

Convention on Wetlands of International Importance

Identification of Benefits to the Current U.S. Listed Sites

Survey Conducted with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and State Natural Resource Agencies

Fall 1995

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Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Nevada	No--National Wildlife Refuge Status <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	None Given.	Yes--Refuge Status	None Given.	None Given.	None Given.	FWS--No
Caddo Lake Texas	Yes--previous private ownership utilized natural resources. Enhancement of plant and wildlife communities; increase in recreational use; Caddo Lake Scholars Program on site and project WET; TPWD/ NBS/UNIV research; increase in tourism and interest as outdoor classroom for area schools. <i>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</i>	Commercial businesses: restaurants, lodges, b&b's, bait shops, etc. Also benefits to townships of Jefferson and Marshall.	Yes-but the designation elevated the importance for acquisition of this site by TPWD and has increased public use and awareness of the unique attributes of this wetland.	A national brochure to publicize preservation efforts at all U.S. Ramsar sites	Yes-Caddo Lake Scholars Program; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; local Audubon Society Chapter	Project WET	FWS--Yes

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Horicon Marsh Wisconsin	<p>Yes--an additional 435-acre impoundment was acquired by DU; increase in public education and awareness, student volunteer interns; land expansion for nesting birds through a NAWCA grant.</p> <p>Enhancement of fish opportunities/ water quality, public use and e&tourism has increased, water quality study and land expansion will enhance habitat for- wildlife.</p> <p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service <i>Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources</i></p>	None Given.	Yes--however, the designation has Helped to heightened public awareness, improve mgmt, and provide additional research opportunities.	<p>--Media attention to Ramsar and what it is about</p> <p>--Provide funding for sites for education, management, restoration etc.</p> <p>--Ramsar designation will help in grant-scoring criteria.</p>	WI Dept Natural Resources; FWS; Horicon Marsh Area Coalition; Citizens Natural Res Association; Marsh Haven, Audubon Soc, Horicon Marsh Bird Club, Ducks Unltd.; WI Waterfowl Association.	Wetland Wonderlands insert in state publication with articles on wetland values, natural history, posters, species lists, etc.	FWS--Maybe State--Yes
Cache River- Cypress Creek Wetlands Area Illinois	<p>FWS--No National Wildlife Refuge status</p> <p>State--No</p> <p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service <i>Illinois Department of Conservation</i> <i>Ducks Unlimited</i> <i>The Nature Conservancy</i></p>	Canoe rentals, hunting groups , etc. The designation has not been widely advertised to produce additional benefits as yet.	Yes	Get more conservation organization's involved in listing property for designation, such as Sierra Club, Audubon, Wilderness Society, etc.	IL Dept Nat Res; IL Nature conservancy; Citizens Committee to Save the Cache River; Southern IL Tourism Bureau; Towns of Ullin, Karnak, and Dongola	None Given.	FWS--Yes State--Yes

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Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Florida/Georgia	Yes--only that the designation has helped to elevate its importance within the NWR system in obtaining additional budget funding. Increase visibility with international visitors and the research community. <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>	Interpretation and recreation programs are gaining, but this increases pressure on our limited resources.	Yes--but the designation just strengthened the present protection of the refuge.	None Given.	Okefenokee Wildlife League; Okefenokee Bird Club; local Audubon Chp; Georgia Nature Conservancy	None Given.	FWS--No
Everglades National Park Florida	Modifications to management are generally applicable to Ramsar, but specifically related to National Park Service management practices for South Florida. <i>National Park Service</i>	South Florida tourism industry, fishermen, commercial boating and dive operations, gen population through water resource availability.	Yes--Park is preserved without specific reference to the Ramsar designation	Site would like infoonthe obligations/ opportunities under the wetlands convention. Training info and materials would be of great value.	Tropical Audubon Society; Everglades Coalition, Friends of the Everglades	Everglades National Park Environmental Education materials and curricula	NPS--No. the park receives numerous official foreign visitor3 and delegations every year.

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Cache/Lower White Rivers Joint Venture Area Arkansas	The site area is part of on-going acquisition and restoration program. Designation under the Wetlands Convention has increased recognition and provided greater priority to activities associated with the Refuge. Restoration and enhancement activities occurring on the Refuge would likely occur without the Ramsar designation, however, it helped in budget development. Assisted conservation efforts affecting sustainable use on private lands through programs that encourage farmers to retain water on their fields during winter. <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arkansas Game and Fish Commission</i>	None Given.	Yes--restoration of the vegetation and hydrology on Refuge tracts and private lands through a USDA program has reduced sedimentation and provided shallow flooded habitat. Help to improve water quality while providing valuable wildlife habitat.	--Increase the public ed and awareness of significance of the Convention. Means to involve local community. --Suggest a National Ramsar award for non-federal efforts affecting sites. --Increase local visibility such as additional signs.	Natural conservancy; AK Natural Heritage commission; AK Game and Fish Commission; Cities of Brinkley and Clarendon	corps of Engineers Watenvays Experiment station video production on their research at Black Swamp on Cache River. wonders of Wetlands	FWS--No State--Yes
Catahoula Lake Louisiana	No--State Owned Land <i>Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries</i>	Waterfowl hunters, commercial and recreational fishermen, bird watchers	Yes--the Lake is intensely managed by State and FWS to conserve its functional value to fish and wildlife.	Need to promote what it means to designate and what values/good it can do for a site.	Catahoula lake Heritage Foundation; Catahoula Cons Club; Catahoula Lake Festival Comm; LA Dept of Wildlife and Fisheries	LA Nature and Science Center--Wetlands Activities Guide	FWS and State--No

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Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge Florida	No--National Wildlife Refuge status. The site was given the international recognition it deserves through the designation; however, wetlands and mangrove forests that border the refuge do not have the same protection. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Fishermen, birders, nature photographers, tourists, ecology students	Yes--Refuge Status	Way to inform local groups about conserving wetlands outside the refuge boundaries.	City of Sebastian; Indian River County Commission	Aquatic Wild	FWS--Yes
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge New Jersey	No--National Wildlife Refuge Status US. Fish and Wildlife Service	None given.	Yes--Refuge Status	None Given.	NJ Division of Fish, Game, & Wildlife; Middle Township; Dennis Township; Park Commissions of Atlantic, Cape May, and Ocean Counties	WOW--wonders of Wetlands; Project WET	FWS--No

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Chesapeake Bay Estuarine Complex Virginia and Maryland	<p>No--the designation was helpful but not significant in developing resources and habitat priorities for Fed/State Bay program. Ramsar designation was helpful to the program development of a "chesapeake bay wetlands policy and implementation plan", and "Chesapeake bay waterfowl and mgmt plan" approved in '89 and '90. Yet Ramsar was not decisive in its influence. The plans compliment the purpose of the Convention</p> <p><i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Virginia Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries College of William and Mary and Virginia Institute of Marine Science Virginia Department of Conservation and Natural Res Maryland Department of Natural Resources</i></p>	Not specifically by the designation	Yes--most benefits have occurred without Ramsar designation	Need to inform organizations of the potential to use Ramsar designation for leveraging funds much like the NAWMP and its joint ventures.	Chesapeake Bay Program; EPA; Chesapeake Bay Commission; Chesapeake Bay Foundation; Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay	WOW-Wonders of Wetlands	FWS--Yes
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<p>Delaware River Estuary System</p> <p>Delaware and New Jersey</p> <p><i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Delaware Wild Lands The Nature Conservancy Delaware Nature Society New Jersey Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife Natural Lands Trust Cape May County Park Commission</i></p>	<p>Yes--educational tours were established at many sites with more emphasis on the importance of larger wetlands systems on a global scale for migratory bird populations;</p> <p>--An environmental group used the designation as a tool for acquisition of additional properties to list;</p> <p>--The Nature Conservancy secured funding to protect wetlands under the NAWCA (designation helped in scoring system) during '92 (6,215 acres), '93 (2,300) and in '94 (3,614);</p> <p>--Delaware and TNC use digital point coverage maps showing locations of the designed wetlands to be used in state-wide planning efforts. Also used by the Corps of Eng in analysis of potential impacts of dredged materials from a proposed navigation channel EPA use in identifying protection priorities in inland area hazardous material spill response contingency plan</p> <p>--Establishment as a Ramsar site encouraged the development of an Aquatic Resource Education Facility (est by the DE Dept of Natural Res), and National Estuarine Res Reserve</p> <p>--Rehabilitation of wetlands in cooperation with industry/power</p> <p>--modification of water mgmt techniques</p>	<p>Birders/fishing</p> <p>Cleaner waters, better fishing, crabbing/hunting opportunities have increased the boat activity and associated costs; facilitated sales of hunting, fishing and bird watching equipment; benefits for local sporting goods stores, lodges and restaurants, boat rentals/ guides.</p>	<p>Yes--but the designation increased public awareness for wetland values and recreational opportunities, and it promoted the conservation of additional wetlands in the area. Real advantage of the designation is the emphasis on international importance upon the estuary. So, project proposals are more likely to be approved and supported, which was not previously prominent at the site has become a valuable tool.</p>	<p>Publicize the economic benefits for local businesses through ecotourism.</p> <p>Outreach and exposure of the Convention values, its organization, and objectives to the public and even many professional conservation groups. Use the past successes stories of other sites and future plans for others</p>	<p>TNC; Delaware Wild Lands; DE Nature Society; Audubon, Natural Lands Trust, New Jersey Dept of Environmental Protection; DE Dept of Natural Resources and Environmental Control; Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River, FWS; DE Estuary Program Ducks Unlimited</p>	<p>EPA Wetland Fact Sheets</p> <p>The Aquatic Resource Education Program of the DE Division of Fish and Wildlife has developed a unique and extremely effective outreach to schools for training teachers during a six-hour course on wetlands, after which the teacher has access to field kits, with info on bird and fish identification, wetland types, and sources and effects of pollutants.</p>	<p>FWS--Yes</p> <p>Delaware--Yes</p> <p>New Jersey--No</p>
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<p>Connecticut River Tidal Wetlands Complex</p> <p>Connecticut</p> <p><i>Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection</i></p> <p><i>The Nature Conservancy</i></p> <p><i>East Haddam Land Trust</i></p> <p><i>Connecticut Audubon Society</i></p> <p><i>Deep River Land Trust</i></p> <p><i>Town of Old Saybrook</i></p>	<p>Yes--Designation increased the recognition of the inlenitional value of the site by fed and state, local land trusts, municipalities, and private landowners, and emphasized the threats and problems facing the area. Groups became involved in solving the area's urgent problems--nuisance species and functional wetland impairments. Area is recognized not only for migratory birds/end species but for anadromous fish, particularly those that spend parts of life cycle in intl marine waters. While Conte National Wildlife Refuge is not yet involved with any on-site mgmt, designation of Ramsar areas has strengthened the conviction that these sites should be included. Improved mgmt, education, and research within the ramsar areas.</p> <p>--CT and FWS have actively pursued restoration of degraded habitats; research has assisted in identifying current and future restoration projects; ed materials have been produced such as signs and brochures lo inform the public of restoration activities.</p>	<p>All visitors and neighboring residents benefit though improved aesthetics, flood retention, and education for outdoor classrooms.</p> <p>¶Have not analyzed the ecotourism opportunities to the area.</p>	<p>The unique geology of the area has helped protect the Ramsar area from major development and destruction, past conservation efforts are another reason these sites still exist where all the other major tidal rivers in the US have extensive development on shorelines and at the mouth of the river.</p>	<p>Need for Ramsar signs for sites and an explanatory fact sheet covering the meaning of the designation and the value it places on wetlands; useful in increasing the public awareness and impact the designation. Helpful to gather info about the site and compile and publish it in a non-tech manner for use in local actions.</p>	<p>CT Dept of Env Protection; TNC-CT chapter; CT Audubon Society; Town of Old Sybrook, Deep River Cons Trust; East Haddam Land Trust; Middlesex Land Trust; FWS; other local land trust may also be interested.</p>	<p>Project WILD Aquatic</p> <p>Wonders of Wetlands</p> <p>Project WET</p>	<p>FWS--Yes</p>
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Cheyenne Rottoms Kansas	<p>Yes--Designation has increased awareness of site importance to shorebirds, which resulted in increased efforts to meet their needs; specifically to selectively control cattail growth</p> <p>Designation resulted in receiving grants through NAWMP and Wetlands Conservation Council; mgmt has shifted from sole waterfowl perspective to a mgmt strategy covering both waterfowl and shorebirds.</p> <p>Changes in primary cattails to moist soil plant mgmt; improved mgmt has helped to secure funds from Wetland Conservation Council to undertake multi-million dollar renovation for water delivery system, water mgmt and conservation; more University use for on-site classroom and outside research.</p> <p>Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks</p>	Benefits for the local and state economy through the renovation; The publicity of the designation has brought significant increase in the number of birdwatchers.	Yes-site was already managed for wildlife before designation; however, without the designation there would have been little interest in securing grants for improvements.	Need for non-technical fact sheets to explain the purpose of Ramsar.	KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks; Great Bend Visitors and Convention Bureau.	Project Wild	State--Maybe if not time consuming.
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Izembek Lagoon National Wildlife Refuge and State Game Area Alaska	Yes--Ongoing population monitoring procedures have been expanded for species of low or threatened status; a cooperative public use mgmt plan is anticipated between the FWS and AK Dept Fish and Game; involvement in education networking to increase public awareness and appreciation of Pacific brant throughout their range; Research activities to increase mgmt capabilities for internationally important species; the designation has heightened the level of scrutiny placed on various forms of recreational and commercial use currently ongoing or proposed for the area. <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Department of Fish and Game</i>	None Given.	Yes--Refuge Status	Higher profile and more networking with other sites similar to Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network would help give this remote site more attention.	Aleutian East Borough; AK Dept of Fish and Game; Community of Cold Bay	FWS region 7 developed a teaching curricula on wetlands/rivers, Teach About Geese and Teach About Seabirds; AK wildlife curriculum "Wetlands and Wildlife" activities order form from the Dept of Fish and Game	FWS--No State--Yes
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