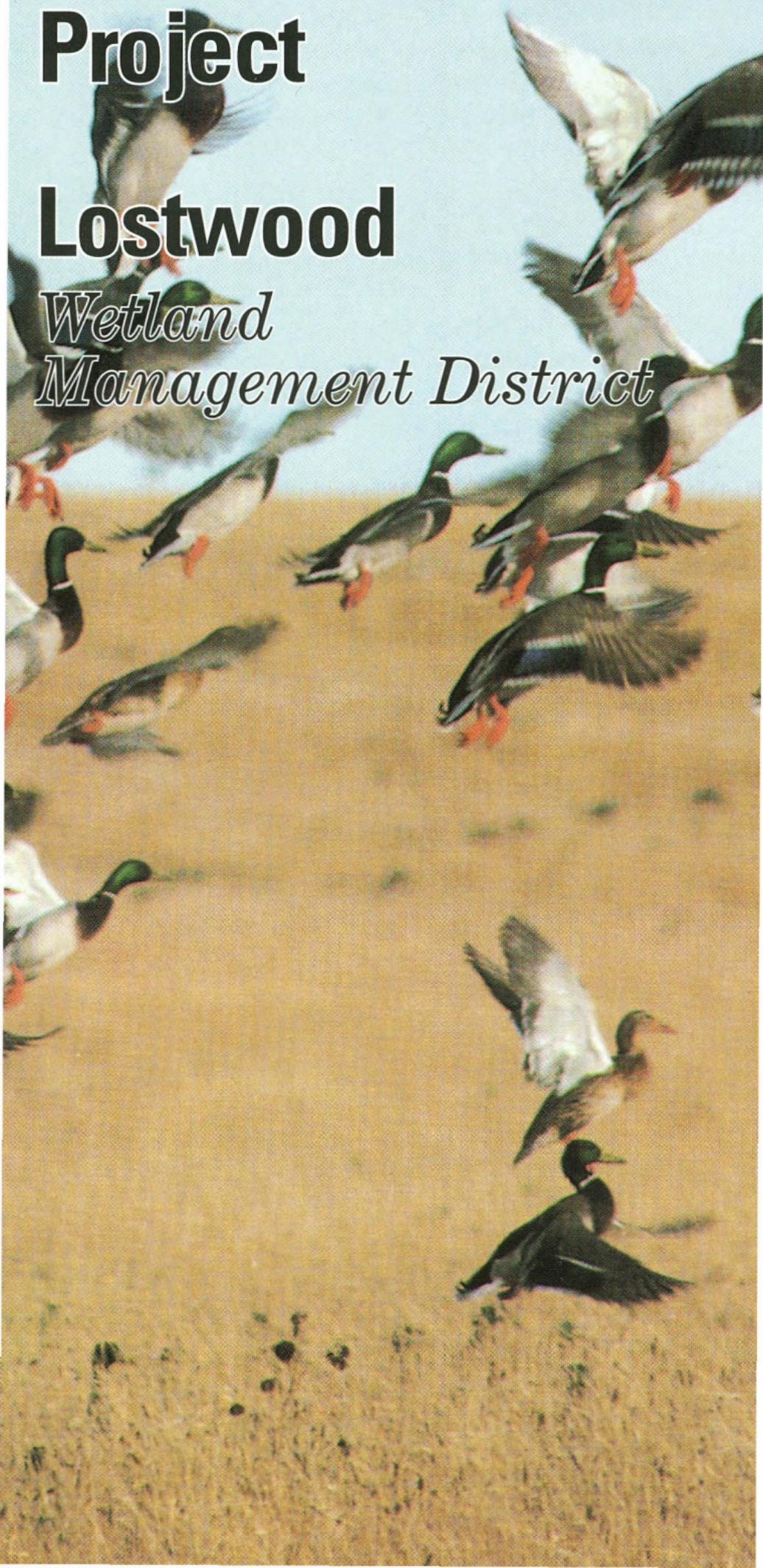


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Northern Coteau Project

Lostwood

*Wetland
Management District*



The Northern Coteau Project

The Northern Coteau region was formed by debris piled in front of the advance of the most recent glaciers to visit North Dakota. As the glaciers retreated, the rubble was left to form the gentle rolling hills you see today. Coteau is a French word meaning "little hill". Buried in that rubble were large chunks of ice that were sheared off glaciers. As that ice melted, depressions were formed. Those depressions are the wetlands you see spread across the coteau region; over 150 per square mile. The Northern Coteau is also where you can find some of the largest, contiguous tracts of native northern mixed grass prairie in the United States.

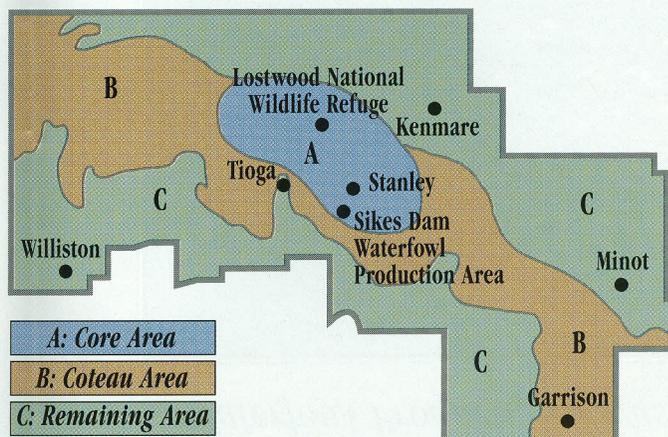
This unique combination of prairie and wetland is a boon to many species of wildlife. Within the Northern Coteau, mallards nest in the highest densities ever recorded in North America on Miller Lake Island. The Northern Coteau has the highest known densities of sharp-tailed grouse in North America and is an important migration stop for endangered whooping cranes. Fall snow goose migration numbers peak at over 400,000 birds.

The critical importance of this unique area, and the desire to protect, enhance, and restore it, was the driving force that resulted in the Northern Coteau Project becoming a reality.

The Northern Coteau Region



The Northern Coteau Project Area



Sharp-tailed Grouse

The Northern Coteau Project

was approved as a \$425,000 grant from the North American Wetlands Conservation Council to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in September of 1994. Several other organizations also contributed money to the project, including: the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, Delta Waterfowl Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Audubon Society, North Dakota Wetlands Trust, County Conservation Districts, and local sportsmen's organizations. Many of these partners contribute technical expertise and acreage to the project, as well as funds.

Restoring wetlands is an important part of the Northern Coteau Project, but is only part of the whole story. The Project is designed to show that profitable agriculture and abundant wildlife can be combined to enhance the quality of life for everyone. Just as wetlands are only one component of waterfowl habitat, cattle need more than waterholes. Grazing systems are being established that improve the quality of forage as well as providing important nesting habitat for waterfowl and other birds. There are 28 action items that guide all efforts over the ten years of the Project.

With landowners as partners, the Northern Coteau Project can show almost instant results. Landowners who are interested in participating in a project are welcomed to submit ideas for improvements on their land. Once a project is complete, and water and upland cover are provided, the next spring you have 'instant ducks'.



Prairie wetlands of the Northern Coteau.

Waterfowl Production Areas

Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs) are lands that were purchased and are managed to provide high quality wetlands and nesting cover for waterfowl and many other species of wildlife. All WPAs are open for the public to enjoy. Activities include hunting, birdwatching, hiking, and photography.

Hunting and trapping are permitted in accordance with North Dakota Game and Fish Department regulations.

WPAs are open to foot traffic only. Motorized vehicles are not permitted in order to protect wildlife habitat. Most WPAs have only limited facilities, so camping is not permitted. Consult the Wetland Management District staff regarding a complete list of WPAs.

Coteau Prairie

Waterfowl Production Area

More than 2,700 acres of prairie grasses, wildflowers, and wetlands at Coteau Prairie WPA provide great opportunities for hunting, trapping, and wildlife observation. This area has a large tract of undisturbed native prairie.

North Dakota #2

Waterfowl Production Area

A large island in the middle of the largest wetland makes this area an ideal "Mallard Motel." Large, shallow wetlands are typical throughout this part of the Coteau Region.

Lostwood

WETLAND MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Lostwood Wetland Management District is located in northwestern North Dakota in Mountrail and part of Ward County. The rolling hills and scattered wetlands, known as the coteau, were formed from debris 'bulldozed' by the last glaciers to visit North Dakota some 11,000 years ago.

The District consists mainly of three types of areas: Waterfowl Production Areas, Wetland Easements, and Easement Refuges.



Snow Geese



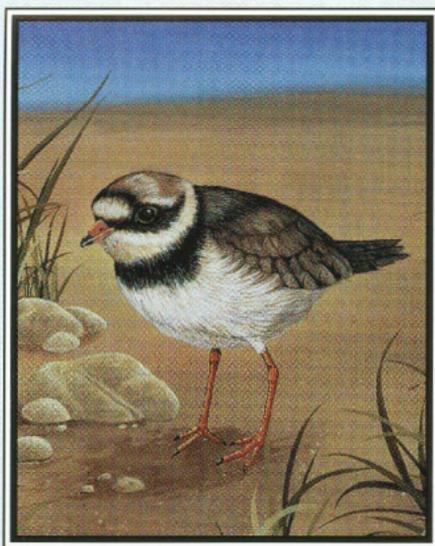
Duck Stamps: A Wildlife Success Story

On March 6, 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Duck Stamp Bill into law. That same year, the famous cartoonist Jay N. "Ding" Darling drew the very first stamp. Since 1934, each waterfowl hunter in the United States 16 years of age or older has been required to purchase a Duck Stamp prior to hunting. Duck Stamps and Duck Stamp art are purchased by hunters and nonhunters alike, helping acquire and protect waterfowl habitat in the face of ongoing development.

***Piping
Plover
Waterfowl
Production
Area***

Threatened piping plovers nest on the alkaline beaches of this WPA.

Access is limited to protect these nesting sites. Contact the Wetland District Manager for further information.



Dave Ely

Piping Plover

***Sikes Dam
Waterfowl Production Area***

Sikes Dam was originally built in 1933 and received major renovations in 1994. Today, waterfowl and other migratory birds use the 340-acre marsh created by the dam.

***Moen
Waterfowl Production Area***

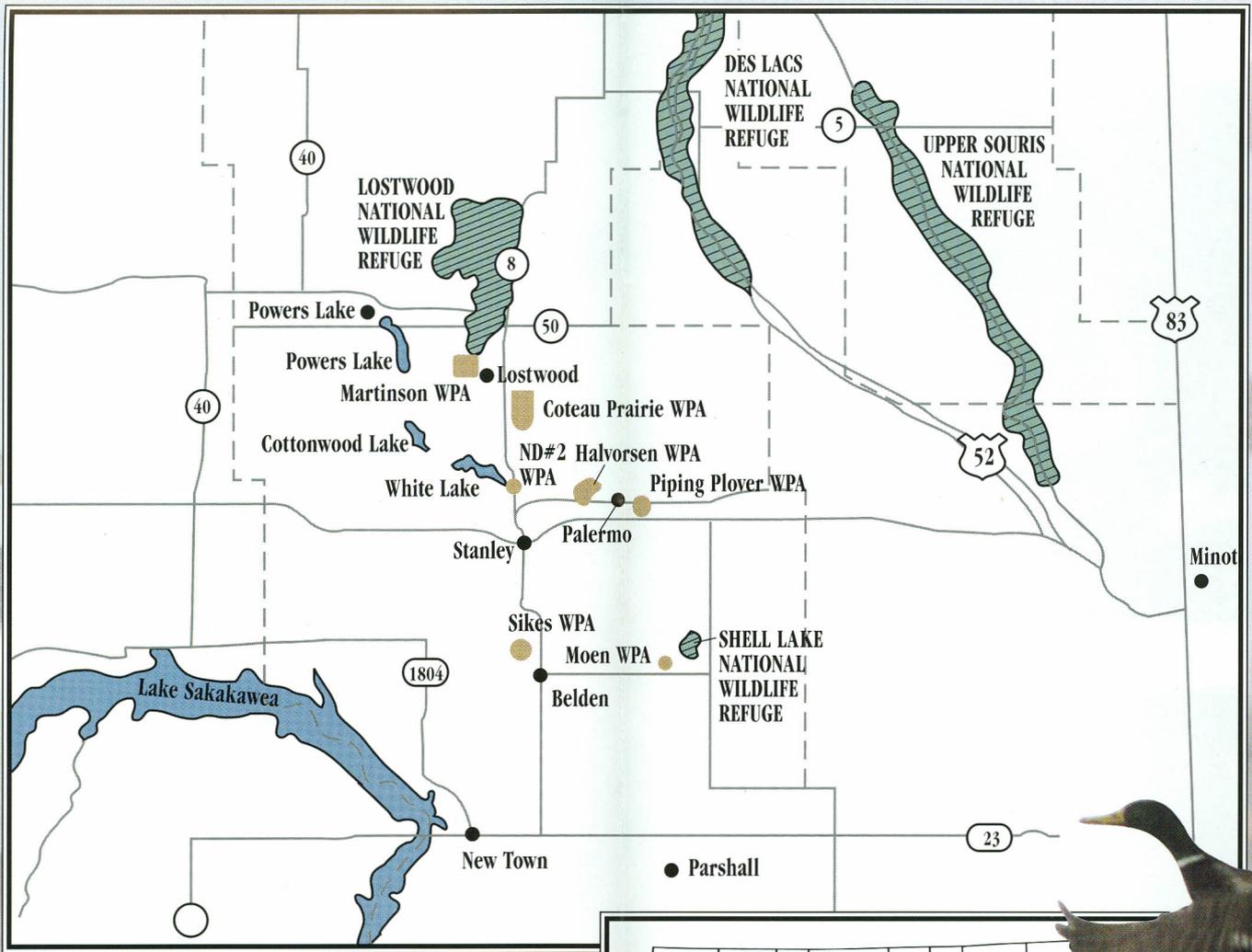
The riparian habitat along Shell Creek attracts a rich diversity of wildlife species to Moen WPA. This habitat is special because it is uncommon on the prairie.

***Halvorson
Waterfowl Production Area***

The deeper waters in the wetlands on this WPA make it attractive for diving ducks, particularly canvasbacks and redheads. It is also a good place to observe the fall migration of ducks and geese.

Wetland Easements

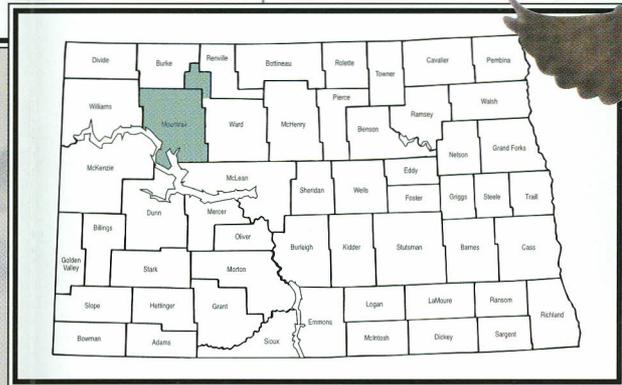
Wetland easements protect wetland areas on private land. Landowners retain ownership of the



land and may hay or farm the wetland basins when conditions allow. The easements are perpetual and stay with the land when ownership changes. Through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Wildlife Program, Service staff work with landowners to improve productivity of these wetlands by building nesting structures, improving nesting cover, and other efforts.

Easement Refuges

Private lands with easements to manage wildlife and water use are called easement refuges. Easement refuges were first established during the

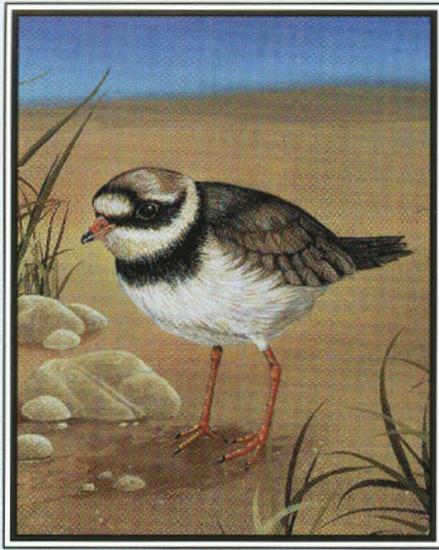


Dust Bowl era of the 1930's. These lands are often farmed or grazed, but are usually closed to hunting. Easement refuges provide stable water areas and safe havens for migrating waterfowl.

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Plover
Waterfowl
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Benefitting people and wildlife

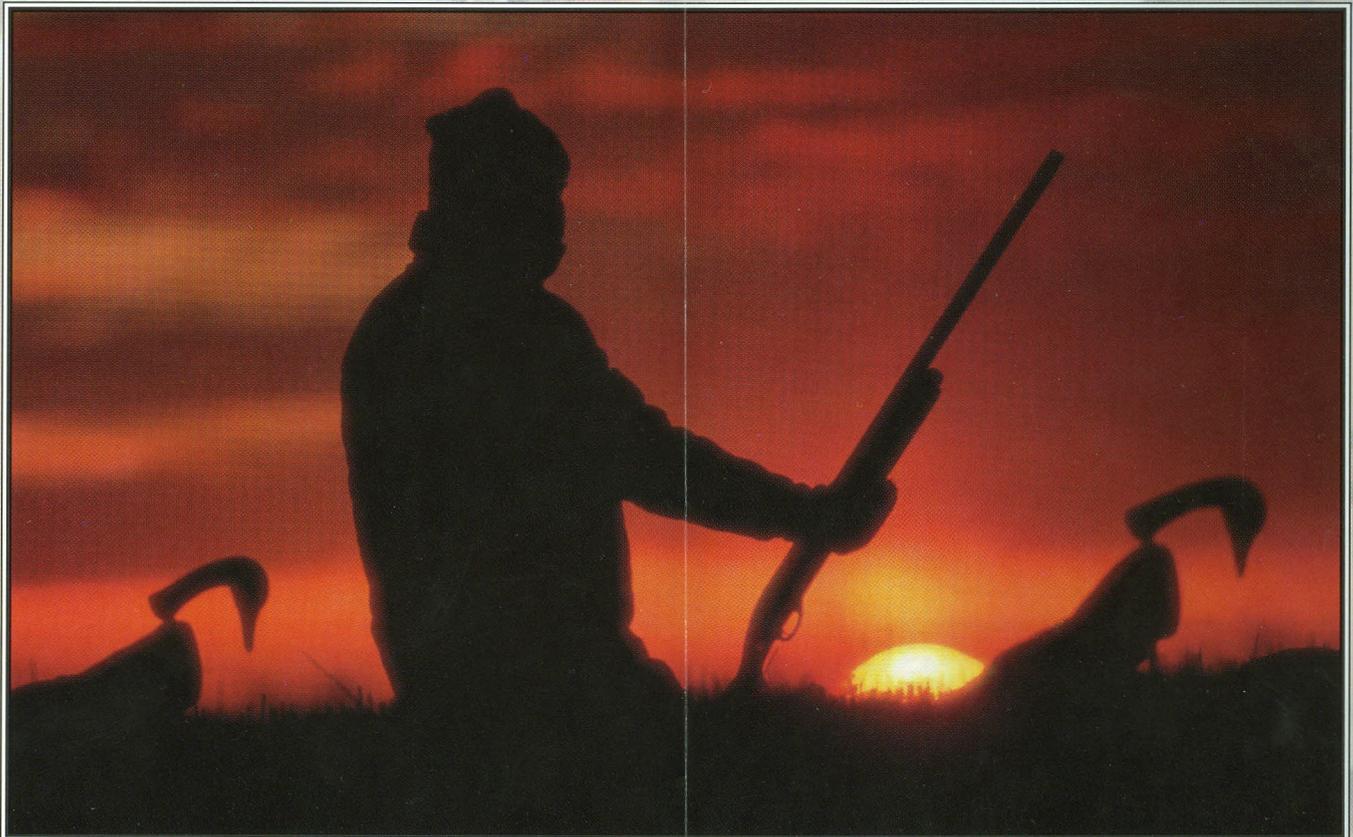
is what the Northern Coteau Project and Lostwood Wetland Management District are about. The results are hard to ignore. Habitat management has been improved on over 1,000,000 acres of private land through grazing systems, conservation tillage, legume and grass seeding, and food plots. Wildlife provides recreation opportunities for people who live in the project area and visitors who come to enjoy wildlife. These visitors contribute dollars to local economies.

The time, energy, and money invested in the Northern Coteau Project and Lostwood Wetland Management District is paying dividends today and will continue to benefit the residents, visitors, and wildlife of the Northern Coteau for many generations.



Loren Ostie

Western Grebe



Craig Bihirle

A North Dakota waterfowl hunter at sunrise.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800/344 WILD

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