



Quotes from Member Organizations of the CARE Coalition
Upon Release of *Restoring America's Wildlife Refuges 2011: Assets for All Americans*

American Sportfishing Association

"Wildlife refuges provide some of our nation's best recreational fishing. Fishing in these wild areas is something everyone should experience. However, to continue providing this wealth of opportunities we must invest in our wildlife refuge system. The economic and conservation returns from the millions of anglers that fish in the refuges have a significant impact on our nation's fisheries resources."

—Mike Nussman, President and CEO

Defenders of Wildlife

"Without adequate funding, wildlife refuge staff will simply be unable to carry out work that is critical to fulfilling the primary mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System—to protect wildlife and habitat. To forego this vital work, such as removing invasive species and conducting refuge inventories, seriously undermines the value and potential of each refuge, both literally and figuratively."

—Jamie Rappaport Clark, Executive Vice President

Ducks Unlimited

"One of the greatest legacies of sportsmen conservationists is America's National Wildlife Refuge System. Sportsmen have contributed billions of dollars over generations to build the nation's system of wildlife refuges. These lands are an investment that Americans should foster and protect. The ability of these lands to be productive habitat for wildlife must be maintained. This latest report highlights the successes of the system and the challenges to this important national resource."

—Scott Sutherland, Director, Governmental Affairs Office

Marine Conservation Institute

"The refuges are significant havens for America's terrestrial and marine wildlife. They deserve public support every bit as much as our national parks and forests."

— William Chandler, Vice President for Government Affairs

National Audubon Society

"Audubon has a long storied history of working to protect and improve the National Wildlife Refuge System. Since our involvement in creating the first National Wildlife Refuge, Pelican Island, in 1903 by transferring that land to the federal government, Audubon has been there every step of the way to support the refuge system. The habitat created and maintained for millions of birds and other wildlife is a value that no other system of federal land management provides. They are an essential part of the American way of life. We are very proud to be members of the CARE coalition and look forward to many more years of enlarging and improving the refuge system"

—Mike Daulton, Vice President for Government

National Rifle Association

"Hunters have been the backbone of the National Wildlife Refuge System dating back to 1903 when President Theodore Roosevelt established Pelican Island as the first wildlife refuge. Since the 1930s, hunters have contributed nearly \$25 million annually and over \$750 million in total, through Duck Stamp purchases for the acquisition of critical wildlife refuge habitat. This citizen-based revenue for land acquisition is unparalleled in federal and state land systems and exemplifies the unique role that hunters play in wildlife conservation throughout the country. The NRA supports CARE's efforts to protect the hunter's investment in our Refuge System and looks forward to continuing a productive and successful partnership with all the organizations participating in CARE."

—Susan Recce, Director of Conservation, Wildlife and Natural Resources

National Wildlife Federation

"Wildlife refuges give Americans fantastic opportunities to get outside and connect with nature as well as providing critical habitat for wildlife, which is vital in a warming world. Continued investment in our refuges will also drive our recreation economy through activities like hunting and fishing. The CARE coalition's annual report makes the case as to why it's critical to conserve and protect America's special places like wildlife refuges."

— Larry Schweiger, President & CEO

The Wilderness Society

"Our national wildlife refuges are treasures that protect critical habitat, bolster the economies of local communities, and provide recreational and educational opportunities for all Americans. In recent years, funding for the Refuge System has not kept up with the demands placed on these critical lands and waters by a warming climate, encroaching development and increased visitation. The Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE) is a remarkably diverse coalition that has been hugely successful in protecting the National Wildlife Refuge System for the past 15 years. The 2011 report issued by CARE on the Refuge System is a blueprint we must follow to protect all national wildlife refuges so that future generations of Americans can enjoy the spectacular diversity of wildlife and habitat found in these wonderful places."

—William H. Meadows, President

The Wildlife Society

"Refuges are essential for the conservation of our nation's wildlife and their habitats, and providing a natural laboratory for wildlife biologists who are engaged in field research efforts. The Wildlife Society applauds the publication of the CARE report and hopes that Congress continues to provide robust support for these valuable natural resources."

— Michael Hutchins, Executive Director & CEO

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance

"USSA is proud of its role in founding CARE 16 years ago and working cooperatively to ensure funding for the incomparable Wildlife Refuge System, its conservation mission, and assuring unsurpassed opportunities for hunting and fishing pursuant to the 1997 Refuge Improvement Act."

—Walter Pigeon Jr., President & CEO

Wildlife Forever

"The National Wildlife Refuge System is a critical network of essential habitats for America's fish and wildlife. Without our refuges the nation will lose important species, large and small. Refuges also provide exceptional public fishing, hunting and wildlife recreation experiences, and in that respect they fulfill President Obama's vision of a place for every American to enjoy and appreciate our wildlife heritage."

—Douglas H. Grann, President & CEO