



Conserving America's Great Outdoors

*Fulfilling Theodore Roosevelt's Crusade
to Protect America's Wildlife*



National
Wildlife Refuge
Association

Medano Zapata Ranch, CO | Dave Stowalter | Top, L-R: Ted Steinke | FWS | FWS | Mack Barham

Theodore Roosevelt— A Visionary for American Wildlife

In 1903, President Theodore Roosevelt issued a proclamation creating a “Federal Bird Reservation” at Pelican Island in Florida. The protection of this modest 3-acre mangrove island was a watershed moment for the American conservation movement, laying the groundwork for what would become our system of national wildlife refuges. Roosevelt’s approach to conservation was revolutionary. Pelican Island was the first federal land set aside with the intent to protect a non-game bird species from falling to the same fate as the passenger pigeon.

Over the ensuing years, Roosevelt invoked his presidential powers to establish 53 reservations for the purpose of protecting wildlife and natural resources across the country, from the Florida Keys to the Aleutian Islands in Alaska.

While our rich national conservation heritage has been punctuated by many luminaries—from Marsh to Thoreau, Muir to Leopold—it is the actions of a single president, Theodore Roosevelt, that provided the framework and enduring vision for the vast mosaic of public lands. Now, as we enter the second decade of the 21st Century, we must take up Roosevelt’s charge and renew our national commitment to conserving America’s Great Outdoors.



Brian Tague



Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge, DE | Brett Breeding



“When the people of the United States consciously undertake to raise themselves as citizens to the highest pitch of excellence in private, state, and national life, then the future of this nation, in quality and in time, will be assured.”

President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908 White House Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources

"It is time for us now as a nation to exercise the same reasonable foresight in dealing with our great natural resources that would be shown by any prudent man in conserving and wisely using the property which contains the assurance of well-being for himself and his children."

President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908 White House Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources

America's Great Outdoors and the Crusade to Protect American Wildlife

In 1908, President Theodore Roosevelt addressed the White House Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources with an impassioned case for leaving our natural resources "undiminished" and "improved" for our children. More than a century later, the 2010 White House Conference on America's Great Outdoors takes up Roosevelt's charge in the face of new challenges to create a secure and sustainable future for the next generation.

The fate of American wildlife serves as a bellwether for many of the challenges to the well-being of our society. To exercise reasonable foresight in the face of climate change, changing weather patterns, and continued development pressure, we must act now to:

- 🌿 Create unprecedented collaboration among federal, state, local and NGO entities—including those agencies that may not be seen as traditional conservation partners—to accomplish sweeping environmental protection goals;
- 🌿 Build connections between protected areas to facilitate species migration, adaptation, and resilient habitat diversity;

- 🌿 Invest in new conservation with the multiple benefits of habitat protection, ecosystem services such as water supplies, wetland restoration and reforestation to mitigate climate change, and balancing agriculture with wildlife habitat protection;
- 🌿 Leverage the strengths of existing programs while developing creative new tools, alliances, and funding sources;
- 🌿 Demonstrate successful collaborative models in key landscapes that will help build public and political support for long-term investment in America's wildlife and natural resource conservation.

America's Great Outdoors can be the mechanism for re-engaging and reconnecting the American public with our natural heritage. Further, wildlife conservation objectives should be a priority goal of the initiative, keeping in mind that success will in turn assure the improved health of the nation and a sustainable future for our children. In this report, we illustrate the concepts and projects we believe will provide a robust foundation for America's Great Outdoors.

Seney National Wildlife Refuge, MI | Glenn Wheaton



"...our natural resources are so closely connected that they should be coordinated and should be treated as part of one coherent plan and not in haphazard and piecemeal fashion."

President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908 White House Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources

A Crossroads for Wildlife in the New Century

As we enter the second decade of the century, the integrity of America's natural environment is beset by innumerable challenges. If we fail to act, these challenges will have significant ramifications not just for iconic American wildlife like caribou, manatees, desert tortoises and migratory birds, but also for a public that depends on the health of our native habitats to provide "ecosystem services" like fresh air, clean drinking water, storm and flood buffers, places of solace and inspiration, and opportunities for outdoor recreation and sports.

Findings of recent reports such as the 2009 *State of the Birds* and the 2008 State Wildlife Action Plans show declines of formerly

common species, increases in the numbers of "species of greatest conservation need," and more threatened or endangered species. Climate change, human encroachment, invasive species and a public more removed from the natural world than ever all conspire to harm the natural systems upon which we depend.

The threat and impact of global climate change brings us back to the core truth that all life on earth is interconnected, and we all have a role to play in the solution. The pollution that harms the salamander, the melting ice sheet that threatens the polar bear, and the deforestation that endangers migratory songbirds also threaten the air, water, health and well-being of the entire human population.

America's Great Outdoors—A Call to Action

We have the opportunity now to change our future for the better. We have better tools, better science, and greater momentum than at any time since the landmark period of the Clean Water, Clean Air and Endangered Species Acts inspired by the first Earth Day forty years ago. But protecting America's Great Outdoors requires unprecedented collaboration among diverse partners with a 'can-do' attitude, an ambitious landscape-scale vision, a range of significant public and private resources, and creative programs that embody the axiom that good environmental stewardship is also good for the American economy.

To demonstrate how these components come together, the National Wildlife Refuge Association recommends the strategic selection of flagship landscapes that can serve as model programs. Under the Great Outdoors America vision, these flagship landscapes must offer real examples of how we can align multiple partners to achieve common goals. Criteria for selecting flagship landscapes should include:



San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge, TX | C. Dennis McKelroy

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, NC | Steve Hillebrand



Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, NV | Evan Hirsche



- Multiple partners: Federal and state agencies, tribal governments, private and corporate landowners, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as land trusts, and others;
- Multiple conservation values, including water quality, wildlife habitat, working forests and agricultural lands, hunting and fishing opportunities, hiking trails and other recreation, outdoor classrooms and access from population centers;
- Multiple conservation funding opportunities—fully funding the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Forest Legacy, but also focusing the many resources available through the Departments of Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, Defense, Energy, Transportation, as well as state funds, local conservation funds, the private sector, and philanthropy;
- Climate change mitigation values, including restoration of forests and wetlands, carbon sequestration investments, wildlife corridors and water protection;



Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, NM | Sheri Melanson

- Private landowner and community participation, involving farmers, ranchers, corporate and family forestland owners, and privately owned sanctuaries and reserves;
- Biodiversity hotspots and natural community types, such as prairie and grasslands, that are presently under-represented in the national conservation estate;
- Opportunities for innovative approaches to youth conservation education, engagement, and employment.

To this end, we have highlighted ten possible flagship landscapes where these criteria are already driving landscape scale conservation efforts that are poised to serve as emblematic examples of how to implement the America's Great Outdoors vision.



Cape May National Wildlife Refuge, NJ | Steve Greer

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—A Proven Leader for America's Great Outdoors



The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is uniquely suited to play a leadership role in putting the America's Great Outdoors vision into action on the ground. FWS draws on a wealth of experience, including:

- Managing the 150-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System—the world's largest wildlife conservation program;
- A century of experience working in partnership with private landowners to accomplish habitat improvement, restoration, and best management practices on private lands for public benefit;
- Extensive species conservation partnerships with federal, state and tribal entities;
- A Refuge Friends Network of 40,000 private citizens working at

the local, regional and national level to advance Refuge System and Fish and Wildlife priorities;

- A leadership role in developing the Joint Venture structure, engaging states, NGOs, and federal agencies in coordinated conservation strategies;
- Working internationally to protect migratory birds and export successful wildlife management strategies to support an array of wildlife across the globe.

In addition, FWS has been on the forefront of developing and implementing new tools such as the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs). LCCs will develop shared geographically-based science to identify the most important wildlife conservation needs in the face of climate change and other environmental stressors.

America's Great Outdoors—Flagship Landscapes

CONNECTICUT RIVER



FWS

Encompassing 7.2 million acres in four New England states, the Connecticut River watershed is a critical north to south river system to both wildlife and hundreds of communities. With a long tradition of multiple use, from hydropower, forestry and agriculture to remote wildlife preserves, this landscape is also overlaid by the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, established to conserve migratory species and foster conservation and education partnerships.

THE CHESAPEAKE BAY



FWS

As the largest estuary system in the U.S., the Chesapeake provides important habitat for fish, shellfish and millions of migrating shorebirds. Concerns for water quality in the heavily populated region have brought together federal agencies, states and diverse partners to tackle a multitude of environmental and conservation issues in the region.

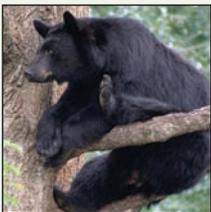
NORTHERN EVERGLADES



FWS

Stretching from the headwaters in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes to Everglades National Park, the Northern Everglades provides important habitat to threatened species such as crested caracara, Florida scrub jay, and Florida panther. Conserving and restoring wetlands at the landscape-scale in the Northern Everglades would improve water quality and complement long-term restoration investments, create wildlife corridors, and engage diverse and important stakeholders.

LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER



AGFC

A landscape dramatically altered by agricultural use and resource extraction, the Lower Mississippi alluvial plain also boasts some of the richest soils, largest waterfowl populations, and greatest opportunities for carbon sequestration and hydrological restoration in the nation. Here, conservation, economic, and climate change mitigation interests intersect, and focused vision and investment could transform this landscape to benefit all.

FLINT HILLS TALLGRASS PRAIRIE



John Eriksson

The Flint Hills of eastern Kansas and northeastern Oklahoma contain 80% of the remaining intact tallgrass prairie habitat in the country. The FWS is working to establish a conservation area that would promote voluntary easements and partnerships among private landowners, federal and state agencies, NGOs and others in an effort to balance continued ranching with grassland protection for species such as greater prairie chicken, grasshopper sparrow, and scissor-tailed flycatcher.

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS



Reid Squyres

The Missouri Breaks and Eastern Montana's vast shortgrass prairie was once home to immense herds of American bison. By developing a common vision of restoration and economic development, new partnerships among federal land agencies, NGOs and local landowners could provide opportunities to create corridors for pronghorn, bison and bighorn and sustain endangered populations of black-footed ferret.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FRONT



FWS

Where the northern Rocky Mountains meet the Great Plains, the Rocky Mountain Front is home to the most intact assemblage of large carnivores in the continental United States, including grizzly bear, gray wolf, wolverine and lynx. In a landmark effort, ranchers, NGOs, public agencies, tribes and others have developed a model partnership for conserving this wild landscape and assuring traditional uses continue.

UPPER GREAT BASIN—BEAR RIVER



Ted Steinke

The Bear River watershed is the largest freshwater system that feeds the Great Salt Lake, and provides a critical migratory stopover point for waterfowl in this arid region. In a new effort, federal agencies, tribes, state wildlife agencies, NGOs and landowners are partnering to conserve water and wildlife in this valuable ecosystem.

MOJAVE DESERT



Evan Hirsche

The Mojave Desert provides habitat for endemic desert fish, desert tortoise, and bighorn sheep. A unique partnership of federal land agencies, the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership, manages a collective 7.2 million acres in Nevada, and offers a framework for even greater common conservation and public use objectives by further engaging NGOs, private interests, and California counterparts.

ALASKA'S NORTH SLOPE



FWS

A true wilderness, Alaska's North Slope hosts thousands of migrating caribou in one of the greatest wildlife spectacles in North America, while providing critical land-denning habitat for polar bears, and nesting habitat for millions of migratory birds. With a coordinated approach among federal agencies and NGOs, it is possible to transcend petroleum politics to conserve America's last frontier.



Protecting America's Great Outdoors Landscape in Focus: Northern Everglades

The Florida Everglades offer a compelling example of what coordinated interagency and public-private efforts can accomplish. The Everglades have been the focus of significant investment in planning, engineering and restoration for decades, yet a comprehensive conservation strategy for the complete Everglades ecosystem from headwaters to outflow has proved elusive. Now, many capable partners are coming together to accomplish an even greater good.

Vision:

Establish a matrix of conserved lands, involving both private and public landowners, stretching from the Everglades Headwaters to Everglades National Park. This effort would have far-reaching impact on water quality and supply, wildlife habitat connectivity for endangered species such as the Florida panther, public health and recreation, economic development through ecotourism and sustainable farming and ranching, and climate change adaptation for wildlife and people alike.

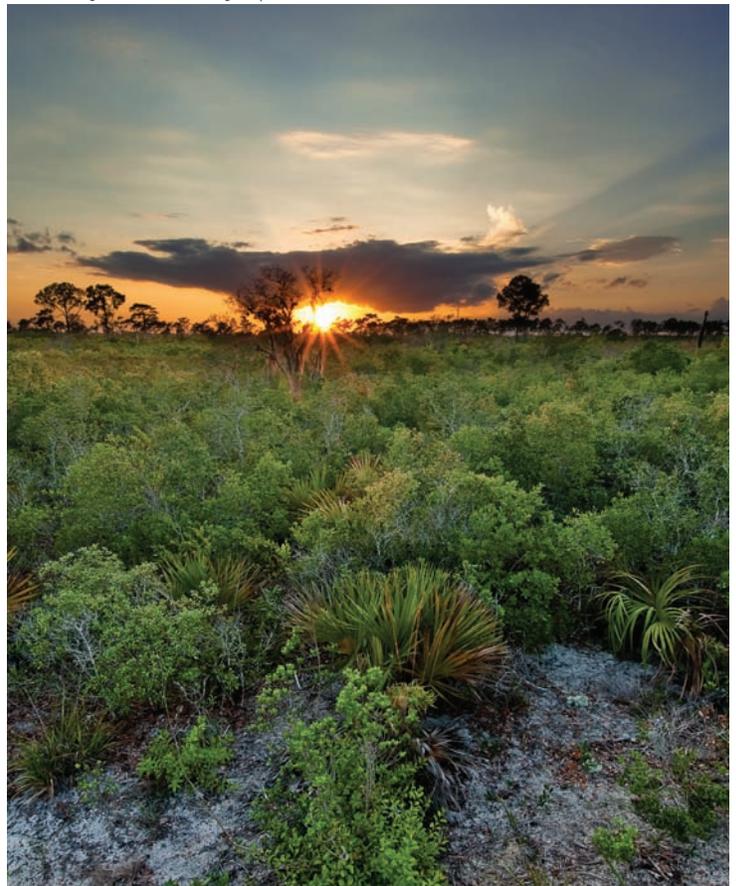
This landscape level approach would bring in key partners in their areas of strength and create common goals that would help leverage funding, focus efforts, and address the health of the entire Everglades system.

Partnership-driven Conservation:

- 🌿 Department of the Interior/U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Establish new wildlife refuges in the Northern Everglades, work with private landowners through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program; bring North America Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and other funding sources to bear, and build connections with National Park Service holdings at Big Cypress Preserve and Everglades National Park;
- 🌿 Department of Agriculture: Focus Natural Resource Conservation Service programs on rangeland habitat protection and restoration;
- 🌿 Department of Defense: Use conservation and buffer programs to secure buffer lands surrounding DOD holdings in the headwaters area, and complement Army corps of Engineers efforts as part of the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP);
- 🌿 Tribal Governments: Work with Native interests to balance traditional land uses with wildlife and water protection;

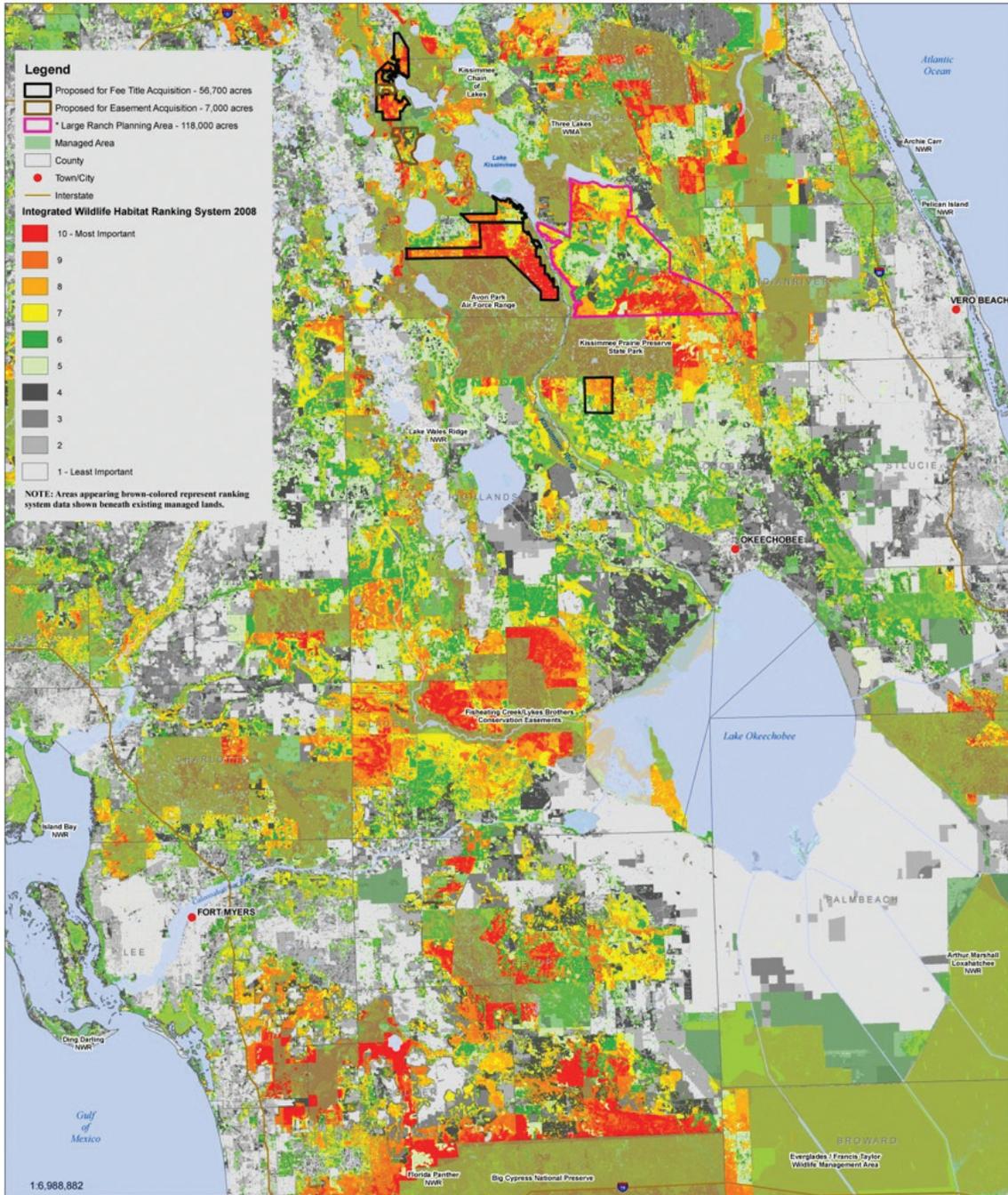
- 🌿 State of Florida: Identify key connections between Wildlife Management Areas, State Parks, and Water Management District holdings in the Northern Everglades in coordination with ongoing efforts of the CERP;
- 🌿 City and County Governments: Work with non-traditional partners to engage economically, culturally, and ideologically diverse communities in protecting their common water and wildlife;
- 🌿 Private Landowners: Engage ranching and farming communities in cooperative programs to secure wildlife corridors, restore wetlands, and develop nature-based business ventures;
- 🌿 NGOs and Land Trusts: Build on significant and successful conservation gems such as the Disney Wilderness Preserve, Hatchineha Ranch, Lykes Brothers conservation easements, and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, while simultaneously assuring hunting, fishing and other traditional uses continue.

Lake Wales Ridge National Wildlife Refuge, FL | Reed Bowman





Preliminary Proposed Composition of a Northern Everglades National Wildlife Refuge - Integrated Wildlife Habitat Ranking System



Legend

- Proposed for Fee Title Acquisition - 56,700 acres
- Proposed for Easement Acquisition - 7,000 acres
- * Large Ranch Planning Area - 118,000 acres
- Managed Area
- County
- Town/City
- Interstate

Integrated Wildlife Habitat Ranking System 2008

- 10 - Most Important
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 2
- 1 - Least Important

NOTE: Areas appearing brown-colored represent ranking system data shown beneath existing managed lands.

- Map developed by The Nature Conservancy to show properties that have high habitat value, meet USFWS criteria for a proposed Northern Everglades National Wildlife Refuge and for which interest in fee simple or conservation easement sale has already been expressed.
- The Integrated Wildlife Habitat Ranking System (IWHRS) ranks the Florida landscape based upon the needs of wildlife as a way to identify ecologically significant lands in the state, and to assess the potential impacts of land development projects.
- For a complete report and data, please refer to: Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish & Wildlife Research Institute. Available online at <http://ocean.floridamarine.org/iwhrs/data>.



0 5 10 20 30 Miles

N

* The Large Ranch Planning Area includes 5 ranches where landowners have expressed an interest in the protection of resources on at least a portion of the property.

Prepared Dec. 22, 2009 by Petra Royston, TNC
 DATA SOURCES: Proposed boundaries: TNC;
 FLMA 9/2009; FL Natural Areas Inventory
 Integrated Wildlife Habitat Ranking System: Florida Fish and
 Wildlife Conservation Commission - Fish and Wildlife Research Institute, IWHRS2008
 Roads, cities, county: FGDL;

America's Great Outdoors—The Time is Now

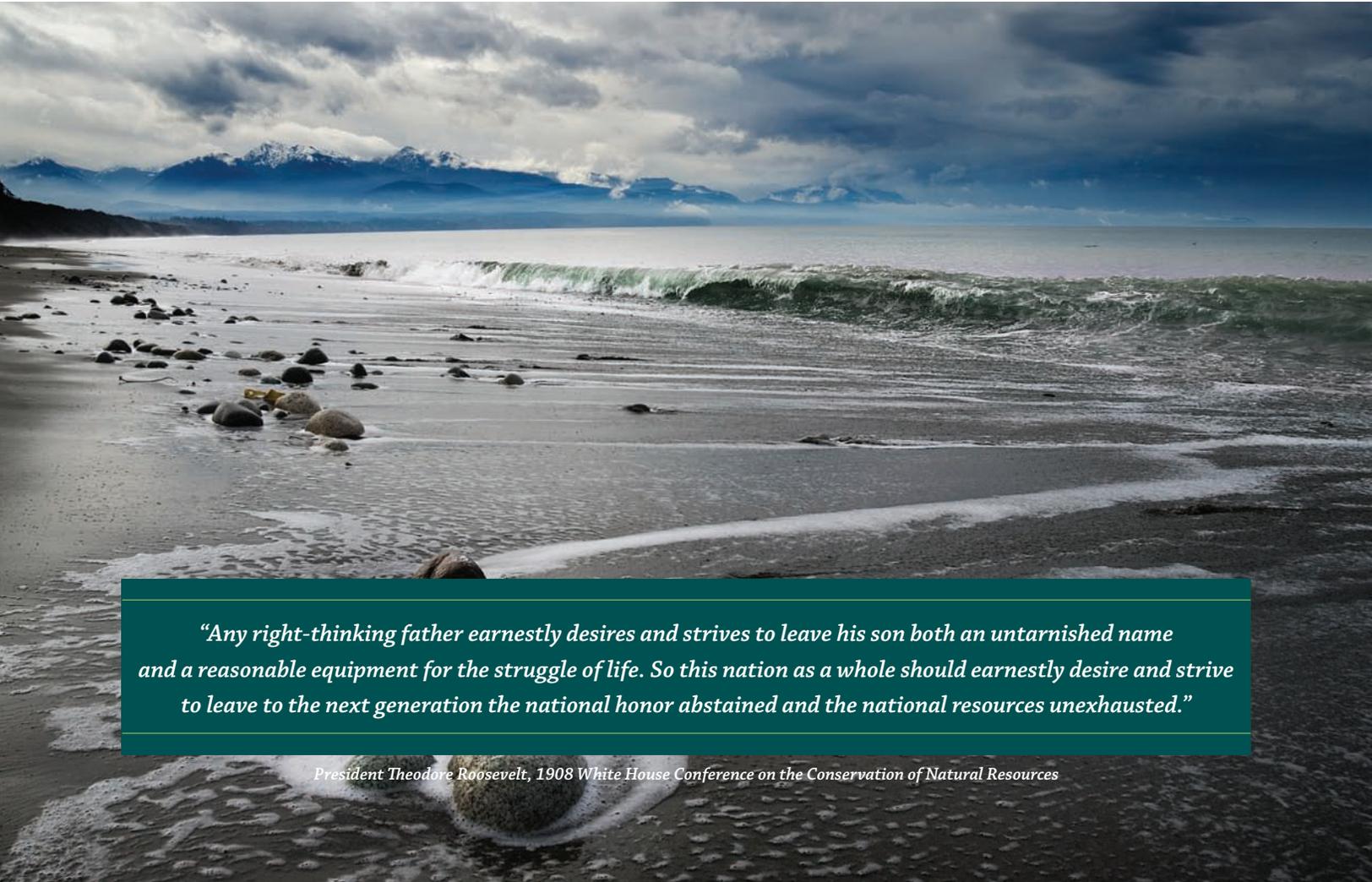
President Theodore Roosevelt's visionary leadership more than 100 years ago led to the creation of a national network of wildlife refuges, national parks and numerous conservation statutes that served to frame 20th century conservation. While his vision was sweeping and enduring, a new century presents challenges unimaginable in his day. Thus America's Great Outdoors must carry forward and reinvent Teddy Roosevelt's "Great Wildlife Crusade" for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.

With leadership by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency recognized for its innovative partnerships among diverse stakeholders and private land owners, America's Great Outdoors can create a lasting conservation framework that incorporates bold visions, lasting partnerships, sound science and public engagement to ensure that we leave a legacy to the next generation of Americans that is both undiminished and improved.



Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, GA | James Cutler

Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge, WA | Bryan Aulick



“Any right-thinking father earnestly desires and strives to leave his son both an untarnished name and a reasonable equipment for the struggle of life. So this nation as a whole should earnestly desire and strive to leave to the next generation the national honor abstained and the national resources unexhausted.”

President Theodore Roosevelt, 1908 White House Conference on the Conservation of Natural Resources

About the NWRA: Protecting America's Wildlife

The National Wildlife Refuge Association (NWRA) is an independent non-profit organization with the mission to conserve America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries that secure its ecological integrity.

To achieve this mission, we advocate for the National Wildlife Refuge System and associated U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service programs with national and local decision-makers; educate and mobilize communities across the country in partnership with over 190 refuge "Friends" affiliate organizations; and work with diverse partners to conserve critical wildlife habitat in refuge landscapes.



NWRA and its affiliated refuge "Friends" organizations advocate for the needs of the National Wildlife Refuge System and America's wildlife heritage. | Evan Hirsche



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National Wildlife Refuge Association Affiliate Organizations

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| Alaska Natural History Association | Friends of Brazoria Wildlife Refuges | Friends of Maine Seabird Islands | Friends of Sullys Hill | Friends of the San Luis Valley National Wildlife Refuges | Malheur Wildlife Associates |
| Amigos de la Sevilleta | Friends of Buenos Aires NWR | Friends of Mid-Columbia River Wildlife Refuges | Friends of Sunkhaze Meadows | Friends of the San Pablo Bay NWR | Merritt Island Wildlife Association |
| Arthur R. Marshall Foundation | Friends of Caddo Lake NWR | Friends of Midway Atoll NWR | Friends of Supawna Meadows NWR | Friends of the Santee National Wildlife Refuge | Mingo Swamp Friends |
| Association of Friends of the Wichitas | Friends of Cahaba River NWR | Friends of Missisquoi NWR | Friends of Tennessee NWR | Friends of the Suwannee and Cedar Keys NWR | Mississippi River Wild |
| Back Bay Restoration Foundation | Friends of California Condors - Wild & Free | Friends of Monomoy | Friends of the 500th | Friends Of the Savannah Coastal Wildlife Refuges, Inc | Nevada Wilderness Project |
| Big Oaks Conservation Society | Friends of Camas NWR | Friends of Moosehorn NWR | Friends of the Alameda Wildlife Refuge, GGAS | Friends of the Upper Mississippi and Cedar Keys NWR | Okefenokee Wildlife League |
| Booth Society | Friends of Cape May NWR | Friends of Neceadah NWR | Friends of the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee Refuge | Friends of the Swan Lake NWR | Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge Association |
| Cabeza Prieta Natural History Association | Friends of Carson Fish Hatchery | Friends of Nisqually NWR | Friends of the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge | Friends of the Tampa Bay National Wildlife Refuges, Inc. | Pelican Island Preservation Society |
| Central Basin Audubon, ARK | Friends of Cherry Valley | Friends of Noxubee Refuge | Friends of the Cache River Watershed | Friends of the Tualatin River NWR | Portneuf Valley Audubon Society |
| Chincoteague Natural History Association | Friends of Clarks River NWR | Friends of Nulhegan | Friends of the Carr Refuge | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Prairie Pothole Partners |
| Citizen's Committee to Complete the Refuge | Friends of Crab Orchard Refuge | Friends of NWRs of Rhode Island | Friends of the Chassahowitzka NWRC | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | PRBO Conservation Science |
| Coastal Wildlife Refuge Society | Friends of Crane Meadows NWR | Friends of Ohio River Islands NWR, Inc. | Friends of the Deep Fork NWR | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Rappahannock Wildlife Refuge Friends, Inc. |
| Columbia Gorge Refuge Stewards | Friends of Dahomey NWR | Friends of Outer Island | Friends of the Detroit Lakes WMD NWR | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Red Wolf Coalition |
| Ding Darling Wildlife Society | Friends of Deer Flat NWR | Friends of Parker River NWR | Friends of the Florida Panther NWR | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Refuge Friends Inc |
| Evergreen Lakes Society | Friends of Dungeness NWR | Friends of Patuxent | Friends of the Front Range | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Sandhills Prairie Refuge Association |
| Friends and Volunteers of Refuges Florida Keys | Friends of Eastern Neck, Inc | Friends of Pee Dee NWR | Friends of the Great Plains Nature Center | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Seney Natural History Association |
| Friends in Support of the Hatchery | Friends of Erie NWR | Friends of Plum and Pilot Islands | Friends of the Hakalau Forest NWR | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | SEWEE Association (Southeastern Wildlife & Environmental Education) |
| Friends of Alaska NWRs | Friends of Forsythe NWR | Friends of Pondicherry | Friends of the Lee Metcalf NWR | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Shoreline Education for Awareness (SEA) |
| Friends of Anahuac Refuge | Friends of Gavins Point NFH | Friends of Pool 10 | Friends of the Little Pend Oreille | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Southeast Wildlife Conservation Group |
| Friends of Aransas and Matagorda Island NWR | Friends of Great Falls Discovery Center | Friends of Pool 9 -- Upper Miss Refuge | Friends of the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Southwest Wetlands Interpretative Association |
| Friends of Assabet River NWR | Friends of Great Swamp NWR | Friends of Potomac River Refuges | Friends of the Modoc National Wildlife Refuge | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Spring Wings |
| Friends of Back Bay | Friends of Hagerman NWR | Friends of Prime Hook NWR, Inc. | Friends of the Montezuma Wetlands Complex | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | St. Marks Refuge Association |
| Friends of Balcones Canyonlands NWR | Friends of Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge | Friends of Quivira NWR | Friends of the Morris Wetlands Management District | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Stone Lakes NWR Association |
| Friends of Bayou Teche Refuge | Friends of Haystack Rock | Friends of Rice Lake Refuge | Friends of the National Conservation Training Center | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Supporters of St. Vincent NWR, Inc. |
| Friends of Big Lake | Friends of Heinz Refuge at Tinicum (FOHR Tinicum) | Friends of Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge | Friends of the Oxbow NWR | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Tamarac Interpretive Association |
| Friends of Bitter Lake NWR, Inc | Friends of Humboldt Bay NWR | Friends of San Diego Wildlife Refuges | Friends of the Prairie Learning Center | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Theodore Roosevelt Society, Inc. |
| Friends of Black Bayou, Inc. | Friends of Iroquois NWR | Friends of Seal Beach NWR | Friends of the Reach | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Tishomingo Refuge Ecology & Education Society (T.R.E.E.S) |
| Friends of Blackwater NWR | Friends of Kenai NWR | Friends of Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge | Friends of the Red River NWR | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Valley Nature Center |
| Friends of Bombay Hook, Inc | Friends of Kootenai NWR | Friends of Shiwassee NWR | | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Wheeler Wildlife Refuge Association |
| Friends of Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge | Friends of Laguna Atascosa NWR | Friends of Silvio Conte | | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | Wildlife Stewards |
| Friends of Bosque del Apache NWR | Friends of Lake Woodruff NWR | Friends of Southwest Louisiana NWRs & Wetlands | | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | |
| Friends of Boyer Chute and DeSoto NWRs | Friends of Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge | Friends of Squaw Creek NWR | | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | |
| | Friends of Louisiana Wildlife Refuges, Inc. | Friends of St Catherine Creek Refuge | | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | |
| | Friends of Mackay Island NWR | | | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | |
| | Friends of Maga Ta-Hohpi | | | Friends of the Upper Mississippi River Refuges | |



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