

2014 Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award

The Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds seeks nominations for the 2014 Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship Award (Award). Nominations for the Award are due no later than January 9, 2015 to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Nominees can be a single federal agency, a federal agency and public or private partners, or multiple federal agencies. **All Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices must submit their nominations by January 6, 2015 to Geoff Walsh (WO-230) at gwalsh@blm.gov.** Nominations must be related to an action or project that has occurred in the last 10 years (i.e., initiated no earlier than January 2003).

Background

Executive Order (EO) 13186 (*Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*), signed in 2001, established that migratory birds are of great value to the United States and other countries. In recognition of that value, the EO directs federal agencies to support the conservation intent of the migratory bird conventions by integrating, to the extent practicable, principles, measures, and practices into agency activities that benefit migratory bird resources. To view the EO, please go to: <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/Partnerships/migbrdeo.pdf>.

Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship Award Goals

The Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship Award will annually recognize a single project or action conducted by or in partnership with a federal agency that meets the intent and spirit of the EO by focusing on migratory bird conservation. Actions may involve reducing existing or potential adverse impacts to migratory birds and their habitats, restoring or enhancing migratory bird habitat, and incorporating conservation of migratory birds and their habitat into agency plans, guidance, or other activities. The action should demonstrate leadership in inspiring others to further migratory bird conservation. This could include developing and implementing best management practices, a policy action, or research.

Nomination Procedure

A single BLM nomination will be submitted to Meghan_Sadlowski@fws.gov by WO-230. A federal agency may submit only one nomination to FWS; therefore WO-230 will evaluate nominations to submit its best nomination for the award. Nominations submitted in previous years may be resubmitted for consideration. The award will be presented in May 2015.

Nomination applications and instructions follow and are available on the FWS website at (<http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds>). Please submit completed nomination packages by the established deadline to Geoff Walsh at gwalsh@blm.gov or 202-912-7271. Contact Geoff Walsh if you have questions or need more information.

**Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award
Nomination Application – [Insert Primary Applicant Name and Project Name]**

1. **Applicant** - Must be a federal agency; if more than one, list the lead agency.
2. **Co-applicant(s)** - Any agency, organization, or private individual that should receive recognition for the project.
3. **Action** - Describe the agency's action. Consider how the agency demonstrates leadership in the conservation of migratory birds.
4. **When was the action initiated?** - Initiation date must be 2001 or later, and a major milestone for the project must have occurred in the last 5 years
5. **Does the action meet or exceed the agency's legal mandates and stated mission for implementing bird conservation actions?** Please explain.
6. **Explain how the action promoted or resulted in effective migratory bird conservation.** Please include demonstrable results to support your answer. If the action is innovative, include projects that utilize original and creative strategies, ideas, concepts, or tools to achieve successful goals and results, describe that, as well.
7. **Describe the roles and responsibilities of partners and co-applicants (if any).** Partners are associated with the action through monetary or in-kind support.
8. **Have others expressed interest in this work to the extent that the interest would serve to broaden or increase the benefits for migratory birds beyond that of the original project?** If so, please explain who is interested, why, and the scope/manner of the interest. Examples of this may include interest by other organizations, agencies, countries, or individuals in becoming a project contributor or partner; replicating project practices that have shown success; or receiving training or expert advice to apply similar project practices in other locations or arenas.
9. **How did the action impact your agency's current migratory bird conservation practices (i.e., new policy, initiatives or guidance was developed to improve bird conservation actions)?**
10. **Which migratory bird species of concern benefited from your action? In addition, please describe completed project actions and how these contributed to migratory bird conservation. If specific migratory bird species have not yet benefited, how does your agency hope to contribute to the conservation of a migratory bird species as the project continues?**

Presidential Migratory Bird Stewardship Award Scoring Criteria

Award nominations are scored based on the following criteria. Please consider these criteria when completing the nomination application for your project:

- **The extent to which the project meets or exceeds its agency’s mission or daily activities for migratory bird conservation, and any legal mandates it must meet to stay in compliance with the law.**
More weight is given to agencies that go beyond agency mission or daily requirements and what is required by law.
- **The extent to which the project has demonstrated effectiveness, which includes realized results and demonstrated positive impacts on migratory birds.**
More weight is given to projects that have been more effective; with additional weight for projects that are also innovative (i.e. the project utilizes original and creative strategies, ideas, concepts or tools to achieve successful goals and results).
- **The number of partnerships, including the diversity of these partnerships (industry, federal government, private landowners, etc.).**
More weight is given to those projects with a greater number and diversity of partnerships.
- **The extent to which there are expressions of interest in the project.**
More weight is given to projects that received interest by others on a larger scale (e.g., across the country or multiple countries vs. at the regional or local scale, and so forth).
- **The extent to which the project has had an influence on the agency’s migratory bird conservation practices.**
More weight is given to projects that have resulted in significant positive influences, including the development of new guidance or initiatives that is being applied within the agency.
- **The extent to which the project has benefited or has the potential to benefit species of concern.**
More weight is given to projects that have demonstrated more widespread and significant beneficial impacts to migratory bird species of concern (Species of concern include national birds that are of conservation concern due to population declines, naturally or human-caused small ranges or population sizes, threats to habitat, or other factors. Such bird species include those birds on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern list and Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species list.)