



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# National Conservation Training Center

## *Training Announcement*

### Building a Strong NWRS Biological Program

CLM2150

#### Course Description

The complexity of natural resource conservation on refuges continues to increase due to the necessity of incorporating both environmental and societal factors into the decision-making process. This course provides guidance to those involved with refuge biological programs, particularly refuge station employees new to the position. National and regional factors are discussed in a meaningful context to strengthen the sense of purpose and define the role of refuge biology. At the refuge scale, instructors identify and describe in more detail the structure and function of biological programs; the roles and responsibilities of biologists; and key characteristics, skills, and knowledge that allow successful use of biological information to support refuge management.

**Refuge Biologist,  
Charles M. Russell NWR, MT**



#### Objectives

*Upon completion of this course, you will be able to:*

- Describe the Refuge System's Natural Resource Program and explain how a refuge biological program integrates with the regional and national level programs.
- Identify the basic biological information needs for refuge conservation planning and habitat management – information that informs the whole station program.
- Identify key elements of the Refuge Improvement Act and other major statutes, policies, and guidance documents that relate to biology.
- Identify and understand the essential components of a decision making process.
- Identify and understand the basic concept and components of adaptive management.
- Describe the National Inventory and Monitoring Resources Program.
- Understand the importance of conveying messages effectively to different audiences (e.g. talking to the public; talking to other staff; talking to your manager, researchers, statisticians, etc.).
- List the critical technical skills that biologists must continually increase/cultivate during their career, and major professional responsibilities for continuing education and development.

#### Date

March 7 – 11, 2016

#### Location

NCTC, Shepherdstown, WV

#### Who Should Attend

The course is highly recommended to those with refuge station biological program responsibilities or interests, especially new (<5 years) refuge station biologists. In addition, those wanting to learn about refuge biological programs may find value in this course.

#### Length

4 ½ days

#### Tuition

Tuition for FWS, NPS, and BLM is prepaid. For participants from other agencies and organizations, there is a tuition charge of \$995.00.

#### Lodging & Meals

Lodging and meals for FWS are prepaid. For all others the cost is \$135/day.

#### To Register

Register online at <http://training.fws.gov> using DOI Learn, the Department of the Interior's Learning Management System.

#### Availability

Course is offered once per year at NCTC.

#### Contact

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*“It was a very well rounded course and it provided everything that I wanted to know about the program and more. It is exciting to see all the enthusiasm and forward thinking that is going on in the biological series...”*