



The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Building Partnerships for Shorebird Conservation

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The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP) Council completed its review of **areas of national significance for shorebirds** used to allocate points for Technical Question #3 of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act's Standard Grant proposals. The USSCP Council has long realized ambiguities in defining the boundary of coastal wetlands, and additional work is still needed. Aside from the coastal areas, the USSCP Council recommended: 1) adopting the areas suggested by the Intermountain West Joint Venture Shorebird Team, with the exception of the Yellowstone wetlands; 2) reducing the area in central Florida; 3) adding Horicon Marsh, WI, and Cabo Rojo Salt Flats, PR; 4) expanding the area in northern Nebraska to cover all of the Sandhills; and 5) adding a swath of the Missouri River between the Kansas-Nebraska border and the edge of Bird Conservation Region 11.

As **revisions to State Wildlife Action Plans** proceed, the USSCP Council is ready to find local shorebird expertise to assist states, if needed. There is interest in drafting a generic section on the international connections of migratory birds that could be used for adding a hemispheric context to state efforts. The USSCP Council also sent letters to all U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regions encouraging them to consult regional shorebird plans when developing **Landscape Conservation Cooperative Implementation Plans** and to engage regional shorebird experts in their development.

USSCP Council members attended a workshop with Joint Venture (JV) staff in October 2009 that focused on the development of population objectives and their integration into habitat delivery. As a follow-up, there is a proposal to **create a Science Support Team** to address the needs of the JVs and the bird implementation plans at regional, national and continental scales. The purposes of the team, modeled on the Waterfowl Plan's National Science Support Team, are to: 1) help JV science staff to access technical expertise to advance science and delivery of each plan's populations objectives in the individual JVs, 2) coordinate among JVs to identify priority information needs, 3) create synergy among JVs to develop projects that will address priority information needs, and 4) create a forum for the exchange of scientific and planning information among the JVs and the various bird initiatives. Development of the team will occur in the next few months.

A **peer review of the Arctic PRISM** (Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring) program is available at:
<http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/downloads/ArcticPrismPeerReview.pdf>

The fourth meeting of the **Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group** will be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, during late April 2011.