

The



Evansville Audubon Society

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

WESSELMAN PARK NATURE CENTER • 551 NORTH BOEKE ROAD • EVANSVILLE, INDIANA 47711

March 3, 2008

The Honorable Richard Lugar
U. S. Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

Subject: Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge Land Acquisition Funding
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) – FY-09

Once again, The Evansville Audubon Society is seeking support from you on behalf of Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge (PRNWR) to receive land acquisition funding from the LWCF – FY-09 appropriations. The enclosed Audubon report provides details on the acquisition status of 1,150 acres critical to the viability of the Refuge. An amount of \$1.5 million will allow the Fish and Wildlife service to acquire this strategic parcel.

Each year revenues totaling \$900 million are credited to LWCF, and each year Congress appropriates a small portion to designated National Parks, National Forests, and Wildlife Refuges. The LWCF is a "trust fund" that accumulates revenues from federal outdoor recreation user fees, the federal motorboat fuel tax, surplus property sales, and (primarily) from a percentage of royalties paid by oil and gas companies drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). . What a wonderful concept – activities that deplete some of our natural resources provide funds for the permanent protection of other natural resources.

Since 2006, Indiana's delegation has failed to bring any LWCF money to southwestern Indiana – three long years in which money has gone to other states *actively* seeking funds. For FY08, 22 refuges received over \$20 million. We believe the only way southern Indiana will ever see its share of LWCF money is if we have equally hard-working Congressmen and Senators bringing home the appropriation to their state.

Evansville Audubon is a matching grant partner in projects that benefit Patoka River NWR. We will continue to provide support both monetarily and vocally and ask that you join us in this critical cause to help Indiana's birders, fishermen and hunters enjoy their fair share of conservation lands. This is not only a conservation issue but also an economic and quality of life issue for southwestern Indiana. We firmly believe Indiana needs to receive a fairer share.

We ask that you work towards getting the PRNWR added to the priority list to receive Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) monies in FY-09.

Sincerely,

Sue Vernier, Conservation Chair

For Steve Heeger, President
Evansville Audubon Society

Enclosure: Audubon LWCF Report FY-09