

Idaho IBA Stewardship Adoption Program

Background

The Important Bird Areas (IBA) Program is an international bird conservation program found in six continents, nearly 170 countries, and forty-six states. The Idaho IBA Program was launched in 1996 by Idaho Partners in Flight and the Idaho Audubon Council. The aim of the program is to identify a network of sites throughout the state that are essential for sustaining naturally occurring populations of bird species, and to protect or manage these sites for the long-term conservation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats. For a site to be recognized as an IBA it must meet criteria based on bird concentrations, threatened species, and species assemblages representative of priority habitats. 58 IBA sites have been identified in Idaho since 1996.

Local community members can play a vital role in furthering the goals of the IBA program. Through the Adopt an IBA initiative, a local group (such as an Audubon chapter, local land trust, bird club, school group, etc.) adopts an IBA and facilitates others to get involved at the site in an environmentally sensitive way. Involvement can include organizing an education program, monitoring effort, clean-up day, or habitat improvement project. Adopting an IBA can help in the conservation of the site by spreading the word on the importance of the site and building a local group of constituents that care about the site.

Benefits

- Participate in and assist an international bird conservation program
- Promote a community-based program
- Participate in meaningful science leading to bird conservation
- Implement exciting projects that combine science, education, and birding
- Create new public outreach opportunities

Adoption Procedures

1. Select an IBA site near you for adoption. Identify an individual from your group to act as the main contact.
2. Fill out the attached simple adoption form and return to the Idaho IBA Coordinator.
3. Work with the IBA coordinator to get permission from the landowner(s) to adopt the site.
4. Work with the IBA Coordinator and landowner(s) to develop a site-specific program. The Nongame and Endangered Wildlife Program staff of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game will provide any necessary assistance in establishing methodology, training, and data forms.

Examples of Activities

- An education program that engages people in learning about birds and their conservation.
- A monitoring program that collects data to document the occurrence, relative abundance, breeding status, and long-term changes in bird populations and habitat.
- A resource management program such as a trash clean-up day, birdhouse construction/installation, or recycling program.
- A habitat restoration project such as an exotic plant control effort or native planting.
- An outreach program to foster community support for the IBA site such as an annual birding festival.

Contact

IBA Coordinator
Colleen Moulton
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
P.O. Box 25
Boise, ID 83707
Tel: 208-287-2751
Fax: 208-334-2114
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Registration Form

Name of IBA Site to Adopt: _____

Organization/Group Name: _____

Organization/Group Telephone: _____

Organization/Group Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Numbers

Day: _____

Evening: _____

Organization/Group Members:

Describe your Organization/Group's past contact or activities (if any) with this IBA site.
(Attach to this form any bird data already collected by your organization/group)

List any activities or programs that your Organization/Group has planned for the IBA.

Please mail this form to: Colleen Moulton – **IBA Coordinator**
Idaho Department of Fish & Game
Wildlife Bureau
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Boise, ID 83707
Tel: 208-287-2751
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