

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.

Over 200 bird species are found in the project area, and half are closely associated with wetlands. Marsh 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.

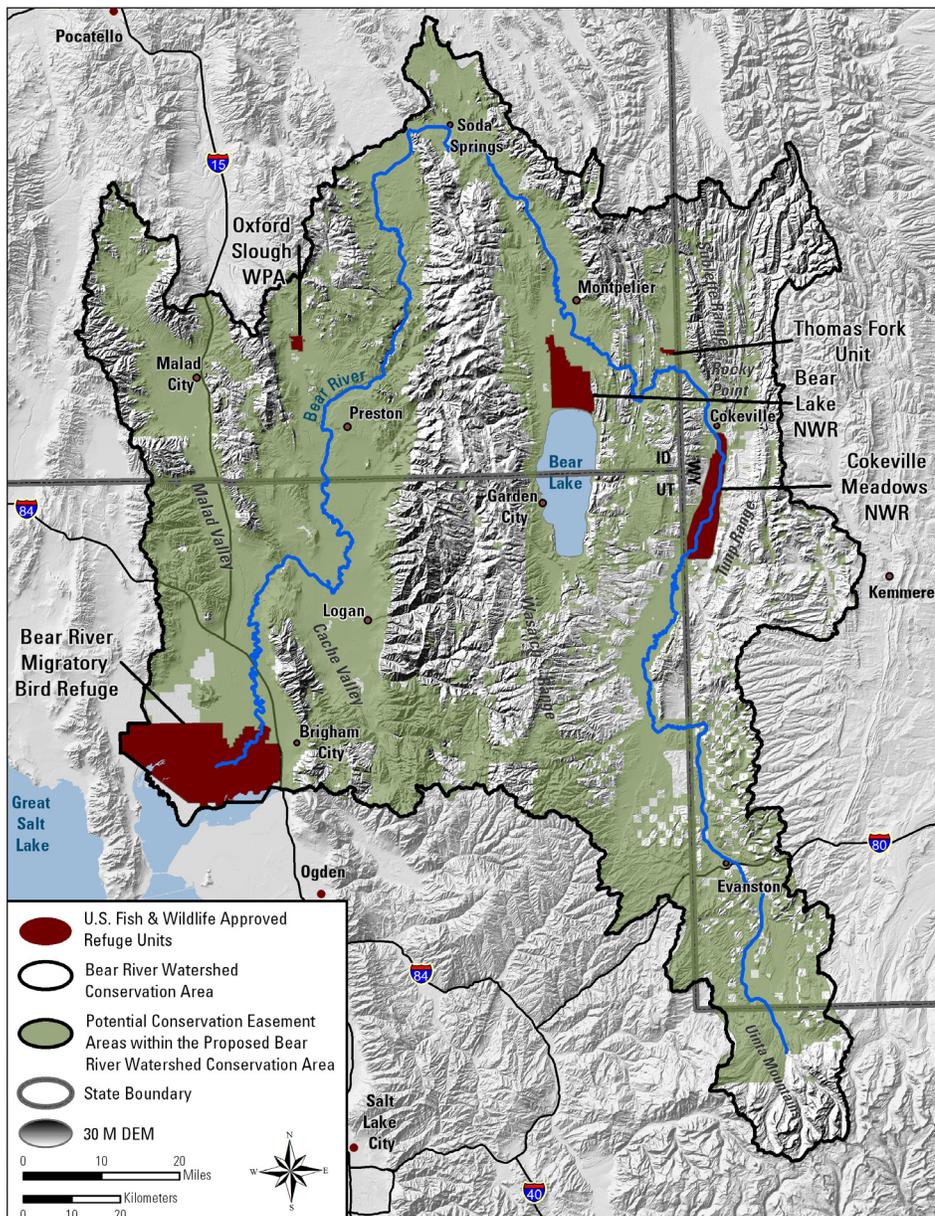
Mammals such as elk, mule deer, moose, pronghorn, bear, lynx and wolverine also depend on the habitat and migration corridors here.

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. Land ownership 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



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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 a public meeting, 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

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Front photograph © Hal Reader

2012 Project Timeline



April 2012

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED