

Proposed Bear River Watershed Conservation Area

Conserving Wildlife Habitat on Working Landscapes

The proposed Bear River Watershed Conservation Area (BRWCA) project would work with private landowners to help maintain important habitat; maintain major migration corridors connecting the northern and southern Rockies; coordinate watershed-wide

conservation efforts; and protect valuable farm and ranch lands.

Resources Would Benefit

The Bear River provides important wildlife corridors for species migration in the western United States.

Small mountain streams in the forested headwaters are breeding habitat for the native Bonneville cutthroat trout and leatherside chub.

More than 200 bird species are found in the project area, and half are closely associated with wetlands. Marshbirds and shorebirds include white-faced ibis, American avocet, long-billed curlew, American bittern, and sandhill crane. Upland birds include the greater sage-grouse and Columbian sharp-tailed grouse.

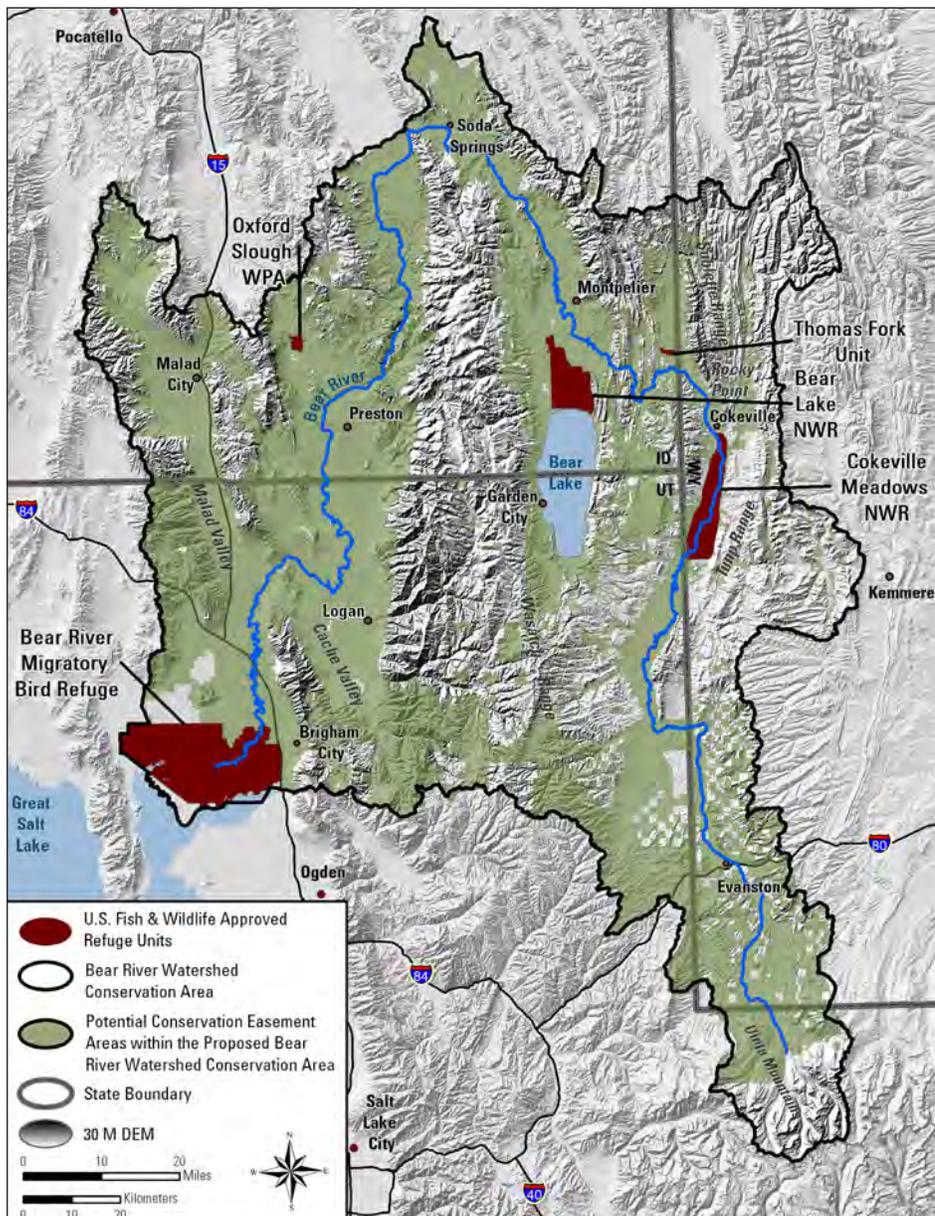
Mammals such as elk, mule deer, moose, pronghorn, bear, lynx, and wolverine also depend on the habitat and migration corridors here.

Conservation Easements

To protect wildlife habitat, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recognizes that it is essential to work with private landowners on conservation matters of mutual interest. The proposed project would use conservation easements to protect wetlands, grasslands, and agricultural lands from being converted to other uses.

An easement, a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and the Service, is a perpetual conservation agreement that the Service would purchase from willing landowners. Conservation easements typically contain habitat protection measures that prohibit subdivision, but allow for the continuation of traditional activities such as livestock grazing and haying. Landownership and other property rights, including control of public access, would remain the same. Easement properties would stay on the local tax rolls.

The Service would purchase conservation easements with money generated by the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965. Prices would be determined by an appraisal



The proposed Bear River Watershed Conservation Area.

from an appraiser familiar with the local market. Funding is appropriated by Congress to use for a specific project, such as the proposed BRWCA.

Next Steps

The Service will hold public meetings to discuss the environmental assessment and draft land protection plan for the proposed BRWCA project. Here, you can meet with Service personnel and tell us what you think about the project. The Service will use your input to evaluate and refine the plan.

There are several ways to provide your comments and questions:

- Go to the Web page and use the comment form
www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/planning/lpp/ut/brr/brr.html
- Email (brwca_comments@fws.gov) or call or write contacts, below.
- Get on our mailing list (via the Web page or contacts below). Due to the Freedom of Information Act, your permission is needed to place your name on the mailing list.
- Comments may be made on the proposed project until June 18, 2012.

We also invite you to attend one of the public meetings, all of which are scheduled for 6–8 p.m.:

May 15, 2012—Cokeville High School Library, 435 Pine Street, Cokeville, WY

May 16, 2012—Uinta County Library, 701 Main Street, Evanston, WY

May 17, 2012—Franklin Fire Protection District, 55 West 1st South Street, Preston, ID

May 18, 2012—Bear Lake Co. Senior Citizens Center, 300 Hospital Way, Montpelier, ID

May 22, 2012—Rich County Senior Citizens Center, 21 North Main Street, Randolph, UT

May 23, 2012—Cache County Fairgrounds Pavilion, 450 South 500 West, Logan, UT

Contacts

Amy Thornburg, Planning Team Leader
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 25486

Denver, CO 80225-0486
303 / 236 4345 (tel), 303 / 236 4792 (fax)

Steve Caicco, Conservation Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232-4181
503 / 872 2897 (tel), 503 / 231 6161 (fax)

Annette deKnijf, Wildlife Refuge Manager
Bear Lake National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 9, Montpelier, ID 83254
208 / 847 1757 (tel)

Bob Barrett, Project Leader
Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
2155 W. Forest St., Brigham City, UT 84302
435 / 734 6451 (tel)

Carl Millegan, Wildlife Refuge Manager
Seedskadee and Cokeville Meadows
P.O. Box 700, Green River, WY 82935
307 / 875 2187 x19 (tel)

2012 Project Timeline



Front photograph © Hal Reader



May 2012

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Refuge Planning
P.O. Box 25486 DFC
Denver, CO 80225–0486**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

