

American Birding Association
American Fisheries Society
American Sportfishing Association
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Izaak Walton League of America
National Audubon Society
National Rifle Association of America
National Wildlife Federation



Safari Club International
The Corps Network
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
Assateague Coastal Trust
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute

National Wildlife Refuge Association

February 3, 2009

U.S. Senate

Dear Senator:

The organizations of the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement (CARE), listed above, a broad coalition of 22 diverse wildlife, sporting, conservation and recreational organizations representing over 14 million Americans, urge you to support the creation of thousands of green jobs on National Wildlife Refuges in the Green Jobs for Public Lands amendment offered by Sen. Jeff Bingaman in the 2009 Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The CARE coalition is recommending \$1 billion for the National Wildlife Refuge System, which would create 20,000 new jobs in local communities. The Senate appropriations committee recommended \$300 million for wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries and the Green Jobs for Public Lands amendment would increase this by \$125 million: \$110 million for habitat restoration projects and \$15 million for construction.

The \$300 million currently recommended for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the agency that administers the Refuge System, would create more than 6,700 new jobs with projects able to be underway within 90 days. The additional \$125 million would create another 2,685 jobs for a total of over 9,400 new jobs in local communities.

By supporting green jobs for National Wildlife Refuges, Congress will not only improve the lives of thousands of Americans but also reduce global warming pollution and improve environmental health by making facilities and buildings more energy efficient, installing alternative energy systems, and restoring both water quality and thousands of acres of degraded wildlife habitat. These projects will keep local construction, electrical, landscaping and other companies working throughout 2009 and likely beyond. Moreover, they will prepare the next generation of American workers with the skills they need to lead a green revolution in our economy.

Please support the creation of thousands of local jobs on National Wildlife Refuges in Sen. Bingaman's Green Jobs for Public Lands amendment in the 2009 Economic Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Please don't hesitate to contact me or our CARE liaison, Desiree Sorenson-Groves, at (202) 333-9075 if either of us can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Desiree Sorenson-Groves", written over a horizontal line.

Evan Hirsche
for the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement