# Green Jobs For Refuges

## Stimulating Local Economies by Investing in America's Wildlife Refuges

**The Cooperative Alliance For Refuge Enhancement (CARE) and its combined 14 million members and supporters urge Congress to include $1 billion for 20,000 green jobs on refuges in the 2009 stimulus package.**

**With at least one national wildlife refuge** in every state, the National Wildlife Refuge System conserves and restores vital habitat for fish and wildlife. In doing so, wildlife refuges offer significant economic benefits by attracting 40 million visitors annually, who spend more than $1.7 billion each year, resulting in employment for more than 27,000 Americans. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has a plan that would put more than 18,000 people to work throughout the country on shovel-ready projects for habitat restoration in as few as 90 days.

Implementing this plan would not only improve the lives of tens of thousands of Americans but also reduce global warming pollution and improve environmental health by making facilities and buildings more energy efficient, installing alternative energy systems, and restoring thousands of acres of degraded habitat. These projects will keep local construction, electrical, landscaping and other companies working throughout 2009. Moreover, they will prepare the next generation of American workers with the skills they need to lead a green revolution in our economy.

An investment of nearly $1 billion in infrastructure and habitat restoration on national wildlife refuges across the country will put people to work today and lay the foundation for tomorrow's greener and more efficient economy. Economic stimulus projects for FWS fall in two broad categories — Greening Facilities, and Restoring Habitat.

Photos: FWS Workers with Wood Stork Chick, Harris Neck NWR, GA | FWS • Volunteers at Presquile NWR, VA | NWRA • Red Fox Kits at Bombay Hook NWR, DE | NWRA
Bald Eagle at Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, UT | NWRA

## Greening Facilities

The National Wildlife Refuge System has standardized facility designs that incorporate many ways to conserve energy and reduce global warming pollution. These elements include proper site location, xeric landscaping, high levels of insulation, energy efficient windows and lighting, application of passive solar energy and photovoltaic cell technology, use of water conserving devices, geothermal heat pumps, and recycled materials in construction.

**An investment of $504 million in energy efficiency, renewable energy and green buildings will support or create more than 11,300 jobs in communities across America.**

Rooftop solar panels power Visitor's Center, Imperial NWR, AZ | FWS

### IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY:
**5,103 jobs / $243 million investment**
**Spending can begin within 3 months of allocation**

FWS can immediately improve the energy efficiency of its facilities by installing solar and geothermal power systems and by upgrading insulation, windows and doors, and retrofitting lighting. FWS will hire local contractors, including electricians and carpenters, and could quickly engage younger workers through the existing Youth Conservation Corps. These younger workers will learn new and important skills that will prepare them for a career in infrastructure development or environmental restoration.

### NEW GREEN CONSTRUCTION:
**5,025 jobs / $201 million investment**
**Spending can begin within 3 months of allocation**

FWS can initiate large-scale and high-priority construction projects including visitor centers, education and equipment storage facilities and office space. Each facility incorporates standard designs that utilize green technology and energy-efficient features and can be built to LEED standards. These projects create or support jobs broadly across the construction industry and require supplies and materials from a wide range of companies and areas.

### RENEWABLE ENERGY:
**1,260 jobs / $60 million investment**
**Spending can begin within 3 months of allocation**

Building on existing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, FWS will accelerate the transition from conventional to renewable energy systems. With this investment, FWS can employ local companies to install photovoltaic and solar thermal systems, small wind turbines and geothermal heat pumps. These projects provide short-term jobs and economic stimulus and long-term cost savings and emission reductions.

LEED Certified Visitor's Center at Tualatin River NWR, OR

Construction on the Green Standard Design Visitor's Center for Sherburne NWR, MN could begin in 90 days

# Restoring Habitat

**An investment of $443 million in habitat restoration and improvement will create or support more than 6,600 local jobs.**

## COMBATING INVASIVE SPECIES:

**2,940 jobs / $140 million investment**

**Spending can begin within 3 months of allocation**

Many national wildlife refuges are literally being taken over by the unrelenting march of invasive plants and animals on millions of acres that crowd out native vegetation and degrade the quality of wildlife habitat. FWS can quickly hire and deploy teams drawn from the local community and Youth Conservation Corps to eradicate invasive plants and animals, which is essential for FWS to accomplish its wildlife and habitat objectives.

YCC workers are encouraged by Manager Oscar Diaz to consider careers in wildlife management at Vieques NWR, PR | FWS

## RESTORING NATIVE HABITAT:

**2,704 jobs / $263 million investment**

**Spending can begin within 3 months of allocation**

In 2006, hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers spent more than $122 billion — fully 1 percent of U.S. GDP — on equipment, lodging and services. Restoring native habitat on national wildlife refuges is critical to supporting healthy populations of game and nongame species that are essential to our economy and culture. Beginning in spring 2009, FWS can quickly assemble and deploy teams of workers, including students and other young people in the Youth Conservation Corps, to cultivate and plant native trees, grasses and other plants as part of comprehensive efforts to restore and improve up to 500,000 acres of habitat.

## UPGRADING WATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS:

**1,000 jobs / $40 million investment**

**Spending can begin within 3 months of allocation**

Wetlands across the refuge system provide critical habitat for fish and wildlife, along with a host of other benefits, including flood control, improving water quality, groundwater recharge and carbon sequestration. Many wetlands now include man-made levees, dikes, pumps, valves and other systems that have become important for wildlife and wetland management. Using existing priorities, FWS will contract local companies and workers to repair, construct and restore these ageing and deteriorating structures and systems.

Invasive Water Chestnut hand-pulled at Log Pond Cove, Silvio O. Conte NFWR, MA

## The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — An Agency with a Proven Track Record of Creating and Implementing Effective Jobs Programs

The FWS has a proven track record of quickly and efficiently converting significant emergency funding into positive on-the-ground results. For example, a September 2008 Department of the Interior Inspector General (IG) report assessing the use of emergency funding to repair damage to lands and facilities caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita concluded that FWS had spent 90 percent of funding it received within one fiscal year of funding being appropriated. This was the highest and most efficient rate of all Interior agencies. The IG also found that FWS had made substantial progress in completing repairs less than two years after the hurricanes. It attributed FWS's successful management and use of funds, in part, to creation of a high-level management team in the Southeast region that quickly evaluated damage, prioritized projects and monitored expenditures.

Local work crews receive instruction on Hurricane Katrina clean up, Sabine NWR, LA | FWS

## About C.A.R.E.

The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement is a diverse coalition of 22 conservation, recreation, sporting, and scientific organizations with more than 14 million members and supporters across the United States. CARE has been working since 1995 to help the National Wildlife Refuge System fight a serious funding crisis.

*American Birding Association*
*American Fisheries Society*
*American Sportfishing Association*
*Assateague Coastal Trust*
*Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation*
*Defenders of Wildlife*
*Ducks Unlimited*
*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies*
*Izaak Walton League of America*
*National Audubon Society*
*National Rifle Association of America*
*National Wildlife Federation*
*National Wildlife Refuge Association*
*Safari Club International*
*The Corps Network*
*The Nature Conservancy*
*The Wilderness Society*
*The Wildlife Society*
*Trout Unlimited*
*U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance*
*Wildlife Forever*
*Wildlife Management Institute*

COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE For C.A.R.E. REFUGE ENHANCEMENT

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