



National Wildlife Refuge Friends Program

NFWF CONTACTS

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ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Bird watching at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge

BACKGROUND

National Wildlife Refuge Friends organizations play an important role in building critical community support for their local National Wildlife Refuges. The National Wildlife Refuge System's existence is credited to citizens eager to protect America's natural resources, and refuge Friends organizations continue this legacy.

There are now more than 180 Friends groups supporting National Wildlife Refuges. Friends organizations are crucial to the collective mission of the Refuge System. They, along with other volunteers, accomplish approximately 20 percent of all work on National Wildlife Refuges, which is the equivalent of 648 full-time employees.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The program helps refuge Friends organizations develop projects, expand and increase organizational capacity and individual skills, meet local refuge conservation challenges and build community recognition. Funding priorities include:

- **Nonprofit Capacity Building Grants:** Provide funds to assist with formative or initial operational support, as well as provide funds to existing refuge Friends organizations for activities that enhance an organization's ability to achieve its mission and sustain itself over time.
- **Project Specific Grants:** Provide funds to support projects initiated and managed by the Friends in support of the refuge
- **Peer-to-Peer Coaching:** Provide funds that help coordinate and execute a Friends peer-to-peer coaching event for a minimum of four other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Friends organizations.

RESULTS TO DATE

Since 1998, the National Wildlife Refuge Friends Program has provided more than 561 awards totaling more than \$2.9 million in federal and private funds. While matching contributions are not required of these grantees, over \$3.2 million has been contributed towards these projects.