



INTERMOUNTAIN WEST  
JOINT VENTURE



# WATER 4 2025



To ensure the persistence of migratory birds, working landscapes, and thriving communities into the future, we need intact wetland landscapes sustained by healthy watersheds. The complex nature of western water challenges requires broad collaboration to identify solutions that benefit both communities and wildlife. In 2025, the IWJV enhanced the capacity of western communities to address on-the-ground challenges to water and wetlands.

## Conservation Gains with Added Capacity

**65** conservation projects undertaken by wetlands capacity positions in 2025.

**100+** landowners supported.

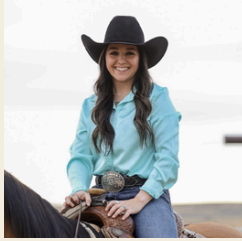
Waterbird & wildlife habitat provided on over

**25k** acres

**\$18.2** million leveraged for habitat conservation and western communities.



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# Locally Driven Wetlands Conservation Around the West

Conservation capacity—the human capital needed to implement conservation at a desired pace and scale—is key to the IWJV’s Water and Wetlands work. Filling strategic capacity needs alleviates bottlenecks, supports local communities, and streamlines program implementation.



The IWJV has invested in 20 positions (and counting) to accelerate the pace and scale of wetland conservation in the Intermountain West.

Learn more about how these positions work on the ground through our [Field Notes](#) series.



# Community-Led Conservation At Work

How IWJV investments in water & wetlands capacity are benefitting local communities and working landowners from the ground up.

**“Pratt works tirelessly to help landowners navigate and enroll in conservation programs that best suit their specific needs. Pratt's work is essential in getting conservation practices on the ground and ensuring that our conservation goals are met effectively and efficiently.”**

-Steven Smith, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality about Pratt Griffeth, Eastern Idaho Partner Biologist



**“[A] landowner contacted me after the irrigation season singing the praises of his new system, stating the risers made irrigating his fields significantly easier.... while providing more water quantity to the Great Salt Lake.”**

-Taylor Turner, Wet Meadow & Sagebrush Specialist, Ogden, UT



**“Enrolling in and implementing NRCS contracts benefits local contractors due to the large amount of engineering work that is planned. It also increases water savings, reduces runoff, and improves water supply across the region, and contributes to the town’s economy by supporting farms and ranches.”**

-Sarah Leal, Range Conservationist, Susanville, CA



# Sharing Stories & Science

In 2025, Water and Wetlands communications elevated the science, people, and programs that are enhancing wetland benefits for communities, migratory birds, and other wildlife. Highlights include:

- An in-depth look at a unique infrastructure project spanning public and private lands on the Laramie Plains.
- Communications on new science documenting wetland drying trends across the West.
- A Q&A with Dr. Ryan Bailey on a study in Colorado's White River Basin linking irrigation and groundwater.



Meanwhile, our Science to Implementation team increased the availability and awareness of water and wetlands science through:



- A series of "Regional Wetland Profiles" to help break down newly developed wetland science for partner use. In 2025, the IWJV completed the first profile in the Wyoming Basin.
- A partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and other partners to develop a wetland habitat prioritization map to streamline the project proposal process and ensure funding is directed to the most impactful and beneficial projects.
- Data sharing on wetland timing and resilience from the Wetland Evaluation Tool with more than 20 partners.

