

Blue Goose Alliance Bulletin

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Alliance Writes to Refuge Centennial Commission Members

Recently, Noreen Clough, President of the Blue Goose Alliance, wrote to each member of the Refuge Centennial Commission calling their attention to the need to elevate the Refuge System to agency status within the Department of Interior. Below is the text of that letter.

Dear Refuge Centennial Commission Member:

As President of the Blue Goose Alliance, I offer belated Congratulations! to you and your fellow Commission members. I am certain you are all proud to have the honor and opportunity to enhance recognition of, and pay tribute to, the National Wildlife Refuge System.

President Theodore Roosevelt was certainly a man of action when he established Pelican Island as the Nation's first national bird reservation. It is unlikely, however, that he envisioned his action growing over the ensuing century into a system of lands and waters in excess of 94 million acres. And it is still expanding as the only federal land system dedicated exclusively to the protection, conservation and management of wildlife and their habitat.

However, on the eve of it's Centennial, I'm sure you and your colleagues have learned that the National Wildlife Refuge System is beset by issues preventing efficient and effective management. The Blue Goose Alliance, a 501(c)(3), non-profit organization, knows and understands those issues, and we've concluded that it is time to address them boldly, by granting the Refuge System separate agency status within the Department of the Interior. Action now by individuals or organizations such as the Centennial Commission could provide a foundation for legislation to elevate the Refuge System to agency status - on a par with it's sister agencies: the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management. A Refuge System thus strengthened by single, focused leadership, would be better positioned to more successfully address many of America's wildlife conservation issues for the next 100 years.

The Centennial Commission has many events scheduled, is seeking ways to raise funds, and is addressing sorely needed improvements in the System's manpower allocations. We applaud these efforts. The Alliance would be pleased to discuss other issues and needs concerning the Refuge System with you, and to assist in efforts which would create a genuine opportunity for a National Wildlife Refuge System -- a one mission agency.

I am enclosing a corporate profile of the principal members of the Alliance, to assist you in evaluating the professional expertise and experience of our organization. And, a copy of our brochure is enclosed for information. Please contact me for further discussions or information, or for questions you might have.