A Joint Venture (JV) is a collaborative, regional partnership of government agencies, non-profit organizations, corporations, tribes, and individuals that conserves habitat for priority bird species, other wildlife, and people.

Joint Ventures bring these diverse partners together under the guidance of national and international bird conservation plans to design and implement landscape-scale conservation efforts.

Cooperative Conservation in Action

Joint Ventures have been widely accepted as the model for collaborative conservation in the 21st century. They use state of the art science to ensure that a diversity of habitats is available to sustain migratory bird populations for the benefit of those species, other wildlife, and the public. JV actions include:

- biological planning, conservation design, and prioritization;
- project development and implementation;
- monitoring, evaluation, and research;
- communications, education, and outreach; and
- funding support for projects and activities.

Partnerships That Work

Nationwide, there are 18 habitat-based JVs, each addressing the bird habitat conservation issues found within their geographic area. Additionally, three species-based Joint Ventures, all with an international scope, work to further the scientific understanding needed to effectively manage specific bird species.

JVs have a 25-year history of success in leveraging public and private resources to bring together partners and focus on regional conservation needs.

Since the program’s inception in 1986, JV partnerships have invested $5 billion to conserve 17.3 million acres of critical habitat.
**Energy development affects birds**

Energy development affects impacted by the oil spill. Models developed by the Gulf’s Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Conservation of this highly threatened ecosystem will have far-reaching, positive impacts on migratory birds in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

**RESPONDING TO CRISIS**

Gulf Coast Joint Venture (GCJV)

GCJV partners developed proactive short-term strategies to deal with anticipated impacts to migratory birds resulting from the Gulf’s Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Models developed by the GCJV helped determine habitat needs for migrating waterfowl and shorebirds, which allowed partners to work quickly to enhance the most appropriate shallow wetlands and provide alternative habitat for birds impacted by the oil spill.

**DECISION MAKING**

Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV)

Energy development is expected to fragment many of the remaining high quality, large blocks of forest over the next few decades. To understand the cumulative effects of land-use change on the region’s forests for populations of forest-interior bird species, AMJV partners completed an energy development model for Pennsylvania and are helping to secure funding to assess potential impacts across the entire region.

**CLIMATE CHANGE**

Arctic Goose Joint Venture (AGJV) and Sea Duck Joint Venture (SDJV)

The AGJV, SDJV, and Flyway Councils are conducting aerial surveys in the Canadian high Arctic to evaluate the distribution and abundance of waterfowl and waterbird species. These surveys will improve management efforts and monitor changes in breeding populations in relation to climate change, which has warmed Arctic habitats at twice the rate of more southerly ecosystems.

**PARTNERSHIPS**

By bringing together diverse partners, Joint Ventures accomplish together what would be difficult or impossible for any single group to achieve alone.

**Species Recovery**

Joint Ventures work closely with partners to support the recovery of bird populations and species of greatest concern.

**San Juan Joint Venture (SJV) and Rio Grande Joint Venture (RGJV)**

A diverse group of partners, including the SJV and RGJV, is collaborating to support the creation of an eight-state eco-regional partnership with the mission of conserving the Chihuahuan desert grasslands of northern Mexico. Conservation of this highly threatened ecosystem will have far-reaching, positive impacts on migratory birds in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

**Habitat Conservation**

By prioritizing habitats for conservation, Joint Ventures guide efforts to protect, restore, and enhance areas most critical to bird populations.

**San Francisco Bay Joint Venture (SFBJV)**

SFBJV partners are restoring former salt ponds to a mix of managed and native tidal wetlands that support populations of fish and wildlife, including migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Cumulatively, these efforts are integrating nearly 70,000 acres of protected and restored areas with remnant historic tidal marsh around the San Francisco Bay.

**Education and Outreach**

Joint Ventures identify audiences that are critical for conservation success and develop the most appropriate tools and messages to reach them.

**Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV)**

ACJV staff are working with USGS Cooperative Wildlife Research Units at four different state universities to develop a project that guides conservation for the major bird habitat types over more than 100 million acres, in four bird conservation regions and 16 states, from Maine to Florida. The tools developed will take into consideration anticipated habitat changes, and population growth, land management activities, and climate change. Ultimately, they will help direct conservation actions to the most important landscapes and priority species.

**Pacific Coast Joint Venture (PCJV)**

Since 1991, PCJV partners have helped the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service add more than 2,000 acres to National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) along the Oregon coast and nearly 90,000 acres to refuges in Alaska. Land acquisition projects have protected key sites for migratory birds. Estuary restoration efforts will help fish and wildlife adapt to the impacts of climate change and sea level rise on critical coastal habitats.

**U.S. Joint Venture Highlights**

![Species Recovery](image1)

Chihuahuan Desert grasslands are critical for birds, including Grasshopper Sparrow.

![Energy development affects connectivity of Appalachian forests and impacts critical habitat for birds such as Cerulean Warbler.](image2)

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**Greater Sage-Grouse benefit from habitat management activities such as prescribed grazing.**

**Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV)**

The IWJV is working to restore Sage-Grouse habitat and foster sustainable ranching. The IWJV’s and its partners provided funding for range conservationists and biologists to work with ranchers in key locations. Together they designed management practices such as prescribed grazing and juniper removal, helping NRCS strategically target a portion of the $18.5 million devoted last year to habitat improvement on over 750,000 acres of sagebrush habitat.

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**Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV)**

A $10,000 grant from the PLJV helped an outreach partner in Texas educate local communities about the value of playa lakes (seasonal wetlands found throughout the Southern High Plains). This outreach resulted in three playas in the Texas Panhandle being enrolled in conservation programs, with more expected in 2011. These playas provide habitat for more than 200 species of birds and other wildlife, as well as recharge for the Ogallala Aquifer.

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