

# Utah Linking Communities



Goals, Challenges and Lessons Learned

# Linking Three Sites Along a Shorebird Migration Route

Chaplin Lakes, Saskatchewan

Great Salt Lake, Utah

Marismas Nacionales, Nayarit

# Goals

- Personal Goals:
  - Protect “our” birds by contributing to rangewide conservation

# Goals

- Personal Goals:
  - Protect “our” birds by contributing to rangewide conservation
  - Learn more about other cultures

# Community Goals

## **Mission Statement:**

Utah Linking Communities connects human communities along bird migration routes that pass through the Great Salt Lake in order to conserve these birds throughout their range using science, education and ecotourism.

# That means:

Help people in these three communities to “think globally and act locally” to protect habitat.

# Challenges of Linking

- Uneven distribution of capacity among the three sites

# Challenges of Linking

- Uneven distribution of capacity among the three sites
- Organization

# Challenges of Linking

- Uneven distribution of capacity among the three sites
- Organization
- Language

# Challenges of Linking

- Uneven distribution of capacity among the three sites
- Organization
- Language
- Culture

# Challenges of Linking

- Uneven distribution of capacity among the three sites
- Organization
- Language
- Culture
- It's not my job

# Lessons Learned

- It takes a long time to build confidence

# Lessons Learned

- It takes a long time to build confidence
- Managing expectations of the partners is critical

# Lessons Learned

- It takes a long time to build confidence
- Managing expectations of the partners is critical
- Having a bunch of supporters helps

# Utah Community Involvement

Our partners include:

- Intermountain West Joint Venture
- Utah Wetlands Foundation, an NGO
- Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Weber State University
- Davis County, sponsor of the Great Salt Lake Bird Festival.

# Utah Community Involvement

- Friends of Great Salt Lake, an NGO
- Dancing Crane Studio, a nature photographer.
- Ogden Nature Center, an NGO
- Tracy Aviary, an NGO
- National Audubon Society
- U.S. Geological Survey

Is it Working?

Yes!

(But we've got a long way to go)



Chaplin Lake



Birdwatching in Singayta



Sen. Javier Castellón Fonseca and Utah Gov. John Huntsman, Jr.