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**BOB EBELING NAMED NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SYSTEM
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**
A visionary leader dedicated to the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge

WASHINGTON, D.C., FEBRUARY 13, 2013 – Nearly a quarter century of leadership and service has earned Utah resident, Bob Ebeling, the coveted National Wildlife Refuge System Volunteer of the Year Award from the National Wildlife Refuge Association and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

“Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Refuge System,” said David Houghton, President of the National Wildlife Refuge Association. “Volunteers like Bob make all the difference in delivering conservation success on the ground and we salute Bob’s years of dedication to public service and conservation.”

Ebeling dedicated over 10,000 volunteer-hours at the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge, including professional engineering skills, visitor services in the Education Center, and countless other invaluable efforts over the past 23 years.

Most notably, Ebeling played a key role in the restoration of Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge after it was left in ruins by the flood of the Great Salt Lake in the mid 1980s. In just 6 months, Ebeling organized and led a group of 50 volunteers to complete the momentous task of restoring water impoundments while simultaneously repairing the 12-mile public auto tour route to allow the refuge to be opened to the public. The total cost of both projects was paid for in full by volunteer donations, including man-hours and financial support.

“The refuge would not be what it is today without Bob’s tireless dedication to the ecological health and public perception of this important piece of ground,” Houghton said. “His steadfast vision not only rallied an entire community of volunteers, but turned the Bear River Migratory Bird Refuge into one of the premier units in the System.”

Before beginning work at the refuge, Ebeling worked as a project manager and rocket scientist to advance the United States space program. Today, at age 84, Ebeling serves his shift at the Education Center as he is able. Whether using his engineering expertise to restore habitat or his outstanding communications skills to relate with refuge visitors of all ages, Ebeling’s long history of volunteer work



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epitomizes the "good stewardship of nature" he strives to promote and pass on to others.

Ebeling will be recognized for his selection as Volunteer of the Year during the 78th Annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Arlington, Virginia on March 28th.

For more information about the National Wildlife Refuge System awards please visit: refugeassociation.org/people/awards/2013awards

For additional information about the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation please visit: nfwf.org

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The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries.