



March 18 – 21, 2003  
The Grove Hotel,  
Boise Idaho

## Tuesday, March 18, 2003

- 3:00 - 5:00 pm      Field trip – World Center for Birds of Prey  
5:00 - 8:00 pm      On-Site Registration – Grove Hotel lobby  
6:00 - 8:00 pm      Reception – Grove Hotel Lobby

## Wednesday, March 19, 2003 – Grand Ballroom

8:00 am            Welcoming remarks

**Session 1      *The Big Picture – National and Continental Bird Plans***  
Moderator: David Pashley

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- 8:30 am            • North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) – Jim Cole  
• Partners in Flight Continental Plan (PIF) – Terry Rich  
• United States Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP) – Joe Buchanan  
• North American Waterbird Conservation Plan (NAWCP) – TBA  
• Integration of the four Bird Conservation Initiatives: North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) – David Pashley

10:15 am          Break

**Session 2      *Narrowing the Focus – A Regional Perspective***  
Moderator: Bob Altman

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- 10:45 am            • The Pacific Flyway Study Group and Flyway Council – Tom Aldrich  
• Partners in Flight Western Working Group/State Plans – Carol Beardmore  
• The Intermountain West Region Shorebird Plan – Lew Oring  
• The Intermountain West Region Waterbird Plan – Gary Ivey

12:00 pm          Lunch (on your own)

**Session 3      *Coordinating and Integrating the Plans***  
Moderator: Dan Casey

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- 1:30 pm            • Bird Conservation Regions (BCR) – Dan Casey  
• Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) – Jim Cole  
• State All-Bird Plans – Joe LaTourrette  
• Integrating All-Bird Conservation into federal agency planning – Cal McCluskey  
• Integrating All Bird Conservation into state agency planning – Rick Kearney  
• Integrating All-Bird Conservation between British Columbia and the U.S. – Andy Bezener

3:00 pm            Break

**Session 4      *Supporting Bird Conservation***  
Moderator: Rita Dixon

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- 3:30 pm            • Conservation goals and strategies for Western North America – Jon Bart  
• The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program – Dan Niven  
• The Western States Sage Grouse Initiative – Dwight Bunnell  
• Ducks Unlimited, Inc. – Jeff McCreary  
• Land Trusts – Michael Whitfield

5:00 pm            Wrap-up and announcements for Day Two

# Thursday, March 20, 2003

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**Session 5**      **Priority Habitats and Birds – Concurrent sessions**

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- 8:00 am      **Shrubsteppe habitats and birds:      *Evergreen Room***  
Session Chair: Steven T. Knick  
• Refer to binder section *Western States Initiative* for session agenda
- 8:00 am      **Wetland habitat and birds:      *Cedar / Aspen Rooms***  
Session Chair: Larry Neel  
• Refer to binder section *Western States Initiative* for session agenda
- 10:00 am      Break
- 10:30 am      Concurrent sessions continue – **same locations**
- 12:00 pm      Lunch (catered)

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**Session 6**      **Priority Habitats, Birds, Integrated Bird Monitoring (IBM), and Funding Opportunities - Concurrent sessions**

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- 1:00 pm      **Shrubsteppe habitats and birds (emphasis on sage grouse)      *Evergreen Room***  
Session Chair: Steven T. Knick  
• Refer to binder section *Western States Initiative* for session agenda
- 1:00 pm      **Forest habitats and birds      *Ivy Room***  
Session Chair: Jon Haufler  
• Refer to binder section *Western States Initiative* for session agenda
- 1:00 pm      **Coordinated Bird Monitoring (IBM)      *Cedar / Aspen Rooms***  
Session Chair: Jon Bart  
• Refer to binder section *Western States Initiative* for session agenda
- 1:00 pm      **Funding Opportunities      *Whitewater Room***  
Session Chair: Carol Beardmore  
• Refer to binder section *Western States Initiative* for session agenda
- 3:00 pm      Break
- 3:30 pm      **Forest habitats and birds** – Continued same location
- 3:30 pm      **Integrated Bird Monitoring** – Continued same location
- 3:30 pm      **Funding Opportunities** – Continued same location
- 4:30 pm      Wrap-up and Day Three announcements
- 5:00 pm      Evening Reception – pre-registration required  
***Morrison-Knudsen Nature Center, sponsored by ConocoPhillips***

Notes:

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# Welcome to The Western States All-Bird Workshop, emphasizing the Great Basin at The Grove Hotel, Boise

## Workshop Coordinators:

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Great Basin Bird Conservation  
Region Coordinator  
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## Meeting Venue and Hotel Information

The workshop will be held at the Grove Hotel in downtown Boise, Idaho on March 18–21, 2003. We have reserved a block of rooms under the name “Great Basin Bird Workshop” at a reduced rate of \$61/night (single) or \$71/night (double). Rooms have been reserved for the nights of March 18–20 and you must make your reservations prior to February 28, 2003 to receive the discounted group rate. For meeting delegates wishing to extend their stay in Boise, the discounted group rate may be honored for nights either side of the meeting dates, pending availability. To make your reservations call the Grove Hotel directly at (208) 333-8000.

The hotel offers a free shuttle to and from the Boise airport. If driving from the airport, take Vista Avenue north. Follow Vista Avenue until it turns into Capitol Boulevard. Follow Capitol Boulevard to Front Street. The Grove Hotel is on the corner of Front and Capitol on the left-hand side. Parking is available in the hotel’s basement at the reduced rate of \$4/vehicle/day.

Because of the hotel’s central location, there are numerous opportunities for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, all within easy walking distance of the meeting facilities (including the hotel’s own restaurants). Guests may access the 24-Hour Fitness center, located within the hotel, for a nominal charge of \$5/day. The Grove is also home to the Idaho “Steelheads” ice-hockey team (West Coast Hockey League). For those wishing to stay an extra night, the Steelheads will host the Long Beach “Ice Dogs” on Friday March 21 in the hotel’s arena. Discounted tickets to the game are available for \$17 (adults) and \$9 (youths and seniors).

For more information about the Grove Hotel, check it out at [www.westcoasthotels.com/grove](http://www.westcoasthotels.com/grove). Other downtown Boise hotels include the Best Western Safari Motor Inn (208/344-6556), Owyhee Plaza Hotel (208/343-4611), and Statehouse Inn (208/342-4622).

## Local Attractions

Whilst in Boise for the Great Basin Bird Workshop, why not take the opportunity to explore some of the local birding hotspots before and/or after the meeting....

**World Center for Birds of Prey.** Located south of Boise, visitors see rare hawks, eagles, and a pair of California condors up close. The tropical raptor center displays birds of prey from around the world. The newly opened raptor archives library, specimen collections, and falconry exhibits are also available for viewing. Note that we will begin the workshop with a field trip to the World Center for Birds of Prey on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 18 from 3-5 p.m.

For those interested in joining us on this informative trip, please make your own way to the Center (directions can be found at <http://www.peregrinefund.org/visit.html>). Please plan on meeting in the visitor's parking lot at 3 p.m.

**Snake River “Birds of Prey” National Conservation Area.** Located just under 30 bird miles southwest of Boise, the SRBPNTCA includes spectacular views of the Snake River canyon that was created by the Great Bonneville flood. The following species are seen regularly: golden eagle, prairie falcon, red-tailed hawk, ferruginous hawk, Swainson’s hawk, northern harrier, American kestrel, turkey vulture, barred owl, great-horned owl, short-eared owl, screech owl, burrowing owl, and long-eared owl. Other raptors that use the canyon for nesting and foraging include the bald eagle, peregrine falcon, rough-legged hawk, osprey, sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper’s hawk, and merlin. For information on guided tours of the SRBPNTCA, including river floats through the canyon, contact Snake River Birds of Prey Expeditions at (208) 376-5858, or visit <http://www.birdsofpreyexpeditions.com>.

For more ideas and information on any activities while in the Boise area, please contact the Boise Convention and Visitors Bureau at (208) 344-7777.

### **Workshop Objectives:**

1. Provide all-bird conservation initiative orientation to state wildlife agency personnel, federal wildlife and land managers, British Columbia, and other non-state partners. This orientation will include descriptions of the four major bird initiatives, North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) State All-Bird Planning, funding programs, and other current national, regional and local bird conservation programs.
2. Provide breakout session opportunities to network and coordinate current regional and local initiatives with the assistance of regional initiative leaders.
3. Provide breakout sessions for individual states to develop on-the-ground strategies of integrated conservation through their All-Bird Committee and All-Bird Plans. Allow for interstate and international coordination between states where there are common issues, opportunities, and habitats.

### **Workshop Emphasis and Outcomes:**

The intent of this Interstate All-Bird Conservation Workshop is to provide a ground up approach to all-bird conservation. The workshop sessions will be organized and delivered with the field biologist in mind. Take-home material also will be developed in a “cook book” format that gives the information ‘life’ after the workshop is completed.

### **Desired Outcomes:**

- The four existing major bird conservation initiatives and the NABCI will be explained.
- A significant portion of the workshop will allow State All-Bird Committees that are being organized through the assistance of the IWJV to interact and design plan implementation with state and interstate partners.
- The workshop will provide for networking on local and regional initiatives such as Shrubsteppe birds including sage grouse, basin wetlands including regional shorebird, waterbird, and Pacific Flyway plan implementation. Forest and riparian all-bird conservation, and all-bird monitoring coordination are other regional topics.
- One intent of the interstate workshop is to sort out the who’s who list of players representing the bird conservation initiatives within each state and organize them so they can interact with each other and as working groups on a regional Great Basin basis.

- Funding is always an issue, so an effort will be made to sort out what opportunities are available by bird initiative both in the lecture and material portions of the workshop.
- Bird Conservation Region 9 (Great Basin) includes an international border; there will be an opportunity to work on international all-bird conservation.

**Daily Workshop Emphasis:**

Day 1: Updates to National and Regional Bird Conservation Initiatives

Day 2: Regional and Local Issues and Opportunities

Day 3: Conservation Coordination and State All Bird Orientation

**Western States All Bird Orientation Workshop Emphasizing the Great  
Basin  
March 18-21, 2003  
Grove Hotel  
Boise, Idaho**

**Workshop Objectives:**

1. Provide all bird conservation initiative orientation to state wildlife agency personnel, federal wildlife and land managers, British Columbia, and other non-state partners. This orientation will include descriptions of the four major bird initiatives, NABCI, IWJV State All Bird Planing, funding programs, and other current national, regional and local bird conservation programs.
2. Provide breakout session opportunities to network and coordinate current regional and local initiatives with the assistance of regional initiative leaders.
3. Provide breakout sessions for individual states to develop on the ground strategies of integrated conservation through their All Bird Committee and All Bird Plans. Allow for interstate and international coordination between states where there are common issues, opportunities, and habitats.

**Workshop Emphasis and Outcomes:**

The intent of this Interstate All Bird Conservation Workshop is to provide a ground up approach to all bird conservation orientation. The workshop sessions will be organized and delivered with the field biologist in mind. Take home material will also be developed in a "cook book" format that gives the information life after the workshop is completed.

**Desired Outcomes:**

- The existing four major migratory bird initiatives and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative will be explained.
- A significant portion of the workshop will allow State All Bird Committees that are being organized through the assistance of the Intermountain West Joint Venture to interact and design plan implementation with state and interstate partners.
- The workshop will provide for networking on local and regional initiatives such as shrubsteppe birds including sage grouse, basin wetlands including regional shorebird, waterbird, and Pacific Flyway plan implementation. Dry forest all bird and riparian conservation and all bird monitoring coordination are other regional topics.
- One intent of the interstate workshop is to sort out the who's who list of players representing the bird conservation initiatives within each state and organize them so they can interact with each other and as working groups on a regional (BCR 9) bases.
- Funding is always an issue, so an effort will be made to sort out what opportunities are available by bird initiative both in the lecture and material portions of the workshop.
- Bird Conservation Region 9 includes an international boarder; there will be an opportunity to work on international all bird conservation.

**Agenda Outline:**

Day 1: Updates to National and Regional Bird Conservation Initiatives

Day 2: Regional and Local; Issues and Opportunities

Day 3: State All Bird Plan Orientation and implementation

# GREAT BASIN BCR WETLANDS CONSERVATION STRATEGY

## An Outline for Success

Output from the Wetland Breakout Session, Western States All-Bird Workshop,  
*Emphasizing the Great Basin*

### I. HABITAT INVENTORY

#### 1. Site Inventory

To the extent of detail possible:

Acres of habitat  
Habitat types  
Conservation Priorities – as set by internal plans  
Potentials and Opportunities

Sources:

Manager Questionnaire (**IBA Coordinators**)  
TNC Ecoregion Planning  
IWJV State Plans

***Task: Effect a manual roll-up from local to BCR scale***

***Leaders: State IBA Coordinators***

- #### 2. Support efforts to complete the National Wetlands Inventory
- Refine broad-scale GIS capability

***Task: Inquire about status of National Wetlands Inventory for Great Basin BCR; Provide GBBCR liaison to National GIS efforts***

***Leader: Jon Bart, USGS***

### II. BIRD OUTPUTS INVENTORY

- #### 1. ***Task: Prioritize species for BCR action***

***Leader: Carol Beardmore, PIF WWG***

- #### 2. Site Inventory

**Task: Inventory bird values by site – species, numbers – using:-**

- Manager Questionnaire
- TNC Ecoregion Planning
- IWJV State Plans
- State/Regional Bird Conservation Plans

**Leaders:** State IBA Coordinators

## 2. Spatial/Temporal Evaluation

**Task: Prepare site inventories for modeling, evaluating:**

- breeding, winter, and migration distributions/numbers
- connectivity between sites
- degree of resource redundancy among sites
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**Leaders:** Unspecified

Suggestions: Jon Bart, USGS; Lew Oring, U. Nevada, Reno  
Don Paul, GBBCR – (contracts)

## III. THREATS ANALYSIS

### 1. **Task: Conduct Regionwide Water Analysis**

- Site-by-site analysis
- Strong presentation of current conditions
  - Position statement
  - White paper
- Search for policy partners
  - NGO's
  - JV's ??

**Leader:** Don Paul, GBBCR

### 2. **Task: Develop regional conservation goals**

- Inventory and review existing goals
- Evaluate how the region has changed
- Threats analysis
- Identify conservation opportunities
- Draft goals and strategies

**Leaders:** Jon Bart, USGS

Carol Beardmore, PIF WWG

Larry Neel, PIF WWG

#### IV. SITE MANAGEMENT COORDINATION

1. Convene a regional forum to assess annual conservation objectives
  - Coordinate annual work programs
  - Annual delivery of fresh research results
  - Coordinate local water management strategies at regional scale
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***Task: Draft framework for forum and explore appropriate affiliations for administration.***

***Leader:*** Larry Neel, PIF WWG

2. Construct a regional wetlands model
  - Communicate regularly about the model
  - Pursue priorities

***Leader:*** Unspecified

Suggestions: Jon Bart, USGS  
Lew Oring, U. Nevada, Reno

3. Build a real-time website to link managers throughout the deployment phase.

***Task: Explore existing models (Atlantic Coast, S. Mississippi Basin); make recommendations to BCR.***

***Leaders:*** Larry Neel, PIF  
Jon Bart, USGS (drafted)  
Don Paul, GBBCR (contracts)

4. Adjust site management plans to align with regional strategy
  - Within organizational constraints  
Mission, planning cycle
  - Track plan “inoculation” at regional scale

***Task: Accumulate relevant plans; develop a plan “tracking” matrix; plot plan “inoculation” strategies***

***Leader:*** Don Paul, GBBCR

V. Outreach

**1. Task: Devise an education strategy to address public concern over West Nile Virus.**

- Partners: Extension; County/State health departments; National Wildlife Health Lab
- Monitor progression across region

**Leader:** Unspecified

**2. Task: Devise an education strategy to promote the critical value of saline lakes.**

- Preservation strategies for:
  - Lake Abert
  - Mono Lake
  - Great Salt Lake
- BMP's devised for commercial brine shrimp harvest

**Leader:** Unspecified

Suggested: Don Paul, GBBCR

Possible Draftees: Lew Oring, U. Nevada, Reno  
Joe Jehl, retired

VI. RESEARCH

**1. Task: Compile/devise an active, focused research agenda to inform the annual conservation delivery process.**

- Focus predator research on *predator species* to formulate predation strategies, as opposed to prey-based strategies

**Leader:** (suggested) Lew Oring, U. Nevada, Reno

VII. MONITORING

**1. Task: Devise a regional wetland bird monitoring strategy.**

**Leader:** Jon Bart, USGS