

Blue Goose Alliance Bulletin

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Alliance Develops Working Group

At the 2001 annual meeting, Alliance members decided to develop a "Working Group" and to describe that group as a way of introducing who in the Blue Goose Alliance is developing and implementing the day to day strategy of the Alliance. The resulting description follows:

BLUE GOOSE ALLIANCE WORKING GROUP

The Blue Goose Alliance is a nonprofit (501(c)(3)) conservation organization dedicated to elevating the stature and strengthening the integrity of the National Wildlife Refuge System by promoting its establishment as a separate agency in the Department of the Interior. To achieve its mission, the Alliance has formed an extraordinary Working Group to develop and implement its long-range strategy.

The Alliance Board of Directors has made a particular effort to appoint people to the Working Group who have demonstrated significant commitment to, and comprehensive knowledge of the National Wildlife Refuge System. This effort has been remarkably successful. The depth of knowledge of the System and the refuge experience of this special Working Group are very impressive.

The Working Group is composed of 30 men and women from the academic, business, health, nonprofit, political, service club, and government sectors. They come from 13 different states and the District of Columbia. They have worked as volunteers on refuges, served as members of refuge Friends groups, been employed by several national conservation organizations, and occupied a variety of career positions throughout the Refuge System and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Members have contributed countless volunteer hours on 20 different wildlife refuges from the Western Pacific Rim to the coast of Florida. They have performed many and varied critical tasks from counting birds to serving as Trail Masters. Several work on refuge issues for national conservation organizations. Three have been or are employed as Executive Directors, Assistant Directors of Government Relations, or Program Directors for regional or national conservation nonprofit organizations. One has experience with the U.S. General Accounting Office.

Members belong to 20 different Friends of Refuge groups -- local refuge support citizen groups. Several serve as officers of those groups. Some were leaders of groups selected by the National Wildlife Refuge Association and the Fish and Wildlife Foundation as the National Friends Group of the Year. Many have received other national conservation awards as well.

Members have been employed by the Fish and Wildlife Service an astounding total of 689 years. This includes 70 years working in the Service's Washington Office, mostly in Refuge management; 253 years in the regional refuge offices; and 366 years of experience on individual wildlife refuges throughout the nation. They have held positions ranging from student assistants to the highest levels. Many served as refuge managers in charge. Several served as Regional Refuge Supervisors and Assistant

Regional Directors for Wildlife Refuges (now called Regional Chiefs of Wildlife Refuges). Two served as Regional Directors. Several served as Refuge Branch Chiefs in Washington, DC. One served as Chief of the entire National Wildlife Refuge System, one was a Deputy Director, and others held Deputy Associate Director, Special Assistant to the Director, and Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Interior positions.

These people not only held these positions, but they did exemplary work. They were awarded countless superior performance and special achievement awards. One was selected by the National Wildlife Refuge Association as Refuge Manager of the year. Most noteworthy is that the U.S. Department of the Interior awarded the prestigious Meritorious Service Award to 12 of them and the more extraordinary Distinguished Service Award to four.

The Blue Goose Alliance Directors are extremely proud of its Working Group and believe the Group's contribution to the Alliance mission will have profound benefits to Alliance endeavors and to the National Wildlife Refuge System.