

# News Release



## *Pacific Region*

## *Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex*

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For immediate release:

### **Chinese Biologists Assist Tidal Marsh Restoration Project in Oregon**

This weekend two Chinese biologists will join American colleagues for six weeks at Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge in Bandon, Oregon. The foreign visitors will assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with a 418-acre tidal marsh restoration project that provides important habitat for a variety of estuarine-dependent fish, birds, and other wildlife. The visiting scientists will live on-site at the refuge with others working on the project.

“We’re very proud of our efforts involving many partners and want to share our experience with the Chinese visitors,” said Roy W. Lowe, Project Leader at the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. “China’s coastal wetland habitat is diminishing, and that impacts bird species that breed in Alaska and migrate to China, so it is in our interest to encourage China to take positive steps for preserving coastal wetlands.”

Lowe added, “Mr. Yingshou Xu and Mr. Yifei Jia are both trained professionals from the prestigious Beijing Forestry University, and the refuge will benefit by having their perspective on this project.” A Chinese student who recently completed an MA in International Environmental Policy Studies in California, Ms. Miao Yu, will travel to Oregon to assist with language translation.

The visit is occurring under the auspices of the Nature Conservation Protocol, an agreement signed in 1986 between the U.S. Department of the Interior and China’s State Forestry Administration. The Protocol, which marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, encourages information exchange and cooperation in wildlife conservation. Cooperation is based on reciprocity, and several U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service groups are hosted by Chinese counterparts annually.

The Service’s *Wildlife Without Borders* China program coordinates activities and exchanges related to the Protocol, and is managed by the Arlington, Virginia based Division of International Conservation. Division Chief Herb Raffaele notes the importance of international cooperation for wildlife conservation. “If we do not take advantage of learning from one another, then each country will have to reinvent the wheel and learn from its own trials and errors,” said Raffaele. “It can be costly, not only financially, but ecologically as well.”

To learn more about the U.S.-China Nature Conservation Protocol and read the 2011-2013 work plan, visit the *Wildlife Without Borders* China program webpage, <http://www.fws.gov/international/DIC/regionalprograms/china/china.html>.

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For additional information on the tidal marsh restoration project at Bandon Marsh go to <http://www.fws.gov/oregoncoast/bandonmarsh/restoration/index.cfm>.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).*



Yingshou XU



Yifei JIA



Roy LOWE



Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge