

Here is an election you will *really* want to vote in...



American Bird Conservancy has developed a program to support the conservation of cavity-nesting birds in the Pacific Northwest, in particular the Lewis's Woodpecker. We are working with many partners and funding sources to implement the work, but this year you can help! We are currently in a competition with several other projects for funding from the **Zoo Boise Conservation Fund** that requires on-line voting during the month of October to identify a winner. We would greatly appreciate your efforts to help us "get out the vote" for this important project.

Voting should only take about 1-2 minutes and you can access the process at the Zoo Boise Conservation Fund web page (<http://www.zooboise.org/zbcfprojects.aspx>).

Please share this broadly and thanks in advance for your help.

Voting closes October 28.

Background

The Lewis's Woodpecker was named after Meriwether Lewis of the famous Lewis and Clark Expedition. Lewis's Woodpeckers are unusual not only for their striking pink, red, and iridescent green plumage, but also for their ponderosa pine habit of catching insects on the wing (flycatching) unlike other woodpeckers. Unfortunately the Lewis's Woodpecker is experiencing population declines across its range in western North America. Bird conservation groups have listed it as the highest priority woodpecker species after the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker.

The open ponderosa pine forests that these woodpeckers love also are in trouble. Poor forest policies and management, including fire suppression, has resulted in unnaturally high tree densities in forests that were formerly kept open by frequent low-intensity fires. These dense forests provide less useable habitat for the woodpeckers and are highly susceptible to large-scale fires and beetle outbreaks.

American Bird Conservancy and its partners are working with private landowners through the Pacific Northwest to create and restore the kind of habitat that cavity-nesting birds such as Lewis's Woodpeckers need to survive. We are assisting willing private landowners to return their forest to a healthier, more open condition, protecting them from large wildfires and beetle infestation. This restoration includes the need for large dead tree (snag) management and creation – which is essential for Lewis's Woodpeckers.

Primary partners

American Bird Conservancy, Pacific Stewardship, American Forest Foundation, Forest Restoration Partnership, Wildlife Conservation Society, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington Department of natural Resources, U. S. Forest Service, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Oregon Department of Forestry, Deschutes Land Trust, Biophilia Foundation, Grayback Forestry, Oregon Small Woodland Owners Association, McDaniel Logging, several private donors and numerous private landowners.

Learn more about ABCs program for the Conservation of Ponderosa Pine Forests for Cavity-Nesting Birds www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/domestic/CavityNesting.html

Please support this project by voting today at <http://www.zooboise.org/zbcfprojects.aspx> and forwarding this message on.

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