



The following messages about Migratory Bird Joint Ventures are shared statements that each of the partnerships support and wish to elevate.

Joint Ventures are partnerships, including states, federal agencies, NGOs, private landowners, and industry, that have been delivering habitat programs under a collaborative landscape conservation framework for three decades. Their work is:

- **Entrepreneurial and scalable**, leveraging funding at a rate of 31:1, maintaining flexibility and an adaptive approach to successful bird conservation.
- **Voluntary**, keeping species from being listed and to remove species that are listed.
- **Science-based**, with investments in monitoring to enact on-the-ground conservation.

Joint Ventures are **key in implementing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) mission** and provide services and support to numerous FWS programs including Refuges, Science Applications, and Migratory Birds. They are working closely with regional landscape conservation efforts between states and FWS to serve as an implementation mechanism for landscape conservation collaboratives.

As partnership-driven entities, Joint Ventures have adapted over time to embrace all-bird full-life-cycle conservation and are now **positioned to address the Three Billion Bird decline** and lead the habitat conservation elements of the FWS 5+1 response, but are only funded at a portion of the needed annual \$41 million funding to be fully operational. FWS has been the primary funder of Joint Ventures given its statutory responsibility for migratory birds. However, opportunities exist to forge agreements between FWS and Natural Resources Conservation Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Forest Service to support funding needs due to the value that Joint Ventures can bring to those federal agencies as they strive to deliver their respective missions.

Joint Venture habitat conservation efforts:

- Conserve grasslands, wetlands, and forests to not only provide critical habitats for birds and myriad other species, but are also instrumental in providing **carbon storage and climate resilience**.
- Have a strong nexus with **climate smart conservation** and are building new partnerships to enhance and strengthen those connections.
- Provide opportunities for hunting, fishing, wildlife watching, and other **outdoor recreation** in urban, suburban, and rural communities.
- **Build industry partnerships**, including agriculture and commercial forestry, to support wildlife conservation while providing fuel, food, and fiber for communities and the nation's economy.
- Benefits riverine and coastal communities by conserving habitats that **buffer communities and infrastructure** from storms, flooding, and water pollution.