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# News Release

## Interior Department Honors 2012 “Partners in Conservation” Award Winners

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**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Deputy Secretary of the Interior David J. Hayes today announced the 2012 “Partners in Conservation” Awards to 17 organizations that have achieved exemplary conservation results through public-private cooperation and community engagement. Together, the 17 award recipients represent more than 700 individuals and organizations from across the United States.

“The Partners in Conservation Awards offer wonderful examples of how America’s greatest conservation legacies are created when communities from a wide range of backgrounds work together,” said Hayes, who announced the winners at an award ceremony at Interior today. “These awards recognize dedicated citizens from across our nation who collaborate to conserve and restore America’s Great Outdoors, to encourage youth involvement in conservation and to forge solutions to complex natural resource challenges.”

The annual award ceremony is an opportunity for the Interior Department to recognize conservation achievements that include collaborative activity among a diverse range of entities, including federal, state, local and tribal governments, and individuals.

This year’s award winners include the Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study, which was nominated as a model of collaboration for future watershed planning across the country. The seven Colorado River Basin States, the Bureau of Reclamation, and water users worked together to establish a common factual and technical foundation for resolving future water supply and demand imbalances.

Interior also recognized two initiatives in Florida working to restore the Everglades. The Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge/Conservation Area Partnership is a partnership of federal, state, and local groups working to establish the 150,000-acre refuge to protect key grassland and savanna landscapes and working ranches. The Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area is a partnership nominated by the National Park Service that uses innovative approaches to protect the Everglades from the impacts of exotic, invasive plant and animal species.

A list of this year’s 17 award-winning partnerships is below. Details about each partnership and the organizations involved can be found [here](#).

- **Global Explorers - Natural Sounds and Night Skies Partnership**, Arizona, Colorado, California  
*Nominated by the National Park Service*
- **Everglades Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area**, Florida  
*Nominated by the National Park Service*
- **Southern Nevada Agency Partnership**: Interagency Law Enforcement Team, Nevada  
*Nominated by the National Park Service*
- **Glacier National Park Ice Patch Archeology and Paleoecology Project**, Montana *Nominated by the National Park Service*
- **Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area Partnership**, Florida

*Nominated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

- **Alaska Environmental Literacy Plan Working Group**, Alaska  
*Nominated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- **Friends of Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge Partnership**, Wisconsin and Illinois  
*Nominated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- **Central Umpqua-Mid-Klamath Oak Habitat Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative**, Oregon  
*Nominated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
- **Phoenix District Youth Initiative**, Arizona  
*Nominated by the Bureau of Land Management*
- **Ute Learning Garden**, Colorado  
*Nominated by the Bureau of Land Management*
- **Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial Partnership**, Alaska  
*Nominated by the Bureau of Land Management*
- **Office of Surface Mining/Volunteers in Service to America Teams**, Nationwide  
*Nominated by the Office of Surface Mining*
- **Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative**, Appalachian region  
*Nominated by the Office of Surface Mining*
- **Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINE)**, Nationwide  
*Nominated by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management*
- **Hart Mine Marsh Restoration Project**, at Cibola National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona  
*Nominated by the Bureau of Reclamation*
- **Colorado River Basin Water Supply and Demand Study**, Basin-wide  
*Nominated by the Assistant Secretary – Water and Science*
- **Border Security and Environmental Conservation Partnership**, nationwide  
*Nominated by the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Safety, Resource Protection, and Emergency Services.*

Photos from today's ceremony are available upon request.

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**<< Previous**

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