

Bear River Watershed Conservation Area

Utah, Wyoming and Idaho



ANNE TRUSLOW

As North America's largest inland river, draining not into the ocean but emptying into the Great Salt Lake, Bear River brings water, wildlife habitat, economic stimulus and recreation opportunities to three states along its 500-mile route. The river draws from a 4.7 million-acre watershed and flows through both remote and populated communities. The Bear River Watershed spans many diverse habitats, from high mountain forests to the extensive marshes of the Bear River delta. Many threatened and at risk species depend on these habitats for survival including populations of Bonneville cutthroat trout and Northern leatherside chub in coldwater fisheries of the upper river. Greater sage-grouse, pronghorn antelope and mule deer inhabit rolling sagebrush steppe, and the Bear River delta is one of the most significant resting, staging, feeding, breeding and nesting areas for millions of migratory birds traveling on both the Pacific and Central Flyways.

The Bear River Watershed Conservation Area offers opportunities for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to work with private landowners in all three states by purchasing conservation easements from willing sellers to help sustain working landscapes while also achieving water quality, quantity, and wildlife habitat objectives.



USFWS

Request Summary

FY17 Request:	\$2 million
Acreage:	920,000-acre project area
Type:	Conservation Easement only
Counties:	UT -Box Elder, Cache, Rich; ID-Bear Lake, Franklin; WY-Lincoln, Uinta

Congressional

Districts:	UT-1, ID-2, WY
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Project Partners

- Bear River Land Conservancy
- Friends of Bear River Refuge
- Idaho Game and Fish
- Idaho Environmental Coordinating Committee
- Intermountain West Joint Venture
- National Wildlife Refuge Association
- Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA)
- The Nature Conservancy
- State Agricultural Agencies
- Trout Unlimited
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Western Rivers Conservancy
- Wyoming Game and Fish
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Natural Resource Values

- Greater sage-grouse
- Cinnamon teal, Northern pintail, and other waterfowl
- Western grebe, pied-billed grebe, eared grebe
- White-faced ibis, American avocet, black-necked stilt
- Sage thrasher, sagebrush sparrow
- Pronghorn antelope, elk, mule deer
- Bonneville cutthroat trout
- Northern leatherside chub



National
Wildlife Refuge
Association

