

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



# News Release

## *Midwest Region*

### *External Affairs Office*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **“10-10-10 for 10! Celebrating Working Wetlands”**

WINONA, Minn. (FWS) – All along the Upper Mississippi River communities are hosting events to celebrate wetlands on Oct. 10.

The events titled “*10-10-10 for 10! Celebrating Working Wetlands*” are open to the public to celebrate the work that wetlands do to provide safety for plants, animals and humans. Participants will observe or work in a wetland for ten minutes to show their appreciation.

The events are part of the Upper Mississippi River’s designation as a *Wetland of International Importance* by the Ramsar Convention.

More than 300,000 acres of land surrounding the Upper Mississippi River have been designated the “Upper Mississippi River Floodplain Wetlands of International Importance” to create awareness of the vital ecosystem the land provides for more than 100 species of fish and 300 species of birds in the backwaters of the Upper Mississippi River. The land protects humans and animals alike from floods and dangerous gasses in the atmosphere by absorbing and filtering air and water.

These events will create awareness of the importance of wetlands and give people a chance to celebrate through active participation.

Activities at 10-10-10 events include collecting trash; rebuilding habitat; removing invasive species; identifying 10 plants or wetland animals; documenting the experience with 10 photos; listing 10 reasons why wetlands are important to each person; or simply enjoying the experience.

Individuals may also hold their own event on Oct. 10 at a wetland of their choice. To schedule an event call Cindy Samples at 507-494-6216. Those holding events must submit a description of the event no later than Sept. 27 and photos of the event by Oct. 12.

A list of events is provided at: <http://bit.ly/UpperMiss>.

For more information about Ramsar and the designation, call Cindy Samples at 507-494-6216.

*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 and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit <http://www.fws.gov>.*

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