



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4, 2014

CONTACT: Christine McGowan, cmcgowan@refugeassociation.org, (202) 417-3803, ext. 19

Ron Cole Hired as New Conservation Programs Western Program Manager

The Refuge Association is delighted to welcome Ron Cole to the staff as our new Conservation Programs Western Program Manager. Ron is based in Klamath Falls, Oregon and will manage NWRA's Beyond the Boundaries work in the western states.

"We are thrilled to welcome someone with Ron's depth of experience with the Service and a track record of collaboration and creativity to our staff," said David Houghton, President of the Refuge Association.

Ron recently retired after over 31 years with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service working in the National Wildlife Refuge System. His experience includes 7 years as a wildlife biologist and 25 years as a refuge manager and refuge supervisor, most recently at the Klamath Basin Refuge Complex. Over his career, Ron worked in 4 different regions, including 9 different states and numerous National Wildlife Refuges and Wetland Management Districts. Prior to his government career, Ron worked for his family's cattle ranch and heavy equipment business where he helped develop the family's green energy portfolio.

"I am extremely grateful to join NWRA's conservation team and look forward to working with the people and the landscapes of the west. NWRA is fast becoming a leader in landscape conservation initiatives and it is a wonderful opportunity to be part of these efforts. My years with the Service taught me that solutions to complex landscape problems require a candid, collaborative conversation about the land- a conversation that acknowledges that people and their pursuits are a part of the natural world.

Ron will be working on NWRA's sagebrush steppe conservation initiatives, with special focus in the Greater Hart-Sheldon region of southeast Oregon and northern Nevada. NWRA is part of a collaborative effort there to protect habitat for greater sage-grouse and other sagebrush-dependent species. In addition, Ron will be working on NWRA's Beyond the Boundaries initiatives in Southern Nevada and in the Bear River Watershed of Utah, Wyoming and Idaho.

Ron and his wife Joan have two children, whom they raised on refuges all across the country. Ron comes from a family steeped in hunting heritage. When not pursuing mule deer or elk, he can be found in a waterfowl blind or chasing upland birds with his yellow lab Hoss. Ron and Joan now practice the art of living as empty nesters and currently reside in Klamath Falls, OR.



###

The mission of the National Wildlife Refuge Association is to conserve America's wildlife heritage for future generations through strategic programs that protect, enhance, and expand the National Wildlife Refuge System and the landscapes beyond its boundaries.