

Dear Friends,

Refuges have an opportunity of a lifetime to create almost 20,000 new green jobs in local communities. NWRA and our partners in the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) need your help to secure an investment of nearly \$1 billion for infrastructure and habitat restoration on national wildlife refuges across the country. These shovel-ready jobs will put people to work today and lay the foundation for tomorrow's greener and more efficient economy - but it won't happen unless Congress hears from YOU!

We need your help today to ensure refuges are included in this massive stimulus bill - advocates for National Parks and other infrastructure projects are already contacting decision makers so your help is needed right now!

Please consider one or all of the following actions:

1. Call your U.S. Representative and 2 U.S. Senators and urge them to include \$1 Billion for "Green Jobs for Refuges" in the upcoming stimulus package. You can reach your lawmakers instantly by calling the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121;
2. Encourage every member of your Friends group to place these same three calls - the more your lawmakers hear from their constituents the better chance they will include refuges in a final package;
3. Write a Letter to the Editor about what this would mean for your refuge - if you need a draft, please contact me directly or check our website where we will post updates and draft materials (dgroves@refugeassociation.org);
4. Write an instant letter to your lawmakers via our Take Action site- you are encouraged to personalize the message with specifics about that could be undertaken at YOUR refuge.

Refuges can immediately put people to work in local communities and the work they do will benefit wildlife and future generations of Americans. Like the projects undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, refuges can be a strong part of rebuilding economy. Please help us strengthen our National Wildlife Refuges and our economy at the same time!

Talking Points:

- 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.
- Green Jobs on Refuges will keep local construction, electrical, landscaping and other companies working throughout 2009.
- New construction projects will be models of energy efficiency and will prepare the next generation of American workers with the skills needed to lead a green revolution in our economy.
- Economic stimulus projects for FWS fall in two broad categories - Greening Facilities, and Restoring Habitat.

GREENING FACILITIES:

- Improving Energy Efficiency: 5,103 jobs / \$243 million investment

Examples: installing solar and geothermal power systems, upgrading, windows and doors, and retrofitting lighting.

- New Green Construction: 5,025 jobs / \$201 million investment

Examples: visitor centers, education and equipment storage facilities and office space.

- Renewable Energy: 1,260 jobs / \$60 million investment

Examples: Installation of photovoltaic and solar thermal systems, small wind turbines and geothermal heat pumps.

RESTORING HABITAT:

- Combating Invasive Species: 2,940 jobs / \$140 million investment

Examples: Local workers employed to eradicate invasives.

- Restoring Native Habitat: 2,704 jobs / \$263 million investment

Examples: Local workers 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

Examples: Local companies and workers hired to repair, construct and restore aging and deteriorating structures (levees, dikes, pumps, valves).

Evan Hirsche, President
National Wildlife Refuge Association
1901 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite 407
Washington, DC 20006

Phone: 202-333-9075

Fax: 202-333-9077

email: ehirsche@refugeassociation.org

web: www.refugeassociation.org