

Partner Resource Catalog



Wyoming Bird Habitat Conservation Partnership

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Introduction

The Wyoming Bird Habitat Conservation Partnership (WBHCP) is a group of private, government, and nonprofit organizations affiliated under the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) and the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV). The Partnership holds at least one formal meeting annually and collaborates informally through emails, conference calls and other means. The group exists to share information and coordinate programs and resources to advance bird habitat conservation throughout Wyoming.

At its 2013 annual meeting, the WBHCP recognized that pooling resources and services to attain common goals greatly increases the partnership's effectiveness. An outcome of that discussion was the need to identify resources member organizations can contribute toward collective efforts to get more projects planned, funded and implemented. The specific recommendation was:

"Develop a 'resource catalog' outlining the services and resources each partner can bring to the table. This will greatly assist our cooperative efforts toward project implementation. While there has always been an informal offer of assistance among the membership, a more formalized reference source that details member functions and capabilities will facilitate project collaboration, resulting in more conservation work getting accomplished on the ground."

Tom Koerner (USFWS – Seedskaadee NWR) undertook the task of compiling summaries from each partner organization. The following summaries describe the resources and services each organization has submitted for inclusion in this partner resource catalog, or were based on information extracted from the organizations' websites.

Alder Environmental, LLC

Alder Environmental, LLC is a multi-disciplinary environmental consulting firm dedicated to providing a connection between the natural sciences and land-use management. We provide services and solutions for water resources, wetlands, environmental land use planning, wildlife, regulatory permitting and GIS mapping needs.

We approach each project opportunity as unique and listen carefully to individual client's goals and needs.

Our staff has been working on environmental and natural resource projects for over 15 years in the Rocky Mountain Region, and has a proven, reliable track record.

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Audubon - Wyoming

Audubon Rockies is the regional office of the National Audubon Society in the Central Flyway and supports the National Audubon vision. Our goal is to connect people with nature through education and conservation programs, to protect wildlife and wild lands.

Audubon Rockies' mission is to be a strong, unified voice for an ethic of conservation in the Rocky Mountains, focusing on birds, other wildlife and their habitats for the benefit of present and future generations.

Audubon Rockies exists to inspire and work with people to conserve, restore and enjoy natural habitats in our state. We focus on birds and other wildlife through education, research, careful use of our resources, and by serving as strong voices for the natural world.

Our Vision:

Open spaces rich in birds and other wildlife, and citizens who enjoy that richness.

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Ducks Unlimited - Wyoming

Ducks Unlimited has two conservation priority areas in Wyoming – The Southern Great Plains (SGP) and the Northern Rockies / Colorado Plateau (NR/CP). The SGP priority area contains wetlands of high value to waterfowl in the Central Flyway, including playa lakes, shallow meandered rivers, large saline lakes, man-made ponds and reservoirs. Allocation and use of

water is an underlying conservation issue that may have potentially serious implications for waterfowl dependent on SGP wetlands. The NR/CP priority area continues to offer wetland habitat for significant numbers of waterfowl that use higher elevation wetlands. Although small in size, the intermountain valleys of the Rockies contain some of the most productive waterfowl breeding habitat on the continent. Wetlands and upland nesting cover are threatened by rapid development in the region as well as diversion of ground and surface water to support a growing human population.

DU's Vision:

Wetlands sufficient to fill the skies with waterfowl today, tomorrow and forever.

Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. DU uses the following methods to conserve wetlands and valuable habitat for North American waterfowl in priority areas.

- Restoring grasslands
- Restoring watersheds
- Collaborating with landowners
- Building partnerships
- Acquiring land
- Conservation easements
- Management agreements
- Geographic Information Systems

Restoring Grasslands

Ducks such as mallards, pintails and teal nest in dense, grassy areas near wetlands. Grassland cover conceals nests and increases the chance of successfully hatching a clutch. Soon after ducklings hatch, the hen leads them over land to a nearby wetland where they grow into adults. DU and its partners help to secure and restore these grasslands to reduce predation rates and improve nest success.

Restoring Watersheds

A watershed is the area surrounding a wetland and has a large influence on the water quality and general health of a wetland. When watersheds are disturbed, silt, nutrients and contaminants can wash into downstream wetlands, impacting the flora and fauna that inhabit these systems. For example, most of the aquatic vegetation in Chesapeake Bay has been lost and fisheries have been contaminated due to degradation of the watershed. DU restores drained wetlands, protects stream corridors, and establishes buffer strips that filter nutrients and silt within the watershed.

Collaborating with Landowners

Nearly 75% of America's remaining wetlands are on private lands. All over North America, DU works with farmers, ranchers and other landowners to improve the agricultural and recreational values of their land, making it more wildlife-friendly. Additionally, a new market is developing where landowners can become suppliers of environmental credits that are accumulated by adopting certain types of conservation practices on their land. The conservation credits can then be sold as mitigation in a voluntary market.

Building Partnerships

No single group can perform the work necessary to meet the goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and DU's International Conservation Plan. Virtually all of DU's projects are done in cooperation with other partners including state and federal agencies, private corporations and foundations, and individuals.

Acquiring Land

In special cases, DU will purchase property then restore it to improve its value for wildlife. Once the habitat work is complete, DU sells or donates the property, usually to a government agency that will manage it for wildlife.

Conservation Easements

Some of the most valuable wildlife habitat is threatened by development. DU's Conservation Easement Program is designed to protect habitats forever through agreements with landowners.

Management Agreements

DU offers financial incentives to landowners who manage their land for waterfowl and other wetland-dependent wildlife. The landowner receives a number of benefits under this type of agreement and quality habitat is provided to hundreds of wildlife species.

Geographic Information Systems

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies enable DU to determine where our habitat work will be most effective and to monitor the results of our work. DU's GIS specialists produce models that help identify the best places to restore or protect habitat on the landscape by combining satellite imagery with other information, such as wetland inventories, land-use practices, soil types, wildlife use and more.

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Intermountain West Joint Venture

Formed in 1994, the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) is a self-directed partnership that operates across all, or parts of, 11 western states including: California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, and Arizona.

As our name implies, conservation within the Intermountain West is a “joint venture.” Thus, our partnership is comprised of federal agencies, state fish and wildlife agencies, non-governmental organizations, tribes, universities, policymakers, corporations, foundations, and private landowners. These partners reflect a broad diversity of values, landscapes, and land-use patterns in the Intermountain West.

The IWJV is governed by a Management Board, the policy-making body that establishes the direction and priorities of Joint Venture activities. Our programs are implemented by a professional staff committed to strengthening the partnership, guiding strategic habitat conservation delivery through strong science, and enhancing funding for habitat conservation efforts in the region via grants and cost-share arrangements.

Our Technical Committee advises the IWJV science program regarding priorities, activities, and needs. The committee is comprised of species, habitat, and/or landscape-management scientists and biologists with expertise in migratory birds and conservation. Our State Conservation Partnerships bring together state public and private partners, facilitating local level habitat conservation projects that contribute to achievement of the highest priority regional and continental bird and habitat objectives.

The IWJV receives and brokers funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, corporate donations, and a select few grants.

IWJV staff provides a broad range of organizational, technical, funding, and communication/ outreach services to the state partnerships. Examples include:

Organizational Framework:

The IWJV provides the linkage between national bird conservation initiatives and their implementation by state partnerships at regional or local scales. The IWJV also assists state conservation partnerships in developing and adapting partnership frameworks, and serves as a platform for collaboration. In these contexts, the IWJV provides the “organizational glue” for bird habitat conservation across multiple scales.

Technical Assistance:

The IWJV provides a range of technical services. For example, IWJV staff will assist partners in preparation and review of NAWCA grant applications – IWJV offers a “pre-submission” technical review of NAWCA standard grants applications. The IWJV periodically sponsors online “webinars” on such topics as management of working lands to benefit wetland birds, decision support for sage-grouse conservation, and development of capacity grant applications. Finally, the IWJV science staff conducts biological planning and design to help prioritize and focus bird conservation efforts. For example, the Sandhill Crane Initiative calls attention to the importance of intermountain valleys for migrating waterfowl and waterbirds, and provides key documentation to support habitat conservation work in these dispersed, yet vitally important habitats.

Funding Assistance:

The IWJV Capacity Grants Program allocates a \$15,000 annual grant to each state within the IWJV operating area, with a limited amount of additional funding awarded on a competitive basis. Capacity grants are designed to build capacity and catalyze partnerships that measurably contribute to the protection, restoration, or enhancement of priority bird habitats to support sustainable populations of birds in the Intermountain West. The IWJV often administers additional grant dollars earmarked for special purposes. Examples include the Ruby Pipeline Mitigation and Exxon/Mobile Settlement funds awarded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, as well as Sage Grouse Initiative/Strategic Watershed Action Team funding through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The IWJV has also provided travel assistance to support state chairs attending the IWJV annual meetings and special committee meetings.

Communication and Outreach:

The IWJV maintains individual state partner websites that include the partnerships’ missions and focuses, contacts, current news and announcements, plus links to planning documents and other state-specific resources. The IWJV also distributes pertinent news, publications, and funding opportunities to each state chair for distribution to the partnership members. Finally, the IWJV staff engages state partners in the development of priorities and planning documents that guide the JV’s efforts in conserving priority bird habitats.

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Little Snake River Conservation District

In 1941, the Wyoming State Legislature recognized the need for a local governmental entity that would assist landowners and resource users with conservation practices and provide leadership in natural resource management issues and efforts. As a result, legislation was enacted which enabled the formation of local Conservation Districts and the election of Conservation District Supervisors. The Wyoming legislation authorizing the establishment of Conservation Districts was signed by Governor Smith on March 5, 1941.

There are 34 local Conservation Districts and 170 Supervisors representing rural and urban interests throughout Wyoming. These Supervisors are elected during the general election. Conservation Districts today offer a wide variety of programs to help anyone interested in conservation. Some of the programs offered include: tree planting, waste management, water quality, wildlife habitat, recycling and information/education programs. As local governmental entities, Conservation Districts also play a key role in federal land management planning processes and federal and state legislative and administrative initiatives affecting local conservation and land use activities.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Wyoming NRCS Programs

NRCS's natural resources conservation programs help people reduce soil erosion, enhance water supplies, improve water quality, increase wildlife habitat, and reduce damages caused by floods and other natural disasters. Public benefits include enhanced natural resources that help sustain agricultural productivity and environmental quality while supporting continued economic development, recreation, and scenic beauty. The NRCS administers multiple Farm Bill programs that provide funding and technical assistance to landowners.

Farm Bill Programs

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)
Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
National Colorado River Salinity
National On-Farm Energy Initiative
National Organic Initiative
National Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative
National Water Quality Initiative
Greater Sage-grouse Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative
Ogallala Aquifer Initiative
Conservation Activity Plans (CAP)
Wyoming State Energy Initiative
Wyoming Water Quality AFO/CAFO
Wyoming State Wildlife Initiative
Wyoming State Wetland/Wildlife Initiative
Wyoming Wind River Reservation
~~Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP) ¹~~
~~Grassland Reserve Program (GRP) ¹~~
~~Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) ¹~~
~~Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) ²~~
Working Lands for Wildlife

¹ FRPP, GRP and WRP were repealed in the 2014 Farm Bill. Similar conservation opportunities are available through ACEP in the 2014 Farm Bill.

² WHIP was not reauthorized in 2014 Farm Bill. Similar project opportunities are provided by EQIP.

For details about current Farm Bill Programs, log onto:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ny/programs/>

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Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory

From the northern Rockies to the tropics of Mexico, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory works to conserve birds and their habitats through Science, Education and Stewardship. In this full-circle approach, science provides baseline information and data to monitor bird population trends; education instills an appreciation for birds and nature; and stewardship enhances habitat on private lands. Collectively these efforts promote our vision of native bird populations sustained in healthy ecosystems achieved through bird conservation at local, regional and international scales.

As leaders in effective collaborative conservation, we partner with state, federal, and local agencies, private citizens, schools, universities, and other organizations to leverage knowledge and resources for bird and habitat conservation. RMBO furnishes partners with the scientific data necessary to make intelligent, informed decisions about bird conservation. We give thousands of children and adults direct experience with nature and wild birds. RMBO also helps landowners carry out good stewardship as they manage their land for their livelihood. Many birds of conservation concern migrate so we work internationally, emphasizing Mexico – the most important country for wintering migrant species.

Birds occupy a broad range of habitats, are sensitive to physical and chemical changes, and their status often varies along with the abundance and diversity of other organisms that share their habitats. For these reasons, many bird species are helpful for gauging broad effects of human activities on the environment. Today, habitat loss and a lack of appreciation for our environment are driving factors in declining bird populations. RMBO's approach to bird conservation identifies and addresses priority areas and species of concern, and we engage citizens in conservation on their land and in their communities.

Science

A strong science-based approach is a hallmark of Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. RMBO's bird monitoring programs serve as "early warning" systems, identifying negative trends in bird

populations. This enables land managers and others to intervene with conservation practices that support the long-term viability of species. Our research into the effects of land management actions, ecological processes, and habitat conditions on the health of bird populations is vital for understanding population trends. It's also significant for evaluating and adjusting management and conservation strategies using the best available science.

Education

Inspiring an awareness and appreciation for birds and nature is an RMBO priority for people of all ages. We promote exploration, understanding and a conservation ethic through active, experiential educational opportunities at our growing environmental learning center, summer camps, bird-banding stations and schools. We share the latest information on bird populations, land management and conservation practices to inform and engage citizens. We introduce the next generation of stewards to our native ecosystems and the processes crucial to long-term sustainability in the Great Plains and Intermountain West.

Stewardship

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory fosters good stewardship on private and public lands through voluntary, cooperative partnerships that create win-win solutions for wildlife and people. RMBO's Stewardship Team has built a voluntary coalition of landowners and resource professionals committed to bird habitat conservation. We facilitate habitat enhancement projects to conserve at-risk species. The continued presence of our Stewardship biologists in local communities strengthens relationships between private landowners and state, federal and private conservation entities.

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Teton Conservation District

The mission of the Teton Conservation District is to promote conservation and management of natural resources – air, land, water, vegetation, and wildlife – through watershed-based research, education, conservation practices, cooperative projects, and on-the-ground actions to ensure the health, safety and general welfare of the people and resources of this area.

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The Conservation Fund – Wyoming

Our Conservation Strategy:

- We have a passion for conservation.
- We're entrepreneurs.
- We balance economics and environment.

Every community and landscape is different. That's why conservation calls for different solutions – from acquiring land to empowering rural communities, strategically planning infrastructure, investing in sustainable business and demonstrating new ways to balance economic and environmental goals. At The Conservation Fund, we do all this and more.

We've led land conservation efforts for nearly 30 years, protecting more than 7 million acres across America. To do that, we partner with community and government leaders, businesses, landowners, conservation nonprofits and other dedicated partners to save places that matter. Our work falls along three basic business units, below.

Conservation Real Estate

We specialize in supplying the capital and resources needed to protect lands and waters.

Sustainable Programs

We provide a full suite of services key to successful conservation today.

Conservation Ventures

We support small business and sustainable forestry efforts with economic, environmental and social returns.

At The Conservation Fund, we help our partners – government, community and business – fulfill top conservation priorities. We provide bridge capital and skills in real estate, finance, strategic planning, and community development to help acquire conservation lands and craft sustainable strategies. Together,

we've saved more than 7 million acres of land across America, established and expanded national and state parks and forests, preserved freshwater resources for communities and wildlife, launched green entrepreneurs and trained more than 10,000 conservation leaders.

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The Nature Conservancy – Wyoming

We follow our tradition of land and water conservation, and build on past achievements – more than 400,000 acres conserved across Wyoming in the past 20 years. But we will also develop new approaches to advance our vision for our State.

It's who we are and how we work that has made the Conservancy so successful – and makes us optimistic that we can expand that great conservation work to meet the challenges ahead.

Everything we do is rooted in good science – aided by our hundreds of staff scientists.

We pursue non-confrontational, pragmatic solutions to conservation challenges.

We partner with indigenous communities, businesses, governments, multilateral institutions, and other non-profits.

We have the support of more than 1 million members who enable us to continue working on a scale that matters, and to implement solutions that endure.

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USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) program is staffed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees. PFW is a broad-based partnership of Wyoming landowners, local communities, conservation districts, sportsman groups, non-governmental organizations, federal and state agencies, and others whose mission is to address landscape conservation needs through working with landowners.

Wyoming PFW has identified the following nine focus areas where we concentrate our work:

- Goshen Hole
- Laramie Plains
- Wind River
- Little Snake / Upper North Platte
- Upper Green River
- Bear River
- Upper Sweetwater / Red Desert
- Powder / Tongue Rivers
- Black Hills Mixed Grass

Our program primarily addresses the following conservation needs:

- Wetland restoration, enhancement, and establishment
- Upland restoration and enhancement
- Stream restoration and enhancement
- Fish passage and screening
- Riparian enhancement

We restore and enhance upland acres enhanced primarily by developing grazing systems with individual landowners to manage the grassland for wildlife and livestock production. Incentives such as water developments, fencing, and cattle guards are our chief tools of negotiation in developing specific wildlife and livestock use plans.

We restore and enhance wetlands to provide habitat for waterfowl, shorebirds and other waterbirds, which at the same time providing alternative watering sources for livestock producers.

A major focus of our instream restoration program is the removal of fish entrainment structures and barriers. We also install instream structures to improve stream stability, which in most cases result in a narrowing and deepening of the existing river channel. Riparian fencing and grazing systems also go hand in hand with stream restoration.

The following criteria are used to select projects in our nine priority focus areas:

- Presence, abundance and diversity of federal trust species (migratory birds, federally listed threatened and endangered wildlife)
- Private / public ownership patterns
- Habitat factors
- Partnership opportunities
- Threats
- Tribal trust responsibilities

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USFWS Seedskadee and Cokeville Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Complex

Seedskadee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is located along 37 river miles of the Green River in Sweetwater County, Wyoming. The principal emphases at this NWR have included wetland creation and management along with riparian habitat maintenance and restoration. Created wetlands have been actively managed to become one of the more productive wetland complexes for trumpeter swans and other water birds in Wyoming. The riparian corridor along the Green River flowing through this arid region of southwest Wyoming has become a critical migration route for Neotropical birds, and supplies key nesting and wintering habitat for trumpeter swans and other waterfowl.

Cokeville Meadows is a comparatively new NWR (first established in 1992) located along the Bear River in Lincoln County, Wyoming. The acquisition program is slowly progressing within the approved acquisition boundary. Extensive temporarily and seasonally flooded wetlands exist on and adjacent to Cokeville Meadows NWR, making it one of the largest and most important wetland complexes for water birds in Wyoming.

Resources available to the Wyoming Bird Habitat Conservation Partnership:

- 1) The refuge has equipment and operators skilled in working on wetland and riparian habitat projects. Equipment includes tracked excavator, dozer, dump truck, back hoe, skid steer and loader. Private land and NGO projects would require a Wildlife Extension Agreement completed through our Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program. In past years, the refuge has assisted with habitat construction projects undertaken by BOR, BLM, WGFD, Trout Unlimited, City of Green River, and private landowners. Assistance could be provided for construction of a limited number of projects per year.
- 2) Refuge staff have expertise in wetland creation and long term management with particular emphasis on wetland and riverine habitat management for trumpeter swan production and wintering habitat. Refuge staff are also experienced with wetland and riparian habitat management methods to provide migration and breeding habitat for waterfowl and other water birds.
- 3) The refuge has staff with expertise in upland and wetland native seed harvest to facilitate use of local ecotype seed in habitat projects.
- 4) A conservation easement program is available within the watershed of the Bear River (Bear River Watershed Conservation Area). This program is available to willing and interested private landowners in priority areas of the watershed containing wetland, aquatic, and sagebrush steppe habitats.

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USFWS Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge Complex (Pathfinder, Bamforth, Mortenson, and Hutton Lake NWRs)

Staff from Arapaho NWR in Walden, Colorado oversee management of Pathfinder, Bamforth, Mortenson, and Hutton Lake NWRs in the upper Laramie River Basin of Wyoming.

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Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality

The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) was created by the Wyoming Legislature in 1973 after passage of the Environmental Quality Act.

WDEQ contributes to Wyoming's quality of life through a combination of monitoring, permitting, inspection, enforcement and restoration/remediation to protect, conserve, and enhance the environment while supporting responsible stewardship of our state's resources.

By minimizing environmental pollution, enabling responsible economic development, and restoring previously polluted and hazardous sites, DEQ provides benefits to the entire population of Wyoming, as well as to all who visit our great state.

The Watershed Protection Program (WPP) within WDEQ monitors and evaluates the ambient quality of Wyoming surface waters through the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), particularly with respect to non-point sources, and identifies impaired surface waters along with the causes. The WPP is also responsible for the distribution and management of approximately \$745,000/year in federal "Section 319" money, which is granted to local governments, non-profit entities, and conservation districts for water quality improvement projects such as constructed wetlands below storm sewer outlets. The WPP is also responsible for establishment and review of the state's surface water quality standards.

Watershed Protection Program staff also conduct water quality certification reviews under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). CWA Section 401 water quality certification is required for any federal license or permit such as US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) "Section 404" permits that may authorize fill or discharge into waters of the United States including jurisdictional wetlands. For more information on Wyoming water quality certifications, please visit: http://deq.state.wy.us/wqd/watershed/index.asp#401_Certification

The WPP also participates in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by reviewing projects on federal land that have the potential to impact waters of the State. WDEQ also operates a State wetland mitigation bank that accumulates credits derived from enhancement, restoration or creation of wetlands. The mitigation bank provides additional alternatives for agencies and the regulated public to comply with wetland mitigation requirements associated with regulatory programs. WDEQ is also involved in the USACE interagency review team for wetland mitigation banking.

WDEQ investigates citizen complaints regarding impacts to waters of the state as well.

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Wyoming Game and Fish Department

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department supports habitat conservation, restoration and management through field level participation, administrative and technical services, education and outreach, project funding, and environmental reviews. The extent of Department involvement typically depends on the agency's resource limitations (capacity), whether a given project substantively contributes to Department goals, and whether it falls within one or more of the Department's primary administrative programs and statutory responsibilities. Goals outlined in the Department's Strategic Habitat Plan are:

- 1) Conserve and manage wildlife habitats that are crucial for maintaining terrestrial and aquatic wildlife populations for the present and future.
- 2) Enhance, improve and manage priority wildlife habitats that have been degraded.
- 3) Increase wildlife-based recreation through habitat enhancements that maintain or increase productivity of wildlife.
- 4) Increase public awareness of wildlife habitat issues and the critical connection between healthy habitat and abundant wildlife populations.
- 5) Promote collaborative habitat management efforts with the general public, conservation partners, private landowners and land management agencies.

Types and categories of assistance potentially available are summarized below:

State Sources of Funding:

Conservation funding programs administered by the Department and State of Wyoming are listed below. Funding from these sources is also eligible as non-federal match and may be used to secure additional federal funding for project implementation:

- WY Game & Fish Dept. Trust Fund (internal applications only)
- Governor's Big Game License Coalition:
<http://www.whfw.org/pdf/2012/December2012/Guidelines%20and%20criteria.pdf>
- Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust (WWNRT) Fund:
<http://wwnrt.wyo.gov/>

- Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (both state and federal sources of funding)
<https://www.wlci.gov/habitat-projects/all>
- Wyoming Wildlife – the Foundation:
<http://www.wyomingwildlifefoundation.org//>

Personnel Resources:

Depending on workloads, the Department may detail selected personnel to serve as leads or cooperators on habitat projects within the scope of their programs. The Department will evaluate project interests on a case-by-case basis to determine whether there are sufficient benefits to justify allocation of Department resources, and will make personnel commitments accordingly. Some examples of services the Department has provided include: grant writing and administration; project design; field surveys and data collection; report writing; information and education (outreach) services; and collaboration/coordination with multiple partners/agencies. In addition, the Department employs several habitat biologists and habitat extension biologists whose principal responsibilities include project coordination and technical assistance (see below). The Nongame Program Bird Biologist oversees research and monitoring related to bird species of conservation concern and the nongame biologist in the Jackson/Pinedale region has worked with numerous partners to fund wetland habitat projects focused on trumpeter swan and other SGCN (species of greatest conservation).

Technical Services:

The Department maintains several datasets, reports, and guidelines that provide technical documentation to support grant applications and assist with project design. Most of this information is public domain and is available on the Department's website or on request (see "wildlife and habitat" link at: <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/home.aspx>. Examples include:

- WY Interagency Spatial Database & Online Management System (WISDOM)
<http://wisdom.wygisc.org/>.
- WY Wetlands Conservation Strategy
https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/HABITAT_WYWETLANDSCONSERVATION0000332.pdf
- WY State Wildlife Action Plan
https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/SWAP_2010_FULL_OCT0003090.pdf
- Strategic Habitat Plan <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/wildlife-1000651.aspx>
- Recommendations for Development of Oil and Gas Resources within Important Wildlife Habitats
https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/HABITAT_OILGASRECOMMENDATIONS0000333.pdf

- Wildlife Protection Recommendations for Wind Energy Development in Wyoming
https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/WINDENERGY_WILDLIFEPROTECTION0000703.pdf
- Sage-grouse Core Area Policy: <http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/wildlife-1000382.aspx>
- Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative: <http://www.wlci.gov/>
- Habitat Priority Area Maps <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/wildlife-1000426.aspx>
- Atlas of Birds, Mammals, Amphibians, and Reptiles in Wyoming
https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/Departments/Wildlife/pdfs/WILDLIFE_ANIMALATLAS0002711.pdf
- Nongame Bird Best Management Practices (riparian, grassland, sagebrush, forest)
<http://gf.state.wy.us/web2011/wildlife-1000381.aspx>
- WGF Bird Conservation Plan: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/wildlife-1000503.aspx>
- Considerations and Prescriptions for the Design, Construction, and Management of Shallow Water Wetlands for Spring through Fall Use by Trumpeter Swans in western Wyoming
<http://www.trumpeterswansociety.org/docs/Swan%20Habitat%20Construction%20and%20Management%20Prescriptions-WGFD%20Nov2004.pdf>
- Management of created palustrine wetlands. Pages 240-276 in M.C. McKinstry, W.A. Hubert, and S.H. Anderson (eds). Wetland and riparian areas of the Intermountain West: ecology and management. University of Texas Press, Austin. 312pp.
<http://utpress.utexas.edu/index.php/books/mckwet>

The Department also maintains several positions whose duties include providing technical services on request to assist with habitat project design and implementation. Four Regional Habitat Extension Biologists' primary duties focus on private land habitat conservation and improvement projects. In addition, the Department employs 6-8 Terrestrial Habitat Biologists and 7 Aquatic Habitat Biologists available to assist with habitat projects on all surface jurisdictions. The nongame program biologists may also provide technical support and review of habitat projects benefiting nongame species. The Jackson nongame bird biologist has worked extensively with landowners and public land managers to fund and construct shallow water wetland projects. To request technical assistance with habitat projects, contact the Habitat Supervisor in the Statewide Wildlife and Habitat Management Section (see "Contacts" at the end). He can direct you to the appropriate Department program and personnel.

Environmental Reviews and NEPA Commenting:

Department biologists are frequently assigned to review development proposals and other projects within their geographic or program responsibilities that require NEPA clearances. In addition, the Department maintains a "Habitat Protection Section" that oversees and participates in these reviews. NEPA and other permitting reviews commonly incorporate habitat protection, reclamation, or restoration recommendations consistent with Department goals and guidelines.

Habitat and Access Program:

The Department's Services Division (Habitat and Access Program) manages construction crews and equipment specializing in habitat and facilities construction and maintenance (terrestrial and aquatic). Habitat/Access crews perform most habitat maintenance and improvements on Commission-owned lands. In addition, crews are available for habitat construction work off Commission lands (e.g., on State, federal, or private lands). The process for authorizing work on private land is initiated through the Department's "project request system." Typically, projects are funded by the requesting party or through a grant obtained by the requesting party. The Department will absorb construction crew wages and equipment depreciation costs. The project proponent is expected to pay for fuel consumption, construction materials, and costs associated with permitting if any. Applications for each fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) are due February 28. Projects are then ranked and the top projects selected for implementation. Project requests must be initiated by or through a Department employee. If another agency, organization, or landowner has interest in using the Department's habitat construction services, it's best to coordinate the project with a Department representative, for example a habitat biologist, who can complete and submit the project request on behalf of the requesting party.

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Website:

<http://wgfd.wyo.gov/web2011/home.aspx>

Wyoming Landscape Conservation Initiative (WLCI):

<https://www.wlci.gov/>

The WLCI is a long-term science based effort to assess and enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats at a landscape scale in southwest Wyoming, while facilitating responsible development through local collaboration and partnerships. The WLCI is an interagency working group of partners that is beginning the process of establishing a much larger coalition of government and non-government organizations. Local Project Development Teams identify local issues that are important to the landscape and cooperatively create projects to address identified needs for local

wildlife, habitat, and other resource issues. Each Local Project Development Team includes local biologists, range managers, conservation districts, landowners, county commissioners, and other interested parties. WLCI objectives include:

- Conduct efficient science-based species monitoring and habitat enhancement.
- Facilitate best reclamation and mitigation practices for areas impacted by development.
- Integrate existing data with new knowledge and technologies to forecast future development of energy resources and assist in habitat conservation planning.
- Conduct habitat enhancement in all habitat types with a special focus on the sagebrush, mountain shrub, aspen, riparian and aquatic communities.
- Ensure grazing management practices support a viable livestock industry and associated open spaces.

A list of habitat projects can be found at: <https://www.wlci.gov/habitat-projects/all>.