

memorandum

DATE: February 24, 1988

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: ARD, Refuges and Wildlife, FWS, Atlanta, GA (ARW)

SUBJECT: Partners for Waterfowl Tomorrow

TO: All Refuge Managers and Wildlife Management Biologists, Region 4

All of you are aware of the existing less than desirable continental population levels for several species of waterfowl. The North American Waterfowl Management Plan identifies several actions that need to be taken to perpetuate waterfowl populations and their supporting habitats. The maintenance of abundant waterfowl populations is dependent on the protection, restoration, and management of habitat. The persistent loss of important waterfowl habitat must be reversed. Joint ventures of private organizations/landowners and governmental organizations will be necessary to finance and accomplish needed waterfowl management projects. In the interest of having abundant waterfowl in the future, we will initiate a program in Region 4 called "Partners for Waterfowl Tomorrow." The objective will be to encourage private landowners and possibly other government agencies to implement on their lands some of the practices we employ for waterfowl management on Service lands. The thrust of this initiative will be aimed at waterfowl; however, it will benefit other migratory birds and some of the concepts used in this outreach effort may be used to improve management on private lands for endangered species or other species of concern.

Initially, I am designating Refuge Manager Jim Tisdale to serve as chairman of a committee to develop guidelines and materials for use by you in implementation of the program. Sam Drake, Howard Poitevint, and Frank Podriznik will represent the Regional Office on the committee. Others of you may be asked to serve as committee members. As envisioned, each of you will be involved in the outreach effort utilizing your ingenuity and innovativeness to encourage the private sector and other government land management agencies to assist--become partners--in waterfowl management activities on their lands. The committee will help by developing slide series, videos, leaflets, and/or booklets on management techniques, model letters of agreement, etc., for your use. However, you should begin immediately to use your imagination on how to implement the effort and share your thoughts with Refuge Manager Tisdale.

We realize that there must be some incentive for our partners in this effort. Many activities can be accomplished immediately within our existing legislative authorities--efforts such as providing technical assistance and demonstrations on Service lands. However, we desire to see the program also

include activities to restore or create wetlands on privately owned lands by installing water control structures, planting bottomland hardwood trees, recommending crops and moist soil management, creating sanctuary areas, etc. Some of these may require formal 5-year agreements with landowners before we can legally use our equipment and materials for such purposes. The committee will be working on these type details for you, but they will need your input and feedback to develop necessary incentives and recognition for the private sector.

We will discuss the "Partners for Waterfowl Tomorrow" initiative in more detail at the breakout session during the project leaders conference. Until then, put on your thinking hat and develop some ideas for consideration by the committee.

Harold W. Benson