

News Release

Office of Communications
4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS-330
Arlington, VA 22203
Phone: 703-358-2220; Fax: 703-358-1973
<http://www.fws.gov>



For Immediate Release

May 16, 2013

Contacts:

Rachel Penrod (FWS) 703 358-1894; rachel_penrod@fws.gov

Brent Lawrence (FWS) 703-358-2014; brent_lawrence@fws.gov

Fish & Wildlife Service Announces Approval of 1 Million to Conserve Migratory Bird Habitat in Wyoming

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced the approval of more than \$25 million in federal grants and Federal Duck Stamp revenues to protect, restore, or enhance thousands of acres of wildlife habitat in the United States and Mexico for the benefit of shared migratory bird populations. One million of that will go to Wyoming Game and Fish Department to permanently protect and restore large tracts of wetland, riparian, and sagebrush-steppe habitat in the Upper Green River basin.

The Migratory Bird Conservation Commission voted to approve the use of Migratory Bird Conservation Fund monies and North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants to acquire and enhance this habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds, landbirds, marsh birds, and other wetland-dependent species.

“Wetlands are some of the most biologically rich habitats in our country, providing nesting and foraging ground for migratory species,” Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe said. “They are also facing some of the greatest threats including habitat degradation, land conversion, and sea-level rise.”

\$1 million has been awarded to Wyoming Game and Fish Department to permanently protect and restore large tracts of wetland, riparian, and sagebrush-steppe habitat in the Upper Green River basin.

For every dollar spent on Federal Duck Stamps, 98 cents goes directly to purchase or lease vital habitat for protection in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Ashe lauded the Commission’s approval of the land purchases and conservation grants.

“Protection of wetlands ensures that hunters, anglers, and wildlife watchers and photographers can continue to enjoy these precious resources,” Ashe said. “Wildlife recreationists make up nearly 30 percent of the U.S. population and contribute more than \$100 billion to our economy.”

The 2013-14 Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, also known as the Federal Duck Stamp, will go on sale June 28. Since 1934, sales of Federal Duck Stamps have raised more than \$800 million to acquire 6 million acres of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act is the only federal grant program dedicated to the conservation of wetland habitats for migratory birds. Through the Act’s U.S. Standard grants program, 3,300 partners have been involved in 910 projects affecting more than 7 million acres of habitat. More information about the U.S. Standard projects approved is available at:

http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Standard/US/2013_March.shtm

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife

conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service.

For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/>

Connect with our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/USFWSMountainPrairie>

Follow our tweets at <http://twitter.com/USFWSMtnPrairie>

Watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws>

Download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmtnpairie/>

-FWS-