-acre wildlife habitat area. Control of Russian olive will also encourage growth of native plant species.

FOCUS AREA:

Weiser/Lower Snake Rivers

TOTAL PROJECT COST:

\$6,240, including \$3,120 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS:

Bruneau River Ranch



Pre-project wetland habitat on Bruneau River Ranch showing encroachment of Russian olive trees.

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program in Idaho

ANNUAL SUMMARY: 2007 - PAGE 4

Little Weiser River Riparian Enhancement Project, Adams County

The landowner owns 106 acres along both sides of the Little Weiser River. Except for trespass cattle, the property has not been grazed by livestock for several years. The riparian habitat on the property along the river is currently in good condition; the riparian vegetation is multi-layered and is undergoing good reproduction and expansion, particularly of willows and cottonwoods. The landowner wants to protect the riparian corridor from limited horse grazing in the adjacent pasture area on the property, and from trespass livestock from adjacent grazing allotments. Wood rail and barbed wire fence will be constructed to exclude livestock from riparian habitat on the property. The width of the riparian zone will vary, but generally the fence will follow the current interface between cottonwood and willow growth along the river and the pasture area. The riparian corridor provides excellent conservation benefits for riparian-dependent wildlife species, including migratory birds and shade and cover for fish and other aquatic species in the Little Weiser River. The goal of the current project is to provide long-term enhancement to this habitat, by excluding livestock grazing.

FOCUS AREA:

Weiser/Lower Snake Rivers

TOTAL PROJECT COST:

\$20,834, including \$9,040 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS:

Little Weiser River Ranch



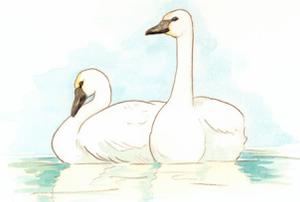
Healthy riparian corridor along the Little Weiser River to be enhanced and protected under this Partners Project.

Lazy K Marsh Wetland Enhancement Project, Teton County

Lazy K Marsh wetland was constructed in 1999 to restore habitat for wetland-dependent wildlife. This original project was co-funded by the Partners Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NAWCA, and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The project received broad financial support because of the unique, sensitive and threatened wildlife resources in the area. The property is under a permanent conservation easement held by the Teton Regional Land Trust, and the current project is an enhancement of the 1999 project.

The Teton Valley's wetlands provide habitat for fall staging sandhill cranes, breeding long-billed curlews, wintering trumpeter swans, and large concentrations of migrating waterfowl. Creation of waterfowl migration and brood-rearing habitats was the initial goal of the Lazy K Marsh Project. Over the years, management focus has shifted to sandhill cranes (breeding and

staging), trumpeter swans (breeding and foraging) and shorebird (migration) habitat. Currently, when the marsh is drawn down to expose mud flat habitat for shorebird migration (April and May) emergent marsh habitat conditions are compromised for nesting waterfowl (including potentially trumpeter swan). Another concern is that early initiated nests (e.g. northern pintail) are potentially flooded under this management regime because the pool is raised following shorebird migration (and after nest initiation for some waterfowl) to optimize brood habitat and ensure that adequate water is stored prior to mid/late summer when water supplies diminish.



The current Lazy K Marsh wetland enhancement project will expand the original project to create 13 acres of shallow waterbird and sandhill crane roost habitat and an additional two acres of emergent marsh, for a total of 15 additional wetland acres. The 15 acres will be excavated to create a series of level terraces separated by small dikes. Two water control structures and one headgate will be installed to manage water levels. The project will allow the landowner to achieve more comprehensive wildlife management objectives by hydrologically isolating mud flat and emergent marsh/open water habitats. The managed marsh unit will increase from 24 to 36 acres. This project is anticipated to benefit shorebirds and waterfowl with the expansion of the existing wetland and creation of shallow water roosting habitat. Swans and waterfowl will benefit from the deeper more extensive pool in the main marsh and migrating and resident shorebirds will benefit from a managed sparsely vegetated mudflat.

FOCUS AREA:

Teton/Henry's Fork

TOTAL PROJECT COST:

\$36,380, including \$22,365 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS:

Lazy K Ranch and the Teton Regional Land Trust

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program in Idaho

ANNUAL SUMMARY: 2007 - PAGE 5

Cove Bypass Riparian Enhancement Project, Caribou County

Heavily grazed by livestock for many years, this property's riparian habitat along the Bear River is currently in poor condition. The project area includes land owned by four separate private landowners. This area was covered by a license agreement with PacifiCorp, which identified the Cove Bypassed Reach of the Bear River for riparian enhancement. PacifiCorp will secure conservation easements from the four private landowners and implement the project's habitat enhancement measures. Under the proposed project, riparian areas will be fenced to exclude livestock along 1.5 miles of riparian habitat on both sides of the Bear River to benefit Bonneville cutthroat trout and riparian-dependent migratory birds. The Bear River provides important spawning and rearing habitat for Bonneville cutthroat trout, a sensitive native fish species. In addition, wetland and riparian habitats along the Bear River provide important habitat for numerous shorebirds and wading birds, waterfowl, and greater sandhill cranes. There may be additional opportunities in the future to improve fish passage along Bear River to open up additional acres of spawning and rearing habitat for Bonneville cutthroat trout.

FOCUS AREA: Bear River/Lake

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$14,000, including \$7,000 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS: PacifiCorp, Environmental Coordination Committee, and four separate landowners

Cove Bypass Invasive Plant Control Project, Caribou County

Owned by the Sagebrush Steppe Regional Land Trust (Land Trust), this 160-acre property is located downstream of PacifiCorp's Grace Hydroelectric Plant along the Bear River in the "Cove Bypass Area" south of Grace, Idaho. The property occurs on both sides of the Bear River, and adjoins private and Bureau of Land Management land. The land was purchased by the Environmental Coordination Committee with PacifiCorp funds. The Land Trust will manage the property to retain and preserve natural open space and to conserve and protect fish, wildlife, scenic, historic, archaeological, and cultural resources. Under the project, the Land Trust will initiate an intensive 3-year weed management plan, to control thistle (musk and Canada) and hound's tongue on the property. To treat current weed infestations and to minimize the spread of noxious weeds, best management practices will be implemented in coordination with Caribou County Weed Control and the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's Noxious Weed Program. The property is comprised of sagebrush steppe, emergent wetland, riparian, and riverine habitats. These habitats support a variety of fish and wildlife species including waterfowl, neotropical migrant birds, raptors, upland game birds, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Removal of the invasive plant species will help native vegetation as well as fish and wildlife species that use the area.

Approximately 1 mile of stream habitat, 3.5 miles of riparian habitat, 40 acres of wetland habitat, and 80 acres of upland habitat will benefit.

FOCUS AREA: Bear River/Lake

TOTAL PROJECT COST: \$10,808, including \$5,396 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS: Sagebrush Steppe Regional Land Trust

Bear Lake Invasive Plant Control Project, Caribou County

The Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) represents a landmark cooperative process between Federal, State, County, and Local government agencies, as well as private landowners in three States. Focusing on invasive plant species concerns in the Intermountain Highlands Area of southeast Idaho, western Wyoming, and northern Utah, the Highlands CWMA sponsors "Work Days," where all project cooperators pool resources to collectively attack specific problem species and areas. The "Work Days" invite private landowners in the project areas to participate, and the Highlands CWMA provides the necessary chemical and/or bio-control agents (including professional advice on treatment protocol) for the landowners to distribute on their property. This project has been highly successful for controlling invasive species, across the three State, six County, area and is bringing new partners into the cooperative each

year. Because of increasing participation and new partners entering the cooperative, an elevated need for intensive survey, chemical purchase, and equipment necessary for survey and control has emerged. The States cannot continue to fund the program at a level necessary for continued growth of the Highlands CWMA, and further, State funding may run out in the near future. Two invasive plant species, perennial pepperweed and salt cedar are currently isolated in the middle Bear River system. A third species, leafy spurge, has been documented in the Bear Lake County portion of the lower Bear River. Control of these species will help prevent invasive species encroachment throughout the Bear River, and ultimately, isolate and eradicate these problem invasive plant populations within the middle Bear River. The project will provide direct treatment of these three target invasive plant species threatening the long-term integrity of the Bear River System in Idaho. The project will be conducted in two parts: 1) identify and map the current distribution of perennial pepperweed, leafy spurge, and salt cedar within the middle Bear River System; and 2) control perennial pepperweed, leafy spurge, and salt cedar to prevent further encroachment.

FOCUS AREA: Bear River/Lake

Total project cost: \$50,000, including \$25,000 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS: Bear Lake Soil and Water Conservation District and the Highlands Cooperative Weed Management Area

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program in Idaho

ANNUAL SUMMARY: 2007 - PAGE 6

Tower Creek Habitat Enhancement Project, Lemhi County



The landowner recently purchased this 4-acre property on Tower Creek, a tributary to the mainstem Salmon River. He intends to enhance riparian and other wildlife habitat on the property. The southern property boundary borders Tower Creek for about 300 feet, and contains a wide riparian area that is in excellent condition. The property provides habitat for mule deer, white-tail deer, fox, raccoon, and many other small mammals, as well several species of raptors and numerous other birds. NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service listed Tower Creek as critical habitat for Snake River steelhead. Idaho Department of Fish and Game fish population inventories in Tower Creek confirm the presence of ESA-listed steelhead and bull trout, as well as rainbow trout and cutthroat trout. In spring of 2006, the landowner observed steelhead spawning in Tower Creek just upstream from his property boundary. The landowner intends to keep several horses on the property, but wishes to preserve the currently productive habitat. Under the project, the riparian area will be fenced to exclude livestock. Upland habitat on the property is currently heavily infested by invasive non-native plant species (primarily spotted knapweed, cheatgrass, and rush skeleton weed). A weed removal/control program, including herbicide spraying, is necessary in order to bring the weeds on the property to a manageable level and reduce spreading to

neighboring properties. The landowner will reseed a 2-acre pasture area with a mixture of native grasses and forbs, and upgrade the irrigation system on the property and irrigate the native grass and forb seeding. About a third of the property will be protected and managed as wildlife and fish habitat.

FOCUS AREA:
Salmon/Lost Rivers

TOTAL PROJECT COST:
\$7,270, including \$2,200 in Partners Program Funds

PARTNERS:
The landowner

Tom Beall Creek Fish Passage and Riparian Habitat Project, Nez Perce County

The primary objective of the project is to remove a potential fish passage barrier, and reconnect 2.7 miles of potential fish habitat in the South Fork of Tom Beall Creek. The project will protect, restore, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat in and along the South Fork of Tom Beall Creek. The project will have beneficial impacts to aquatic resources, particularly ESA-listed Snake River steelhead, through improved water quality and habitat connectivity. Riparian restoration could also have potential benefits to riparian-dependent migratory birds.

The project has three components: 1) Barrier removal - a culvert will be replaced that has been identified as a potential fish passage barrier in the South Fork of Tom Beall Creek. The culvert will be removed and replaced with a 10' x 20' bridge. After culvert removal, the stream channel will be restored to mimic conditions upstream and downstream of the project site. 2) Riparian enhancement - approximately 2.2 acres of riparian vegetation will be planted along 800 feet of stream adjacent to the culvert replacement project. Riparian planting will consist of approximately 400 native rooted trees and shrubs. 3) Exclusionary fencing - about 1000 ft of fence will be installed to prevent livestock from accessing the stream or riparian area. Planting riparian vegetation will reduce erosion, decrease stream temperatures, provide a source of large woody debris, and provide habitat for wildlife. Improved water quality and stream connectivity will have impacts beyond the 2.2 acres of the project area, and influence Tom Beall Creek from its mouth to the headwaters.

FOCUS AREA:
Clearwater River

TOTAL PROJECT COST:
\$36,000, including \$13,000 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS:
Wilson Ranch, Nez Perce Soil and Water Conservation District, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission



Old CRP stand that is dominated by introduced grasses, and of limited wildlife value. Native grass and forb seeding will increase plant species diversity.

Palouse Grassland Enhancement Project, Latah County

Currently, there are several hundred acres of old stands of non-native grasses planted through the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). When these stands were planted, the landowners had only a non-native seeding option. Since the initial seeding 10 to 15 years ago, the species diversity in these stands has often been reduced to one or two grasses and limited forb species. Due to the lack of plant species diversity, the value of these areas to wildlife is limited. However, in many instances, the grasses are well-established and are successfully resisting the abundant invasive plant species that are increasingly common in the area. These old CRP fields are unlikely to be returned to farming due to the poor productivity of the soils, so the persistence of these grass stands is probable. Some landowners with CRP in this condition are interested in providing better habitat for wildlife, including native pollinators, by improving the species diversity in their old CRP stands by planting native grasses, forbs and shrubs. Because of the increasing weed pressure in the area, it is not recommended that they take out the existing

The Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program in Idaho

ANNUAL SUMMARY: 2007 - PAGE 7

grass stand and replace it with native grasses, as that is likely to increase the weediness of the stand. However, there are opportunities to improve the connectivity and extent of native forb and shrub communities, which should improve habitat for native pollinators and other native insect populations, as well as improve food availability and cover for grassland-dependent birds. The objective of the grassland enhancement project is to enhance plant species diversity in existing non-native grass stands by introducing seedlings and seeds of native grasses, forbs, and shrubs.

Expected results include an increase in availability of habitat for native pollinators, perhaps including better connectivity between existing native plant communities in parts of the Palouse Prairie. Anticipated benefits include the potential to allow butterflies to range farther and perhaps increase ability to visit existing remnant Palouse Prairie habitat. The increase in forb abundance will also benefit several bird species, including grassland nesting birds. This project will also serve as a demonstration project, to encourage other landowners with similar grass stands to consider improving their stands through establishment of native species.

FOCUS AREA:
Clearwater River

TOTAL PROJECT COST:
\$22,450, including \$11,225 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS:
Multiple landowners and the Latah Soil and Water Conservation District

PHILIPS FARM PARK PALOUSE PRAIRIE RESORATION PROJECT, LATAH COUNTY

The project will establish a one-acre native Palouse Prairie demonstration site and begin converting the park's 80 acres of grassland to native prairie. The area is presently dominated by non-native grasses. The ultimate goal is to reduce the fragmentation and isolation of Palouse Prairie remnant habitat. Species targeted for restoration/conservation include Idaho fescue, blue-bunch wheatgrass, broad-fruited mariposa lily, native forbs, and the fauna they support.

FOCUS AREA:
Palouse Prairie

TOTAL PROJECT COST:
\$9,000, including \$4,500 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS:
Philips Farm County Park Advisory Board

SIX SPRINGS RANCH INTERPRETIVE/EDUCATIONAL PROJECT, TETON COUNTY

The Six Springs Ranch Habitat Improvement Project was partially funded by the Service's Partners Program in previous years. In partnership with the



The Six Springs Ranch Interpretive Area provides educational information to the public.

Service, the Teton Regional Land Trust installed interpretive signs for the Six Springs Ranch Restoration Education Area. The educational signs focus on the history of the area; fish, bird and other wildlife species that frequent the Six Springs Ranch; the benefits of restoration efforts to these species; the compatibility of the project with continued farming; and the varied partnerships that made the project possible. The interpretive area includes picnic tables and benches to allow for public outdoor enjoyment and wildlife viewing. The site is along the Teton Scenic Byway and adjacent to a paved bike path between the two towns of Victor and Driggs, Idaho. The landscaped area provides shade for visitors and the trail areas are ADA-accessible. The Six Springs Ranch Interpretive Area allows visitors to see and enjoy, first-hand, the benefits of wetland, riparian, and stream restoration. Community gatherings at this spot are perfect for educational opportunities for the public and local students. This educational area is one of the Service's "Connecting People with Nature" projects.

FOCUS AREA:
Teton/Henrys Fork

TOTAL PROJECT COST:
\$22,803, including \$9,205 in Partners Program funds

PARTNERS:
Teton Regional Land Trust and multiple Teton Valley supporters

2007 ED HILL CONSERVATION AWARD FROM THE TETON REGIONAL LAND TRUST

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was awarded the 2007 Ed Hill Conservation Award from the Teton Regional Land Trust (TRLT), in Driggs, Idaho. The Ed Hill Award is given to the individual or group who best demonstrates an active interest in conservation of land and community in the Upper Snake River Valley. The Service was presented the award for its long-term support of private land conservation and restoration projects through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Migratory Bird - North American Wetlands Conservation Act Program, and the Private Stewardship Grant Program. The TRLT award narrative noted: "the award is acknowledgement of the skill, professionalism and commitment to conservation on private lands demonstrated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service staff from the Snake River Fish & Wildlife Office and the E. Idaho Field Office."



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners Program works with landowners to accomplish voluntary, on-the-ground habitat improvement projects on private lands.

Interested landowners can become involved by contacting the Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program in Idaho.

- Dennis Mackey, 208-378-5267
Boise, Idaho (Central and Southwest Idaho)
- Cary Myler, 208-237-6975, x 32
Chubbuck, Idaho (Eastern Idaho)
- Juliet Barenti, 509-893-8005
Spokane, Washington (North Idaho)

Illustrations by Ward P. Hooper, Boise, Idaho