

CARE
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American Birding Association
American Fisheries Society
American Sportfishing Association
Assateague Coastal Trust
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited
Intl. Assoc. 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 Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America
The Wildlife Society
Trout Unlimited
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute

Quotes from CARE CEO's

– *American Birding Association*

Contact: (301) 839-9736

“With birding as the fastest-growing form of American outdoor recreation, it is imperative that one of our great resources be protected and enhanced, said American Birding Association President Richard H. Payne of Huntsville, Texas. “Our National Wildlife Refuge System, unique in the world, faces significantly increased visitation from birders and others, multiplying pressures on a system that has been under-funded for years. The National Wildlife Refuge System cannot provide wildlife and increasing numbers of visitors without investing more in both maintenance and operation.”

– *American Sportfishing Association*

Contact: (703) 519-9691

“Wildlife refuges are America's secret fishing spots,” said Mike Nussman, President of the American Sportfishing Association. “Ask any angler and he'll tell you that these wild areas support some of the best fishing around. However, to continue providing this wealth of opportunities we must invest in the rejuvenation of the refuge system. This will be money well spent as the economic returns from the millions of anglers that fish in the refuges alone can make it worth our while.”

– *Assateague Coastal Trust*

Contact: (202) 966-3579

“The shortchanging of America's wildlife is evident from the fact that the refuge system lists 388 biologist positions as essential but has lacked the money to fill them,” says Phyllis Koenings, executive director of the Assateague Coastal Trust. “This is deplorable, and actually compounds refuge funding problems.

Without the necessary biologists, refuges are hindered in initiating and justifying projects to which other organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited, and even special programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service itself, might provide grants.”

– *Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation* Contact: (202) 543-6850

“Our National Wildlife Refuge System provides over \$416 million to communities surrounding refuges through fishing, hunting and wildlife watching related activities,” said Melinda Gable, executive director of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. “Our governmental leaders should not only look at how the refuge system benefits our natural environment, but also look at those who rely upon tourism dollars created by the refuges themselves. CARE's proposal to the Administration and Congress represents a necessary increase to help make the refuges a more healthy system for the wildlife and the people who visit them. A system who's founder - President Theodore Roosevelt - would be proud of.”

– *Defenders of Wildlife* Contact: (202) 682-9400

“From protecting America's highest concentration of unique plants and animals, to restoring a population of 16,000 trumpeter swans from just 73 birds at the brink of extinction, to providing crucial stepping stones to other migratory birds, the first 100 years of the National Wildlife Refuge System have been a triumph,” said Rodger Schlickheisen, President of Defenders of Wildlife. “But without adequate funding, the promise of the Refuge System over the coming century will be seriously compromised.”

– *Ducks Unlimited* Contact: (202) 347-1530

Statement by Don Young, Executive Vice President, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
November 2, 2001

Millions of sportsmen-conservationists, & other wildlife enthusiasts have a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the outdoors by visiting the National Wildlife Refuge system. These special lands are responsible for keeping populations of waterfowl, shorebirds, and many other types of wildlife, abundant and healthy.

Ducks Unlimited prides itself as being a long time partner on the refuge system, where we have teamed up on almost six hundred projects encompassing approximately three hundred thousand acres of wetlands and associated uplands. Our field biologists work cooperatively with the committed staffs on refuges to help design and maintain habitat that helps the Fish and Wildlife Service accomplish its mission.

A significant amount of refuge lands were paid for with funds provided by sportsmen and women through the purchase of federal duck stamps. But acquiring lands for wildlife is not enough. Refuges need proper funding to most effectively manage the resource.

As we look forward to the second century of the National Wildlife Refuge System, we thank Congress and the Administration for their support in the last several years and hope that these needs will be addressed even more in the years ahead.

– *International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies* Contact: (202) 624-7890

“The National Wildlife Refuge System should be, in Aldo Leopold’s words, ‘the finest example of sound wildlife management’,” said Max Peterson, Executive Vice President of IAFWA. “To meet that goal requires adequate funds to meet both current needs as well as address the backlog of accumulated needs now requiring attention. Whether for hunting, fishing or other wildlife-related activities, the Wildlife Refuge System serves millions of people while providing social, economic and environmental benefits so important today.”

– *Izaak Walton League of America* Contact: (800) 453-5463

“America’s National Wildlife Refuge System is one of the world’s premier networks of land and water set aside to meet our natural resource stewardship responsibilities,” said Paul Hansen, the League’s executive director. “Its very existence reflects the incredible conservation vision of President Teddy Roosevelt and is a credit to our nation’s hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching heritage. The Congress has taken steps in recent years to begin addressing this critical funding backlog. We know more must be done. For seven years the CARE Group has been tracking the Refuge System’s funding needs and that trend data has led correctly to a request that Congress more than double the money available next year for refuge operations and maintenance in anticipation of the Refuge System’s 100th birthday.”

– *National Audubon Society* Contact: (202) 861-2242

"The National Wildlife Refuge System is at a crossroads," said National Audubon Society President John Flicker. "Are we going to cheat future generations of this American treasure by bleeding its coffers dry? We are turning a source of national pride into a source of national shame. It is time to do the right thing."

– *National Rifle Association* Contact: (703) 267-1170

“Almost a century ago, Teddy Roosevelt and other enlightened sportsmen established a system of public lands to safeguard America’s wildlife resources,” said James J. Baker, Ex Dir. of the Institute for Legislative Action, for the National Rifle Association. “The question today is whether our stewardship of the National Wildlife Refuge System measures up to the expectations of these visionary conservationists. The NRA believes that a sound base of financial support must be provided in order for us to live up to our stewardship responsibilities.”

– *National Wildlife Federation* Contact: (703) 438-6000

“All our National Wildlife Refuges are national treasures that we must do everything in our power to enhance the wildlife and wilderness values that American's hold dear,” said Mark Van Putten, President & CEO of the National Wildlife Federation.

– *National Wildlife Refuge Association* Contact: (202) 333-9075

“The National Wildlife Refuge System is a natural treasure for wildlife and people alike, but desperately requires increased funding to address the needs of both,” said Evan Hirsche, President of the NWRA. “In these times of uncertainty, Americans are turning to national wildlife refuges across the country for comfort and reflection. Without sufficient funding for refuges, people and wildlife suffer.”

– *Safari Club International* Contact: (703) 709-2293

“In 1997, Congress recognized the importance of the National Wildlife Refuge System to sportsmen and other outdoor enthusiasts,” said Peter J. Dart, Executive Director of Safari Club International. “SCI supports appropriate and responsible levels of funding to assure that these public lands are properly managed for their mission of wildlife conservation and for their benefits to the American public.”

– *Trout Unlimited* Contact: (703) 522-0200

“American anglers know well that the National Wildlife Refuge System includes ‘fish’ as well as ‘wildlife’,” said Charles Gauvin, Trout Unlimited’s President and CEO. “Some of the nation’s last best fish habitats are found in the Refuge System. While Congress has made substantial progress in recent years in fixing Refuge System problems, more needs to be done. We urge Congress to heed CARE group’s funding proposals and make sure that the ‘fish’ stay firmly intact in the National Wildlife Refuge System.”

– *The Wilderness Society* Contact: (202) 833-2300

“The National Wildlife Refuge System protects many of America's most awe-inspiring natural wonders,” said William H. Meadows, President of The Wilderness Society. “Our Refuge System must be healthy and well-managed if we are to preserve America's wild heritage for future generations.”

– *The Wildlife Legislative Fund of America* Contact: (202) 862-8364

“The National Wildlife Refuge System is an integral part of wildlife management programs across this country,” said Walter P. Pidgeon, president and CEO of the Wildlife Legislative Fund of America. “Adequate funding of this “crown jewel” should be the backbone of any conservation plan before Congress.”

– *Wildlife Forever*

Contact: (301) 770-6496

“A dollar spent to maintain wildlife refuges returns more benefits for wildlife and outdoor recreation than any competing conservation investment in America,” said Douglas H. Grann, President & CEO, Wildlife Forever. “Congress should celebrate the National Wildlife Refuge System's second century by funding it at the level C.A.R.E. is recommending.”

– *Wildlife Management Institute*

Contact: (202) 371-1808

“America's National Wildlife Refuges are a treasured part of the nation's history and culture,” said Rollin D. Sparrowe, President of the Wildlife Management Institute. “For them to provide the habitat and abundant fish and wildlife desired by the public, we need greater investment in their operation and management. The Refuge Centennial Celebration during the next year offers a chance for demonstrated bipartisan support to finally step up to that challenge. The CARE plan for restoration of refuges is a roadmap for meeting carefully documented needs, and we stand ready to work with Congress and the Administration to make it happen.”

– *The Wildlife Society*

Contact: (301) 897-9770

“Many refuges suffer from a shortage of professional wildlife biologists on staff,” said Harry E. Hodgdon, Executive Director of the Wildlife Society. “This lack of technical expertise severely limits the Service's ability to adequately monitor wildlife populations and perform studies that are needed for the proper management of refuge biological resources.”