

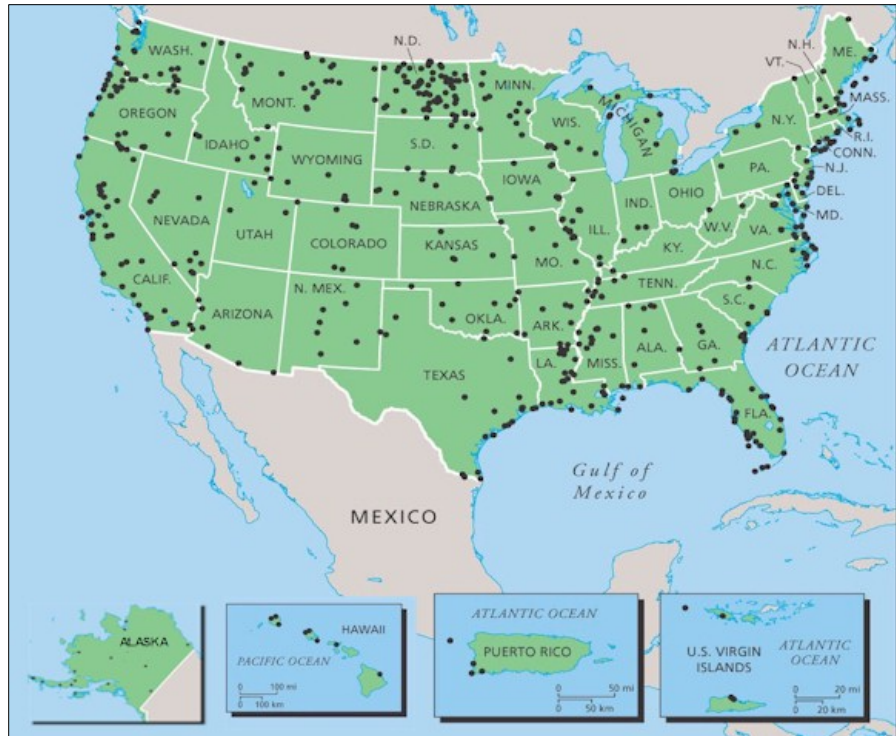
The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) is a diverse coalition of 21 conservation, sporting, recreation, and scientific organizations with more than 5 million members. Since 1995, CARE has been working to help the National Wildlife Refuge System fight a serious funding crisis.

- 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 Wilderness Society*
- The Wildlife Society*
- Trout Unlimited*
- U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance*
- Wildlife Forever*
- Wildlife Management Institute*



# AMERICA'S TREASURED WILDLIFE REFUGES ON THE BRINK!

For over a century, the National Wildlife Refuge System has protected America's unique wildlife and irreplaceable habitats. But several years of stagnant or declining budgets have exacerbated the more than \$2.5 billion operations and maintenance backlog, and have forced a dramatic 20 percent reduction in staff nationwide. The Fish and Wildlife Service, the federal agency responsible for oversight of the Refuge System, is in the process of releasing regional workforce restructuring plans, in which they eliminate staff, cut back programs, and close refuges in response to persistent and projected budget shortfalls. Many of these cuts have already happened – all will be in place by FY 2009. In total, the Refuge System is planning to cut 565 staff by FY 2009. Take a look below and see how your state will be affected. Most state descriptions include one or two key examples of impacts to specific refuges, but all refuges in every state will be affected.



**The National Wildlife Refuge System**

**Alabama** will lose 17 percent of the workforce from 2004 levels on its 11 national wildlife refuges, which host over one million visitors annually.

- Mountain Longleaf NWR: The refuge has been forced to eliminate its entire biological program, which supports three national wildlife refuges and affects over 15 threatened and endangered species. The 9,000-acre refuge was established in 2003 on the former military training lands of Fort McClellan. It contains beautiful vistas and a rugged landscape of unfragmented forests.

**Arizona** will lose 16 percent of the workforce on its nine national wildlife refuges, which host over one million annual visitors.

- Cibola NWR: The biological program at this refuge, home to many endangered species including the southwestern willow flycatcher and Yuma clapper rail, will continue to suffer without a biologist on staff. Established in 1964, the 16,627-acre refuge attracted 45,000 visitors in 2006.
- Leslie Canyon NWR: This refuge is left with no onsite staff at all. Established in 1988, the 2,770-acre refuge protects habitat for the endangered Yaqui chub, Yaqui topminnow and a rare velvet ash-cottonwood-black willow gallery forest.

**Arkansas** will lose 16 percent of the workforce on its 10 national wildlife refuges, which host over 700,000 visitors a year.

- Cache River NWR: Budget shortfalls will cut two refuge manager positions, hindering the ability to maintain and improve habitats for endangered species such as the ivory-billed woodpecker, once feared extinct, but recently rediscovered on the refuge. Established in 1986, the refuge currently contains 62,000 acres and is RAMSAR-designated "Wetlands of International Importance."

**California** has lost 12 staff positions since 2004 on its about 40 national wildlife refuges, which host 1.5 million visitors each year. Those jobs will remain vacant as budget shortfalls are projected for years to come.

- San Diego and Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes NWRs: An inadequate staff and stagnant funding will limit biological monitoring for many imperiled species such as the threatened California Red-legged frog. The 9,478-acre San Diego NWR was created in 1997 to support the Multiple Species Conservation Program, a landscape-wide conservation effort to preserve the rich biological diversity for which the region is famous. Established in 2000, the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes NWR encompasses one of the largest coastal dune systems remaining in California, which systems are increasingly threatened by development.

**Colorado** will lose 20 percent of the workforce on its seven national wildlife refuges, which are frequented by 50,000 annual visitors for bird watching, hiking, photography, fishing and hunting.

- Rocky Mountain Arsenal NWR: Reductions in staffing may limit efforts to maintain and restore habitat for the recently introduced American bison. Established in 2004, this 17,000-acre refuge is located 10 minutes from downtown Denver, making it one of the largest urban wildlife refuges in the country.

**Connecticut** is unable to expand its important migratory bird management activities on its only refuge.

- Stewart B. McKinney NWR: Established in 1972, the refuge encompasses over 800 acres of barrier beach, tidal wetland and fragile island habitats, spreading across 70 miles of

Connecticut's coastline. Located in the Atlantic flyway, it provides important habitat for many species of wading birds, shorebirds, songbirds and terns, including the endangered roseate tern.

**Delaware** contains two refuges, which total nearly 26,000 acres and host about 200,000 annual visitors.

- Prime Hook NWR: Loss of two full-time employees in the past 18 months and an additional two in the near future leave the refuge with a staff of five, forcing the fall festival, the refuge's largest annual event, to be canceled. Established in 1963, the 10,000-acre refuge attracted about 88,000 people last year.

**Florida** will lose 19 percent of the workforce on its 28 national wildlife refuges, which host over three million annual visitors.

- Merritt Island NWR: FWS will eliminate its only forester and therefore its implementation of needed recovery actions for the endangered Florida scrub jay. Over 500 species of wildlife inhabit the 140,000-acre refuge with 16 currently listed as federally threatened or endangered. The refuge was established in 1963.
- Ding Darling NWR: The refuge will be losing two park rangers, requiring the closure of the visitor center for two days per week and significantly reducing environmental education for 55,000 school children. Established in 1945, 850,000 people visit the 6,400-acre refuge annually.
- Pelican Island NWR: The refuge will lose its only public-use staff and eliminate all active outreach. This 5,413-acre refuge was established by President Theodore Roosevelt as the nation's first National Wildlife Refuge.

**Georgia** will lose 20 percent of the workforce on its nine national wildlife refuges, which host nearly one million visitors a year.

- Okefenokee NWR: Okefenokee will be losing two park rangers requiring the closure of the East entrance for two days a week, which is expected to result in a decline of 50,000 visits annually. Established in 1937, the refuge now encompasses approximately 396,000 acres. The Okefenokee Swamp, one of the world's largest intact freshwater ecosystems, has been designated a "Wetland of International Importance" under the United Nations RAMSAR Convention.

**Hawaii & the Pacific Islands** will lose 8 percent of the workforce on its 20 national wildlife refuges, which host more than 3 million annual visitors. The cuts will sharply reduce or eliminate habitat restoration and invasive species control programs on nearly 2 million acres of refuge lands, waters, atolls, and reefs, and abolish interpretive and education programs for the visiting public.

- Pearl Harbor NWR: Availability of the Navigating Change project, which is an educational hands-on restoration project, will be severely reduced. Established in 1972, this 62-acre wetland refuge is primarily devoted to the recovery of Hawaii's four endemic endangered waterbirds.
- Huleia NWR: Budget cuts will force refuge staff to cease wetland management of 30 acres intended as recovery actions for four endangered Hawaiian waterbirds. Established in 1972, the 241-acre refuge is located on the southeast side of Kaua'i.

**Idaho** will lose almost a third of the workforce on its seven national wildlife refuges, which host more than 50,000 annual visitors. The cuts will sharply reduce or eliminate habitat restoration and

invasive species control programs on more than 84,000 acres of refuge lands, and abolish interpretive and education programs for the visiting public, including area schoolchildren.

**Illinois** will lose 17 percent of the workforce on its 10 national wildlife refuges, which total more than 110,000 acres and host one million visitors a year.

- Cypress Creek NWR: The refuge has already eliminated its entire environmental education and interpretive program attended by more than 5,000 school children and other visitors. Established in 1990, the 15,000-acre refuge, and surrounding Cypress Creek wetlands, harbors a rich collection of biologically significant natural communities.

**Indiana** will lose 38 percent of the workforce on its three national wildlife refuges, which total 63,000 acres and host 94,000 visitors a year. Staff losses on Indiana refuges will eliminate all of the cooperative wildlife conservation programs the refuges had been able to accomplish with surrounding landowners, and cripple partnership programs with conservation groups used to leverage additional resources for wildlife.

- Big Oaks NWR, Patoka River NWR, and Muscatatuck NWR: Indiana's only three refuges have been forced to join together to address vacancies, and currently only one law enforcement position must cover the entire 63,000-acre area.

**Iowa** will lose 15 percent of the workforce on its six national wildlife refuges and one wetland management district, which total over 100,000 acres and host more than 600,000 visitors a year.

- Driftless Area NWR: De-staffing will force recovery programs for endangered species to grind to a halt. Established in 1989, this 775-acre refuge helps recovery of two federally listed species, the endangered Iowa Pleistocene snail and threatened Northern monkshood and preservation of a rare community of plants and animals.

**Kansas** will lose almost a third of the workforce on its four national wildlife refuges, which are frequented by 250,000 annual visitors for bird watching, hiking, photography, fishing and hunting.

- Quivira NWR: Staffing reductions will affect programs needed to adequately maintain the 7,000 acres of wetlands for migratory waterfowl, sandhill cranes and other important wildlife. Established in 1995, the refuge hosts 130,000 visitors each year.

**Kentucky** will be forced to leave essential staff positions unfilled on its only national wildlife refuge, which hosts 40,000 visitors annually.

- Clarks River NWR: It is unlikely the refuge manager position will be filled without increased funding. This shortfall in essential staffing means that critical management, education, and restoration projects remain on the 'to do' list, threatening refuge operations and high priority resource management objectives. The refuge was established in 1997, with a proposed acquisition boundary of 18,000 acres. The refuge currently consists of over 7,000 acres.

**Louisiana** will lose 27 percent of the workforce on its 25 national wildlife refuges, which host nearly 415,000 visitors annually.

- Sabine NWR: Efforts to repair devastating infrastructure and natural resource damage caused by Hurricane Rita will be hampered by the loss of essential maintenance staff. Established in 1937, the 124,511-acre refuge is designated as an Internationally Important Bird Area due to the numerous wading, water and marsh birds that utilize it throughout the year. Over 280,000 people visit the refuge annually.

**Maine** has nine wildlife refuges, which welcomed 381,000 visitors in 2006, and a 1,055 -acre Waterfowl Production Area.

- Sunkhaze Meadows NWR: This refuge is being destaffed despite its large area. Established in 1988, the 11,000-acre refuge protects the second most extensive peat bog in the state and key habitat for neotropical migratory birds including warblers.

**Maryland** has already experienced loss of managers and administrative personnel on its five national wildlife refuges, and no additional staff changes are proposed in the near future. Refuges in Maryland host approximately 500,000 visitors each year.

- Eastern Neck NWR: This popular 2,300-acre refuge will lose two refuge managers, resulting in the refuge being managed by staff based 75 miles away at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Established in 1962, the refuge is an increasingly popular destination on Maryland's upper Eastern Shore, attracting over 70,000 visitors annually to its waterfront vistas, peaceful trails and various migratory birds.

**Massachusetts** will lose two positions on its 11 refuges.

- Silvio O. Conte NWR: Loss of a refuge manager and a biologist at the Turners Falls headquarters will hinder the refuge's partnership efforts with a wide variety of individuals and organizations to provide environmental education, to encourage and support appropriate habitat conservation and management on public and private lands, and to protect additional habitat. Established in 1997, the refuge contributes to the health of species and the ecosystems on which they depend throughout the 7.2 million acre Connecticut River watershed, which spans four New England states.

**Michigan** will lose 20 percent of the workforce on its seven national wildlife refuges and one wetland management district, which contain over 113,000 acres and host over 143,000 visitors annually.

- Seney NWR: This refuge will be forced to discontinue its environmental education programs and teacher workshops. The refuge protects 95,212 acres and was established in 1935 to provide habitat for migratory birds and resident wildlife. Currently, it is home to over 200 species of birds and a variety of other species.

**Minnesota** will lose 20 percent of its workforce on its 13 national wildlife refuges and eight wetland management districts, which contain over 539,000 acres and host 4.4 million visitors annually.

- Minnesota Valley NWR: Staff losses will force day closures of its visitor center and reduced maintenance of public facilities. Established in 1976, the refuge, which lies no more than 10 miles from downtown Minneapolis, is one of only four urban wildlife refuges in the nation. The refuge comprises 14,000 acres, stretching for 34 miles, and is a place where wild coyotes, bald eagles, badgers and beavers live next door to 3 million people.

**Mississippi** will lose 11 percent of the workforce on its 15 national wildlife refuges, which host more than 400,000 annual visitors.

- North Mississippi Refuge Complex: The loss of a biologist in the complex, which includes Coldwater River NWR, has resulted in a 75 percent reduction in monitoring of more than 100 conservation easements, leading to illegal trespass, dumping and boundary encroachment. Established in 1991, the 2,508-acre Coldwater River NWR is currently unstaffed.

**Missouri** will lose 18 percent of the workforce on its 10 national wildlife refuges, which total 70,000 acres and host almost 240,000 visitors a year.

- Mingo NWR: Staff losses will curtail habitat management activities important for migratory birds and other species. Established in 1945, this 21,676-acre refuge is the only large remnant of bottomland hardwoods remaining out of an original 2.5 million acres in the Missouri boot heel. It is also a major migration and wintering area for migratory waterfowl - populations of 125,000 mallards and 75,000 Canada geese, and successful nesting of bald eagles have been recorded.

**Montana** will lose over 15 percent of the workforce on more than 20 national wildlife refuges, which are frequented by 650,000 annual visitors for bird watching, hiking, photography, fishing and hunting.

- Charles M. Russell NWR and nearby refuges: Reduction in services will adversely impact the quality and availability of services for a quarter of a million people per year. Established in 1976, Charles M. Russell NWR is the largest Refuge in Montana, containing 1,100,000 acres.

**Nebraska** will lose over 13 percent of the workforce on its six national wildlife refuges, which are frequented by 200,000 annual visitors for bird watching, hiking, photography, fishing and hunting.

- Boyer Chute NWR: Loss of staff or other resources will severely limit the restoration work needed in ecologically important parts of the half million acres of Missouri River habitat lost to agriculture, wetland drainage and other water diversion projects. Established in 1992, the refuge is a joint Federal and local conservation partnership, encompassing 3,300 acres along the Missouri River.

**Nevada** has been forced to have essential staff positions remain unfilled on its nine national wildlife refuge, which hosts more than 200,000 visitors annually.

- Desert National Wildlife Range: Budget shortfalls are preventing needed repairs on a washed-out stretch of a road. Some visitors become stranded when they try to cross this remote stretch of Mojave Desert. This area is also important habitat for the federally threatened Desert tortoise. Established in 1936, the refuge encompasses 1.6 million acres of the Mojave Desert 25 miles north of Las Vegas, and is the largest national wildlife refuge in the continental 48 states.

**New Hampshire** will lose an additional two permanent positions on its five national wildlife refuges. This is on top of the identified \$7.7 million and 11 staff positions in unmet high-priority needs identified even prior to the restructuring. The refuges host over 161,000 visitors each year.

- Great Bay NWR: According to the director of refuges in the northeast, "habitat management work and public access programs will most likely cease... We'll try to keep the trails open until they fall apart." Established in 1992 from a former military installation, this 1,100-acre refuge serves as New Hampshire's major wintering habitat for black duck and other waterfowl species. The refuge's seven miles of undisturbed shoreline along Great Bay estuary are enjoyed by 60,000 visitors a year.

**New Jersey** will lose four staff positions on its five refuges.

- Supawna Meadows: This 2,800-acre refuge will have no staff. Established in 1973, it protects important wetland habitat along the Delaware River, supporting more than 6,000 pairs of egrets and sandpipers that feed in refuge marshes. The refuge received 20,000 visitors in 2005.

- Barnegat Division, Edwin B. Forsythe NWR: The refuge has been de-staffed. Established in 1967, the refuge is part of the Environmental Protection Agency's Barnegat Bay Program area and is recognized as a "Wetland of International Importance" under the RAMSAR Convention. Temporary home to tens of thousands of migratory waterfowl, the entire refuge received 260,000 visitors in 2005, many of whom recreated on the Barnegat Division.

**New Mexico** will lose 20 percent of the workforce on its seven national wildlife refuges, which host over 225,000 annual visitors. Under the new plan, only one refuge will provide adequate biological and educational programs to wildlife and visitors, while six refuges will suffer the effects of reduced or no staff.

- Bitter Lake NWR: Staff cuts will hamper the efforts to adequately manage this unique habitat - the refuge consists of water habitats surrounded by a harsh, dry environment. Established in 1937, the 24,536-acre refuge recently has gained popularity for the most diverse populations of dragonflies in North America. More than 80 species of dragonflies can be spotted here, including the continent's largest and smallest dragonfly species. Approximately 35,000 people visited the refuge last year.

**New York** will be forced to keep 13 high priority staff positions unfilled on its 11 national wildlife refuges, which host nearly 1 million visitors each year.

- Shawangunk Grasslands NWR: It has already lost all staff, resulting in the elimination of public use and environmental education programs, and the ability to prevent illegal hunting. Established in 1999, this 566-acre refuge is one of the most important areas for grassland dependent migratory birds.

**North Carolina** will lose 23 percent of the workforce on its 10 national wildlife refuges, which host over 1 million visitors a year

- Mattamuskeet NWR: A reduction in biological staff has resulted in reduced habitat management on 2,500 acres of wetlands and allowed for the area to be overtaken by invasive species, which has decreased forage available for waterfowl by 25 percent. Established in 1934, the 50,180-acre refuge lies in the middle of the Atlantic flyway, providing valuable migration and wintering habitat for waterfowl and other migratory birds. Approximately 100,000 annual visitors generate approximately \$1 million a year.

**North Dakota** will lose over a fifth of the workforce on over 40 national wildlife refuges, which are frequented by more than 200,000 annual visitors for bird watching, hiking, photography, fishing and hunting.

- Sully's Hill National Game Preserve: Staff cuts at this refuge, one of the very few refuges to provide a home to bison and elk, will threaten the well-being of these large mammals, as well as scores of migratory birds. Established in 1931, the Preserve consists of 1,674 acres of a wide variety of habitat types including woodlands, savannahs, prairies and wetlands.

**Ohio** will lose 10 percent of the workforce on its three national wildlife refuges, which encompass 9,000 acres and host 268,000 annual visitors.

- Ottawa NWR: At this nationally recognized Important Bird Area, reduced staff means that invasive plants will continue to ravage habitat for migrating waterfowl and songbirds, while the lack of dike and road maintenance will result in a reduction in public access to refuge facilities. Established in 1961, this refuge has been a major stopover for migrating songbirds

and has been designated as a site of regional significance in the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. Birding activities contribute an estimated \$5.6 million yearly to the local economy.

**Oklahoma** will lose 18 percent of the workforce on its nine national wildlife refuges, which host over 2 million annual visitors.

- Little River NWR: Losing the refuge manager due to budget cuts will make it extremely difficult to properly manage some of Oklahoma's last remaining bottomland hardwoods. The 15,000-acre refuge was established in 1987 primarily to preserve the bottomland hardwood forests for migratory waterfowl on the Central flyway.
- Tishomingo NWR: There will be only one law enforcement officer who will split his or her time with Hagerman refuge in Texas, severely impacting resource protection and visitor safety. Established in 1946, the 16,000-acre refuge receives more than 200,000 annual visitors.

**Oregon** will lose 18 percent of the workforce on its 15 national wildlife refuges, which host more than 2 million annual visitors. The cuts will sharply reduce or eliminate habitat restoration and invasive species control programs on more than 1.1 million acres of refuge lands, and abolish interpretive and education programs for the visiting public, including area schoolchildren.

**Pennsylvania** will lose five staff positions on its two national wildlife refuges, which total approximately 9,000 acres.

- Erie NWR: Staff reduction will hinder the ability of the refuge to complete population and habitat surveys for the federally endangered Northern riffle shell and clubshell mussels, which have lost 95 percent of their historic ranges. Established in 1959, the diverse habitat types found on the 8,800-acre refuge attract over 237 species of birds, 47 species of mammals and 37 species of amphibians and reptiles.

**Rhode Island** contains five national wildlife refuges, which host almost half a million visitors a year.

- Sachuest Point NWR: Budget shortfalls have resulted in the closing of the visitor center on weekdays in the wintertime. Public use programs will also be curtailed during the winter months. Established in 1970, this 242-acre refuge is a very popular site for over 65,000 annual visitors.

**South Carolina** will lose 21 percent of the workforce on its eight national wildlife refuges, which host nearly one million annual visitors.

- Cape Romain NWR: The loss of biological staff has led to elimination of the red wolf breeding program and reduction in its capability for sea turtle monitoring. Established in 1932, the 64,000-acre refuge includes 28,000 acres of area preserved within the National Wilderness Preservation System. The refuge manages the largest nesting population of threatened loggerhead sea turtles outside Florida and plays an important role in endangered red wolf recovery.
- Carolina Sandhills NWR: Loss of foresters has reduced forest management activities by 50 percent with significant impacts to the longleaf pine community and federally endangered red-cockaded woodpecker recovery. Established in 1939, the 45,348-acre refuge now serves as a demonstration site for land management practices, which preserve and enhance the longleaf pine/wiregrass ecosystem.

- Savannah Coastal Refuge Complex: This refuge will be losing three additional maintenance staff, causing accelerated degradation of expensive, essential marine equipment, closure of a wildlife drive which receives 50,000 visitors a year, and suspension of wintering waterfowl impoundment management. Established in 1927, the refuge contains 28,168 acres.

**South Dakota** will lose a quarter of the workforce on its six national wildlife refuges and six wetland management districts, which are frequented by nearly 200,000 annual visitors for bird watching, hiking, photography, fishing and hunting.

- Sand Lake NWR: Reductions in staff and services will hamper efforts to manage and protect native prairie and wetlands. Established in 1935, the 21,498-acre refuge is a Wetland of International Importance and one of the best bird watching sites in the country.

**Tennessee** will lose 15 percent of the workforce on its seven national wildlife refuges, which total over 120,400 acres and host 419,000 visitors a year.

- Cross Creeks NWR: Loss of its only public-use staff caused a 90 percent reduction in environmental education programs, which affects more than 2,000 local school children. Established in 1962, 45,000 residents and non-residents visit this 8,862-acre refuge annually, generating \$1.8 million in expenditures.

**Texas** will lose 11 percent of the workforce on its 21 national wildlife refuges, which host approximately 1 million annual visitors. Under the new plan, wildlife and visitors at seven Texas refuges will suffer from the effects of reduced or no staff and minimal services.

**Utah** will lose almost a fifth of the workforce on its three national wildlife refuges, which are frequented by more than 56,000 annual visitors for bird watching, hiking, photography, fishing and hunting.

- Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge: Targeted reductions will impact the ability to properly manage and maintain upland grasslands and 25 water impoundments that provide a home for more than 200 bird species. Established in 1928, the 74,000-acre refuge lies along both of the Pacific Flyway and the Central Flyway, making it an important resting, feeding, and nesting area for populations of birds in both flyways.

**Vermont** will lose two refuge managers on its two national wildlife refuges, which host over 280,000 visitors a year.

- Missisquoi NWR: The loss of a refuge manager means that Vermont's largest great blue heron rookery may suffer setbacks due to the lack of habitat management. Established in 1943, the 6,642-acre refuge includes most of the Missisquoi River Delta where it flows into Missisquoi Bay.

**Virginia** will lose more than eight permanent positions on its 14 refuges.

- Plum Tree Island NWR: Lack of staffing will jeopardize clean up of the refuge, proper signage and law enforcement to keep area visitors safe, and management of endangered species habitat at this refuge, which is closed due to unexploded ordnance, a relict of its military past. Established in 1972, this 3,500-acre refuge protects wetlands and important migratory bird habitat in the lower Chesapeake Bay.

**Washington** will lose 28 percent of the workforce on its 22 national wildlife refuges, which host more than 2 million annual visitors. The cuts will sharply reduce or eliminate habitat restoration and

invasive species control programs on 343,000 acres of refuge lands, and abolish interpretive and education programs for the visiting public, including area schoolchildren.

- Mid-Columbia River NWR Complex: Staff and funding limitations will cause a reduction in the number of special outreach events by 40 percent, affecting thousands of schoolchildren, college students, and adults. The complex is comprised of five NWRs located in southeast Washington and northeast Oregon – Toppenish, McNary, Cold Springs, Umatilla, and McKay. Over 78,000 acres of wetlands and shrub-steppe habitats are vital to waterfowl, bald eagles, shorebirds and many other wildlife species.

**West Virginia**, without an increase in staffing levels, will be unable to address important issues including riverbank erosion and reduction of neighboring industrial impacts on its two refuges, which host 70,000 visitors each year.

- Ohio Valley Islands NWR: Because industrial waste discharges harm resources at this refuge, funding shortfalls hamper restoration of degraded habitat for the federally endangered Indiana bat. Established in 1990, the 3,300-acre refuge consists of 22 islands and three mainland tracts scattered along nearly 400 miles of the Ohio River.

**Wisconsin** will lose 25 percent of the workforce on its eight national wildlife refuges and two wetland management districts, which total over 177,000 acres and host 800,000 annual visitors.

- Trempealeau NWR: With additional staff cuts, invasive plants will expand unchecked across refuge prairies and wetlands and education programs for 10,000 students and visitors will be completely eliminated. Established in 1936, the 6,226-acre refuge is a backwater of the Mississippi River and is strategically located within an important migration corridor, providing resting and feeding habitat for thousands of waterfowl and other birds during spring and fall.

**Wyoming** will lose over half of the workforce on its seven national wildlife refuges, which are frequented by 1 million annual visitors for bird watching, hiking, photography, fishing and hunting.

- National Elk Refuge: Targeted reductions at the refuge visited by approximately 900,000 people each year, will adversely affect management and maintenance of habitat for 14,000 elk that depend on the refuge's grasslands to survive the harsh winters. Established in 1912, the refuge is an integral component of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem; it is bounded by Grand Teton National Park and a wilderness area in the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

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