



The Trumpeter Swan Society

SINCE 1968

GREATER YELLOWSTONE TRUMPETER SWAN INITIATIVE 2009-2013

Greater Yellowstone's nesting swans face serious problems and their future is very uncertain. To help make them secure, the Trumpeter Swan Society (TTSS) is launching a 5-year ***GREATER YELLOWSTONE TRUMPETER SWAN INITIATIVE (GYTSI)***.

We need your help and support!

These vulnerable swans are in the midst of a precarious transition following the necessary, but difficult, termination of 57 years of artificial winter feeding. Adult numbers have declined by 25% since 1989 even though there has been encouraging expansion into new nesting areas. In 2008 there were only 379 adults and 44 nesting pairs, and cygnet production at Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge and Yellowstone National Park was the lowest on record, with only 2 cygnets. To secure the population the following tasks are essential:

- * Increase nesting attempts and success
- * Ensure that all public lands in Greater Yellowstone attain their potential for nesting swans
- * Protect key nesting sites from human impacts and
- * Rebuild use of adequate winter and early spring habitats.

An effective region-wide effort is needed, yet the agencies that work to conserve the swans face declining budgets and rapidly increasing demands on their time and resources. With your help TTSS can bring technical expertise and scientific resources to solve problems through creative partnerships with resource agencies.

Our Goal: To rebuild a secure nesting population of Trumpeter Swans in Greater Yellowstone

Our Objectives:

1. Achieve the Pacific Flyway Council's management objectives for Greater Yellowstone's Trumpeters (approved in 2008):
 - a. By 2013, increase nesting pairs to at least 117, including 34 in Montana, 46 in Wyoming, and 37 in Idaho.
 - b. By 2013, increase adult swans to at least 540, including 205 in Montana, 160 in Wyoming, and 175 in Idaho.

2. Strengthen the on-the-ground and administrative mechanisms needed for long-term security of the Greater Yellowstone nesting population.

Key Tasks:

- Help USFWS identify and correct problems at Red Rock Lakes NWR, MT, that are reducing nesting effort and success and rebuild the Centennial Valley flock to at least 20 nesting pairs.
- Ensure that management plans for all National Wildlife Refuges, other federal lands, and state management areas within Greater Yellowstone aim to achieve each area's potential for swan nesting and that needed tasks are implemented.
- Assist land managers to identify and correct nest site problems where feasible.
- Encourage private wetland owners to improve habitat for Trumpeter Swans and encourage successful nesting.
- Recruit and train volunteers to increase monitoring and identify site specific problems.
- Analyze and summarize long-term data on Greater Yellowstone Trumpeters to better understand factors impacting productivity.
- Increase public understanding of the problems facing Greater Yellowstone's Trumpeters and seek support for finding solutions

Why are we saving Trumpeter Swans HERE when they seem to be doing well elsewhere?

Trumpeter Swans that nest in Greater Yellowstone are the only breeding group in the lower 48 states that escaped extinction and are an important component of Greater Yellowstone's ecological integrity. Currently they include most of the known breeding pairs in the western U.S. outside of Alaska.

Please join our efforts today. Memberships start at \$35.00. Details are on our website www.trumpeterswansociety.org and you can join on our secure on-line system or ask us for a membership brochure today.