

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.

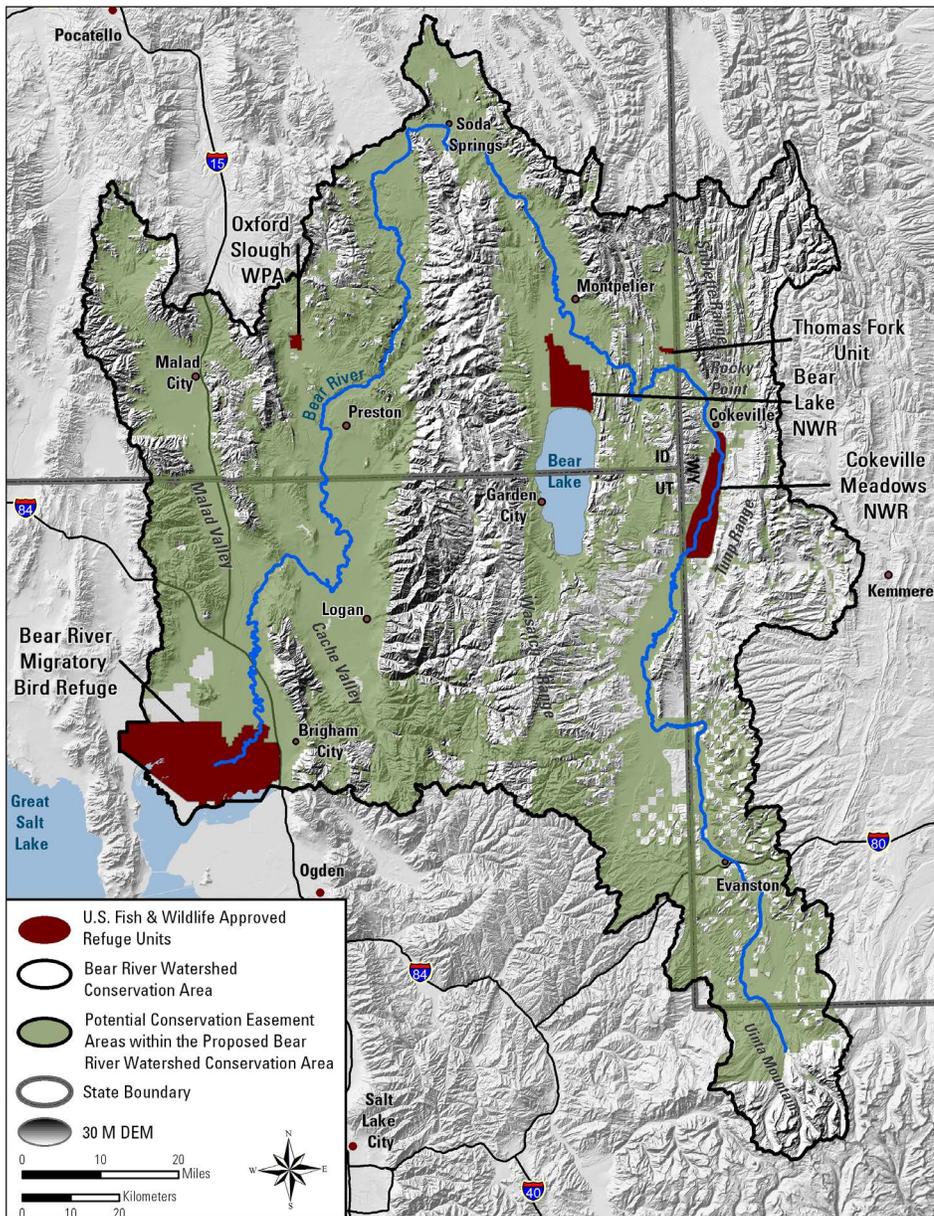
Mammals such as elk, mule deer, moose, pronghorn, bear, lynx, and wolverine also depend on the habitat and migration corridors here.

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



The proposed Bear River Watershed Conservation Area.

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. We 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

Contacts

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- Email us at brwca_comments@fws.gov, or call or write the contacts below.
- Get on our mailing list (via the Web page or contacts below). Due to the Freedom of Information Act, we need your permission to place your name on the mailing list.
- You can provide comments on the proposed project until January 4, 2013.

We also invite you to attend one of the public meetings listed here. →

Tracy Casselman, Project Leader
Southeast Idaho National Wildlife Refuge Complex
4425 Burley Drive, Suite A
Chubbuck, Idaho 83202-1923
208 / 237 6615 extension 106

Bob Barrett, Project Leader
Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge
2155 West Forest Street
Brigham City, Utah 84302
435 / 734 6451

Tom Koerner, Project Leader
Seedskaadee and Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuges
P.O. Box 700
Green River, Wyoming 82935
307 / 875 2187 extension 16

Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Cache County Fairgrounds Pavilion
450 South 500 West, Logan, Utah

Wednesday, December 5, 2012, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Rich County Senior Citizens Center
21 North Main Street, Randolph, Utah

Thursday, December 6, 2012, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Bear Lake County Senior Citizens Center
300 Hospital Way, Montpelier, Idaho

Friday, December 7, 2012, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Franklin Fire Protection District
55 West 1st Street, Preston, Idaho

Monday, December 10, 2012, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Cokeville High School
435 Pine Street, Cokeville, Wyoming

Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 5:30–7:30 p.m.
Uinta County Library
701 Main Street, Evanston, Wyoming



Front photograph © Hal Reader



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**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Refuge Planning
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Denver, CO 80225-0486**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

